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Governor



Jamie Link
Secretary, Education and
Labor Cabinet

Jason E. Glass, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education and Chief Learner

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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May 10, 2022

Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations & Revenue
Jennifer Hays, Committee Staff Administrator
702 Capital Ave
Frankfort, KY 40601

RE: SAFE Funds Report

Dear Co-Chairs Senator McDaniel and Representative Petrie:

HB 5 (2022 RS) establishes the West Kentucky State Aid Funds for Emergencies (SAFE) Fund to provide disaster relief for areas impacted by the December 2021 storms and tornadoes. Included in the appropriation is \$30M to the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) for impacted school districts. KDE is required to report to the Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations and Revenue beginning on February 10, 2022, and every month thereafter through July 10, 2024. KDE is required to report the name of each school district receiving SAFE funds, the dollar amount of funds received and a description of how the funds were used. Please allow this letter to serve as the required report.

The SB 5 appropriation to KDE, provides funds to school districts for the following:

1. Providing the necessary wrap-around services for school children and their families in recovering from the impact of the storms and tornadoes, including after-school services and activities held at the school facilities or elsewhere in the community, mental health counseling services, and outside-of-school tutoring and other services to advance the scholastic progress of students;
2. Assisting school districts in addressing the additional transportation costs to provide transportation to students that are displaced from their district or county; and
3. Transferring a portion to the School Facilities Construction Commission to offer funding for the construction and repairs of school building facilities that have been destroyed or severely damaged by the storms and tornadoes. If a school district receives insurance funds for the facility, the school district shall reimburse the fund an amount equal to the amount received from insurance proceeds.

KDE remains in frequent contact with the impacted districts. To facilitate the quick disbursement of available funds, KDE created a SAFE Funds application that is available on the department's state grants website. The application permits districts to provide KDE with important information related to their challenges and fiscal needs. Funds are disbursed to districts through a cash reimbursement request

submitted by the district to KDE. If districts should require an advancement of funds, they may request an advancement on the application.

Please find attached information which includes:

1. The name of each school district receiving moneys from the fund;
2. The dollar amount of moneys received;
3. A description of how the moneys were used;
4. A list of all requests:
 - a. Submitted, including the amount requested;
 - b. Denied, including a description of the reason for the denial; and
 - c. Where the amount awarded was increased, including a description of the reason for the increase

If any member of the Committee has any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at the email or phone number below.

Sincerely,

Robin Fields Kinney

Robin Fields Kinney
Associate Commissioner
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Attachment

Cc: Brian Perry
Chay Ritter
Karen Wirth
Matt Ross