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Governor



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Secretary, Education and  
Labor Cabinet

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

**KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
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February 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 Jason 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 initial required report.

The HB 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.

In order to expeditiously provide funds to impacted districts, KDE held a webcast on January 20, 2022, to make school districts aware of the passage of HB 5 and answer district questions. On January 21, 2022, KDE created a SAFE Account in its budget structure and funds were transferred into the account. KDE staff created a simple district application to request funds and an additional webinar was held with impacted districts to discuss the application and disbursement process. The application is available on

KDE's state grants website and permits districts to provide KDE with important information related to their challenges and fiscal needs. KDE continues to hold regular meetings with impacted districts. Disbursement of SAFE funds is a top priority for KDE, and the initial requests will be paid as soon as possible after receipt. Thereafter requests will be paid monthly.

As of the date of this report, KDE has not yet received any applications for SAFE Funds. KDE is in frequent communication with impacted districts and expects to receive applications soon. KDE will expeditiously process applications and make payments upon receipt.

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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