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KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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March 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 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.

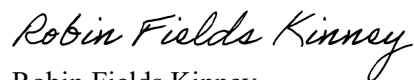
As discussed in KDE's February 10, 2022, SAFE Funds Report, the department remains in frequent contact with impacted districts. This includes through technical assistance webcasts and routine superintendent huddles. To facilitate the quick disbursement of available funds, KDE created a SAFE Funds application 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. KDE is available to districts to provide technical assistance and support when and where needed.

As of the date of this report, KDE has received applications for SAFE Funds from Christian County, Muhlenberg County, Caldwell County, Calloway County, and Mayfield Independent School Districts. The applications are not the request for funds, but rather provide information on the types of funds being requested for each permissible category and the anticipated amount through the submission of an accompanying proposed budget. Districts will make requests for payment through the submission of a cash reimbursement request. KDE received one request on March 8, 2022 which is in process for payment. This transaction will be reported on the next monthly report as at this time, no funds have been disbursed.

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

Sincerely,



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Associate Commissioner

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