

Andy Beshear
Governor
Education and



Jamie Link
Secretary,

Labor Cabinet

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

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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May 10, 2023

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

RE: WKS SAFE Funds Report (APRIL 2023)

Dear Co-Chairs Senator McDaniel and Representative Petrie:

HB 5 (2022 RS) as amended by HB 1 (2022 SS) establish the West Kentucky State Aid Funds for Emergencies (WKS SAFE) Fund to provide disaster relief for areas impacted by the December 2021 storms and tornadoes. 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 WKS SAFE funds, the dollar amount of funds received and a description of how the funds were used. Please allow this letter and the attached spreadsheet to serve as the required report.

HB 5 and HB 1 provide 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.

To facilitate the quick disbursement of available funds, KDE created an initial WKS 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. In June of 2022, KDE advised districts of the opportunity to file an application for funding for the School Year (SY) 2022-2023 to assist with ongoing challenges facing students and districts as a result of the December 2021 storms and tornadoes.

Please find attached information which includes:

1. The name of each school district receiving moneys from the fund;
2. The dollar amount of moneys issued and the dates of issuance;
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. Any amount awarded 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
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Attachment

Cc: Brian Perry
Chay Ritter
Karen Wirth
Matt Ross