

**Matthew G. Bevin**  
Governor



**Derrick Ramsey**  
Secretary  
Education and Workforce  
Development Cabinet

**Wayne D. Lewis, Jr., Ph.D.**  
Commissioner of Education

**KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

300 Sower Boulevard • Frankfort, Kentucky 40601  
Phone: (502) 564-3141 • [www.education.ky.gov](http://www.education.ky.gov)

September 13, 2019

Senator Max Wise, Co-Chair  
Representative Regina Huff, Co-Chair  
Interim Joint Committee on Education  
700 Capital Avenue  
Frankfort, KY 40601

Dear Senator Wise and Representative Huff,

Pursuant to KRS 158.186, I am writing to the Interim Joint Committee on Education to certify compliance with section (1) of the aforementioned statute.

As you know, KRS 158.186 requires me, as Commissioner of Education, to distribute copies of the “Student Bill of Rights” (KRS 158.183) and “In God We Trust” (KRS 158.195) legislation to local school boards, school-based decision making councils, and all certified employees in Kentucky by September 15.

As demonstrated in the attachments to this letter, the Department has complied with the requirements of KRS 158.186 by:

1. Working with the Kentucky School Board Association to distribute a communication with links to electronic copies of KRS 158.183 and KRS 158.195 to all local school boards (see Appendix A);
2. Sending an email message to all principals, requesting that they forward copies of KRS 158.183 and KRS 158.195 to their school-based decision making council, as the Department does not maintain an email distribution list of SBDM Council members (see Appendix B); and
3. Placing a message in the publication “Kentucky Teacher,” which is distributed via email to all certified school employees in Kentucky (see Appendix C).

Senator Max Wise and Representative Regina Huff

September 13, 2019

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In addition, the Department sent an electronic communication with links to electronic copies of the statutes to all superintendents in Kentucky, asking them to forward the message to all appropriate persons in their districts (see Appendix D).

Accordingly, we believe the requirements of KRS 158.186 have been fulfilled.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or our General Counsel, Deanna Durrett, at [Deanna.Durrett@education.ky.gov](mailto:Deanna.Durrett@education.ky.gov).

Sincerely,



Wayne D. Lewis, Jr., Ph.D.  
Commissioner of Education

## APPENDIX A

## Payne, Jennifer - Office of Legal Services

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**From:** Kennedy, Eric - KSBA <eric.kennedy@ksba.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 12, 2019 4:25 PM  
**To:** Fletcher, Jessica - Division of Communications  
**Cc:** Durrett, Deanna - General Counsel; Rogers, Carrie - Division of Communications; Schelling, Kerri - KSBA  
**Subject:** Forwarding a notice required to be sent from KDE to all local board members

Dear Ms. Fletcher,

As we discussed, KSBA sent the following email (see text below) to all local school board members today. The subject line of the email we sent was the same as the subject of this email.

If you need anything else regarding this issue, please let us know.

Sincerely,  
-Eric Kennedy

**Eric C. Kennedy, Esq.**

Director of Advocacy

**Kentucky School Boards Association**

Office: 502-783-0061 | Mobile: 502-681-3157

260 Democrat Drive | Frankfort, KY 40601



**From:** Kennedy, Eric - KSBA  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 12, 2019 4:20 PM  
**Subject:** Forwarding a notice required to be sent from KDE to all local board members

*Dear Local School Board Members,*

*Good afternoon. We at KSBA are sending this email to all local school board members, in order to assist the Department of Education. KDE is required by state statute to send a notice regarding certain issues to all school board members, and also to all superintendents, principals, and SBDM members, by Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> each year. KDE asked us here at KSBA to help them ensure this is received by all board members in compliance with that statute, and we are happy to do so. Please see the content of the notice from the Commissioner below. Any questions about this notice should be directed to KDE. Thank you for your service to the students of our public schools.*

*-Your KSBA staff*

**FROM KDE:**

Dear Local School Board Members –

Each year, by law (KRS 158.186), I am required to distribute the statutory language for the “Student Bill of Rights” (KRS [158.183](#)) and the “In God We Trust” legislation (KRS [158.195](#)). I ask that you click on the links above and review the language, which has also been sent to your superintendent, principals, and SBDM members. Thank you for your prompt attention to this issue.



*Wayne D. Lewis, Jr., Ph.D.*  
Commissioner of Education  
Office of the Commissioner

Kentucky Department of Education  
300 Sower Blvd, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
(502) 564-3141, ext. 4801 – Fax (502)-564-5680  
Email: [wayne.lewis@education.ky.gov](mailto:wayne.lewis@education.ky.gov)

-END-

## APPENDIX B



## "Student Bill of Rights" and "In God We Trust" legislation on LRC website

Kentucky Department of Education sent this bulletin at 09/12/2019 02:28 PM EDT



## Education in Action

An update from Kentucky Education Commissioner Wayne Lewis

Dear Kentucky Principals,

Each year, by law (KRS 158.186), I am required to distribute the statutory language for the "Student Bill of Rights" (KRS [158.183](#)) and the "In God We Trust" legislation (KRS [158.195](#)). I ask that you click on the links above and review the language. In addition, as chairs of your School Based Decision Making Councils, I ask that you forward this message to the members of your SBDMs. If you have any questions about these statutes, please contact the Kentucky Department of Education's Office of Legal Services at (502) 564-4474. Thank you for your prompt attention to this issue.

[Wayne D. Lewis, Jr., Ph.D.](#)

Commissioner of Education

Kentucky Department of Education  
300 Sower Blvd, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
(502) 564-3111 ext 1801

## APPENDIX C





## Kentucky Teacher - September 12, 2019

Kentucky Department of Education sent this bulletin at 09/12/2019 02:32 PM EDT

September 12, 2019

# KENTUCKY TEACHER

A Publication of the Kentucky Department of Education



**Strengthening special education through teamwork**

### NEWS

**SREB offers look at six state CTE systems**



### GUEST COLUMN

**London Elementary building a brand with**

sign of a strengthening partnership between KDE and the districts it serves.

Alford, the director of exceptional children services for the Beechwood Independent schools, and her colleagues from across Kentucky came together for a conference held by KDE's Office of Special Education and Early Learning. It was designed to provide districts with information, support and even some pats on the back.

Alford said it was exactly what she and others in her position need.

[>>> Read More <<](#)



## Innovative new school ignites interests of students, teachers

Its mission has changed, but this is still a laboratory.

What once was an industrial facility has been reborn as an educational laboratory at which educators have designed a different approach to high school and students are focusing more sharply on their postsecondary future.

Ignite Institute opened in August in Erlanger with a focus on project-based learning in science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM) and providing career opportunities for students while they are still in high school. It also was created with the needs of the workforce in northern Kentucky in mind.

[>>> Read More <<](#)

### SCIENCE

**Kentucky Science Teachers Association conference part of NSTA area conference**

### SOCIAL STUDIES

**Kentucky Historical Society sets teacher workshops for 2019-2020**

### STUDENTS

**Students invited to apply to U.S. Senate Youth Program**

### VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS

**Kentucky Thespian Festival to be held in Owensboro**

**KET offers help for teachers to bring media arts into their classrooms**

### AWARDS

**Madison, Russell, Spencer teachers receive Earle C. Clements Award**

### BULLETIN BOARD

**School social workers' conference to be held in Georgetown**

## 'Student Bill of Rights' and 'In God We Trust' legislation can be found on LRC website

During the 2017 session of the Kentucky General Assembly, the Kentucky "Student Bill of Rights" ([Senate Bill 17](#)) was passed and signed into law by Gov. Matt Bevin. The statute outlines students' rights to voluntarily express religious or political viewpoints in school assignments or through public speech free from discrimination.

Earlier this year, the Kentucky General Assembly also passed legislation requiring that the country's national motto, "In God We Trust," be placed in a prominent location of all schools.

The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) is required by law to inform district and school administrations as well as all classified staff of these specific laws each year. You can find both laws, as well as any other Kentucky statute, on the Kentucky Legislative Research Commission's website at [lrc.ky.gov](http://lrc.ky.gov), by searching for KRS [158.183](#) and [158.195](#). You can also read the statutes by clicking on the preceding links.

If you have any questions about these pieces of legislation, [contact KDE](#).

**National Rural  
Education Association  
to meet in Louisville**



We also want to hear from you, so send your comments, feedback or story suggestions to [Kentucky Teacher](#) or post your comments online.

*Kentucky Teacher* is produced by KDE's Division of Communications.



We need educators to help  
recruit new teachers to the  
profession!

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

## APPENDIX D



# "Student Bill of Rights" and "In God We Trust" legislation on LRC website

Kentucky Department of Education sent this bulletin at 09/12/2019 02:12 PM EDT



## Education in Action

An update from Kentucky Education Commissioner Wayne Lewis

Dear Kentucky Superintendents,

Each year, by law (KRS [158.186](#)), I am required to distribute the statutory language for the "Student Bill of Rights" (KRS [158.183](#)) and the "In God We Trust" legislation (KRS [158.195](#)). I ask that you click on the links above and review the language and that you forward this message to the appropriate persons in your district. If you have any questions about these statutes, please contact the Kentucky Department of Education's Office of Legal Services at (502) 564-4474. Thank you for your prompt attention to this issue.

Wayne D. Lewis, Jr., Ph.D.