**Local School Boards’ Most Critical Issues Regarding Reopening Schools for the 20/21 School Year**

**Presented to the IJC on Education – July 7, 2020**

1. **PROVIDING MULTIPLE MODES OF INSTRUCTION**
	* 1. Will students return to in-person instruction or request some form of distance learning?
		2. Estimating how many students fall in each category and being able to provide these options.
		3. May a board require attendance in one program/mode of instruction or another?
		4. FERPA privacy concerns in live streaming in-class instruction to students participating at home.
		5. Will the General Assembly waive the 170 student attendance day minimum this year, similar to 20 RS SB 177 for last year, regardless of when the first instructional day occurs?
2. **STAFFING**
	* 1. Will teachers and staff return to work in-person or will they request some form of remote employment, or chose to retire/resign?
		2. Will we experience a staff shortage if any employees are identified by contact tracers and requested/required to quarantine?
		3. Will Congress extend the federal *Families First Coronavirus Response Act* beyond 12/31/2020?
3. **FUNDING & PROCUREMENT**
	* 1. Will boards have the funds needed to acquire cleaning supplies and other virus mitigation measures such as instructional technology, masks, hand sanitizer, plexiglass shields, etc.?
		2. Will boards be able to procure equipment (the necessary funding, time, and approvals)?
		3. Will boards have the staff and funding to provide additional instruction to students needing remediation following last year’s extended period of NTI?
		4. Will boards have staff and funding necessary for additional bus routes that may be necessary?
4. **SUPPORT FOR VIRUS MITIGATION MEASURES BY STUDENTS, FAMILIES, STAFF, etc.**
	* 1. Will students, their families, and staff practice expected and/or required virus mitigation measures such as wearing masks, cleaning personal classroom surfaces, not bringing items from home, etc.?
		2. How will staff and administrators be able to address compliance issues?
		3. How will boards and administrators balance reasonable accommodations for issues such as masks?
5. **LIABILITY**
	* 1. What liability will a board (and/or individual district administrators) bear if a student or employee is on-site and becomes ill?
		2. Will the Governor and/or General Assembly provide greater liability protections to boards and their employees?
6. **ASSESSMENT**
	* 1. Will the U.S. Department of Education and the General Assembly waive statewide assessments for this school year as was granted last year?

We thank the Committee for allowing KSBA to discuss these issues. Above all, we thank you for continuing to acknowledge that **public education is essential**, and that **our employees are essential employees**. Every effort must be made by all of us to provide quality instruction to each and every Kentucky child.

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