

1 AN ACT relating to the delivery of education and care for children and declaring an
2 emergency.

3 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

4 ➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 13A IS CREATED TO
5 READ AS FOLLOWS:

6 *(1) The General Assembly finds that 902 KAR 2:213E, Childcare Standards for*
7 *Covering the Face in Response to Declared National or State Public Health*
8 *Emergency, was found deficient but remained effective notwithstanding the*
9 *finding of deficiency pursuant to KRS 13A.330, on or after March 30, 2021, and*
10 *before the effective date of this Act, as evidenced by the records of the Legislative*
11 *Research Commission.*

12 *(2) Contrary provisions of any section of the Kentucky Revised Statutes*
13 *notwithstanding, the administrative regulation referenced in subsection (1) of*
14 *this section shall be null, void, and unenforceable as of the effective date of this*
15 *Act.*

16 *(3) Contrary provisions of any section of the Kentucky Revised Statutes*
17 *notwithstanding, the administrative body shall be prohibited from promulgating*
18 *an administrative regulation that is identical to, or substantially the same as, the*
19 *administrative regulation referenced in subsection (1) of this section for a period*
20 *beginning on the effective date of this Act and concluding on June 1, 2023.*

21 *(4) The administrative regulation referenced in subsection (1) of this section shall be*
22 *available to the public, in the office of the Legislative Research Commission's*
23 *regulations compiler.*

24 ➔SECTION 2. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 13A IS CREATED TO
25 READ AS FOLLOWS:

26 *(1) The General Assembly finds that 702 KAR 1:195E, Face Coverings in School*
27 *Facilities, was found deficient but remained effective notwithstanding the finding*

1 of deficiency pursuant to KRS 13A.330, on or after August 17, 2021, and before
 2 the effective date of this Act, as evidenced by records of the Legislative Research
 3 Commission.

4 (2) Contrary provisions of any section of the Kentucky Revised Statutes
 5 notwithstanding, the administrative regulation reference in subsection (1) of this
 6 section shall be null, void, and unenforceable five (5) working days from the
 7 effective date of this Act.

8 (3) Contrary provisions of any section of the Kentucky Revised Statutes
 9 notwithstanding, the administrative body shall be prohibited from promulgating
 10 an administrative regulation that is identical to, or substantially the same as, the
 11 administrative regulation referenced in subsection (1) of this section for a period
 12 beginning on the effective date of this Act and concluding on June 1, 2023.

13 (4) The administrative regulation referenced in subsection (1) of this section shall be
 14 available to the public, in the office of the Legislative Research Commission's
 15 regulations compiler.

16 ➔Section 3. Recognizing the significant and imminent safety concerns and
 17 challenges to operating schools during the COVID-19 pandemic, the General Assembly
 18 requires each school district to have a COVID-19 school operations plan in place as of the
 19 effective date of this Act. Each school district shall submit its COVID-19 school
 20 operations plan, and any subsequent versions, to the Kentucky Department of Education
 21 (KDE) for informational purposes and shall make the plan available on the district's
 22 website.

23 ➔Section 4. (1) Within 14 days of the effective date of this Act, the
 24 Department for Public Health shall develop a COVID-19 "test to stay" model school plan
 25 that may be implemented by school districts, in whole or in part, to minimize the impact
 26 of quarantining non-symptomatic students and staff.

27 (2) The model plan shall include, as an alternative to quarantining, an on-site

1 testing option that allows non-symptomatic students with school-related COVID-19
2 exposures to remain at school by testing negative for COVID-19 for a certain number of
3 days following exposure. The model plan shall provide guidance for contact tracing and
4 quarantining based on whether or not exposed individuals were masked, non-masked, or
5 fully vaccinated.

6 (3) A school district's local health department shall provide assistance in
7 implementing a school district's test-to-stay plan, or any other local school board-
8 approved COVID-19 plan for masking, contact tracing, and quarantining, including the
9 location and procurement of resources. The Department for Public Health shall provide
10 support to the local health departments in assisting the school districts.

11 ➔Section 5. (1) Notwithstanding any other statute or administrative
12 regulation to the contrary, a school district may temporarily assign students at the school,
13 grade, classroom, or student group level to remote instruction due to significant absences
14 of students or staff related to the COVID-19 pandemic until December 31, 2021.

15 (2) With prior authorization from the local board of education, the decision to
16 temporarily assign students to remote instruction shall be at the discretion of the
17 superintendent. The temporary assignment to remote instruction shall be no longer than is
18 necessary to alleviate student and staff absences due to COVID-19.

19 (3) Remote instruction may be provided to a particular school, grade, classroom,
20 or group of students up to 20 days under this section. No school district shall utilize
21 remote instruction under this section for more than 20 days. A school district shall not
22 temporarily assign every student in the district to remote instruction under this section,
23 unless all students in the school district are located in a single school facility.

24 (4) Students temporarily assigned to remote instruction shall receive at least the
25 minimum daily instruction required pursuant to KRS 158.060, which shall include the
26 content standards as provided in the Kentucky Academic Standards.

27 (5) Remote instruction provided under this section shall not be counted against

1 student attendance days authorized under a school district's approved nontraditional
2 instruction plan.

3 ➔Section 6. (1) Notwithstanding any statute or administrative regulation to
4 the contrary, for school year 2021-2022, school districts may, when submitting the
5 Superintendent's Annual Attendance Report, substitute attendance data for school year
6 2018-2019 or for school year 2019-2020 for attendance data for school year 2021-2022.
7 The selected data shall be utilized to calculate the average daily attendance that will be
8 used in calculating Support Education Excellence in Kentucky (SEEK) funds and any
9 other state funding based in whole or in part on average daily attendance for the district.

10 (2) Current year data shall be used for property assessments per KRS 160.470(5),
11 district tax rates levied, equivalent tax rates based on tax levies, exceptional and limited
12 English proficiency student counts, and state equalization.

13 (3) For school year 2021-2022, each school district shall continue to enforce
14 compulsory attendance requirements set forth in KRS Chapter 159 and report student
15 attendance in the statewide student information system as required by state statute and
16 administrative regulation.

17 (4) It is the intent of the General Assembly to enact legislation in the 2022
18 General Session to address the adjustment of SEEK calculations related to attendance
19 growth over prior school years.

20 ➔Section 7. Each school district may develop a plan to incentivize staff and
21 students to receive COVID-19 vaccinations and may work with the local health
22 department and other partners to provide access to receive vaccinations and incentives.
23 Incentives may include but are not limited to cash and other prizes, food, gift cards, prize
24 drawings, coupons, and school activity passes. A school district shall not use intimidation
25 tactics or negative incentives to encourage vaccinations.

26 ➔Section 8. When a school district utilizes a student attendance day under an
27 approved nontraditional instruction plan due to COVID-19, or utilizes remote instruction

1 under Section 5 of this Act, all certified staff and any classified staff designated by the
2 district shall be required to perform work duties on-site during the student attendance day,
3 except for employees quarantined due to COVID-19 who the district determines can
4 fulfill their job duties remotely.

5 ➔Section 9. (1) Notwithstanding the requirements of KRS 161.100, 16 KAR
6 2:030, and any other statute or administrative regulation to the contrary, for the 2021-
7 2022 school year, a local school district may employ individuals to serve as short- or
8 long-term substitute teachers under the requirements of this subsection. An individual
9 must comply with the background checks required under subsection (5) of this section
10 and have:

11 (a) At least 64 hours of college credit; or

12 (b) A high school diploma or equivalent and 4 years of occupational experience
13 related to education, childcare, or the subject area to be taught.

14 An individual hired under this subsection must apply for the one-year emergency
15 substitute certification from the Education Professional Standards Board, and a school
16 district may employ the individual prior to the receipt of the certificate if all other
17 requirements of this subsection are met.

18 (2) For the 2021-2022 school year, a local school district may fill certified
19 positions notwithstanding the vacancy process requirements contained in KRS
20 160.380(2)(b), (c), and (d).

21 (3) Notwithstanding any other statute or administrative regulation to the contrary,
22 for the 2021-2022 school year, classified staff employed by the school district as of the
23 effective date of this Act may perform classroom instructional activities without direct
24 supervision by certified staff.

25 (4) Notwithstanding the requirement that instruction be provided by a certified
26 teacher in KRS 158.033 and any other statute or administrative regulation to the contrary,
27 for the 2021-2022 school year, home or hospital instruction may be provided by classified

1 staff employed by the school district as of the effective date of this Act.

2 (5) For the 2021-2022 school year, compliance background checks under KRS
3 160.380 are required, except, notwithstanding KRS 160.380(7)(a), a superintendent may
4 employ all individuals on probationary status upon receiving a preliminary background
5 check conducted by the Administrative Office of the Courts, provided the background
6 checks required under KRS 160.380 have been requested by the date the probationary
7 employment begins.

8 (6) The Department of Kentucky State Police and the Cabinet for Health and
9 Family Services shall prioritize the completion of school district employee application
10 background checks under KRS 160.380 for the 2021-2022 school year.

11 (7) Nothing in this section shall be interpreted to waive any requirements of the
12 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. secs. 1400 et seq. or any other
13 federal act.

14 ➔Section 10. (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of KRS 161.605 or 161.612,
15 for the time period occurring on or after the effective date of this Act and until January
16 15, 2022, retirees who retired on or before August 1, 2021, who are not employed by a
17 local board of education on the effective date of this Act, and who subsequently return to
18 employment for a local board of education in a full-time or part-time teaching position, or
19 in a position providing substitute teaching services, that would otherwise be eligible to
20 participate in the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) upon reemployment, shall be
21 provided the reemployment option specified by subsection (2) of this section in addition
22 to the current provisions governing reemployment after retirement under KRS 161.605.

23 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of KRS 161.605 or 161.612, the additional
24 option regarding reemployment that shall be offered a reemployed retiree as described by
25 subsection (1) of this section shall include the following provisions and restrictions:

26 (a) The reemployed retiree shall not be subject to any limits on compensation
27 from the school district that are earned during reemployment from the effective date of

1 this Act until January 15, 2022, except that the retiree shall not earn more for his or her
2 contract days than the amount allowed on the school district's certified salary schedule;

3 (b) The reemployed retiree may continue to draw his or her retirement allowance
4 for an initial retirement occurring on or before August 1, 2021, but shall not accrue any
5 additional retirement benefits during reemployment from the effective date of this Act
6 until January 15, 2022;

7 (c) The reemployed retiree, the state, or the employing school district shall not be
8 required to pay employee contributions or employer contributions on behalf of the
9 reemployed retiree during reemployment from the effective date of this Act until January
10 15, 2022;

11 (d) The separation of service required shall be a bona fide separation of at least
12 one month for retirees returning to work in a full-time, part-time, or substitute teaching
13 position under this option. The system shall not be able to extend the break in
14 employment as provided by this paragraph unless an extension is needed due to a conflict
15 with federal law as described in subsection (4) of this section; and

16 (e) Other than the temporary adjustments provided in this subsection, all other
17 provisions of KRS 161.220 to 161.716 and 161.990 shall apply.

18 (3) The provisions of subsection (2) of this section shall expire on January 15,
19 2022. Upon expiration of these temporary provisions, any future reemployment, or
20 ongoing reemployment of retirees hired under this section shall, for such future or
21 ongoing reemployment occurring after January 15, 2022, be subject to KRS 161.605 and
22 161.612, including its limitations, except that TRS shall not collect employee and
23 employer contributions or provide retirement benefits for the period of reemployment
24 provided by retirees from the effective date of this Act until January 15, 2022, under this
25 section.

26 (4) Any provision of this section in conflict with federal law as determined by the
27 system shall be void or adjusted by the system to bring the provision into compliance.

1 The school districts shall be notified of any provision in conflict that is voided or
2 adjusted.

3 ➔Section 11. (1) Notwithstanding any provision of KRS 61.637 or 78.5540 to
4 the contrary, for the time period occurring on or after the effective date of this Act and
5 until January 15, 2022, the following shall apply to retirees who retired from the systems
6 on or before August 1, 2021, who are not employed by a local board of education on the
7 effective date of this Act, and who subsequently return to employment for a local board of
8 education in a full-time or part-time classified position, or in a position providing
9 substitute classified services:

10 (a) The separation of service required shall be a bona fide separation of at least
11 one month for retirees returning to work in a full-time, substitute, or part-time classified
12 position with a local board of education. The systems shall not be able to extend the break
13 in employment as provided by this paragraph unless an extension is needed due to a
14 conflict with federal law as described in subsection (3) of this section;

15 (b) The local board of education shall not be required to pay employer
16 contributions or reimbursements for retiree health benefits specified by KRS 61.637(17)
17 or 78.5540(4) on these retirees reemployed from the effective date of this Act until
18 January 15, 2022; and

19 (c) Other than the temporary adjustments provided in this subsection, all other
20 provisions of KRS 61.510 to 61.705 and 78.510 to 78.852 shall apply.

21 (2) The provisions of subsection (1) of this section shall expire on January 15,
22 2022. Upon expiration of these temporary provisions, any future reemployment or
23 ongoing reemployment of retirees hired under the provisions of subsection (1) of this
24 section shall, for such future or ongoing reemployment occurring after January 15, 2022,
25 be subject to KRS 61.637 or 78.5540, as applicable, including its limitations and required
26 contributions, except that the systems shall not collect employer contributions for the
27 period of reemployment provided by retirees from the effective date of this Act until

1 January 15, 2022, under the provisions specified by subsection (1) of this section.

2 (3) Any provision of this section in conflict with federal law as determined by the
3 systems shall be void or adjusted by the systems to bring the provision into compliance.
4 The school districts shall be notified of any provision in conflict that is voided or
5 adjusted.

6 ➔Section 12. (1) For the 2021-2022 school year, a school district may revise
7 its school calendar under the requirements of this section.

8 (2) For purposes of this section, notwithstanding the requirement in KRS 158.070
9 that the student instructional year include 170 student attendance days and any other
10 statute or administrative regulation to the contrary, students shall receive a minimum of
11 1,062 instructional hours, less any waiver of instructional time provided in accordance
12 with KRS 158.070(3)(f) and 702 KAR 7:140.

13 (3) A school district may reach 1,062 instructional hours by adding time to the
14 day. A day shall not exceed seven hours of instructional time, unless the district
15 submitted and received approval from the commissioner of education for an innovative
16 alternative calendar. A school district shall not schedule any instructional days on
17 Saturdays. A school district may schedule graduation ceremonies before the final
18 instructional day.

19 (4) Notwithstanding any other statute or administrative regulation to the contrary,
20 school district certified and classified personnel shall complete all contract days by
21 participating in instructional activities or professional development or by being assigned
22 additional work responsibilities.

23 (5) If a local board of education seeks to revise its school calendar under this
24 section, the board shall submit a plan to the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE)
25 demonstrating how 1,062 instructional hours will be completed for approval.

26 (6) KDE shall make a report to the Interim Joint Committee on Education by
27 November 1, 2022, on how school districts with revised school calendars under this

1 section completed the 1,062 hours.

2 ➔Section 13. Whereas the Commonwealth's citizens, students, and children
3 continue to face significant challenges due to the COVID-19 public health crisis, an
4 emergency is declared to exist, and this Act takes effect upon its passage and approval by
5 the Governor or upon its otherwise becoming a law.