

CHAPTER 212**(SB 265)**

AN ACT relating to school councils.

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

Section 1. KRS 160.345 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) For the purpose of this section:
 - (a) "Minority" means American Indian; Alaskan native; African-American; Hispanic, including persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, and Central or South American origin; Pacific islander; or other ethnic group underrepresented in the school.
 - (b) "School" means an elementary or secondary educational institution that is under the administrative control of a principal or head teacher and is not a program or part of another school. The term "school" does not include district-operated schools that are:
 1. Exclusively vocational-technical, special education, or preschool programs;
 2. Instructional programs operated in institutions or schools outside of the district; or
 3. Alternative schools designed to provide services to at-risk populations with unique needs.
 - (c) "Teacher" means any person for whom certification is required as a basis of employment in the public schools of the state with the exception of principals, assistant principals, and head teachers.
 - (d) "Parent" means:
 1. A parent, stepparent, or foster parent of a student; or
 2. A person who has legal custody of a student pursuant to a court order and with whom the student resides.
- (2) ~~[By January 1, 1991,]~~ Each local board of education shall adopt a policy for implementing school-based decision making in the district which shall include, but not be limited to, a description of how the district's policies, including those developed pursuant to KRS 160.340, have been amended to allow the professional staff members of a school to be involved in the decision making process as they work to meet educational goals established in KRS 158.645 and 158.6451. The policy may include a requirement that each school council make an annual report at a public meeting of the board describing the school's progress in meeting the educational goals set forth in KRS 158.6451 and district goals established by the board. The policy shall also address and comply with the following:
 - (a) Except as provided in paragraph (b)2. of this subsection, each participating school shall form a school council composed of two (2) parents, three (3) teachers, and the principal or administrator. The membership of the council may be increased, but it may only be increased proportionately. ***A parent representative on the council shall not be an employee or a relative of an employee of the school in which that parent serves, nor shall the parent representative be an employee or a relative of an employee in the district administrative offices. A parent representative***~~[The teacher representatives shall be Kentucky residents. The parent representatives on the council~~

~~shall not be employees of the district or employees' relatives, nor~~ shall *not*~~{they}~~ be a local board member or *a board member's*~~{his}~~ spouse. None of the members shall have a conflict of interest pursuant to KRS Chapter 45A, except the salary paid to district employees.

- (b) 1. The teacher representatives shall be elected for one (1) year terms by a majority of the teachers. The parent representatives shall be elected for one (1) year terms. The parent members shall be elected by the parents of students preregistered to attend the school during the term of office in an election conducted by the parent and teacher organization of the school or, if none exists, the largest organization of parents formed for this purpose. A school council, once elected, may adopt a policy setting different terms of office for parent and teacher members subsequently elected, but the terms shall not exceed two (2) years nor be consecutive. The principal or head teacher shall be the chair of the school council.
2. School councils in schools having eight percent (8%) or more minority students enrolled, as determined by the enrollment on the preceding October 1, shall have at least one (1) minority member. If the council formed under paragraph (a) of this subsection does not have a minority member, the principal, in a timely manner, shall be responsible for carrying out the following:
- a. Organizing a special election to elect an additional member. The principal shall call for nominations and shall notify the parents of the students of the date, time, and location of the election to elect a minority parent to the council by ballot; and
 - b. Allowing the teachers in the building to select one (1) minority teacher to serve as a teacher member on the council. If there are no minority teachers who are members of the faculty, an additional teacher member shall be elected by a majority of all teachers. Term limitations shall not apply for a minority teacher member who is the only minority on faculty.
- (c) 1. The school council shall have the responsibility to set school policy consistent with district board policy which shall provide an environment to enhance the students' achievement and help the school meet the goals established by KRS 158.645 and 158.6451. The principal or head teacher shall be the primary administrator and the instructional leader of the school, and with the assistance of the total school staff shall administer the policies established by the school council and the local board.
2. If a school council establishes committees, it shall adopt a policy to facilitate the participation of interested persons, including, but not limited to, classified employees and parents. The policy shall include the number of committees, their jurisdiction, composition, and the process for membership selection.
- (d) The school council and each of its committees shall determine the frequency of and agenda for their meetings. Matters relating to formation of school councils that are not provided for by this section shall be addressed by local board policy.
- (e) The meetings of the school council shall be open to the public and all interested persons may attend. However, the exceptions to open meetings provided in KRS 61.810 shall apply.

- (f) After receiving notification of the funds available for the school from the local board, the school council shall determine, within the parameters of the total available funds, the number of persons to be employed in each job classification at the school. The council may make personnel decisions on vacancies occurring after the school council is formed but shall not have the authority to recommend transfers or dismissals.
- (g) The school council shall determine which textbooks, instructional materials, and student support services shall be provided in the school. Subject to available resources, the local board shall allocate an appropriation to each school that is adequate to meet the school's needs related to instructional materials and school-based student support services, as determined by the school council.
- (h) From a list of applicants submitted by the local superintendent, the principal at the participating school shall select personnel to fill vacancies, after consultation with the school council, ***consistent with subsection (2)(i)10. of this section.*** Requests for transfer shall conform to any employer-employee bargained contract which is in effect. If the vacancy to be filled is the position of principal, the school council shall select the new principal from among those persons recommended by the local superintendent. Personnel decisions made at the school level under the authority of this subsection shall be binding on the superintendent who completes the hiring process. The superintendent shall provide additional applicants upon request when qualified applicants are available.
- (i) The school council shall adopt a policy to be implemented by the principal in the following additional areas:
1. Determination of curriculum, including needs assessment and curriculum development;
 2. Assignment of all instructional and noninstructional staff time;
 3. Assignment of students to classes and programs within the school;
 4. Determination of the schedule of the school day and week, subject to the beginning and ending times of the school day and school calendar year as established by the local board;
 5. Determination of use of school space during the school day;
 6. Planning and resolution of issues regarding instructional practices;
 7. Selection and implementation of discipline and classroom management techniques as a part of a comprehensive school safety plan, including responsibilities of the student, parent, teacher, counselor, and principal;
 8. Selection of extracurricular programs and determination of policies relating to student participation based on academic qualifications and attendance requirements, program evaluation, and supervision;~~and~~
 9. Procedures, consistent with local school board policy, for determining alignment with state standards, technology utilization, and program appraisal; ***and***
 10. ***Procedures to assist the council with consultation in the selection of personnel by the principal, including but not limited to, meetings, timelines, interviews, review of written applications, and review of references.***

- (j) *Each school council shall annually review data on its students' performance as shown by the Commonwealth Accountability Testing System. The data shall include, but not be limited to, information on performance levels of all students tested, and information on the performance of students disaggregated by race, gender, disability, and participation in the federal free and reduced price lunch program. After completing the review of data, each school council shall adopt a plan to ensure that each student makes progress toward meeting the goals set forth in KRS 158.645 and 158.6451(1)(b). The Kentucky Department of Education shall provide each school council the data needed to complete the review required by this paragraph no later than December 31 of each year. If a school does not have a council, the review shall be completed by the principal.*
- (3) The policy adopted by the local board to implement school-based decision making shall also address the following:
- (a) School budget and administration, including: discretionary funds; activity and other school funds; funds for maintenance, supplies, and equipment; and procedures for authorizing reimbursement for training and other expenses;
 - (b) Assessment of individual student progress, including testing and reporting of student progress to students, parents, the school district, the community, and the state;
 - (c) School improvement plans, including the form and function of strategic planning and its relationship to district planning, as well as the school safety plan and requests for funding from the Center for School Safety under KRS 158.446;
 - (d) Professional development plans developed pursuant to KRS 156.095;
 - (e) Parent, citizen, and community participation including the relationship of the council with other groups;
 - (f) Cooperation and collaboration within the district, with other districts, and with other public and private agencies;
 - (g) Requirements for waiver of district policies;
 - (h) Requirements for record keeping by the school council; and
 - (i) A process for appealing a decision made by a school council.
- (4) In addition to the authority granted to the school council in this section, the local board may grant to the school council any other authority permitted by law. The board shall make available liability insurance coverage for the protection of all members of the school council from liability arising in the course of pursuing their duties as members of the council.
- (5) After July 13, 1990, any school in which two-thirds (2/3) of the faculty vote to implement school-based decision making shall do so. By June 30, 1991, each local board shall submit to the chief state school officer the name of at least one (1) school which shall implement school-based decision making the following school year. The board shall select a school in which two-thirds (2/3) of the faculty vote to implement school-based decision making. If no school in the district votes to implement school-based decision making, the local board shall designate one (1) school of its choice. All schools shall implement school-based decision making by July 1, 1996, in accordance with this section and with the policy adopted by the local board pursuant to this section. Upon favorable vote of a majority of the faculty at the

school and a majority of at least twenty-five (25) voting parents of students enrolled in the school, a school performing above its threshold level requirement as determined by the Department of Education pursuant to KRS 158.6455 may apply to the Kentucky Board of Education for exemption from the requirement to implement school-based decision making, and the state board shall grant the exemption. The voting by the parents on the matter of exemption from implementing school-based decision making shall be in an election conducted by the parent and teacher organization of the school or, if none exists, the largest organization of parents formed for this purpose. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, a local school district shall not be required to implement school-based decision making if the local school district contains only one (1) school.

- (6) The Department of Education shall provide professional development activities to assist schools in implementing school-based decision making. School council members elected for the first time shall complete a minimum of six (6) clock hours of training in the process of school-based decision making, and school council members who have served on a school council at least one (1) year shall complete a minimum of three (3) clock hours of training in the process of school-based decision making. School council training required under this subsection shall be conducted by trainers endorsed by the Department of Education, and school council members shall complete the required training no later than thirty (30) days after the beginning of the service year for which they are elected to serve. School council members elected to fill a vacancy shall complete the applicable training within thirty (30) days of their election.
- (7) A school that chooses to have school-based decision making but would like to be exempt from the administrative structure set forth by this section may develop a model for implementing school-based decision making including, but not limited to, a description of the membership, organization, duties, and responsibilities of a school council. The school shall submit the model through the local board of education to the chief state school officer and the Kentucky Board of Education, which shall have final authority for approval. The application for approval of the model shall show evidence that it has been developed by representatives of the parents, students, certified personnel, and the administrators of the school and that two-thirds (2/3) of the faculty have agreed to the model.
- (8) The Kentucky Board of Education, upon recommendation of the chief state school officer, shall adopt by administrative regulation a formula by which school district funds shall be allocated to each school council. Included in the school council formula shall be an allocation for professional development that is at least sixty-five percent (65%) of the district's per pupil state allocation for professional development for each student in average daily attendance in the school. The school council shall plan professional development with the district's coordinator and other school councils. Small schools shall be encouraged to work with other school councils to maximize professional development opportunities.
- (9) (a) No board member, superintendent of schools, district employee, or member of a school council shall intentionally engage in a pattern of practice which is detrimental to the successful implementation of or circumvents the intent of school-based decision making to allow the professional staff members of a school and parents to be involved in the decision making process in working toward meeting the educational goals established in KRS 158.645 and 158.6451 or to make decisions in areas of policy assigned to a school council pursuant to paragraph (i) of subsection (2) of this section.

- (b) An affected party who believes a violation of this subsection has occurred may file a written complaint with the Office of Education Accountability. The office shall investigate the complaint and resolve the conflict, if possible, or forward the matter to the Kentucky Board of Education.
- (c) The Kentucky Board of Education shall conduct a hearing in accordance with KRS Chapter 13B for complaints referred by the Office of Education Accountability.
- (d) If the state board determines a violation has occurred, the party shall be subject to reprimand. A second violation of this subsection may be grounds for removing a superintendent, a member of a school council, or school board member from office or grounds for dismissal of an employee for misconduct in office or willful neglect of duty.

Section 2. KRS 158.6455 is amended to read as follows:

It is the intent of the General Assembly that schools succeed with all students and receive the appropriate consequences in proportion to that success.

- (1) After receiving the advice of the Office of Education Accountability; the School Curriculum, Assessment, and Accountability Council; and the National Technical Advisory Panel on Assessment and Accountability, the Kentucky Board of Education shall promulgate administrative regulations in conformity with KRS 158.6471 and 158.6472 and KRS Chapter 13A to establish a system for identifying and rewarding successful schools. A reward shall be distributed to successful schools based on the number of full-time, part-time, and itinerant certified staff employed in the school on the last working day of the year of the reward to be used for school purposes as determined by the school council or, if none exists, the principal. The Kentucky Board of Education shall identify reports, paperwork requirements, and administrative regulations from which high performing schools shall be exempt.
- (2) After receiving the advice of the Office of Education Accountability; the School Curriculum, Assessment, and Accountability Council; and the National Technical Advisory Panel on Assessment and Accountability, the Kentucky Board of Education shall promulgate by administrative regulation in conformity with KRS 158.6471 and 158.6472 and KRS Chapter 13A the formula for a school accountability index to classify schools every two (2) years based on whether they have met their threshold level for school improvement, with school years 1998-2000 serving as the baseline. The formula shall reflect the school goals described in KRS 158.6451, except there shall be no measurement of the goals included in subsection (1)(b)3. and (1)(b)4.
- (3) After receiving the advice of the Office of Education Accountability; the School Curriculum, Assessment, and Accountability Council; and the National Technical Advisory Panel on Assessment and Accountability, the Kentucky Board of Education shall promulgate an administrative regulation in conformity with KRS 158.6471 and 158.6472 and KRS Chapter 13A to establish appropriate consequences for schools failing to meet their threshold. The consequences shall be designed to improve teaching and learning and may include, but not be limited to:
 - (a) A scholastic audit process under subsection (4) of this section to determine the appropriateness of a school's classification and to recommend needed assistance;
 - (b) School improvement plans;
 - (c) Eligibility to receive Commonwealth school improvement funds under KRS 158.805;

- (d) Education assistance from highly skilled certified staff under KRS 158.782;
 - (e) Evaluation of school personnel; and
 - (f) Student transfer to successful schools.
- (4) (a) After receiving the advice of the Office of Education Accountability; the School Curriculum, Assessment, and Accountability Council; and the National Technical Advisory Panel on Assessment and Accountability, the Kentucky Board of Education shall promulgate an administrative regulation in conformity with KRS 158.6471 and 158.6472 and KRS Chapter 13A establishing the guidelines for conducting scholastic audits, which shall include the process for:
- 1. Appointing and training team members. The team shall include at least a highly skilled certified educator under KRS 158.782, a teacher, a principal or other local district administrator, a parent, and a university faculty member;
 - 2. Reviewing a school's learning environment, efficiency, and academic performance of students ***and the quality of the school council's data analysis and planning in accordance with subsection (2)(j) of Section 1 of this Act;***
 - 3. Evaluating each certified staff member assigned to the school. Only certified members of the audit team shall evaluate personnel; and
 - 4. Making a recommendation to the Kentucky Board of Education about the appropriateness of a school's classification and a recommendation concerning the assistance required by the school to improve teaching and learning.
- (b) For information purposes, the board shall also conduct scholastic audits in a sample of schools that achieved their goal ***and report to the public on the resulting findings regarding each aspect of the schools' operations required under paragraph (a)2. of subsection (4) of this section.***
- (5) (a) Notwithstanding subsections (2), (3), and (4) of this section and KRS 158.645 to 158.805, the Kentucky Board of Education, after receiving the advice of the Office of Education Accountability; the School Curriculum, Assessment, and Accountability Council; and the National Technical Advisory Panel on Assessment and Accountability, shall promulgate an administrative regulation in conformity with the provisions of KRS 158.6471 and 158.6472 and in accordance with KRS Chapter 13A, establishing a formula for school accountability and a school improvement goal for each school for the 1998-1999 and 1999-2000 school years, with the 1996-97 and 1997-98 school years serving as the baseline. The formula shall be based on the academic and nonacademic components that are administered in a consistent manner during the four (4) year period.
- (b) 1. The Kentucky Board of Education shall reward schools that exceed their improvement goal and have an annual average dropout rate below eight percent (8%).
2. Schools failing to improve as identified by the board shall be reviewed by a scholastic audit team appointed by the state board under subsection (4) of this section. The audit shall not include a formal evaluation of each certified staff member. The team shall determine whether the school shall have highly skilled education assistance for advisory purposes. All schools failing to achieve their

goal shall develop a school improvement plan and shall be eligible for school improvement funds under KRS 158.805.

- (6) After receiving the advice of the Office of Education Accountability; the School Curriculum, Assessment, and Accountability Council; and the National Technical Advisory Panel on Assessment and Accountability, the Kentucky Board of Education may promulgate by administrative regulation, in conformity with KRS 158.6471 and 158.6472 and KRS Chapter 13A, a system of district accountability that includes establishing a formula for accountability, goals for improvement over a two (2) year period, rewards for leadership in improving teaching and learning in the district, and consequences that address the problems and provide assistance when the district fails to achieve its goals set by the board.
- (7) After receiving the advice of the Office of Education Accountability; the School Curriculum, Assessment, and Accountability Council; and the National Technical Advisory Panel on Assessment and Accountability, the Kentucky Board of Education shall promulgate administrative regulations in conformity with KRS 158.6471 and 158.6472 and KRS Chapter 13A, to establish a process whereby a school shall be allowed to appeal a performance judgment which it considers grossly unfair. Upon appeal, an administrative hearing shall be conducted in accordance with KRS Chapter 13B. The state board may adjust a performance judgment on appeal when evidence of highly unusual circumstances warrants the conclusion that the performance judgment is based on fraud or a mistake in computations, is arbitrary, is lacking any reasonable basis, or when there are significant new circumstances occurring during the biennial assessment period which are beyond the control of the school.

Approved March 29, 2000