

CHAPTER 35

(SB 154)

AN ACT relating to the elementary school curriculum.

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

SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 158 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

- (1) (a) *The General Assembly finds and declares that the integration of the arts and foreign languages into the school curriculum benefits students by increasing their motivation to learn; improves attendance; fosters multicultural understanding; and develops neurological cognitive potential through higher order thinking skills, creativity, and problem solving. Further, the General Assembly finds and declares that arts and foreign language education can renew and invigorate faculty and can foster greater parent and community participation and support.*
 - (b) *The General Assembly notes that it created a system of public education that allows and assists all students to acquire certain capacities provided under KRS 158.645, including communication skills necessary to function in a complex and changing civilization and sufficient grounding in the arts to enable each student to appreciate his or her cultural and historical heritage.*
 - (c) *The General Assembly further notes that its goals for public schools under KRS 158.6451 include: to develop students' abilities to use basic communication and mathematics skills for purposes and situations they will encounter throughout their lives; to apply core concepts and principles from mathematics, the sciences, the arts, the humanities, and social studies; and to connect and integrate experiences and new knowledge from all subject matter fields with what they have previously learned and build on past learning experiences to acquire new information through various sources.*
- (2) *It is the intent of the General Assembly in enacting Section 2 of this Act to address the findings and declarations set out in subsection (1) of this section.*

SECTION 2. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 158 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

- (1) *The Department of Education shall establish a program that promotes the integration of the arts and foreign languages in the elementary school program. A school shall submit an application through the district superintendent, with the agreement of the school council or of the principal, if a council does not exist. The department shall award a grant to at least one (1) school per region based on the quality of the application in meeting the criteria established in subsection (2) of this section. Special consideration shall be given, but not limited to, a school that does not have an existing comprehensive arts and foreign language program.*
- (2) *School programs under subsection (1) of this section shall include, but not be limited to, the following components:*
 - (a) *Instruction in each of the four (4) disciplines of dance, drama, music, and the visual arts that includes the core content skills and knowledge taught in a sequential manner and includes all students in the elementary school;*

- (b) Intense instruction in at least one (1) foreign language that includes skills and knowledge related to communicative language and culture and includes all students in the elementary school;*
 - (c) Integration of arts and foreign language instruction across the curriculum;*
 - (d) Coordination of the programs by teachers with appropriate arts and foreign language certification;*
 - (e) Professional development for teachers and administrators designed to facilitate the effective teaching of arts and foreign languages;*
 - (f) An effective monitoring and evaluation system that includes student performance assessment;*
 - (g) Partnerships with parents, local cultural agencies, individual artists, and native speakers of the foreign language who work in collaboration with classroom teachers;*
 - (h) Support from the local school board, the school council, and teachers; and*
 - (i) Student attendance at one (1) or more live performance or visual art exhibition each school year.*
- (3) The Department of Education shall report annually by July 1 of each year on the implementation of the program to the Governor and the Legislative Research Commission.*

Approved March 12, 2003