

**CHAPTER 130****(HB 479)**

AN ACT relating to pupil attendance policies.

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

Section 1. KRS 159.080 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) Each superintendent of a local school district shall appoint a director of pupil personnel and assistants as are deemed necessary. Salaries of directors and assistants shall be fixed by the board of education.
- (2) Directors of pupil personnel ~~and assistants~~ shall have the general qualifications of teachers and, in addition, shall hold a valid certificate issued in accordance with the administrative regulations of the Education Professional Standards Board. Certificates valid on January 1, 1956, for attendance officer shall hereafter be valid for the positions of director of pupil personnel. Certificates shall be reissued or renewed in accordance with the terms of the administrative regulations of the Education Professional Standards Board in effect at the time of application for reissuance or renewal.
- (3) Directors of pupil personnel and assistants shall be allowed their necessary and authorized expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. Each board shall bear the expense of its directors of pupil personnel and assistants incurred in its district.
- (4) The office of the superintendent of schools shall be the office of the director of pupil personnel and suitable space shall be provided therein or adjacent thereto for him *or her*.

Section 2. KRS 159.140 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) The director of pupil personnel, *or an assistant appointed under Section 1 of this Act*, shall:
  - (a) Devote his *or her* entire time to the duties of ~~the~~~~his~~ office except as provided in subsection (2) of this section;
  - (b) Enforce the compulsory attendance and census laws in the attendance district he *or she* serves;
  - (c) Acquaint the school with the home conditions of *a habitual truant as described in KRS 159.150(3)*~~the student~~, and the home with the work and advantages of the school;
  - (d) Ascertain the causes of irregular attendance and truancy, *through documented contact with the custodian of the student*, and seek the elimination of these causes;
  - (e) Secure the enrollment in school of all students who should be enrolled and keep all enrolled students in reasonably regular attendance;
  - (f) *Attempt to* visit the homes of students who are ~~absent from school or who are~~ reported to be in need of books, clothing, or parental care;
  - (g) Provide for the interviewing of students and the parents of those students who quit school to determine the reasons for the decision. The interviews shall be conducted in a location that is nonthreatening for the students and parents and according to procedures and interview questions established by an administrative regulation promulgated by the Kentucky Board of Education. The questions shall be designed to provide data that can be used for local district and statewide research and decision-making. Data shall be reported annually to the local board of education and the Department of Education.
  - (h) Report to the superintendent of schools in the district in which the student resides the number and cost of books and school supplies needed by any student whose parent, guardian, or custodian does not have sufficient income to furnish the ~~student~~~~child~~ with the necessary books and school supplies;
  - (i) Keep the records and make the reports that are required by law, by regulation of the Kentucky Board of Education, and by the superintendent and board of education.
- (2) A local school district superintendent may waive the requirement that a director of pupil personnel devote his or her entire time to his or her duties. The superintendent shall report the decision to the commissioner of education.

- (3) *In any action brought to enforce compulsory attendance laws, the director of pupil personnel or an assistant shall document the home conditions of the student, and the intervention strategies attempted.*

**Approved April 4, 2006.**