

CHAPTER 53

(HB 295)

AN ACT relating to public school facilities.

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

➔Section 1. KRS 157.420 is amended to read as follows:

Public school funds made available to the credit of each district during any year shall be received, held, and expended by the district board, subject to the provisions of law and administrative regulations of the Kentucky Board of Education. The following restrictions shall govern the expenditure of funds from the public school fund:

- (1) The salary paid any rank of teachers shall be at least equivalent to the amount set forth in the biennial budget schedule for each rank and experience for a term of one hundred eighty-five (185) days for full-time service during the regular school year.
- (2) Beginning with the 2004-2006 biennium, the Kentucky Board of Education shall not approve any working budget or salary schedule for local boards of education for any school year unless the one hundred eighty-five (185) day salary schedule for certified staff has been adjusted over the previous year's salary schedule by a percentage increase at least equal to the cost-of-living adjustment that is provided state government workers under the biennial budget. The base funding level in the program for support education excellence in Kentucky as defined in KRS 157.320 shall be increased by the statewide dollar value of the annual required cost-of-living percentage adjustment that shall be estimated on the sum of the previous year's statewide teachers' salaries.
- (3) A district that compensates its teachers or employees for unused sick leave at the time of retirement, pursuant to KRS 161.155, may create an escrow account to maintain the amount of funds necessary to pay teachers or employees who qualify for receipt of the benefit. The fund is limited to not more than fifty percent (50%) of the maximum liability for the current year to be determined according to the number of staff employed by the district on September 15. Interest generated by the account shall be calculated as part of the total amount. The funds shall not be used for any purpose other than compensation for unused sick leave at the time of retirement and shall not be considered as part of the general fund balance in determining available local revenue for purposes of KRS 157.620.
- (4) *(a)* The per pupil capital outlay allotment for each district from the public school fund and from local sources shall be kept in a separate account and may be used by the district only for capital outlay projects approved by the chief state school officer in accordance with requirements of law, and based on a survey made in accordance with administrative regulations of the Kentucky Board of Education. These funds shall be used for the following capital outlay purposes:
 1. ~~(a)~~ For direct payment of construction costs;
 2. ~~(b)~~ For debt service on voted and funding bonds;
 3. ~~(c)~~ For payment or lease-rental agreements under which the board eventually will acquire ownership of a school plant;
 4. ~~(d)~~ For the retirement of any deficit resulting from overexpenditure for capital construction, if such deficit resulted from an emergency declared by the Kentucky Board of Education under KRS 160.550; and
 5. ~~(e)~~ As a reserve fund for the above-named purposes, to be carried forward in ensuing budgets.
- (b)* ***A district may submit a request to the commissioner of education to use funds from the per pupil capital outlay allotment to purchase land for a new school or to modify an existing school if the project is included on the district facility plan for completion within eight (8) years. The land shall not be included in the calculation of the school district's unmet need. The commissioner may grant or deny the district's request at his or her discretion.***
- (c)* ***A district which has experienced an increase in adjusted average daily attendance, as defined by administrative regulation, of twenty percent (20%) or more over a five (5) year period may submit a request to the commissioner of education to use capital outlay funds for the operation of a new***

school for the first two (2) years following its opening. The commissioner may grant or deny the district's request at his or her discretion.

- (d) *A local school district may submit a request to the commissioner of education to use capital outlay funds for maintenance expenditures or for the purchase of property insurance without forfeiting the district's participation in the School Facilities Construction Commission program. Maintenance requests may include other priorities that are not considered major renovations, such as repair, renovation, or system upgrades that are necessary to maintain the integrity of an existing school facility.*
- (5) The district may contribute capital outlay funds for energy conservation measures under guaranteed energy savings contracts pursuant to KRS 45A.345, 45A.352, and 45A.353. Use of these funds, provided in KRS 45A.353, 56.774, and 58.600, shall be based on the following:
- (a) The energy conservation measures shall include facility alteration;
 - (b) The energy conservation measures shall be identified in the district's approved facility plan;
 - (c) The current facility systems are consuming excess maintenance and operating costs;
 - (d) The savings generated by the energy conservation measures are guaranteed;
 - (e) The capital outlay funds contributed to the energy conservation measures shall be defined as capital cost avoidance as provided in KRS 45A.345(2) and shall be subject to the restrictions on usage as specified in KRS 45A.352(9); and
 - (f) The equipment that is replaced shall have exceeded its useful life as determined by a life-cycle cost analysis.
- (6) If any district has a special levy for capital outlay or debt service that is equal to the capital outlay allotment or a proportionate fraction thereof, and spends the proceeds of that levy for the above-named purposes, the chief state school officer under administrative regulations of the Kentucky Board of Education, may authorize the district to use all or a proportionate fraction of its capital outlay allotment for current expenses. However, a district which uses capital outlay funds for current expenses shall not be eligible to participate in the School Facilities Construction Commission funds, *except when the current expenditures are approved by the commissioner of education under subsection (4)(b) or (c) of this section.*
- (7) If a survey shows that a school district has no capital outlay needs as shown in ~~paragraphs (a), (b), (c), and (d) of~~ subsection (4)(a) **1., 2., 3., and 4.** of this section, upon approval of the chief state school officer, these funds may be used for school plant maintenance, repair, insurance on buildings, replacement of equipment, purchase of school buses, and the purchase of modern technological equipment, including telecommunications hardware, televisions, computers, and other technological hardware to be utilized for educational purposes only.
- (8) In surveying the schools, the Department of Education shall designate each school facility as a permanent, functional, or transitional center.
- (a) "Permanent center" means a center which meets the program standards approved by the Kentucky Board of Education, is located so that students are not subjected to an excessive amount of time being transported to the site, and has established an attendance area which will maintain enrollment at capacity but will also avoid overcrowding.
 - (b) "Functional center" means a center which does not meet all the criteria established for a permanent facility, but is adequate to meet accreditation program standards to insure no substantial academic or building deficiency. The facility plan shall include additions and renovations necessary to meet current accreditation standards for which federal, state, and local funds may be used.
 - (c) "Transitional center" means a center which the local board of education has determined shall no longer be designated permanent or functional. The center shall be destined to be closed and shall not be eligible for new construction, additions, or major renovation. However, the board of education shall maintain any operating transitional center to provide a safe and healthy environment for students.
- (9) If a local school board authorized elementary, middle, or secondary education classes in a facility of a historical settlement school on January 1, 1994, the board shall continue to use the facilities provided by the settlement school if the facilities meet health and safety standards for education facilities as required by

administrative regulations. The local school board and the governing body of the settlement school shall enter into a cooperative agreement that delineates the role, responsibilities, and financial obligations for each party.

➔Section 2. KRS 157.440 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) (a) Notwithstanding any statutory provisions to the contrary, effective for school years beginning after July 1, 1990, the board of education of each school district may levy an equivalent tax rate as defined in subsection (9)(a) of KRS 160.470 which will produce up to fifteen percent (15%) of those revenues guaranteed by the program to support education excellence in Kentucky. The levy for the 1990-91 school year shall be made no later than October 1, 1989, and no later than October 1, 1990, for the 1991-92 school year, and by October 1 of each odd-numbered year thereafter. Effective with the 1990-91 school year, revenue generated by this levy shall be equalized at one hundred fifty percent (150%) of the statewide average per pupil assessment.
- (b) To participate in the Facilities Support Program of Kentucky, the board of education of each school district shall commit at least an equivalent tax rate of five cents (\$0.05) to debt service, new facilities, or major renovations of existing school facilities, *or the purchase of land if approved by the commissioner of education as provided in subsection (4)(b) of Section 1 of this Act*. The five cents (\$0.05) shall be in addition to the thirty cents (\$0.30) required by KRS 160.470(9) and any levy pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subsection. The levy shall be made no later than October 1 of each odd-numbered year. Eligibility for equalization funds for the biennium shall be based on the district funds committed to debt service on that date. The five cents (\$0.05) shall be equalized at one hundred fifty percent (150%) of the statewide average per pupil assessment. The equalization funds shall be committed to debt service to the greatest extent possible, but any excess equalization funds not needed for debt service shall be deposited to a restricted building fund account. The funds may be escrowed for future debt service or used to address categorical priorities listed in the approved facilities plan pursuant to KRS 157.420.
- (c) The board of education of each school district may contribute the levy equivalent tax rate of five cents (\$0.05) and equalization funds for energy conservation measures under guaranteed energy savings contracts pursuant to KRS 45A.345, 45A.352, and 45A.353. Use of these funds, as provided under KRS 45A.353, 56.774, and 58.600 shall be based on the following guidelines:
1. Energy conservation measures shall include facility alteration;
 2. Energy conservation measures shall be identified in the district's approved facility plan pursuant to KRS 157.420;
 3. The current facility systems are consuming excess maintenance and operating costs;
 4. The savings generated by the energy conservation measures are guaranteed;
 5. The levy equivalent tax rate of five cents (\$0.05) and equalization funds contributed to the energy conservation measures shall be defined as capital cost avoidance as provided in KRS 45A.345(2) and shall be subject to the restrictions on usage as specified in KRS 45A.352(9); and
 6. The equipment that is replaced has exceeded its useful life as determined by a life cycle cost analysis.
- (d) The rate levied by a district board of education under the provisions of this subsection shall not be subject to the public hearing provisions of KRS 160.470(7) or to the recall provisions of KRS 160.470(8).
- (e) A school district which is at or above the equivalent tax rates permitted under the provisions of the Kentucky Education Reform Act of 1990, 1990 Ky. Acts ch. 476, shall not be required to levy an equivalent tax rate which is lower than the rate levied during the 1989-90 school year.
- (2) (a) A district may exceed the maximum provided by subsection (1) of KRS 160.470 provided that, upon request of the board of education of the district, the county board of elections shall submit to the qualified voters of the district, in the manner of submitting and voting as prescribed in paragraph (b) of this subsection, the question whether a rate which would produce revenues in excess of the maximum provided by subsection (1) of KRS 160.470 shall be levied. The rate that may be levied under this section may produce revenue up to no more than thirty percent (30%) of the revenue guaranteed by the

program to support education excellence in Kentucky plus the revenue produced by the tax authorized by this section. Revenue produced by this levy shall not be equalized with state funds. If a majority of those voting on the question favor the increased rate, the tax levying authority shall, when the next tax rate for the district is fixed, levy a rate not to exceed the rate authorized by the voters.

- (b) The election shall be held not less than fifteen (15) or more than thirty (30) days from the time the request of the board is filed with the county clerk, and reasonable notice of the election shall be given. The election shall be conducted and carried out in the school district in all respects as required by the general election laws and shall be held by the same officers as required by the general election laws. The expense of the election shall be borne by the school district.
- (3) For the 1966 tax year and for all subsequent years for levies which were approved prior to December 8, 1965, no district board of education shall levy a tax at a rate under the provisions of this section which exceeds the compensating tax rate as defined in KRS 132.010, except as provided in subsection (4) of this section and except that a rate which has been approved by the voters under this section but which was not levied by the district board of education in 1965 may be levied after it has been reduced to the compensating tax rate as defined in KRS 132.010, and except that in any school district where the rate levied in 1965 was less than the maximum rate which had been approved by the voters, the compensating tax rate shall be computed and may be levied as though the maximum approved rate had been levied in 1965 and the amount of revenue which would have been produced from such maximum levy had been derived therefrom.
- (4) Notwithstanding the limitations contained in subsection (3) of this section, no tax rate shall be set lower than that necessary to provide such funds as are required to meet principal and interest payments on outstanding bonded indebtedness and payments of rentals in connection with any outstanding school revenue bonds issued under the provisions of KRS Chapter 162.
- (5) The chief state school officer shall certify the compensating tax rate to the levying authorities.

Signed by the Governor March 20, 2009.