

CHAPTER 133

(HB 444)

AN ACT relating to locally operated area technology centers and making an appropriation therefor.

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

➔Section 1. KRS 157.069 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) As used in this section:
 - (a) "Secondary area technology center" or "secondary area center" means a school facility dedicated to the primary purpose of offering five (5) or more technical preparation programs that lead to skill development focused on specific occupational areas. An area center may be called a "magnet technology center" or "career center" or may be assigned another working title by the parent agency. An area center may be either state or locally operated; and
 - (b) "Vocational department" means a portion of a school facility that has five (5) or more technical preparation programs that lead to skill development focused on specific occupational areas.
- (2) The Kentucky Department of Education shall distribute all general funds designated for locally operated secondary area centers and vocational departments, which have been receiving state supplemental funds prior to June 21, 2001, by a weighted formula, specified in an administrative regulation promulgated by the Kentucky Board of Education. The formula shall take into account the differences in cost of operating specific programs. The commissioner of education shall determine programs to be assigned to categories based on the descriptions found in paragraphs (a) to (c) of this subsection. Programs in Categories III and II shall be eligible for funding.
 - (a) Category III--High-cost technical programs: Programs in which students develop highly technical skills in specific occupational areas and that require high-cost equipment, materials, and facilities. This category may include selected industrial technology Level III programs as defined by the Department of Education and programs in other occupational areas as deemed appropriate;
 - (b) Category II--Technical skill programs: Programs in which students develop technical skills focused in occupational areas and that require technical equipment but high-cost equipment, facilities, or materials are not necessary to operate the programs. This category may include selected industrial technology Level III programs as defined by the Department of Education and programs in other occupational areas as deemed appropriate; and
 - (c) Category I--Orientation and career exploration programs: Programs that provide orientation and exploration of broad-based industries by giving students knowledge and experience regarding careers within these industries and develop some exploratory or hands-on skills used in the industry.

Notwithstanding paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (1) of this section, the Department of Education shall approve the combining of eligible secondary vocational programs into a single vocational department for purposes of funding for a school district that has been receiving state supplemental funds and has distributed its vocational programs, previously located in area centers, among magnet career academies.
- (3) For calculation purposes and after categorizing the programs as described in subsection (2) of this section, a weight shall be applied as a percentage of the base guarantee per pupil in average daily attendance as defined by KRS 157.320 under the Support Education Excellence in Kentucky Program, which shall be applied to full-time equivalent students in Categories II and III. Category I programs shall receive no weight. The full-time equivalent students shall be calculated on the basis of the total program enrollment divided by the length of the class period divided by six (6).
- (4) (a) *If a school district has a locally operated secondary area center that has been receiving state supplemental funds, and the district moves the center as part of a collaborative project agreement between two (2) or more school districts, then the Kentucky Department of Education may, subject to approval by the commissioner of education, distribute the general funds designated for the district's locally operated secondary area center to the district for the purpose of supporting the collaborative project for the district's full-time equivalent students in Category II and III programs.*

- (b) *If the commissioner of education approves the distribution of funds under paragraph (a) of this subsection:*
1. *For the first year of the collaborative project agreement, the department shall distribute an amount equal to the final allotted amount of general funds from the prior fiscal year designated for the district's locally operated secondary area center; and*
 2. *For any successive year of the collaborative project agreement, the department shall calculate the amount of general funds to distribute pursuant to subsections (2) and (3) of this section. The amount distributed shall not exceed the amount distributed under subparagraph 1. of this paragraph.*

Signed by Governor March 26, 2019.