

**156.565 Definitions for section -- Principal leadership development practicum --
Administrative regulations. (Effective July 15, 2026)**

- (1) As used in this section:
 - (a) "Department" means the Kentucky Department of Education; and
 - (b) "Principal" means a person who:
 1. Is the primary administrator and instructional leader of a public school or program;
 2. Supervises students and school employees; and
 3. Is selected by the district's superintendent pursuant to KRS 160.345.
- (2) There is hereby established the principal leadership development practicum to provide all new principals within the first four (4) years of experience in the position with leadership development training. It is the intent of the General Assembly to ensure that a school district or principal incurs no cost for the participation in the practicum and the principal receives a stipend toward the cost of the third year of the practicum. The Kentucky Department of Education shall develop and operate the practicum, subject to the following provisions:
 - (a) The practicum shall operate based on cohorts of new principals and offer four (4) years of leadership development training with specific requirements in each year. The department shall annually establish a calendar for the operation of the practicum;
 - (b) Each year's cohort of new principals shall consist of those people who first became principals by September 1 of each year;
 - (c) The department shall establish the minimum requirements for successful completion of each year, including hours of instruction or specific work products;
 - (d) The first and second year of the practicum shall provide professional learning and mentorship supports to new principals, subject to the following:
 1. The mentors shall have significant and successful experience as a principal and may be currently employed in a school district or retired. The mentors shall provide ongoing support to the new principals through the first and second school year with regular personal sessions to provide individualized support to the new principal;
 2. The mentorship shall also provide the cohort of new principals an opportunity to build a peer support network;
 3. The professional learning provided by the department shall be aligned to the most recent professional standards adopted by the National Policy Board for Educational Administration and include, at a minimum, the following topics:
 - a. Personnel evaluation and feedback;
 - b. School-based decision making and school councils;
 - c. Implementation of instructional leadership, high-quality instructional materials, and curriculum alignment;

- d. Assessment and accountability;
 - e. Multitiered systems of support;
 - f. Services for exceptional children and youth; and
 - g. School safety; and
4. Professional learning under subparagraph 3. of this paragraph shall utilize any existing trainings required in administrative regulation or statute or developed by the department. Additional professional learning developed by the department shall first be approved by the Kentucky Board of Education;
- (e) The third year of the practicum shall require, as funds are available, that the new principal participate in an intensive leadership program during the summer with follow-up sessions throughout the following year. The leadership program shall be established by the department in partnership with the Kentucky Chamber Foundation. A new principal shall be exempted from the requirements of this paragraph if:
- 1. The new principal misses the intensive leadership program during the summer due to illness or an emergency;
 - 2. The absence is approved by the superintendent of the school district in which the new principal is employed; and
 - 3. The new principal completes an alternative program established by the department; and
- (f) The fourth year of the practicum shall not be mandatory but shall provide high-level leadership training options for new principals. The department shall establish the standards for training providers and the trainings under this paragraph, including the number of hours required. The department shall maintain a list of training providers who are eligible to provide the high-level leadership training and make it available to new principals; and
- (g) After the fourth year, each principal shall continue leadership development through the effective instructional leadership program established in KRS 156.101.
- (3) A principal may submit the participant hours of instruction that the principal earns under this section during a year toward the twenty-one (21) participant hours required by the effective instructional leadership program established in KRS 156.101. The department shall grant program credit for the verified hours the principal submits.
- (4) If a person discontinues serving as a principal during the first four (4) years of service and subsequently returns to a principal position, then that person shall continue the new principal program for the year in which the person was previously participating.
- (5) The principal leadership development practicum required under this section shall begin on July 1, 2027, for the 2027-2028 school year with a cohort of principals with less than one (1) year of experience in the position. Subsequent cohorts shall be admitted as provided in subsection (2) of this section.

- (6) The Kentucky Board of Education may promulgate administrative regulations in accordance with KRS Chapter 13A for the operation of the section.

Effective: July 15, 2026

History: Created 2026 Ky. Acts ch. 154, sec. 1, effective July 15, 2026.