

AN ACT relating to school bus safety.

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

➔Section 1. KRS 158.110 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) Boards of education may provide transportation from their general funds or otherwise for any pupil of any grade to the nearest school to the pupil's residence within the district if the pupil does not live within a reasonable walking distance to such nearest school of appropriate grade level. The local board may provide transportation by means of a board-operated transportation system, transit authorities organized and operating pursuant to KRS Chapter 96A, local governmental mass transit systems, and individual contracted buses and vehicles.
- (2) When space is not available at the nearest school, boards of education may provide transportation from their general funds or otherwise for any pupil of any grade who does not live within a reasonable walking distance to the nearest school of appropriate grade level where space is available. Transportation may be provided by means pursuant to subsection (1) of this section.
- (3) Public elementary and secondary schools shall not change their present grade level structure without written permission from the Kentucky Board of Education.
- (4) The boards of education shall adopt such rules and regulations as will insure the comfort, health, and safety of the children who are transported, consistent with the rules and regulations of the Kentucky Board of Education dealing with the transportation of pupils.
- (5) ***The boards of education shall establish a program allowing an adult or secondary school student to volunteer as a designated escort and accompany a child transported on a board-operated transportation system safely to his or her pick-up and drop-off location.***
- (6) (a) ***The boards of education shall develop and implement a policy requiring a state criminal records check on an adult volunteer prior to serving as a***

designated escort. The request for records may be from the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet or the Administrative Office of the Courts, or both, and shall include records of all available convictions as described in KRS 17.160(1). Any request for a criminal records check of a volunteer under this paragraph shall be on a form or through a process approved by the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet or the Administrative Office of the Courts. If the cabinet or the Administrative Office of the Courts charges fees, the local board of education shall arrange to pay the cost which may be from local funds or donations from any source including volunteers.

(b) The boards may deny an adult the right to serve as a volunteer designated escort based on the result of a state criminal records check.

➔Section 2. This Act shall be cited as Jayden's Law.