

1 AN ACT relating to school curriculum.

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

3 ➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 158 IS CREATED TO  
4 READ AS FOLLOWS:

5 *(1) Beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, every school shall provide an essential*  
6 *skills program that teaches skills and characteristics that are critical to success in*  
7 *the workplace to each student kindergarten through grade twelve (12). Each*  
8 *student shall have attained essential skills in order to graduate. The essential*  
9 *skills program shall include but not be limited to instruction on:*

10 *(a) Adaptability, including an openness to learning and problem solving, an*  
11 *ability to embrace new ways of doing things, and a capability for critical*  
12 *thinking;*

13 *(b) Diligence, including seeing a task through to completion;*

14 *(c) Initiative, including taking appropriate action when needed without waiting*  
15 *for direct instruction;*

16 *(d) Knowledge, including exhibiting an understanding of work-related*  
17 *information, the ability to apply that understanding to a job, and effectively*  
18 *explain the concepts to colleagues in reading, writing, mathematics,*  
19 *science, and technology as required by the job;*

20 *(e) Reliability, including showing up on time, wearing appropriate attire, self-*  
21 *control, motivation, and ethical behavior;*

22 *(f) Remaining drug free; and*

23 *(g) Working well with others, including effective communication skills, respect*  
24 *for different points of view and diversity of co-workers, the ability to*  
25 *cooperate and collaborate, enthusiasm, and the ability to provide*  
26 *appropriate leadership to or support for colleagues.*

27 *(2) (a) Within ninety (90) days of the effective date of this Act, the Kentucky*

1           Department of Education shall develop an essential skills program for  
2           kindergarten through grade twelve (12) and make it available to all schools.

3           (b) In developing the essential skills program, the department shall collaborate  
4           with the School Curriculum, Assessment and Accountability Council, the  
5           Council on Postsecondary Education, the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce,  
6           the Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet, and other  
7           business and community groups deemed necessary by the department.

8           (c) A school may use the program developed by the department or another  
9           program that incorporates the standards used by the department.

10          (3) A high school graduate shall be deemed as having attained essential skills if the  
11          graduate meets at least three (3) of the following indicators while in high school:

12          (a) Receives unexcused absences for less than six percent (6%) of the student  
13          attendance days as defined in KRS 158.070 per school year;

14          (b) Completes a work-based learning experience as verified by the student's  
15          employer;

16          (c) Completes twenty-five (25) hours of service learning, community service, or  
17          extracurricular activities;

18          (d) Demonstrates leadership experience in school government, extracurricular  
19          activities, community organizations, or other community service;

20          (e) Completes a dual credit course developed in accordance with KRS 164.098;

21          (f) Submits voluntarily to regular, random drug tests during the student's high  
22          school career; or

23          (g) Completes other indicators as identified by the department.

24          ➔Section 2. KRS 158.645 is amended to read as follows:

25          The General Assembly recognizes that public education involves shared responsibilities.  
26          State government, local communities, parents, students, and school employees must work  
27          together to create an efficient public school system. Parents and students must assist

1 schools with efforts to assure student attendance, preparation for school, and involvement  
 2 in learning. The cooperation of all involved is necessary to assure that desired outcomes  
 3 are achieved. It is the intent of the General Assembly to create a system of public  
 4 education which shall allow and assist all students to acquire the following capacities:

- 5 (1) Communication skills necessary to function in a complex and changing civilization;
- 6 (2) Knowledge to make economic, social, and political choices;
- 7 (3) Core values and qualities of good character to make moral and ethical decisions  
 8 throughout his or her life;
- 9 (4) Understanding of governmental processes as they affect the community, the state,  
 10 and the nation;
- 11 (5) Sufficient self-knowledge and knowledge of his mental and physical wellness;
- 12 (6) Sufficient grounding in the arts to enable each student to appreciate his or her  
 13 cultural and historical heritage;
- 14 (7) Sufficient preparation to choose and pursue his life's work intelligently;~~and~~
- 15 (8) Skills to enable him to compete favorably with students in other states; and
- 16 **(9) Essential skills and characteristics that are critical to success in the workplace as**  
 17 **identified in subsection (1) of Section 1 of this Act.**

18 ➔SECTION 3. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 158 IS CREATED TO  
 19 READ AS FOLLOWS:

20 **(1) The Kentucky Department of Education, in collaboration with the School**  
 21 **Curriculum, Assessment and Accountability Council, the Council on**  
 22 **Postsecondary Education, the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, the Kentucky**  
 23 **Education and Workforce Development Cabinet, and other business and**  
 24 **community groups deemed necessary by the department, shall develop age-**  
 25 **appropriate drug awareness and prevention standards to be used with students in**  
 26 **kindergarten through grade twelve (12).**

27 **(2) (a) Every school shall ensure students receive annual instruction within the**

- 1                   existing content curriculum on drug awareness and drug prevention.
- 2           **(b) Teachers shall receive appropriate professional development on drug**
- 3                   **awareness and prevention in order to successfully implement evidence-**
- 4                   **based, performance-based instruction.**
- 5           **(c) The instruction may be delivered by using:**
- 6                   **1. The program developed under subsection (1) of this section;**
- 7                   **2. A program developed by the school or local district that meets the**
- 8                   **standards developed in subsection (1) of this section; or**
- 9                   **3. An outside group or agency, such as local law enforcement personnel**
- 10                   **or a nationally, regionally, or locally recognized drug awareness and**
- 11                   **prevention program that meets the standards developed in subsection**
- 12                   **(1) of this section.**