

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, the local school district shall provide*
6 *an essential skills curriculum that teaches skills and characteristics that are*
7 *critical to success in the workplace to each student kindergarten through grade*
8 *twelve (12). Each student shall have attained essential skills in order to graduate.*
9 *The essential skills curriculum 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 curriculum for
2 kindergarten through grade twelve (12) and make it available to all school
3 districts.

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

9 (c) A local school district may use the curriculum developed by the department
10 or another curriculum that incorporates the standards used by the
11 department.

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

14 (a) No more than six percent (6%) of the student's absences per year are
15 unexcused;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

27 The General Assembly recognizes that public education involves shared responsibilities.

1 State government, local communities, parents, students, and school employees must work
 2 together to create an efficient public school system. Parents and students must assist
 3 schools with efforts to assure student attendance, preparation for school, and involvement
 4 in learning. The cooperation of all involved is necessary to assure that desired outcomes
 5 are achieved. It is the intent of the General Assembly to create a system of public
 6 education which shall allow and assist all students to acquire the following capacities:

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

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

22 **(1) The Kentucky Department of Education shall develop age-appropriate drug**
 23 **awareness and prevention standards to be used with students in kindergarten**
 24 **through grade twelve (12).**

25 **(2) (a) A local school board shall ensure students receive annual instruction within**
 26 **the existing curriculum on drug awareness and drug prevention.**

27 **(b) The instruction may be delivered by using:**

- 1 1. The program developed under subsection (1) of this section;
- 2 2. An outside group or agency, such as local law enforcement personnel;
- 3 or
- 4 3. A nationally, regionally, or locally recognized drug awareness
- 5 program.