

1 AN ACT relating to public charter schools.

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

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 156.095 (Effective July 14, 2018) is amended to read as
4 follows:

5 (1) The Kentucky Department of Education shall establish, direct, and maintain a
6 statewide program of professional development to improve instruction in the public
7 schools.

8 (2) Each local school district superintendent shall appoint a certified school employee
9 to fulfill the role and responsibilities of a professional development coordinator who
10 shall disseminate professional development information to schools and personnel.
11 Upon request by a school council or any employees of the district, the coordinator
12 shall provide technical assistance to the council or the personnel that may include
13 assisting with needs assessments, analyzing school data, planning and evaluation
14 assistance, organizing districtwide programs requested by school councils or groups
15 of teachers, or other coordination activities.

16 (a) The manner of appointment, qualifications, and other duties of the
17 professional development coordinator shall be established by Kentucky Board
18 of Education through promulgation of administrative regulations.

19 (b) The local district professional development coordinator shall participate in the
20 Kentucky Department of Education annual training program for local school
21 district professional development coordinators. The training program may
22 include, but not be limited to, the demonstration of various approaches to
23 needs assessment and planning; strategies for implementing long-term,
24 school-based professional development; strategies for strengthening teachers'
25 roles in the planning, development, and evaluation of professional
26 development; and demonstrations of model professional development
27 programs. The training shall include information about teacher learning

1 opportunities relating to the core content standards. The Kentucky Department
2 of Education shall regularly collect and distribute this information.

3 (3) The Kentucky Department of Education shall provide or facilitate optional,
4 professional development programs for certified personnel throughout the
5 Commonwealth that are based on the statewide needs of teachers, administrators,
6 and other education personnel. Programs may include classified staff and parents
7 when appropriate. Programs offered or facilitated by the department shall be at
8 locations and times convenient to local school personnel and shall be made
9 accessible through the use of technology when appropriate. They shall include
10 programs that: address the goals for Kentucky schools as stated in KRS 158.6451,
11 including reducing the achievement gaps as determined by an equity analysis of the
12 disaggregated student performance data from the state assessment program
13 developed under KRS 158.6453; engage educators in effective learning processes
14 and foster collegiality and collaboration; and provide support for staff to incorporate
15 newly acquired skills into their work through practicing the skills, gathering
16 information about the results, and reflecting on their efforts. Professional
17 development programs shall be made available to teachers based on their needs
18 which shall include but not be limited to the following areas:

- 19 (a) Strategies to reduce the achievement gaps among various groups of students
20 and to provide continuous progress;
- 21 (b) Curriculum content and methods of instruction for each content area,
22 including differentiated instruction;
- 23 (c) School-based decision making;
- 24 (d) Assessment literacy;
- 25 (e) Integration of performance-based student assessment into daily classroom
26 instruction;
- 27 (f) Nongraded primary programs;

- 1 (g) Research-based instructional practices;
- 2 (h) Instructional uses of technology;
- 3 (i) Curriculum design to serve the needs of students with diverse learning styles
4 and skills and of students of diverse cultures;
- 5 (j) Instruction in reading, including phonics, phonemic awareness,
6 comprehension, fluency, and vocabulary;
- 7 (k) Educational leadership; and
- 8 (l) Strategies to incorporate character education throughout the curriculum.
- 9 (4) The department shall assist school personnel in assessing the impact of professional
10 development on their instructional practices and student learning.
- 11 (5) The department shall assist districts and school councils with the development of
12 long-term school and district improvement plans that include multiple strategies for
13 professional development based on the assessment of needs at the school level.
- 14 (a) Professional development strategies may include, but are not limited to,
15 participation in subject matter academies, teacher networks, training institutes,
16 workshops, seminars, and study groups; collegial planning; action research;
17 mentoring programs; appropriate university courses; and other forms of
18 professional development.
- 19 (b) In planning the use of the four (4) days for professional development under
20 KRS 158.070, school councils and districts shall give priority to programs that
21 increase teachers' understanding of curriculum content and methods of
22 instruction appropriate for each content area based on individual school plans.
23 The district may use up to one (1) day to provide district-wide training and
24 training that is mandated by state or federal law. Only those employees
25 identified in the mandate or affected by the mandate shall be required to attend
26 the training.
- 27 (c) State funds allocated for professional development shall be used to support

1 professional development initiatives that are consistent with local school
2 improvement and professional development plans and teachers' individual
3 growth plans. The funds may be used throughout the year for all staff,
4 including classified and certified staff and parents on school councils or
5 committees. A portion of the funds allocated to each school council under
6 KRS 160.345 may be used to prepare or enhance the teachers' knowledge and
7 teaching practices related to the content and subject matter that are required
8 for their specific classroom assignments.

9 (6) (a) By August 1, 2010, the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services
10 shall post on its Web page suicide prevention awareness information, to
11 include recognizing the warning signs of a suicide crisis. The Web page shall
12 include information related to suicide prevention training opportunities
13 offered by the cabinet or an agency recognized by the cabinet as a training
14 provider.

15 (b) By September 15, 2018, and September 15 of each year thereafter, every
16 public middle and high school administrator shall disseminate suicide
17 prevention awareness information to all middle and high school students. The
18 information may be obtained from the Cabinet for Health and Family Services
19 or from a commercially developed suicide prevention training program.

20 (c) 1. Beginning with the 2018-2019 school year, and every other year
21 thereafter, a minimum of one (1) hour of high-quality suicide prevention
22 training shall be required for all high school and middle school
23 principals, guidance counselors, and teachers. The training shall be
24 provided either in person, by live streaming, or via a video recording and
25 may be included in the four (4) days of professional development under
26 KRS 158.070.

27 2. When a staff member subject to the training under subparagraph 1. of

1 this paragraph is initially hired during a school year in which the training
2 is not required, the local district shall provide suicide prevention
3 materials to the staff member for review.

4 ~~[(d) The requirements of paragraphs (b) and (c) of this subsection shall apply to
5 public charter schools as a health and safety requirement under KRS
6 160.1592(1).]~~

7 (7) (a) The Kentucky Department of Education shall develop and maintain a list of
8 approved comprehensive evidence-informed trainings on child abuse and
9 neglect prevention, recognition, and reporting that encompass child physical,
10 sexual, and emotional abuse and neglect.

11 (b) The trainings shall be Web-based or in-person and cover, at a minimum, the
12 following topics:

- 13 1. Recognizing child physical, sexual, and emotional abuse and neglect;
- 14 2. Reporting suspected child abuse and neglect in Kentucky as required by
15 KRS 620.030 and the appropriate documentation;
- 16 3. Responding to the child; and
- 17 4. Understanding the response of child protective services.

18 (c) The trainings shall include a questionnaire or other basic assessment tool upon
19 completion to document basic knowledge of training components.

20 (d) Each local school board shall adopt one (1) or more trainings from the list
21 approved by the Department of Education to be implemented by schools.

22 (e) All current school administrators, certified personnel, office staff,
23 instructional assistants, and coaches and extracurricular sponsors who are
24 employed by the school district shall complete the implemented training or
25 trainings by January 31, 2017, and then every two (2) years after.

26 (f) All school administrators, certified personnel, office staff, instructional
27 assistants, and coaches and extracurricular sponsors who are employed by the

1 school district hired after January 31, 2017, shall complete the implemented
2 training or trainings within ninety (90) days of being hired and then every two
3 (2) years after.

4 (g) Every public school shall prominently display the statewide child abuse
5 hotline number administered by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services,
6 and the National Human Trafficking Reporting Hotline number administered
7 by the United States Department for Health and Human Services.

8 (8) The Department of Education shall establish an electronic consumer bulletin board
9 that posts information regarding professional development providers and programs
10 as a service to school district central office personnel, school councils, teachers, and
11 administrators. Participation on the electronic consumer bulletin board shall be
12 voluntary for professional development providers or vendors, but shall include all
13 programs sponsored by the department. Participants shall provide the following
14 information: program title; name of provider or vendor; qualifications of the
15 presenters or instructors; objectives of the program; program length; services
16 provided, including follow-up support; costs for participation and costs of materials;
17 names of previous users of the program, addresses, and telephone numbers; and
18 arrangements required. Posting information on the bulletin board by the department
19 shall not be viewed as an endorsement of the quality of any specific provider or
20 program.

21 (9) The Department of Education shall provide training to address the characteristics
22 and instructional needs of students at risk of school failure and most likely to drop
23 out of school. The training shall be developed to meet the specific needs of all
24 certified and classified personnel depending on their relationship with these
25 students. The training for instructional personnel shall be designed to provide and
26 enhance skills of personnel to:

27 (a) Identify at-risk students early in elementary schools as well as at-risk and

- 1 potential dropouts in the middle and high schools;
- 2 (b) Plan specific instructional strategies to teach at-risk students;
- 3 (c) Improve the academic achievement of students at risk of school failure by
4 providing individualized and extra instructional support to increase
5 expectations for targeted students;
- 6 (d) Involve parents as partners in ways to help their children and to improve their
7 children's academic progress; and
- 8 (e) Significantly reduce the dropout rate of all students.
- 9 (10) The department shall establish teacher academies to the extent funding is available
10 in cooperation with postsecondary education institutions for elementary, middle
11 school, and high school faculty in core disciplines, utilizing facilities and faculty
12 from universities and colleges, local school districts, and other appropriate agencies
13 throughout the state. Priority for participation shall be given to those teachers who
14 are teaching core discipline courses for which they do not have a major or minor or
15 the equivalent. Participation of teachers shall be voluntary.
- 16 (11) The department shall annually provide to the oversight council established in KRS
17 15A.063, the information received from local schools pursuant to KRS 158.449.
- 18 ➔Section 2. The following KRS sections are repealed:
- 19 160.1590 Definitions for KRS 160.1590 to 160.1599.
- 20 160.1591 Legislative findings and declarations -- Public charter school project.
- 21 160.1592 Public charter schools part of state's public education system -- Exemption
22 from laws and regulations -- School requirements -- Enrollment option information
23 for parents -- Board of directors -- Buildings and grounds, liability insurance, and
24 other undertakings -- Requirement to be nonsectarian and nondiscriminatory --
25 Authorized grade levels -- Programs and services for students with disabilities --
26 Participation in athletic, academic, and other programs -- Single-sex public charter
27 schools permitted -- Amendments to charter contract -- Acceptance of credits

- 1 earned and grades received in public charter school -- Leave of absence to teach in
2 public charter school.
- 3 160.1593 Application to establish public charter school -- Submission to authorizer and
4 state board -- Required application information.
- 5 160.1594 Public charter school authorizer -- Duties -- Application reviews and decisions
6 -- Criteria for approval -- Explanation of decision -- Final approval by
7 commissioner of education.
- 8 160.1595 Appeal of approval or denial to state board -- Judicial review -- Report of
9 reconsideration.
- 10 160.1596 Board of directors of public charter schools -- Required elements of charter
11 contract with authorizer -- Administrative regulations -- Application for federal
12 funds -- Annual report by authorizer.
- 13 160.1597 Term of approved charter school contract -- Contract between board of
14 directors and authorizer's governing body -- Corporate powers -- Prohibition against
15 tax levies and use of eminent domain -- Immunity from liability.
- 16 160.1598 Renewal or nonrenewal of charter contract -- School performance report --
17 Reasons for nonrenewal or revocation -- Administrative regulations -- Report of
18 action taken and reason for decision -- School closure protocol.
- 19 160.1599 Conversion of public noncharter school to public charter school --
20 Establishment requirements -- Administrative regulations -- Governance --
21 Enrollment requirements -- Employees -- Collective bargaining -- School facilities.
- 22 161.141 Requirements and prohibitions concerning public charter school employees and
23 local school boards.