

1 AN ACT relating to local boards of education.

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

3 ➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 160 IS CREATED TO
4 READ AS FOLLOWS:

5 **(1) No later than November 1, 2024, each local board of education shall adopt a**
6 **policy establishing a code of ethics for members of the local board of education.**
7 **The policy shall, at a minimum, include the provisions of the model code of ethics**
8 **policy published by the Kentucky School Boards Association as it existed on**
9 **January 1, 2024.**

10 **(2) (a) In accordance with KRS 7.410, the Office of Education Accountability shall**
11 **have the duty and responsibility to investigate current local board of**
12 **education members for allegations of a substantial violation of a local board**
13 **of education's code of ethics policy.**
14 **(b) If, after an investigation, the Office of Education Accountability determines**
15 **that a current local board of education member has committed a substantial**
16 **violation of the local board of education's code of ethics policy, the Office of**
17 **Education Accountability shall refer the matter to the Attorney General.**

18 ➔Section 2. KRS 160.180 is amended to read as follows:

19 (1) As used in this section, "relative" means father, mother, brother, sister, husband,
20 wife, son, and daughter.

21 (2) ~~A~~~~no~~ person shall **only** be eligible for membership on a board of education **if the**
22 **person:**

23 (a) ~~Unless he~~ Has attained the age of twenty-four (24) years;~~and~~

24 (b) ~~Unless he~~ Has been a citizen of Kentucky for at least three (3) years
25 preceding ~~the~~~~his~~ election and is a voter of the district for which he **or she** is
26 elected;~~and~~

27 (c) ~~Unless he~~ Has completed at least the twelfth grade or has been issued a High

1 School Equivalency Diploma, as evidenced by; ~~and~~

2 1. ~~[(d) Unless]~~An affidavit signed under penalty of perjury certifying
3 completion of the twelfth grade or the equivalent that ~~as determined by~~
4 ~~passage of the twelfth grade equivalency examination held under~~
5 ~~regulations adopted by the Kentucky Board of Education~~ has been filed
6 with the nominating petition required by KRS 118.315; or ~~and~~

7 2. ~~[(e) For a candidate who files a nominating petition as required by~~
8 ~~KRS 118.315 on or after April 4, 2018, unless]~~A transcript evidencing
9 completion of the twelfth grade or the results of a twelfth grade
10 equivalency examination that has been filed with the nominating
11 petition required by KRS 118.315; ~~or~~

12 ~~(d)~~~~[(f)]~~ Does not hold ~~[Who holds]~~ any elective federal, state, county, or city
13 office; ~~or~~

14 ~~(e)~~~~[(g)]~~ ~~[Who, at the time of his election,]~~Is not, at the time of his or her
15 election, directly or indirectly interested in the sale to the board of books,
16 stationery, or any other property, materials, supplies, equipment, or services
17 for which school funds are expended; ~~or~~

18 ~~(f)~~~~[(h)]~~ ~~[Who]~~Has not been removed from membership on a board of education
19 for cause; and ~~or~~

20 ~~(g)~~~~[(i)]~~ Does not have ~~[Who has]~~ a relative ~~[as defined in subsection (1) of this~~
21 ~~section]~~ employed by the school district, in the case of a person ~~[and is]~~
22 elected after July 13, 1990. ~~[However,]~~ This shall not apply to a board
23 member holding office on July 13, 1990, whose relative was not initially hired
24 by the district during the tenure of the board member.

25 (3) (a) A member of a board of education shall be subject to removal from office
26 pursuant to KRS 415.050 and 415.060 if, after the election the ~~[of any]~~
27 member; ~~[of the board, he]~~

- 1 1. Becomes interested in any contract with or claims against the board, of
 2 the kind mentioned in ~~paragraph (g) of~~ subsection (2)(e) of this
 3 section; ~~or if he~~
- 4 2. Moves his or her residence from the district for which he or she was
 5 chosen; ~~or if he~~
- 6 3. Attempts to influence the hiring of any school employee, except the
 7 superintendent ~~of schools~~ or school board attorney; ~~or if he~~
- 8 4. Does anything that would render the member~~him~~ ineligible for
 9 reelection~~, he shall be subject to removal from office pursuant to KRS~~
 10 415.050 and 415.060].

11 **(b) A member of a board of education may be subject to removal from office**
 12 **pursuant to KRS 415.050 and 415.060 for a violation of the code of ethics**
 13 **policy adopted by the board of education in accordance with Section 1 of**
 14 **this Act.**

- 15 (4) A ~~board~~ member of a board of education shall be eligible for reelection unless he
 16 or she becomes disqualified.
- 17 (5) The annual in-service training requirements for all ~~school board~~ members of
 18 boards of education in office as of December 31, 2014, shall be as follows:
- 19 (a) Twelve (12) hours for ~~school board~~ members with zero to three (3) years of
 20 experience;
- 21 (b) Eight (8) hours for ~~school board~~ members with four (4) to seven (7) years of
 22 experience; and
- 23 (c) Four (4) hours for ~~school board~~ members with eight (8) or more years of
 24 experience.

25 The Kentucky Board of Education shall identify the criteria for fulfilling this
 26 requirement.

- 27 (6) (a) For all ~~board~~ members of boards of education who begin their initial service

1 on or after January 1, 2015, the annual in-service training requirements shall
2 be:

3 1. Twelve (12) hours for ~~school board~~ members with zero to eight (8)
4 years of experience, **which shall include a minimum of one (1) hour of**
5 **ethics training;** and

6 2. Eight (8) hours for ~~school board~~ members with more than eight (8)
7 years of experience, **which shall include a minimum of one (1) hour of**
8 **ethics training.**

9 (b) Training topics for ~~school board~~ members **under this subsection with less**
10 **than two (2) years of consecutive service** shall include~~:-~~

11 ~~1. Three (3) hours of finance, one (1) hour of ethics,~~ and one (1) hour of
12 superintendent evaluation **within the first two (2) years of service**~~annually for~~
13 ~~members with zero to three (3) years' experience;~~

14 ~~2. Two (2) hours of finance, one (1) hour of ethics, and one (1) hour of superintendent~~
15 ~~evaluation annually for members with four (4) to seven (7) years' experience; and~~

16 ~~3. One (1) hour of finance, one (1) hour of ethics, and one (1) hour of superintendent~~
17 ~~evaluation biennially for members with eight (8) or more years' experience].~~

18 The Kentucky Board of Education shall identify criteria for fulfilling this
19 requirement.