

1 AN ACT relating to high school graduation requirements.

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

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 156.160 is amended to read as follows:

4 (1) With the advice of the Local Superintendents Advisory Council, the Kentucky  
5 Board of Education shall promulgate administrative regulations establishing  
6 standards which school districts shall meet in student, program, service, and  
7 operational performance. These regulations shall comply with the expected  
8 outcomes for students and schools set forth in KRS 158.6451. Administrative  
9 regulations shall be promulgated for the following:

10 (a) Courses of study for the different grades and kinds of common schools  
11 identifying the common curriculum content directly tied to the goals,  
12 outcomes, and assessment strategies developed under KRS 158.645,  
13 158.6451, and 158.6453 and distributed to local school districts and schools.

14 The administrative regulations shall provide that:

15 1. If a school offers American sign language, the course shall be accepted  
16 as meeting the foreign language requirements in common schools  
17 notwithstanding other provisions of law;

18 2. If a school offers the Reserve Officers Training Corps program, the  
19 course shall be accepted as meeting the physical education requirement  
20 for high school graduation notwithstanding other provisions of law;

21 3. **Beginning in the 2027-2026 school year, any course meeting the**  
22 **health requirement for high school graduation shall include**  
23 **information on the purposes, processes, and benefits of organ**  
24 **donation;**

25 **4.** Every public middle and high school's curriculum shall include  
26 instruction on the Holocaust and other cases of genocide, as defined by  
27 the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the

1 Crime of Genocide, that a court of competent jurisdiction, whether a  
2 court in the United States or the International Court of Justice, has  
3 determined to have been committed by applying rigorous standards of  
4 due process; and

5 ~~5.14.1~~ Beginning in the 2025-2026 school year, cursive writing shall be  
6 included as a course of study in all elementary schools and shall be  
7 designed to ensure proficiency in cursive writing by the end of grade  
8 five (5);

9 (b) Courses of study or educational experiences available to students in all middle  
10 and high schools to fulfill the prerequisites for courses in advanced science  
11 and mathematics as defined in KRS 158.845;

12 (c) The acquisition and use of educational equipment for the schools as  
13 recommended by the Council for Education Technology;

14 (d) The minimum requirements for high school graduation in light of the  
15 expected outcomes for students and schools set forth in KRS 158.6451. The  
16 minimum requirements shall not include achieving any postsecondary  
17 readiness indicator as described in KRS 158.6455 or any minimum score on a  
18 statewide assessment administered under KRS 158.6453. Student scores from  
19 any assessment administered under KRS 158.6453 that are determined by the  
20 department's technical advisory committee to be valid and reliable at the  
21 individual level shall be included on the student transcript. The department's  
22 technical advisory committee shall submit its determination to the  
23 commissioner of education and the Legislative Research Commission;

24 (e) The requirements for an alternative high school diploma for students with  
25 disabilities whose individualized education program indicates that, in  
26 accordance with 20 U.S.C. sec. 1414(d)(1)(A):

27 1. The student cannot participate in the regular statewide assessment; and

- 1           2.    An appropriate alternate assessment has been selected for the student  
2                based upon a modified curriculum and an individualized course of  
3                study;
- 4       (f)   Taking and keeping a school census, and the forms, blanks, and software to be  
5               used in taking and keeping the census and in compiling the required reports.  
6               The board shall create a statewide student identification numbering system  
7               based on students' Social Security numbers. The system shall provide a  
8               student identification number similar to, but distinct from, the Social Security  
9               number, for each student who does not have a Social Security number or  
10              whose parents or guardians choose not to disclose the Social Security number  
11              for the student;
- 12       (g)   Sanitary and protective construction of public school buildings, toilets,  
13               physical equipment of school grounds, school buildings, and classrooms. With  
14               respect to physical standards of sanitary and protective construction for school  
15               buildings, the Kentucky Board of Education shall adopt the Uniform State  
16               Building Code;
- 17       (h)   Medical inspection, physical and health education and recreation, and other  
18               regulations necessary or advisable for the protection of the physical welfare  
19               and safety of the public school children. The administrative regulations shall  
20               set requirements for student health standards to be met by all students in  
21               grades four (4), eight (8), and twelve (12) pursuant to the outcomes described  
22               in KRS 158.6451. The administrative regulations shall permit a student who  
23               received a physical examination no more than six (6) months prior to his or  
24               her initial admission to Head Start to substitute that physical examination for  
25               the physical examination required by the Kentucky Board of Education of all  
26               students upon initial admission to the public schools, if the physical  
27               examination given in the Head Start program meets all the requirements of the

- 1 physical examinations prescribed by the Kentucky Board of Education;
- 2 (i) A vision examination by an optometrist or ophthalmologist that shall be  
3 required by the Kentucky Board of Education. The administrative regulations  
4 shall require evidence that a vision examination that meets the criteria  
5 prescribed by the Kentucky Board of Education has been performed. This  
6 evidence shall be submitted to the school no later than January 1 of the first  
7 year that a three (3), four (4), five (5), or six (6) year-old child is enrolled in a  
8 public school, public preschool, or Head Start program;
- 9 (j) 1. Beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, a dental screening or  
10 examination by a dentist, dental hygienist, physician, registered nurse,  
11 advanced practice registered nurse, or physician assistant that shall be  
12 required by the Kentucky Board of Education. The administrative  
13 regulations shall require evidence that a dental screening or examination  
14 that meets the criteria prescribed by the Kentucky Board of Education  
15 has been performed. This evidence shall be submitted to the school no  
16 later than January 1 of the first year that a five (5) or six (6) year-old  
17 child is enrolled in a public school.
- 18 2. A child shall be referred to a licensed dentist if a dental screening or  
19 examination performed by anyone other than a licensed dentist identifies  
20 the possibility of dental disease;
- 21 (k) The transportation of children to and from school;
- 22 (l) The fixing of holidays on which schools may be closed and special days to be  
23 observed, and the pay of teachers during absence because of sickness or  
24 quarantine or when the schools are closed because of quarantine;
- 25 (m) The preparation of budgets and salary schedules for the several school  
26 districts under the management and control of the Kentucky Board of  
27 Education;

- 1 (n) A uniform series of forms and blanks, educational and financial, including  
2 forms of contracts, for use in the several school districts;
- 3 (o) The disposal of real and personal property owned by local boards of  
4 education; and
- 5 (p) The development and implementation of procedures, for all students who are  
6 homeless children and youths as defined in 42 U.S.C. sec. 11434a(2), to do  
7 the following:
- 8 1. Awarding and accepting of credit, including partial credit, for all  
9 coursework satisfactorily completed by a student while enrolled at  
10 another school;
  - 11 2. Allowing a student who was previously enrolled in a course required for  
12 graduation the opportunity, to the extent practicable, to complete the  
13 course, at no cost to the student, before the beginning of the next school  
14 year;
  - 15 3. Awarding a diploma, at the student's request, by a district from which  
16 the student transferred, if the student transfers schools at any time after  
17 the completion of the student's second year of high school and the  
18 student is ineligible to graduate from the district to which the student  
19 transfers, but meets the graduation requirements of the district from  
20 which the student transferred; and
  - 21 4. Exempting the student from all coursework and other requirements  
22 imposed by the local board of education that are in addition to the  
23 minimum requirements for high school graduation established by the  
24 Kentucky Board of Education pursuant to paragraph (d) of this  
25 subsection in the district to which the student transfers, if the student  
26 transfers schools at any time after the completion of the student's second  
27 year of high school and the student is ineligible to graduate both from

1                   the district to which the student transfers and the district from which the  
2                   student transferred.

3     (2) Any private, parochial, or church school may voluntarily comply with curriculum,  
4       certification, and textbook standards established by the Kentucky Board of  
5       Education and be certified upon application to the board by such schools.

6     (3) Any public school that violates the provisions of KRS 158.854 shall be subject to a  
7       penalty to be assessed by the commissioner of education as follows:

8       (a) The first violation shall result in a fine of no less than one (1) week's revenue  
9       from the sale of the competitive food;

10      (b) Subsequent violations shall result in a fine of no less than one (1) month's  
11      revenue from the sale of the competitive food;

12      (c) "Habitual violations," which means five (5) or more violations within a six (6)  
13      month period, shall result in a six (6) month ban on competitive food sales for  
14      the violating school; and

15      (d) Revenue collected as a result of the fines in this subsection shall be  
16      transferred to the food service fund of the local school district.