

1 AN ACT relating to education and declaring an emergency.

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

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 158.070 is amended to read as follows:

4 (1) As used in this section:

5 (a) "Election" has the same meaning as in KRS 121.015;

6 (b) "Minimum school term" or "school term" means not less than one hundred
7 eighty-five (185) days composed of the student attendance days, teacher
8 professional days, and holidays;

9 (c) "School calendar" means the document adopted by a local board of education
10 that establishes the minimum school term, student instructional year or
11 variable student instructional year, and days that school will not be in session;

12 (d) "School district calendar committee" means a committee that includes at least
13 the following:

14 1. One (1) school district principal;

15 2. One (1) school district office administrator other than the
16 superintendent;

17 3. One (1) member of the local board of education;

18 4. Two (2) parents of students attending a school in the district;

19 5. One (1) school district elementary school teacher;

20 6. One (1) school district middle or high school teacher;

21 7. Two (2) school district classified employees; and

22 8. Two (2) community members from the local chamber of commerce,
23 business community, or tourism commission;

24 (e) "Student attendance day" means any day that students are scheduled to be at
25 school to receive instruction, and encompasses the designated start and
26 dismissal time;

27 (f) "Student instructional year" means at least one thousand sixty-two (1,062)

- 1 hours of instructional time for students delivered on not less than one hundred
2 seventy (170) student attendance days;
- 3 (g) "Teacher professional day" means any day teachers are required to report to
4 work as determined by a local board of education, with or without the
5 presence of students; and
- 6 (h) "Variable student instructional year" means at least one thousand sixty-two
7 (1,062) hours of instructional time delivered on the number of student
8 attendance days adopted by a local board of education which shall be
9 considered proportionally equivalent to one hundred seventy (170) student
10 attendance days and calendar days for the purposes of a student instructional
11 year, employment contracts that are based on the school term, service credit
12 under KRS 161.500, and funding under KRS 157.350.
- 13 (2) (a) The local board of education, upon recommendation of the local school
14 district superintendent, shall annually appoint a school district calendar
15 committee to review, develop, and recommend school calendar options.
- 16 (b) The school district calendar committee, after seeking feedback from school
17 district employees, parents, and community members, shall recommend
18 school calendar options to the local school district superintendent for
19 presentation to the local board of education. The committee's
20 recommendations shall comply with state laws and regulations and consider
21 the economic impact of the school calendar on the community and the state.
- 22 (c) Prior to adopting a school calendar, the local board of education shall hear for
23 discussion the school district calendar committee's recommendations and the
24 recommendation of the superintendent at a meeting of the local board of
25 education.
- 26 (d) During a subsequent meeting of the local board of education, the local board
27 shall adopt a school calendar for the upcoming school year that establishes the

1 opening and closing dates of the school term, beginning and ending dates of
2 each school month, student attendance days, and days on which schools shall
3 be dismissed. The local board may schedule days for breaks in the school
4 calendar that shall not be counted as a part of the minimum school term.

5 (e) For local board of education meetings described in paragraphs (c) and (d) of
6 this subsection, if the meeting is a regular meeting, notice shall be given to
7 media outlets that have requests on file to be notified of special meetings
8 stating the date of the regular meeting and that one (1) of the items to be
9 considered in the regular meeting will be the school calendar. The notice shall
10 be sent at least twenty-four (24) hours before the regular meeting. This
11 requirement shall not be deemed to make any requirements or limitations
12 relating to special meetings applicable to the regular meeting.

13 (f) A local school board of education that adopts a school calendar with the first
14 student attendance day in the school term starting no earlier than the Monday
15 closest to August 26 may use a variable student instructional year. Districts
16 may set the length of individual student attendance days in a variable student
17 instructional schedule, but no student attendance day shall contain more than
18 seven (7) hours of instructional time unless the district submitted and received
19 approval from the commissioner of education for an innovative alternative
20 calendar.

21 (3) (a) Each local board of education shall use four (4) days of the minimum school
22 term for professional development and collegial planning activities for the
23 professional staff without the presence of students pursuant to the
24 requirements of KRS 156.095. At the discretion of the superintendent, one (1)
25 day of professional development may be used for district-wide activities and
26 for training that is mandated by federal or state law. The use of three (3) days
27 shall be planned by each school council, except that the district is encouraged

1 to provide technical assistance and leadership to school councils to maximize
2 existing resources and to encourage shared planning.

3 (b) 1. A local board may approve a school's flexible professional development
4 plan that permits teachers or other certified personnel within a school to
5 participate in professional development activities outside the days
6 scheduled in the school calendar or the regularly scheduled hours in the
7 school work day and receive credit towards the four (4) day professional
8 development requirement within the minimum one hundred eighty-five
9 (185) days that a teacher shall be employed.

10 2. A flexible schedule option shall be reflected in the school's professional
11 development component within the school improvement plan and
12 approved by the local board. Credit for approved professional
13 development activities may be accumulated in periods of time other than
14 full day segments.

15 3. No teacher or administrator shall be permitted to count participation in a
16 professional development activity under the flexible schedule option
17 unless the activity is related to the teacher's classroom assignment and
18 content area, or the administrator's job requirements, or is required by
19 the school improvement plan, or is tied to the teacher's or the
20 administrator's individual growth plan. The supervisor shall give prior
21 approval and shall monitor compliance with the requirements of this
22 paragraph. In the case of teachers, a professional development
23 committee or the school council by council policy may be responsible
24 for reviewing requests for approval.

25 (c) The local board of each school district may use up to a maximum of four (4)
26 days of the minimum school term for holidays; provided, however, any
27 holiday which occurs on Saturday may be observed on the preceding Friday.

1 (d) Each local board may use two (2) days for planning activities without the
2 presence of students.

3 (e) Each local board may close schools for the number of days deemed necessary
4 for:

5 1. National or state emergency or mourning when proclaimed by the
6 President of the United States or the Governor of the Commonwealth of
7 Kentucky;

8 2. Local emergency which would endanger the health or safety of children;
9 and

10 3. Mourning when so designated by the local board of education and
11 approved by the Kentucky Board of Education upon recommendation of
12 the commissioner of education.

13 (4) (a) The Kentucky Board of Education, upon recommendation of the
14 commissioner of education, shall adopt administrative regulations governing
15 the use of student attendance days as a result of a local emergency, as
16 described in subsection (3)(e)2. of this section, and regulations setting forth
17 the guidelines and procedures to be observed for the approval of waivers from
18 the requirements of a student instructional year in subsection (1)(f) of this
19 section for districts that wish to adopt innovative instructional calendars, or
20 for circumstances that would create extreme hardship.

21 (b) If a local board of education determines it is necessary to amend~~amends~~ its
22 school calendar after its adoption~~due to an emergency~~, the local board of
23 education~~it~~ may lengthen or shorten any remaining student attendance days
24 by thirty (30) minutes or more, as it deems necessary, provided the amended
25 calendar provides at least one thousand sixty-two (1,062) hours of
26 instructional time for students delivered on the amended number of student
27 attendance days adopted by the local board of education~~complies with the~~

1 ~~requirements of a student instructional year in subsection (1)(f) of this section~~
2 ~~or a variable student instructional year in subsection (1)(h) of this section. No~~
3 ~~student attendance day shall contain more than seven (7) hours of~~
4 ~~instructional time unless the district submitted and received approval from the~~
5 ~~commissioner of education for an innovative alternative calendar].~~

- 6 (5) (a) 1. In setting the school calendar, school may be closed for two (2)
7 consecutive days for the purpose of permitting professional school
8 employees to attend statewide professional meetings.
- 9 2. These two (2) days for statewide professional meetings may be
10 scheduled to begin with the first Thursday after Easter, or upon request
11 of the statewide professional education association having the largest
12 paid membership, the commissioner of education may designate
13 alternate dates.
- 14 3. If schools are scheduled to operate during days designated for the
15 statewide professional meeting, the school district shall permit
16 employees who are delegates to attend as compensated professional
17 leave time and shall employ substitute teachers in their absence.
- 18 4. The commissioner of education shall designate one (1) additional day
19 during the school year when schools may be closed to permit
20 professional school employees to participate in regional or district
21 professional meetings.
- 22 5. These three (3) days so designated for attendance at professional
23 meetings may be counted as a part of the minimum school term.
- 24 (b) If any school in a district is used as a voting place pursuant to KRS 117.065,
25 the school district may be closed on the days of the election, and those days
26 may be used for professional development activities, professional meetings, or
27 parent-teacher conferences.

- 1 (c) All schools shall be closed on the third Monday of January in observance of
2 the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. Districts may:
- 3 1. Designate the day as one (1) of the four (4) holidays permitted under
4 subsection (3)(c) of this section; or
- 5 2. Not include the day in the minimum school term specified in subsection
6 (1) of this section.
- 7 (6) (a) The Kentucky Board of Education, or the organization or agency designated
8 by the board to manage interscholastic athletics, shall be encouraged to
9 schedule athletic competitions outside the regularly scheduled student
10 attendance day.
- 11 (b) Any member of a school-sponsored interscholastic athletic team who
12 competes in a regional tournament or state tournament sanctioned by the
13 Kentucky Board of Education, or the organization or agency designated by the
14 board to manage interscholastic athletics, and occurring on a regularly
15 scheduled student attendance day may be counted present at school on the
16 date or dates of the competition, as determined by local board policy, for a
17 maximum of two (2) days per student per year. The student shall be expected
18 to complete any assignments missed on the date or dates of the competition.
- 19 (c) The school attendance record of any student for whom paragraph (b) of this
20 subsection applies shall indicate that the student was in attendance on the date
21 or dates of competition.
- 22 (7) Schools shall provide continuing education for those students who are determined
23 to need additional time to achieve the outcomes defined in KRS 158.6451, and
24 schools shall not be limited to the minimum school term in providing this
25 education. Continuing education time may include extended days, extended weeks,
26 or extended years. A local board of education may adopt a policy requiring its
27 students to participate in continuing education. The local policy shall set out the

1 conditions under which attendance will be required and any exceptions which are
2 provided. The Kentucky Board of Education shall promulgate administrative
3 regulations establishing criteria for the allotment of grants to local school districts
4 and shall include criteria by which the commissioner of education may approve a
5 district's request for a waiver under KRS 156.161 to use an alternative service
6 delivery option, including providing services during the student attendance day on a
7 limited basis. These grants shall be allotted to school districts to provide
8 instructional programs for pupils who are identified as needing additional time to
9 achieve the outcomes defined in KRS 158.6451. A school district that has a school
10 operating a model early reading program under KRS 158.792 may use a portion of
11 its grant money as part of the matching funds to provide individualized or small
12 group reading instruction to qualified students outside of the regular classroom
13 during the student attendance day.

- 14 (8) Notwithstanding any other statute, each school term shall include no less than *one*
15 *thousand sixty-two (1,062) hours of instructional time for students delivered on*
16 *the number of student attendance days adopted by the local board of education*
17 ~~[the equivalent of the student instructional year in subsection (1)(f) of this section,~~
18 ~~or a variable student instructional year in subsection (1)(h) of this section]~~, except
19 that the commissioner of education may grant up to the equivalent of ten (10)
20 student attendance days for school districts that have a nontraditional instruction
21 plan approved by the commissioner of education on days when the school district is
22 closed for health or safety reasons. The district's plan shall indicate how the
23 nontraditional instruction process shall be a continuation of learning that is
24 occurring on regular student attendance days. Instructional delivery methods,
25 including the use of technology, shall be clearly delineated in the plan. Average
26 daily attendance for purposes of Support Education Excellence in Kentucky
27 program funding during the student attendance days granted shall be calculated in

1 compliance with administrative regulations promulgated by the Kentucky Board of
2 Education.

3 (9) The Kentucky Board of Education shall promulgate administrative regulations to
4 prescribe the conditions and procedures for districts to be approved for the
5 nontraditional instruction program. Administrative regulations promulgated by the
6 board under this section shall specify:

- 7 (a) The application, plan review, approval, and amendment process;
- 8 (b) Reporting requirements for districts approved for the program, which may
9 include but are not limited to examples of student work, lesson plans, teacher
10 work logs, and student and teacher participation on nontraditional instruction
11 days. Documentation to support the use of nontraditional instruction days
12 shall include clear evidence of learning continuation;
- 13 (c) Timelines for initial approval as a nontraditional instruction district, length of
14 approval, the renewal process, and ongoing evaluative procedures required of
15 the district;
- 16 (d) Reporting and oversight responsibilities of the district and the Kentucky
17 Department of Education, including the documentation required to show clear
18 evidence of learning continuation during nontraditional instruction days; and
- 19 (e) Other components deemed necessary to implement this section.

20 (10) Notwithstanding the provisions of KRS 158.060(4) and the provisions of subsection
21 (2) of this section, a school district shall arrange bus schedules so that all buses
22 arrive in sufficient time to provide breakfast prior to the beginning of the student
23 attendance day. The superintendent of a school district that participates in the
24 Federal School Breakfast Program may also authorize up to fifteen (15) minutes of
25 the student attendance day to provide the opportunity for children to eat breakfast
26 during instructional time.

27 (11) Notwithstanding any other statute to the contrary, the following provisions shall

1 apply to a school district that misses student attendance days due to emergencies,
2 including weather-related emergencies, or amends the school district's school
3 calendar after the school calendar's adoption pursuant to subsection (4)(b) of this
4 section:

5 (a) A certified school employee shall be considered to have fulfilled the
6 minimum one hundred eighty-five (185) day contract with a school district
7 under KRS 157.350 and shall be given credit for the purpose of calculating
8 service credit for retirement under KRS 161.500 for certified school personnel
9 if:

- 10 1. State and local requirements under this section are met regarding the
11 equivalent of the number and length of student attendance days, teacher
12 professional days, professional development days, holidays, and days
13 for planning activities without the presence of students; and
- 14 2. The provisions of the district's school calendar to make up student
15 attendance days missed due to any emergency, as approved by the
16 Kentucky Department of Education when required, including but not
17 limited to a provision for additional instructional time per day, are met.

18 (b) Additional time worked by a classified school employee shall be considered
19 as equivalent time to be applied toward the employee's contract and
20 calculation of service credit for classified employees under KRS 78.615 if:

- 21 1. The employee works for a school district with a school calendar
22 approved by the Kentucky Department of Education that contains a
23 provision that additional instructional time per day shall be used to make
24 up full days missed due to an emergency;
- 25 2. The employee's contract requires a minimum six (6) hour work day; and
- 26 3. The employee's job responsibilities and work day are extended when the
27 instructional time is extended for the purposes of making up time.

1 (c) Classified employees who are regularly scheduled to work less than six (6)
2 hours per day and who do not have additional work responsibilities as a result
3 of lengthened student attendance days shall be excluded from the provisions
4 of this subsection. These employees may be assigned additional work
5 responsibilities to make up service credit under KRS 78.615 that would be
6 lost due to lengthened student attendance days.

7 ➔Section 2. (1) For the 2025-2026 school year, a school district may revise its
8 school calendar in accordance with the requirements of this section.

9 (2) For purposes of this section, notwithstanding the requirement in KRS 158.070
10 that the student instructional year not be less than 170 student attendance days and any
11 other statute or administrative regulation to the contrary, students shall receive a
12 minimum of 1,062 instructional hours, less any waiver of instructional time provided in
13 accordance with KRS 158.070(3)(e) and 702 KAR 7:140.

14 (3) Notwithstanding KRS 158.070(4)(b), if a school district used all 10 available
15 nontraditional instruction days during the 2025-2026 school year, the school district may
16 reach the required instructional hours by adding time to student attendance days. A day
17 shall not exceed seven hours of instructional time unless the district submitted and
18 received approval from the commissioner of education for an innovative alternative
19 calendar.

20 (4) If a local school district is unable to provide the required 1,062 hours of
21 instruction by June 10, 2026, the commissioner of education may waive up to five student
22 attendance days. The commissioner of education shall not waive instructional days for a
23 district that did not make up days by adding time to the student instructional day.
24 Notwithstanding any other statute or administrative regulation to the contrary, student
25 attendance days waived under this subsection shall be applied on a district-wide basis.

26 (5) If a local board of education seeks to revise its school calendar under this
27 section, the board shall submit a plan for approval to the Kentucky Department of

1 Education demonstrating how the required instructional hours will be completed.

2 (6) Notwithstanding any other statute, administrative regulation, or local board of
3 education policy to the contrary, each classified and certified employee of a local board
4 of education shall be considered to have completed one day of his or her employment
5 contract for each day made up in accordance with subsection (3) of this section and days
6 waived in accordance with subsection (4) of this section.

7 (7) If a local board of education used 10 or fewer nontraditional instruction days
8 during the 2025-2026 school year and chooses not to take advantage of subsection (4) of
9 this section for the 2025-2026 school year, the school district's average daily attendance
10 shall be calculated by deducting five low attendance days in addition to the five days
11 deducted under KRS 157.320(2).

12 ➔Section 3. Whereas support and relief for school districts and the students
13 enrolled therein is imperative, an emergency is declared to exist, and Section 2 of this Act
14 takes effect upon its passage and approval by the Governor or upon its otherwise
15 becoming a law and Section 1 of this Act takes effect July 1, 2026.