

1 AN ACT relating to teachers.

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

3 ➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 161 IS CREATED TO
4 READ AS FOLLOWS:

5 *(1) The General Assembly hereby finds that:*

6 *(a) Respecting the authority of teachers is essential to creating an environment*
7 *conducive to learning, effective instruction in the classroom, and proper*
8 *administration of the public schools; and*

9 *(b) To maintain and protect the authority of teachers, it is important that*
10 *teachers, school and district administrators, parents, and students are fully*
11 *informed of the various rights conferred upon teachers pursuant to this*
12 *section.*

13 *(2) Notwithstanding any statute to the contrary, a teacher in a local school district*
14 *has the right to:*

15 *(a) Teach free from the fear of frivolous lawsuits, including the right to*
16 *qualified immunity and to a legal defense, and to indemnification by the*
17 *employing local school board for actions taken in the performance of duties*
18 *of the teacher's employment;*

19 *(b) Appropriately discipline students in accordance with KRS 158.150 and local*
20 *school board policy;*

21 *(c) Establish classroom rules of conduct applicable to students in the*
22 *classroom;*

23 *(d) Remove any persistently disruptive student from his or her classroom when*
24 *the student's behavior prevents the orderly instruction of other students or*
25 *when the student displays impudent or defiant behavior and to place the*
26 *student in the custody of the principal or his or her designee;*

27 *(e) Have his or her professional judgment and discretion respected by school*

- 1 and local school district administrators in any disciplinary action taken by
2 the teacher in accordance with local school district policy;
- 3 (f) Teach in a safe, secure, and orderly environment that is conducive to
4 learning and free from recognized dangers or hazards that cause or are
5 likely to cause serious injury;
- 6 (g) Request and receive information relating to the disposition of any referrals
7 to a school principal, local school district superintendent, or local school
8 board for a violation of classroom rules of conduct, school rules or policies,
9 or local school district policies;
- 10 (h) Communicate with and to request the participation of parents in
11 appropriate student disciplinary decisions;
- 12 (i) Report and pursue criminal charges if there is reason to believe that a crime
13 has been committed on local school district property, during school-
14 sponsored transportation, or during school-sponsored activities;
- 15 (j) Use reasonable force, according to policies adopted by the Kentucky Board
16 of Education, to protect himself or herself or others from injury;
- 17 (k) Complete only paperwork that is not excessively burdensome and that, if
18 required by statute or administrative regulation, adheres to the statute or
19 administrative regulation and does not result in overly cumbersome
20 interpretations of that statute or administrative regulation;
- 21 (l) Receive leadership and support as a beginning teacher, including the
22 assignment of a qualified, experienced mentor who commits to helping the
23 beginning teacher become a competent, confident professional in the
24 classroom and offers support and assistance as needed to meet performance
25 standards and professional expectations;
- 26 (m) Request and receive training and other assistance to improve his or her
27 skills in classroom management, violence prevention, conflict resolution,

- 1 and related areas;
- 2 (n) A coordinated system of professional development with the goals of
- 3 increasing student achievement, enhancing classroom instruction, and
- 4 preparing students for continuing their education or joining the workforce;
- 5 (o) Be afforded time during the school day or week to collaborate with other
- 6 teachers;
- 7 (p) Direct his or her classroom instruction;
- 8 (q) Receive student assessment data in a timely manner in order to assist in
- 9 improving classroom instruction;
- 10 (r) Not have their right to work be denied or abridged on account of
- 11 membership or nonmembership in any labor union;
- 12 (s) Be free from discrimination in the public schools; and
- 13 (t) Be treated with civility and respect.
- 14 (3) A local school board shall not establish policies that prevent teachers from
- 15 exercising the rights provided in subsection (2) of this section.
- 16 (4) This section shall not be construed to prevent a local school board from providing
- 17 a teacher in a local school district additional rights it deems important to
- 18 fulfilling the duties of the teacher.
- 19 (5) Beginning with the 2027-2028 school year, each local school board shall:
- 20 (a) Provide a copy of the rights established in subsection (2) of this section to
- 21 all teachers at the beginning of each school year; and
- 22 (b) Require each public school building that contains instructional space for
- 23 students enrolled in the local school district and any administrative building
- 24 to conspicuously display in a prominent location a printed abstract of the
- 25 rights established in subsection (2) of this section. The same information or
- 26 display shall also be posted on the district or school website.