

1 AN ACT relating to school employees and declaring an emergency.

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

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 160.380 (Effective July 1, 2018) is amended to read as follows:

4 (1) As used in this section:

5 (a) "Alternative education program" means a program that exists to meet the
6 needs of students that cannot be addressed in a traditional classroom setting
7 but through the assignment of students to alternative classrooms, centers, or
8 campuses that are designed to remediate academic performance, improve
9 behavior, or provide an enhanced learning experience. Alternative education
10 programs do not include career or technical centers or departments;

11 (b) "Contractor" means an adult who is permitted access to school grounds
12 pursuant to a current or prospective contractual agreement with the school,
13 school board, school district, or school-affiliated entity, at times when
14 students are present. The term "contractor" includes an employee of a
15 contractor;

16 (c) "Relative" means father, mother, brother, sister, husband, wife, son, ***and***
17 ~~daughter, aunt, uncle, son-in-law, and daughter-in-law~~; and

18 (d) "Vacancy" means any certified position opening created by the resignation,
19 dismissal, nonrenewal of contract, transfer, or death of a certified staff
20 member of a local school district, or a new position created in a local school
21 district for which certification is required. However, if an employer-employee
22 bargained contract contains procedures for filling certified position openings
23 created by the resignation, dismissal, nonrenewal of contract, transfer, or death
24 of a certified staff member, or creation of a new position for which
25 certification is required, a vacancy shall not exist, unless certified positions
26 remain open after compliance with those procedures.

27 (2) Except as provided in KRS 160.346:

- 1 (a) All appointments, promotions, and transfers of principals, supervisors,
2 teachers, and other public school employees shall be made only by the
3 superintendent of schools, who shall notify the board of the action taken. All
4 employees of the local district shall have the qualifications prescribed by law
5 and by the administrative regulations of the Kentucky Board of Education and
6 of the employing board. Supervisors, principals, teachers, and other
7 employees may be appointed by the superintendent for any school year at any
8 time after February 1 preceding the beginning of the school year. No
9 superintendent of schools shall appoint or transfer himself or herself to
10 another position within the school district;
- 11 (b) When a vacancy occurs in a local school district, the superintendent shall
12 notify the chief state school officer thirty (30) days before the position shall be
13 filled. The chief state school officer shall keep a registry of local district
14 vacancies which shall be made available to the public. The local school
15 district shall post position openings in the local board office for public
16 viewing;
- 17 (c) When a vacancy needs to be filled in less than thirty (30) days' time to prevent
18 disruption of necessary instructional or support services of the school district,
19 the superintendent may seek a waiver from the chief state school officer. If the
20 waiver is approved, the appointment shall not be made until the person
21 recommended for the position has been approved by the chief state school
22 officer. The chief state school officer shall respond to a district's request for
23 waiver or for approval of an appointment within two (2) working days;
- 24 (d) When a vacancy occurs in a local district, the superintendent shall conduct a
25 search to locate minority teachers to be considered for the position. The
26 superintendent shall, pursuant to administrative regulations of the Kentucky
27 Board of Education, report annually the district's recruitment process and the

1 activities used to increase the percentage of minority teachers in the district;

2 (e) No relative of a superintendent of schools shall be an employee of the school
3 district. However, this shall not apply to a relative who is a classified or
4 certified employee of the school district for at least thirty-six (36) months
5 prior to the superintendent assuming office, or prior to marrying a relative of
6 the superintendent, and who is qualified for the position the employee holds.
7 A superintendent's spouse who has previously been employed in a school
8 system may be an employee of the school district. A superintendent's spouse
9 who is employed under this provision shall not hold a position in which the
10 spouse supervises certified or classified employees. A superintendent's spouse
11 may supervise teacher aides and student teachers. However, the
12 superintendent shall not promote a relative who continues employment under
13 an exception of this subsection;

14 (f) No superintendent shall employ a relative of a school board member of the
15 district~~[, unless on July 13, 1990, the board member's relative is an employee~~
16 ~~of the district, the board member is holding office, and the relative was not~~
17 ~~initially hired by the district during the tenure of the board member. A relative~~
18 ~~employed in 1989-90 and initially hired during the tenure of a board member~~
19 ~~-serving on July 13, 1990, may continue to be employed during the remainder~~
20 ~~of the board member's term. However, the superintendent shall not promote~~
21 ~~any relative of a school board member who continues employment under the~~
22 ~~exception of this subsection];~~

23 (g) 1. No principal's relative shall be employed in the principal's school, except
24 a relative who is not the principal's spouse and who was employed in the
25 principal's school during the 1989-90 school year.

26 2. No spouse of a principal shall be employed in the principal's school,
27 except:

- 1 a. A principal's spouse who was employed in the principal's school
2 during the 1989-90 school year for whom there is no position for
3 which the spouse is certified to fill in another school operated in
4 the district; or
- 5 b. A principal's spouse who was employed in the 1989-90 school year
6 and is in a school district containing no more than one (1)
7 elementary school, one (1) middle school, and one (1) high school.
- 8 3. A principal's spouse who is employed in the principal's school shall be
9 evaluated by a school administrator other than the principal.
- 10 4. The provisions of KRS 161.760 shall not apply to any transfer made in
11 order to comply with the provisions of this paragraph; and
- 12 (h) A relative that is ineligible for employment under paragraph (e), (f), or (g) of
13 this subsection may be employed as a substitute for a certified or classified
14 employee if the relative is not:
- 15 1. A regular full-time or part-time employee of the district;
- 16 2. Accruing continuing contract status or any other right to continuous
17 employment;
- 18 3. Receiving fringe benefits other than those provided other substitutes or
- 19 4. Receiving preference in employment or assignment over other
20 substitutes.
- 21 (3) No superintendent shall assign a certified or classified staff person to an alternative
22 education program as part of any disciplinary action taken pursuant to KRS 161.011
23 or 161.790 as part of a corrective action plan established pursuant to the local
24 district evaluation plan.
- 25 (4) No superintendent shall employ in any position in the district any person who is a
26 violent offender or has been convicted of a sex crime as defined by KRS 17.165
27 which is classified as a felony or persons with a substantiated finding of child abuse

1 or neglect in records maintained by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services. The
2 superintendent may employ, at his discretion, except at a Kentucky Educational
3 Collaborative for State Agency Children program, persons convicted of sex crimes
4 classified as a misdemeanor.

5 (5) (a) A superintendent shall require a national and state criminal background check
6 and require a letter, provided by the individual, from the Cabinet for Health
7 and Family Services indicating the individual is clear to hire based on no
8 findings of substantiated child abuse or neglect found through a background
9 check of child abuse and neglect records maintained by the Cabinet for Health
10 and Family Services on all new certified hires in the school district and
11 student teachers assigned within the district. Excluded are certified individuals
12 who were employed in another certified position in a Kentucky school district
13 within six (6) months of the date of hire and who had previously submitted to
14 a national and state criminal background check and who have a letter,
15 provided by the individual, from the Cabinet for Health and Family Services
16 stating the employee is clear to hire based on no findings of substantiated
17 child abuse or neglect found through a background check of child abuse and
18 neglect records maintained by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services for
19 the previous employment.

20 (b) The superintendent shall require that each new certified hire and student
21 teacher, as set forth in paragraph (a) of this subsection, submit to a national
22 and state criminal history background check by the Department of Kentucky
23 State Police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation and have a letter,
24 provided by the individual, from the Cabinet for Health and Family Services
25 stating the employee is clear to hire based on no findings of substantiated
26 child abuse or neglect found through a background check of child abuse and
27 neglect records maintained by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services.

- 1 (c) All fingerprints requested under this section shall be on an applicant
2 fingerprint card provided by the Department of Kentucky State Police. The
3 fingerprint cards shall be forwarded to the Federal Bureau of Investigation
4 from the Department of Kentucky State Police after a state criminal
5 background check is conducted. The results of the state and federal criminal
6 background check shall be sent to the hiring superintendent. Any fee charged
7 by the Department of Kentucky State Police, the Federal Bureau of
8 Investigation, and the Cabinet for Health and Family Services shall be an
9 amount no greater than the actual cost of processing the request and
10 conducting the search.
- 11 (d) The Education Professional Standards Board may promulgate administrative
12 regulations to impose additional qualifications to meet the requirements of
13 Public Law 92-544.
- 14 (6) (a) A superintendent shall require a national and state criminal background check
15 and require a letter, provided by the individual, from the Cabinet for Health
16 and Family Services stating the employee is clear to hire based on no findings
17 of substantiated child abuse or neglect found through a background check of
18 child abuse and neglect records maintained by the Cabinet for Health and
19 Family Services on all classified initial hires.
- 20 (b) The superintendent shall require that each classified initial hire submit to a
21 national and state criminal history background check by the Department of
22 Kentucky State Police and require a letter, provided by the individual, from
23 the Cabinet for Health and Family Services stating the employee is clear to
24 hire based on no findings of substantiated child abuse or neglect found
25 through a background check of child abuse and neglect records maintained by
26 the Cabinet for Health and Family Services.
- 27 (c) Any request for any criminal background records under this section shall be

1 on an applicant fingerprint card provided by the Department of Kentucky
2 State Police. The results of the state criminal background check and the results
3 of the national criminal history background check, if requested under
4 paragraph (b) of this subsection, shall be sent to the hiring superintendent.
5 Any fee charged by the Department of Kentucky State Police and the Cabinet
6 for Health and Family Services shall be an amount no greater than the actual
7 cost of processing the request and conducting the search.

8 (7) (a) The superintendent shall require a contractor who works on school premises
9 during school hours and may require a contractor who does not have contact
10 with students, a volunteer, or a visitor to submit to a national and state
11 criminal history background check by the Department of Kentucky State
12 Police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation and have a letter, provided by
13 the individual, from the Cabinet for Health and Family Services stating the
14 employee is clear to hire based on no findings of substantiated child abuse or
15 neglect found through a background check of child abuse and neglect records
16 maintained by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services.

17 (b) Any request for records under this section shall be on an applicant fingerprint
18 card provided by the Department of Kentucky State Police. If requested, the
19 results of the state criminal background check and the results of the national
20 criminal history background check and a letter, provided by the individual,
21 from the Cabinet for Health and Family Services stating the employee is clear
22 to hire based on no findings of substantiated child abuse or neglect found
23 through the results of a background check of child abuse and neglect records
24 maintained by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services shall be sent to the
25 hiring superintendent. Any fee charged by the Department of Kentucky State
26 Police and the Cabinet for Health and Family Services shall be an amount no
27 greater than the actual cost of processing the request and conducting the

1 search.

2 (8) (a) If a school term has begun and a certified or classified position remains
3 unfilled or if a vacancy occurs during a school term, a superintendent may
4 employ an individual, who will have supervisory or disciplinary authority over
5 minors, on probationary status pending receipt of the criminal history
6 background check and have a letter, provided by the individual, from the
7 Cabinet for Health and Family Services stating the employee is clear to hire
8 based on no findings of substantiated child abuse or neglect found through a
9 background check of child abuse and neglect records maintained by the
10 Cabinet for Health and Family Services. Application for the criminal record
11 and a request for a letter, provided by the individual, from the Cabinet for
12 Health and Family Services stating the employee is clear to hire based on no
13 findings of substantiated child abuse or neglect found through a background
14 check of child abuse and neglect records maintained by the Cabinet for Health
15 and Family Services of a probationary employee shall be made no later than
16 the date probationary employment begins.

17 (b) Employment shall be contingent on the receipt of the criminal history
18 background check documenting that the probationary employee has no record
19 of a sex crime nor as a violent offender as defined in KRS 17.165 and receipt
20 of a letter, provided by the individual, from the Cabinet for Health and Family
21 Services stating the employee is clear to hire based on no findings of
22 substantiated child abuse or neglect found through a background check of
23 child abuse and neglect records maintained by the Cabinet for Health and
24 Family Services.

25 (c) Notwithstanding KRS 161.720 to 161.800 or any other statute to the contrary,
26 probationary employment under this section shall terminate on receipt by the
27 school district of a criminal history background check documenting a record

1 of a sex crime or as a violent offender as defined in KRS 17.165 and no
2 further procedures shall be required.

3 (d) The provisions of KRS 161.790 shall apply to terminate employment of a
4 certified employee on the basis of a criminal record other than a record of a
5 sex crime or as a violent offender as defined in KRS 17.165.

6 (9) (a) Each application or renewal form, provided by the employer to an applicant
7 for a classified position, shall conspicuously state the following: "FOR THIS
8 TYPE OF EMPLOYMENT, STATE LAW REQUIRES A STATE
9 CRIMINAL HISTORY BACKGROUND CHECK AND HAVE A LETTER,
10 PROVIDED BY THE INDIVIDUAL, FROM THE CABINET FOR HEALTH
11 AND FAMILY SERVICES STATING THE EMPLOYEE IS CLEAR TO
12 HIRE BASED ON NO FINDINGS OF SUBSTANTIATED CHILD ABUSE
13 OR NEGLECT FOUND THROUGH A BACKGROUND CHECK OF
14 CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT RECORDS MAINTAINED BY THE
15 CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES AS A CONDITION
16 OF EMPLOYMENT. UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, A
17 NATIONAL CRIMINAL HISTORY BACKGROUND CHECK MAY BE
18 REQUIRED AS A CONDITION OF EMPLOYMENT."

19 (b) Each application or renewal form, provided by the employer to an applicant
20 for a certified position, shall conspicuously state the following: "FOR THIS
21 TYPE OF EMPLOYMENT, STATE LAW REQUIRES A NATIONAL AND
22 STATE CRIMINAL HISTORY BACKGROUND CHECK AND HAVE A
23 LETTER, PROVIDED BY THE INDIVIDUAL, FROM THE CABINET FOR
24 HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES STATING THE EMPLOYEE IS
25 CLEAR TO HIRE BASED ON NO FINDINGS OF SUBSTANTIATED
26 CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT FOUND THROUGH A BACKGROUND
27 CHECK OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT RECORDS MAINTAINED

1 BY THE CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES AS A
2 CONDITION OF EMPLOYMENT."

3 (c) Each application form for a district position shall require the applicant to:

- 4 1. Identify the states in which he or she has maintained residency,
5 including the dates of residency; and
- 6 2. Provide picture identification.

7 (10) The provisions of subsections (5), (6), (7), (8) and (9) of this section shall apply to a
8 nonfaculty coach or nonfaculty assistant as defined under KRS 161.185.

9 (11) (a) A school-based decision-making council parent member, as defined under
10 KRS 160.345, shall submit to a state and national fingerprint-supported
11 criminal history background check by the Department of Kentucky State
12 Police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation and have a letter, provided by
13 the individual, from the Cabinet for Health and Family Services stating the
14 employee is clear to hire based on no findings of substantiated child abuse or
15 neglect found through a background check of child abuse and neglect records
16 maintained by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services.

17 (b) The results of the state criminal history background check and the results of
18 the national criminal history background check, if requested, and a letter,
19 provided by the individual, from the Cabinet for Health and Family Services
20 stating the employee is clear to hire based on no findings of substantiated
21 child abuse or neglect found through the results of a background check of
22 child abuse and neglect records maintained by the Cabinet for Health and
23 Family Services shall be sent to the district superintendent. Any fee charged
24 by the Department of Kentucky State Police and the Cabinet for Health and
25 Family Services shall be an amount no greater than the actual cost of
26 processing the request and conducting the search. A parent member may serve
27 prior to the receipt of the criminal history background check report but shall

1 be removed from the council on receipt by the school district of a report
2 documenting a record of a sex crime or criminal offense against a victim who
3 is a minor as defined in KRS 17.500 or as a violent offender as defined in
4 KRS 17.165, and no further procedures shall be required.

5 (12) Notwithstanding any provision of the Kentucky Revised Statutes to the contrary,
6 when an employee of the school district is charged with any offense which is
7 classified as a felony, the superintendent may transfer the employee to a second
8 position until such time as the employee is found not guilty, the charges are
9 dismissed, the employee is terminated, or the superintendent determines that further
10 personnel action is not required. The employee shall continue to be paid at the same
11 rate of pay he or she received prior to the transfer. If an employee is charged with an
12 offense outside of the Commonwealth, this provision may also be applied if the
13 charge would have been treated as a felony if committed within the Commonwealth.
14 Transfers shall be made to prevent disruption of the educational process and district
15 operations and in the interest of students and staff and shall not be construed as
16 evidence of misconduct.

17 (13) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, each certified and classified employee of
18 the school district shall notify the superintendent if he or she has been found by the
19 Cabinet for Health and Family Services to have abused or neglected a child, and if
20 he or she has waived the right to appeal a substantiated finding of child abuse or
21 neglect or if the substantiated incident was upheld upon appeal. Any failure to
22 report this finding shall result in the certified or classified employee being subject to
23 dismissal or termination.

24 (14) The form for requesting a letter, required by this section, stating an employee is
25 clear to hire based on a background check of child abuse and neglect records
26 maintained by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services shall be made available
27 on the Cabinet for Health and Family Services Web site.

1 ➔Section 2. Whereas Section 1 of this Act should take effect as soon as possible,
2 notwithstanding 2017 Ky. Acts ch. 115, sec. 8, which stated that the provisions of KRS
3 160.380 enacted in 2017 Ky. Acts ch. 115, sec. 3, take effect July 1, 2018, an emergency
4 is declared to exist, and this Act takes effect upon its passage and approval by the
5 Governor or upon its otherwise becoming a law.