

1 AN ACT relating to professional development.

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

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 156.095 is amended to read as follows:

4 (1) The Kentucky Department of Education shall establish, direct, and maintain a
5 statewide program of professional development to improve instruction in the public
6 schools.

7 ***(a) By August 1, 2023, the department shall create a professional development***
8 ***training schedule that shall include all state and federal required***
9 ***professional development for certified personnel. The schedule may***
10 ***encompass multiple years.***

11 ***(b) Each local school district shall implement the professional development***
12 ***training schedule created by the department. Certified personnel who***
13 ***transfer from one school district to another school district shall not be***
14 ***required to duplicate previously completed required professional***
15 ***development.***

16 ***(c) If the state and federal required professional development cannot be***
17 ***completed in a single school calendar day for a given year within the***
18 ***professional development training schedule, an additional professional***
19 ***development day shall be added to the school calendar for the sole purpose***
20 ***of completing required professional development training by certified***
21 ***personnel.***

22 ***(d) The General Assembly shall appropriate the funds necessary to provide an***
23 ***additional school calendar day if necessary as determined in paragraph (c)***
24 ***of this subsection.***

25 (2) Each local school district superintendent shall appoint a certified school employee
26 to fulfill the role and responsibilities of a professional development coordinator who
27 shall disseminate professional development information to schools and personnel.

1 Upon request by a school council or any employees of the district, the coordinator
2 shall provide technical assistance to the council or the personnel that may include
3 assisting with needs assessments, analyzing school data, planning and evaluation
4 assistance, organizing districtwide programs requested by school councils or groups
5 of teachers, or other coordination activities.

6 (a) The manner of appointment, qualifications, and other duties of the
7 professional development coordinator shall be established by Kentucky Board
8 of Education through promulgation of administrative regulations.

9 (b) The local district professional development coordinator shall participate in the
10 Kentucky Department of Education annual training program for local school
11 district professional development coordinators. The training program may
12 include, but not be limited to, the demonstration of various approaches to
13 needs assessment and planning; strategies for implementing long-term,
14 school-based professional development; strategies for strengthening teachers'
15 roles in the planning, development, and evaluation of professional
16 development; and demonstrations of model professional development
17 programs. The training shall include information about teacher learning
18 opportunities relating to the core content standards. The Kentucky Department
19 of Education shall regularly collect and distribute this information.

20 (3) The Kentucky Department of Education shall provide or facilitate optional,
21 professional development programs for certified personnel throughout the
22 Commonwealth that are based on the statewide needs of teachers, administrators,
23 and other education personnel. Programs may include classified staff and parents
24 when appropriate. Programs offered or facilitated by the department shall be at
25 locations and times convenient to local school personnel and shall be made
26 accessible through the use of technology when appropriate. They shall include
27 programs that: address the goals for Kentucky schools as stated in KRS 158.6451,

1 including reducing the achievement gaps as determined by an equity analysis of the
2 disaggregated student performance data from the state assessment program
3 developed under KRS 158.6453; engage educators in effective learning processes
4 and foster collegiality and collaboration; and provide support for staff to incorporate
5 newly acquired skills into their work through practicing the skills, gathering
6 information about the results, and reflecting on their efforts. Professional
7 development programs shall be made available to teachers based on their needs
8 which shall include but not be limited to the following areas:

- 9 (a) Strategies to reduce the achievement gaps among various groups of students
10 and to provide continuous progress;
- 11 (b) Curriculum content and methods of instruction for each content area,
12 including differentiated instruction;
- 13 (c) School-based decision making;
- 14 (d) Assessment literacy;
- 15 (e) Integration of performance-based student assessment into daily classroom
16 instruction;
- 17 (f) Nongraded primary programs;
- 18 (g) Research-based instructional practices;
- 19 (h) Instructional uses of technology;
- 20 (i) Curriculum design to serve the needs of students with diverse learning styles
21 and skills and of students of diverse cultures;
- 22 (j) Instruction in reading, including phonics, phonemic awareness,
23 comprehension, fluency, and vocabulary;
- 24 (k) Educational leadership; and
- 25 (l) Strategies to incorporate character education throughout the curriculum.
- 26 (4) The department shall assist school personnel in assessing the impact of professional
27 development on their instructional practices and student learning.

- 1 (5) The department shall assist districts and school councils with the development of
2 long-term school and district improvement plans that include multiple strategies for
3 professional development based on the assessment of needs at the school level.
- 4 (a) Professional development strategies may include but are not limited to
5 participation in subject matter academies, teacher networks, training institutes,
6 workshops, seminars, and study groups; collegial planning; action research;
7 mentoring programs; appropriate university courses; and other forms of
8 professional development.
- 9 (b) In planning the use of the four (4) days for professional development under
10 KRS 158.070, school councils and districts shall give priority to programs that
11 increase teachers' understanding of curriculum content and methods of
12 instruction appropriate for each content area based on individual school plans.
13 The district may use up to one (1) day to provide district-wide training and
14 training that is mandated by state or federal law. Only those employees
15 identified in the mandate or affected by the mandate shall be required to attend
16 the training.
- 17 (c) State funds allocated for professional development shall be used to support
18 professional development initiatives that are consistent with local school
19 improvement and professional development plans and teachers' individual
20 growth plans. The funds may be used throughout the year for all staff,
21 including classified and certified staff and parents on school councils or
22 committees. A portion of the funds allocated to each school council under
23 KRS 160.345 may be used to prepare or enhance the teachers' knowledge and
24 teaching practices related to the content and subject matter that are required
25 for their specific classroom assignments.
- 26 (6) (a) By August 1, 2010, the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services
27 shall post on its Web page suicide prevention awareness information, to

1 include recognizing the warning signs of a suicide crisis. The Web page shall
2 include information related to suicide prevention training opportunities
3 offered by the cabinet or an agency recognized by the cabinet as a training
4 provider.

5 (b) By September 15 of each year, every public school shall provide suicide
6 prevention awareness information in person, by live streaming, or via a video
7 recording to all students in grades six (6) through twelve (12). The
8 information may be obtained from the Cabinet for Health and Family Services
9 or from a commercially developed suicide prevention training program.

10 (c) 1. Beginning with the 2018-2019 school year, and every year thereafter, a
11 minimum of one (1) hour of high-quality suicide prevention training,
12 including the recognition of signs and symptoms of possible mental
13 illness, shall be required for all school district employees with job duties
14 requiring direct contact with students in grades six (6) through twelve
15 (12). The training shall be provided either in person, by live streaming,
16 or via a video recording and may be included in the four (4) days of
17 professional development under KRS 158.070.

18 2. When a staff member subject to the training under subparagraph 1. of
19 this paragraph is initially hired during a school year in which the training
20 is not required, the local district shall provide suicide prevention
21 materials to the staff member for review.

22 (d) The requirements of paragraphs (b) and (c) of this subsection shall apply to
23 public charter schools as a health and safety requirement under KRS
24 160.1592(1).

25 (7) (a) By November 1, 2019, and November 1 of each year thereafter, a minimum of
26 one (1) hour of training on how to respond to an active shooter situation shall
27 be required for all school district employees with job duties requiring direct

1 contact with students. The training shall be provided either in person, by live
2 streaming, or via a video recording prepared by the Kentucky Department of
3 Criminal Justice Training in collaboration with the Kentucky Law
4 Enforcement Council, the Kentucky Department of Education, and the Center
5 for School Safety and may be included in the four (4) days of professional
6 development under KRS 158.070.

7 (b) When a staff member subject to the training requirements of this subsection is
8 initially hired after the training has been provided for the school year, the local
9 district shall provide materials on how to respond to an active shooter
10 situation.

11 (c) The requirements of this subsection shall also apply to public charter schools
12 as a health and safety requirement under KRS 160.1592(1).

13 (8) (a) The Kentucky Department of Education shall develop and maintain a list of
14 approved comprehensive evidence-informed trainings on child abuse and
15 neglect prevention, recognition, and reporting that encompass child physical,
16 sexual, and emotional abuse and neglect.

17 (b) The trainings shall be Web-based or in-person and cover, at a minimum, the
18 following topics:

- 19 1. Recognizing child physical, sexual, and emotional abuse and neglect;
- 20 2. Reporting suspected child abuse and neglect in Kentucky as required by
21 KRS 620.030 and the appropriate documentation;
- 22 3. Responding to the child; and
- 23 4. Understanding the response of child protective services.

24 (c) The trainings shall include a questionnaire or other basic assessment tool upon
25 completion to document basic knowledge of training components.

26 (d) Each local board of education shall adopt one (1) or more trainings from the
27 list approved by the Department of Education to be implemented by schools.

- 1 (e) All current school administrators, certified personnel, office staff,
2 instructional assistants, and coaches and extracurricular sponsors who are
3 employed by the school district shall complete the implemented training or
4 trainings by January 31, 2017, and then every two (2) years after.
- 5 (f) All school administrators, certified personnel, office staff, instructional
6 assistants, and coaches and extracurricular sponsors who are employed by the
7 school district hired after January 31, 2017, shall complete the implemented
8 training or trainings within ninety (90) days of being hired and then every two
9 (2) years after.
- 10 (g) Every public school shall prominently display the statewide child abuse
11 hotline number administered by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services,
12 and the National Human Trafficking Reporting Hotline number administered
13 by the United States Department for Health and Human Services.
- 14 (9) The Department of Education shall establish an electronic consumer bulletin board
15 that posts information regarding professional development providers and programs
16 as a service to school district central office personnel, school councils, teachers, and
17 administrators. Participation on the electronic consumer bulletin board shall be
18 voluntary for professional development providers or vendors, but shall include all
19 programs sponsored by the department. Participants shall provide the following
20 information: program title; name of provider or vendor; qualifications of the
21 presenters or instructors; objectives of the program; program length; services
22 provided, including follow-up support; costs for participation and costs of materials;
23 names of previous users of the program, addresses, and telephone numbers; and
24 arrangements required. Posting information on the bulletin board by the department
25 shall not be viewed as an endorsement of the quality of any specific provider or
26 program.
- 27 (10) The Department of Education shall provide training to address the characteristics

1 and instructional needs of students at risk of school failure and most likely to drop
2 out of school. The training shall be developed to meet the specific needs of all
3 certified and classified personnel depending on their relationship with these
4 students. The training for instructional personnel shall be designed to provide and
5 enhance skills of personnel to:

- 6 (a) Identify at-risk students early in elementary schools as well as at-risk and
7 potential dropouts in the middle and high schools;
 - 8 (b) Plan specific instructional strategies to teach at-risk students;
 - 9 (c) Improve the academic achievement of students at risk of school failure by
10 providing individualized and extra instructional support to increase
11 expectations for targeted students;
 - 12 (d) Involve parents as partners in ways to help their children and to improve their
13 children's academic progress; and
 - 14 (e) Significantly reduce the dropout rate of all students.
- 15 (11) The department shall establish teacher academies to the extent funding is available
16 in cooperation with postsecondary education institutions for elementary, middle
17 school, and high school faculty in core disciplines, utilizing facilities and faculty
18 from universities and colleges, local school districts, and other appropriate agencies
19 throughout the state. Priority for participation shall be given to those teachers who
20 are teaching core discipline courses for which they do not have a major or minor or
21 the equivalent. Participation of teachers shall be voluntary.
- 22 (12) The department shall annually provide to the oversight council established in KRS
23 15A.063, the information received from local schools pursuant to KRS 158.449.