

1 AN ACT relating to teacher 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, 2024, 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) By June 30, 2025, each local school district shall submit a report to the***
23 ***department on implementation of the professional development training***
24 ***schedule. By June 30 of each year thereafter, each local school district shall***
25 ***submit a report of the status of professional development training within the***
26 ***district including but not limited to the amount of time necessary to provide***
27 ***the required training and any recommended changes to the professional***

1 *development training schedule.*

- 2 (2) Each local school district superintendent shall appoint a certified school employee
3 to fulfill the role and responsibilities of a professional development coordinator
4 who shall disseminate professional development information to schools and
5 personnel. Upon request by a school council or any employees of the district, the
6 coordinator shall provide technical assistance to the council or the personnel that
7 may include assisting with needs assessments, analyzing school data, planning and
8 evaluation assistance, organizing districtwide programs requested by school
9 councils or groups of teachers, or other coordination activities.
- 10 (a) The manner of appointment, qualifications, and other duties of the
11 professional development coordinator shall be established by Kentucky Board
12 of Education through promulgation of administrative regulations.
- 13 (b) The local district professional development coordinator shall participate in the
14 Kentucky Department of Education annual training program for local school
15 district professional development coordinators. The training program may
16 include[,] but not be limited to[,] the demonstration of various approaches to
17 needs assessment and planning; strategies for implementing long-term,
18 school-based professional development; strategies for strengthening teachers'
19 roles in the planning, development, and evaluation of professional
20 development; and demonstrations of model professional development
21 programs. The training shall include information about teacher learning
22 opportunities relating to the core content standards. The Kentucky Department
23 of Education shall regularly collect and distribute this information.
- 24 (3) The Kentucky Department of Education shall provide or facilitate optional,
25 professional development programs for certified personnel throughout the
26 Commonwealth that are based on the statewide needs of teachers, administrators,
27 and other education personnel. Programs may include classified staff and parents

1 when appropriate. Programs offered or facilitated by the department shall be at
2 locations and times convenient to local school personnel and shall be made
3 accessible through the use of technology when appropriate. They shall include
4 programs that: address the goals for Kentucky schools as stated in KRS 158.6451,
5 including reducing the achievement gaps as determined by an equity analysis of the
6 disaggregated student performance data from the state assessment program
7 developed under KRS 158.6453; engage educators in effective learning processes
8 and foster collegiality and collaboration; and provide support for staff to
9 incorporate newly acquired skills into their work through practicing the skills,
10 gathering information about the results, and reflecting on their efforts. Professional
11 development programs shall be made available to teachers based on their needs,
12 which shall include but not be limited to the following areas:

- 13 (a) Strategies to reduce the achievement gaps among various groups of students
14 and to provide continuous progress;
- 15 (b) Curriculum content and methods of instruction for each content area,
16 including differentiated instruction;
- 17 (c) School-based decision making;
- 18 (d) Assessment literacy;
- 19 (e) Integration of performance-based student assessment into daily classroom
20 instruction;
- 21 (f) Nongraded primary programs;
- 22 (g) Research-based instructional practices;
- 23 (h) Instructional uses of technology;
- 24 (i) Curriculum design to serve the needs of students with diverse learning styles
25 and skills and of students of diverse cultures;
- 26 (j) Instruction in reading, including phonics, phonemic awareness,
27 comprehension, fluency, and vocabulary;

1 (k) Educational leadership; and

2 (l) Strategies to incorporate character education throughout the curriculum.

3 (4) The department shall assist school personnel in assessing the impact of professional
4 development on their instructional practices and student learning.

5 (5) The department shall assist districts and school councils with the development of
6 long-term school and district improvement plans that include multiple strategies for
7 professional development based on the assessment of needs at the school level.

8 (a) Professional development strategies may include but are not limited to
9 participation in subject matter academies, teacher networks, training institutes,
10 workshops, seminars, and study groups; collegial planning; action research;
11 mentoring programs; appropriate university courses; and other forms of
12 professional development.

13 (b) In planning the use of the four (4) days for professional development under
14 KRS 158.070, school councils and districts shall give priority to programs that
15 increase teachers' understanding of curriculum content and methods of
16 instruction appropriate for each content area based on individual school plans.
17 The district may use up to one (1) day to provide district-wide training and
18 training that is mandated by state or federal law. Only those employees
19 identified in the mandate or affected by the mandate shall be required to
20 attend the training.

21 (c) State funds allocated for professional development shall be used to support
22 professional development initiatives that are consistent with local school
23 improvement and professional development plans and teachers' individual
24 growth plans. The funds may be used throughout the year for all staff,
25 including classified and certified staff and parents on school councils or
26 committees. A portion of the funds allocated to each school council under
27 KRS 160.345 may be used to prepare or enhance the teachers' knowledge and

1 teaching practices related to the content and subject matter that are required
2 for their specific classroom assignments.

3 (6) (a) By August 1, 2010, the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services
4 shall post on its web page suicide prevention awareness information, to
5 include recognizing the warning signs of a suicide crisis. The web page shall
6 include information related to suicide prevention training opportunities
7 offered by the cabinet or an agency recognized by the cabinet as a training
8 provider.

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

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

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

26 (d) The requirements of paragraphs (b) and (c) of this subsection shall apply to
27 public charter schools as a health and safety requirement under KRS

1 160.1592(1).

2 (7) (a) By November 1, 2019, and November 1 of each year thereafter, a minimum of
3 one (1) hour of training on how to respond to an active shooter situation shall
4 be required for all school district employees with job duties requiring direct
5 contact with students. The training shall be provided either in person, by live
6 streaming, or via a video recording prepared by the Kentucky Department of
7 Criminal Justice Training in collaboration with the Kentucky Law
8 Enforcement Council, the Kentucky Department of Education, and the Center
9 for School Safety and may be included in the four (4) days of professional
10 development under KRS 158.070.

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

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

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

21 (b) The trainings shall be web based~~[web-based]~~ or in person~~[in-person]~~ and
22 cover, at a minimum, the following topics:

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

- 1 (c) The trainings shall include a questionnaire or other basic assessment tool upon
2 completion to document basic knowledge of training components.
- 3 (d) Each local board of education shall adopt one (1) or more trainings from the
4 list approved by the Department of Education to be implemented by schools.
- 5 (e) All current school administrators, certified personnel, office staff,
6 instructional assistants, and coaches and extracurricular sponsors who are
7 employed by the school district shall complete the implemented training or
8 trainings by January 31, 2017, and then every two (2) years after.
- 9 (f) All school administrators, certified personnel, office staff, instructional
10 assistants, and coaches and extracurricular sponsors who are employed by the
11 school district hired after January 31, 2017, shall complete the implemented
12 training or trainings within ninety (90) days of being hired and then every two
13 (2) years after.
- 14 (g) Every public school shall prominently display the statewide child abuse
15 hotline number administered by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services,
16 and the National Human Trafficking Reporting Hotline number administered
17 by the United States Department for Health and Human Services.
- 18 (9) The Department of Education shall establish an electronic consumer bulletin board
19 that posts information regarding professional development providers and programs
20 as a service to school district central office personnel, school councils, teachers, and
21 administrators. Participation on the electronic consumer bulletin board shall be
22 voluntary for professional development providers or vendors, but shall include all
23 programs sponsored by the department. Participants shall provide the following
24 information: program title; name of provider or vendor; qualifications of the
25 presenters or instructors; objectives of the program; program length; services
26 provided, including follow-up support; costs for participation and costs of
27 materials; names of previous users of the program, addresses, and telephone

1 numbers; and arrangements required. Posting information on the bulletin board by
2 the department shall not be viewed as an endorsement of the quality of any specific
3 provider or program.

4 (10) The Department of Education shall provide training to address the characteristics
5 and instructional needs of students at risk of school failure and most likely to drop
6 out of school. The training shall be developed to meet the specific needs of all
7 certified and classified personnel depending on their relationship with these
8 students. The training for instructional personnel shall be designed to provide and
9 enhance skills of personnel to:

- 10 (a) Identify at-risk students early in elementary schools as well as at-risk and
11 potential dropouts in the middle and high schools;
12 (b) Plan specific instructional strategies to teach at-risk students;
13 (c) Improve the academic achievement of students at risk of school failure by
14 providing individualized and extra instructional support to increase
15 expectations for targeted students;
16 (d) Involve parents as partners in ways to help their children and to improve their
17 children's academic progress; and
18 (e) Significantly reduce the dropout rate of all students.

19 (11) The department shall establish teacher academies to the extent funding is available
20 in cooperation with postsecondary education institutions for elementary, middle
21 school, and high school faculty in core disciplines, utilizing facilities and faculty
22 from universities and colleges, local school districts, and other appropriate agencies
23 throughout the state. Priority for participation shall be given to those teachers who
24 are teaching core discipline courses for which they do not have a major or minor or
25 the equivalent. Participation of teachers shall be voluntary.

26 (12) The department shall annually provide to the oversight council established in KRS
27 15A.063, the information received from local schools pursuant to KRS 158.449.