GENERAL ASSEMBLY
COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

2015 REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 119

AS ENACTED

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ALISON LUNDERGAN GRIMES
SECRETARY OF STATE
COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BY K. Adler

1 AN ACT relating to schools and declaring an emergency.

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 (2) Each local school district superintendent shall appoint a certified school employee
8 to fulfill the role and responsibilities of a professional development coordinator who
9 shall disseminate professional development information to schools and personnel.
10 Upon request by a school council or any employees of the district, the coordinator
11 shall provide technical assistance to the council or the personnel that may include
12 assisting with needs assessments, analyzing school data, planning and evaluation
13 assistance, organizing districtwide programs requested by school councils or groups
14 of teachers, or other coordination activities.

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

18 (b) The local district professional development coordinator shall participate in the
19 Kentucky Department of Education annual training program for local school
20 district professional development coordinators. The training program may
21 include, but not be limited to, the demonstration of various approaches to
22 needs assessment and planning; strategies for implementing long-term,
23 school-based professional development; strategies for strengthening teachers'
24 roles in the planning, development, and evaluation of professional
25 development; and demonstrations of model professional development
26 programs. The training shall include information about teacher learning
27 opportunities relating to the core content standards. The Kentucky Department

1 of Education shall regularly collect and distribute this information.

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

18 (a) Strategies to reduce the achievement gaps among various groups of students
19 and to provide continuous progress;

20 (b) Curriculum content and methods of instruction for each content area,
21 including differentiated instruction;

22 (c) School-based decision making;

23 (d) Assessment literacy;

24 (e) Integration of performance-based student assessment into daily classroom
25 instruction;

26 (f) Nongraded primary programs;

27 (g) Research-based instructional practices;

1 (h) Instructional uses of technology;
2 (i) Curriculum design to serve the needs of students with diverse learning styles
3 and skills and of students of diverse cultures;
4 (j) Instruction in reading, including phonics, phonemic awareness,
5 comprehension, fluency, and vocabulary;
6 (k) Educational leadership; and
7 (l) Strategies to incorporate character education throughout the curriculum.
8 (4) The department shall assist school personnel in assessing the impact of professional
9 development on their instructional practices and student learning.
10 (5) The department shall assist districts and school councils with the development of
11 long-term school and district improvement plans that include multiple strategies for
12 professional development based on the assessment of needs at the school level.
13 (a) Professional development strategies may include, but are not limited to,
14 participation in subject matter academies, teacher networks, training institutes,
15 workshops, seminars, and study groups; collegial planning; action research;
16 mentoring programs; appropriate university courses; and other forms of
17 professional development.
18 (b) In planning the use of the four (4) days for professional development under
19 KRS 158.070, school councils and districts shall give priority to programs that
20 increase teachers' understanding of curriculum content and methods of
21 instruction appropriate for each content area based on individual school plans.
22 The district may use up to one (1) day to provide district-wide training and
23 training that is mandated by state or federal law. Only those employees
24 identified in the mandate or affected by the mandate shall be required to attend
25 the training.
26 (c) State funds allocated for professional development shall be used to support
27 professional development initiatives that are consistent with local school

1 improvement and professional development plans and teachers' individual
2 growth plans. The funds may be used throughout the year for all staff,
3 including classified and certified staff and parents on school councils or
4 committees. A portion of the funds allocated to each school council under
5 KRS 160.345 may be used to prepare or enhance the teachers' knowledge and
6 teaching practices related to the content and subject matter that are required
7 for their specific classroom assignments.
8 (6) (a) By August 1, 2010, the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services
9 shall post on its Web page suicide prevention awareness information, to
10 include recognizing the warning signs of a suicide crisis. The Web page shall
11 include information related to suicide prevention training opportunities
12 offered by the cabinet or an agency recognized by the cabinet as a training
13 provider.
14 (b) By September 1, 2010, and September 1 of each year thereafter, every public
15 middle and high school administrator shall disseminate suicide prevention
16 awareness information to all middle and high school students. The
17 information may be obtained from the Cabinet for Health and Family Services
18 or from a commercially developed suicide prevention training program.
19 (7) ***(a) The Kentucky Department of Education shall develop and maintain a list of***
20 ***approved comprehensive evidence-informed trainings on child abuse and***
21 ***neglect prevention, recognition, and reporting that encompass child***
22 ***physical, sexual, and emotional abuse and neglect.***
23 ***(b) The trainings shall be Web-based or in-person and cover, at a minimum,***
24 ***the following topics:***
25 ***1. Recognizing child physical, sexual, and emotional abuse and neglect;***
26 ***2. Reporting suspected child abuse and neglect in Kentucky as required***
27 ***by KRS 620.030 and the appropriate documentation;***

1 *3. Responding to the child; and*

2 *4. Understanding the response of child protective services.*

3 *(c) The trainings shall include a questionnaire or other basic assessment tool*

4 *upon completion to document basic knowledge of training components.*

5 *(d) Each local school board shall adopt one (1) or more trainings from the list*

6 *approved by the Department of Education to be implemented by schools.*

7 *(e) All current school administrators, certified personnel, office staff,*

8 *instructional assistants, and coaches and extra curricular sponsors who are*

9 *employed by the school district shall complete the implemented training or*

10 *trainings by January 31, 2017, and then every two (2) years after.*

11 *(f) All school administrators, certified personnel, office staff, instructional*

12 *assistants, and coaches and extra curricular sponsors who are employed by*

13 *the school district hired after January 31, 2017, shall complete the*

14 *implemented training or trainings within ninety (90) days of being hired*

15 *and then every two (2) years after.*

16 *(8)* The Department of Education shall establish an electronic consumer bulletin board

17 that posts information regarding professional development providers and programs

18 as a service to school district central office personnel, school councils, teachers, and

19 administrators. Participation on the electronic consumer bulletin board shall be

20 voluntary for professional development providers or vendors, but shall include all

21 programs sponsored by the department. Participants shall provide the following

22 information: program title; name of provider or vendor; qualifications of the

23 presenters or instructors; objectives of the program; program length; services

24 provided, including follow-up support; costs for participation and costs of materials;

25 names of previous users of the program, addresses, and telephone numbers; and

26 arrangements required. Posting information on the bulletin board by the department

27 shall not be viewed as an endorsement of the quality of any specific provider or

1 program.

2 *(9)*[~~(8)~~] The Department of Education shall provide training to address the
3 characteristics and instructional needs of students at risk of school failure and most
4 likely to drop out of school. The training shall be developed to meet the specific
5 needs of all certified and classified personnel depending on their relationship with
6 these students. The training for instructional personnel shall be designed to provide
7 and enhance skills of personnel to:

8 (a) Identify at-risk students early in elementary schools as well as at-risk and
9 potential dropouts in the middle and high schools;

10 (b) Plan specific instructional strategies to teach at-risk students;

11 (c) Improve the academic achievement of students at risk of school failure by
12 providing individualized and extra instructional support to increase
13 expectations for targeted students;

14 (d) Involve parents as partners in ways to help their children and to improve their
15 children's academic progress; and

16 (e) Significantly reduce the dropout rate of all students.

17 *(10)*[~~(9)~~] The department shall establish teacher academies to the extent funding is
18 available in cooperation with postsecondary education institutions for elementary,
19 middle school, and high school faculty in core disciplines, utilizing facilities and
20 faculty from universities and colleges, local school districts, and other appropriate
21 agencies throughout the state. Priority for participation shall be given to those
22 teachers who are teaching core discipline courses for which they do not have a
23 major or minor or the equivalent. Participation of teachers shall be voluntary.

24 *(11)*[~~(10)~~] The department shall annually provide to the oversight council established in
25 KRS 15A.063, the information received from local schools pursuant to KRS
26 158.449.

27 ➔Section 2. (1) Notwithstanding any other statute or administrative

1 regulation to the contrary, for the 2014-2015 school year, students shall receive a
2 minimum of 1,062 instructional hours, less the amount of instructional time waived as
3 provided in this section and any waiver provided in accordance with KRS 158.070(3)(f)
4 and 702 KAR 7:140.
5 (2) A school district may reach 1,062 instructional hours by adding time to the
6 day. A day shall not exceed seven hours of instructional time, unless the district
7 submitted and received approval from the commissioner of education for an innovative
8 alternative calendar. A school district shall not schedule any instructional days on
9 Saturdays. A local board of education may submit a plan to the Department of Education
10 demonstrating how 1,062 instructional hours will be completed, and the plan shall be
11 approved.
12 (3) If a school district desires to complete 1,062 instructional hours by June 5,
13 2015, but is unable to under its current school calendar, the district shall request
14 assistance from the commissioner of education by May 1, 2015, to determine a plan for
15 maximizing instructional time to complete 1,062 instructional hours by June 5, 2015. If,
16 after providing planning assistance to the school district, the commissioner of education
17 determines the school district has maximized instructional time but cannot complete
18 1,062 hours by June 5, 2015, the commissioner shall waive the remaining instructional
19 hours required.
20 (4) A school district may schedule graduation ceremonies before the final
21 instructional day.
22 (5) Notwithstanding any other statute or administrative regulation to the contrary,
23 for the 2014-2015 school year, school district certified and classified personnel shall
24 complete all contract days by participating in instructional activities or professional
25 development or by being assigned additional work responsibilities.
26 (6) Notwithstanding any other statute or administrative regulation to the contrary,
27 for the 2014-2015 school year, a district may be open on the day of a primary election if

1 no school in the district is used as a polling place.

2 (7) The Kentucky Department of Education shall make a report to the Interim
3 Joint Committee on Education by October 15, 2015, on how school districts completed
4 the 1,062 instructional hours.

5 ➔Section 3. Whereas the provisions of Section 2 of this Act apply to the 2014-
6 2015 school year and school districts need to implement the provisions before the 2014-
7 2015 school year ends, an emergency is declared to exist and Section 2 of this Act takes
8 effect upon its passage and approval by the Governor or upon its otherwise becoming a
9 law.

President of Senate

Speaker-House of Representatives

Attest: Chief Clerk of Senate

Approved Governor

Date 3/19/15