



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

NEWS RELEASE

No. 13-074

August 8, 2013

MEDIA CONTACT: Nancy Rodriguez

Office: (502) 564-2000 Cell: (502) 330-5063

E-mail: nancy.rodriguez@education.ky.gov

BOARD APPROVES RESOLUTION AND NEW POLICY ON COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AGE AT STATE-RUN SCHOOLS

(Frankfort, KY) – The Kentucky Board of Education today passed a resolution recognizing Gov. Steve Beshear and First Lady Jane Beshear for their efforts in raising the compulsory school age to 18 and amended the attendance policies for the state-run schools (Kentucky Schools for the Blind and Deaf) to conform.

Since June 25, when Senate Bill 97 (2013) took effect, 120 school districts have adopted a policy to keep students in school until they turn 18 or graduate, and completed the documentation process with the department. Only 96 districts were required to pass such a policy to trigger statewide implementation no later than the 2017-18 school year.

The board approved a resolution, “Reaching the 96-District Target and Beyond Required by Senate Bill 97,” extending the board’s gratitude to the Governor and First Lady.

The Governor and First Lady both appeared at today’s meeting.

“It is my belief that every single child deserves a chance to succeed,” said the First Lady.

“It is clear the state board and these school districts care about children, their potential and their individual growth,” she said.

Raising the compulsory school age to 18 has been the Kentucky Board of Education’s top legislative priority for many years.

In a related matter, the board amended the attendance policies for the Kentucky School for the Blind and the Kentucky School for the Deaf to require students to attend school between the

(more)

Visit our website at <http://www.education.ky.gov>

Follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/kydeptofed and Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/kydeptofed

ages of 6 and 18 to align with Senate Bill 97 and the policies passed by the majority of Kentucky school districts. Under the current law, students who attend special state schools are exempt from the state's compulsory attendance policies.

A full text of the resolution passed today by the board follows.

***Resolution
“Reaching the 96-District Target and Beyond Required by Senate Bill 97”
by the Kentucky Board of Education***

Whereas, During the 2013 legislative session, outstanding collaboration occurred between Governor Steven L. Beshear, First Lady Jane Beshear, the General Assembly, Commissioner Terry Holliday, the Kentucky Board of Education, and other education partners resulting in the adoption of Senate Bill 97 so that the compulsory school attendance age would be raised to 18 in the 2015-16 school year for those school districts whose local board of education enacts such a policy; and

Whereas, Governor Beshear, First Lady Beshear and Commissioner Holliday launched the “Blitz to 96” initiative to encourage early adoption of such a policy by local boards of education in order to reach the 55 percent of school districts required for it to become mandatory for all districts to implement a policy within four years; and

Whereas, Local boards of education and school districts responded courageously and expeditiously to the “Blitz to 96” initiative resulting in reaching the 96-district target in 14 days; and

Whereas, Even after the required 96-district target was reached and planning grant dollars were obligated, as of today, 24 additional local boards of education and school districts have adopted such a policy, which brings the overall total to 120 districts, signaling to students that nobody is giving up on them and a high school diploma is important to their success; and

Whereas, In addition to the local school boards and districts that are to be commended for their dedication to ensuring students persist to graduation, staff of the Governor’s Office and Kentucky Department of Education demonstrated outstanding support to ensure the Senate Bill 97 effort is successful.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Kentucky Board of Education extends its extraordinary gratitude to Governor Steve Beshear and First Lady Jane Beshear for their perseverance and determination to ensure passage of Senate Bill 97 and the implementation of the “Blitz to 96” initiative with the result being that hope now exists for ALL young people to graduate college- and career-ready and experience a successful future.

***Done in the city of Frankfort, this 8th day of August,
in the year Two Thousand and Thirteen.***

David Karem, Chair
Kentucky Board of Education

Terry Holliday, Commissioner
Kentucky Department of Education

###

Visit our website at <http://www.education.ky.gov>

Follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/kydeptofed and Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/kydeptofed