

Student Free Speech and Religious Liberty Rights and your duty under law

At the first council meeting of every year (July 1), you must give a copy of the Student Free Speech and Religious Liberty Rights laws to each council member. KRS 158.186 requires that school-based decision making councils receive copies of these statutes: KRS 158.181, KRS 158.182, KRS 158.183, KRS 158.184, KRS 158.185, KRS 158.186, and KRS 158.187.

On our website under “Technical Documents,” there is a document you can print out that lists all of these statutes. The link to that document is [here](#).

Also at the first meeting, you must give a copy of the Open Records and Open Meetings Act that is found on the Attorney General’s website. The link to that is also under “Technical Documents,” or you can find it [here](#).

We recommend that the meeting minutes include that these documents were passed out and that each council member received them. A signature from each council member is also required, either on a sign-in sheet or on the actual document, to provide proof that they have seen them.

Wellness and nutrition policy – further information

Wellness policies have been required at the district level by federal legislation since 2004 as a part of the Child Nutrition & WIC Reauthorization Act. School level wellness policies for K-5 elementary schools in Kentucky have been required since the passage of KRS 160.345. However, with the reauthorization of school meals program in 2010, the Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act, the federal law gave a renewed emphasis on engaging multiple sectors of local shareholders. This included better community and family engagement along with improved measurement for implementation of policies. In Kentucky our approach was piloted and built from a Coordinated School Health perspective in partnership with multiple national partners including the National Schools Boards Association, National Association of State Boards of Education and the American Association of School Administrators. Our focus has been aligning new federal compliance to that of state accountability found within the PLCS Program Review. The PLCS Program Review has been a great platform for setting the expectation in Kentucky that all schools implement their district wellness policy via adoption of a school level wellness policy. Another key expectation within the Program Review language is the proficient and distinguished characteristics which include school wellness goals for comprehensive school and/or district improvement plans.

Two tools have been a critical part of the process for local schools and districts. The WellSAT is a free online tool that measures the strength of the wellness policy language by guiding users through a scoring rubric of various policy elements. The second tool is a long-time program partner of school wellness efforts in Kentucky, the Alliance for a Healthier Generation. The Alliance’s Healthy Schools Program (HSP) is a free online tool that is aligned to the

evidence based practices of the CDC’s School Health Index. The HSP modules are based off the components of the Coordinated School Health model that allow schools to identify strengths and weaknesses of the schools nutrition and physical activity practices. Thus the WellSAT measures the language of the policy and the HSP measures implementation of the practices occurring at the building level.

KDE’s Coordinated School Health team is currently working to develop a crosswalk document based off district and school feedback that will even better equip schools and align the functionality of the two tools. As Kentucky looks ahead to the 2016-2017, the current process for wellness policies has great potential to also align with the expectations for a well-rounded education as defined by the

Wellness Continued on page 2



Every Student Succeeds Act. Please contact KDE's Jamie Sparks at jamie.sparks@education.ky.gov for more information or assistance.

As promised we have attached three sample policies; one for each level (elementary, middle, and high school). The policies were developed based off of the WellsAT tool, which was updated in January 2015 to reflect the expectations of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act (2010). The sample policies were written to score high with the [WellsAT tool](#); please be mindful that the practices you implement are more important than a policy score.

SBDM election reminders

SBDM election season is coming up for most schools. KDE's new SBDM Election Handbook is available on the KDE [website](#).

This handbook has been compiled using some of the issues and concerns schools have had in the past in the hopes of providing some answers before elections begin. KDE encourages you to review the handbook in preparation for your school's elections, particularly the areas of member eligibility and minority elections.

Trainers/Coordinators: Keep these items in mind as your school's training season begins:

- Remember to retain all training documents for at

least one year.

- The current 2016 EILA's will be used until June of this year. At that time, KDE will provide coordinators with new EILA numbers for the 2017 year that will be used after July 1.
- If council members are using an alternative training resource, the district SBDM coordinator is still responsible for ensuring appropriate training has occurred and uploading accurate information into the verification database.
- All training verifications for

the 2016-17 school year are due to KDE no later than Nov. 1.

- If a council requires an alternative SBDM model, please email an SBDM consultant for the application. Reasons for an alternative model could include, but are not limited to: a council having a chairperson other than the principal, a council is looking to change the number of parents/teachers on council, or a council would like to add another member to the council outside of those mentioned in statute.

Updated SBDM Handbook

The SBDM Coordinator's Handbook has been updated and will need to be reviewed. Please look through it as many areas were changed and revised to make sure all information is consistent. The link to the revised handbook is on our website under "Technical Documents" and can also be found [here](#).

What about our school council's bylaws on elections?

KDE, as well as the Office of Education Accountability (OEA), recommend that school councils remove election procedures for teachers and parents from their bylaws. Teachers and parents should establish their own written election procedures.

Legislative Update – HB 184

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On March 29, the House of Representatives voted 98-0 to amend KRS 160.345 to provide an alternative principal selection process for county school districts in a county with a consolidated local government adopted under KRS Chapter 67C; set penalties for a school council member violating confidentiality of the alternative principal selection process; make any discretionary action taken under the alternative method of principal selection subject to provisions of employer-employee bargained contracts between districts and employees.

Friday, April 1, 2016 - delivered to governor

Friday, April 1, 2016 - enrolled, signed by each presiding officer

KET's new school data course for SBDM members

How well is your school or district serving its students? Has it met its academic goals? How does it compare to other schools and districts in Kentucky?

These are questions that every SBDM member is required to address. They're also important questions for parents and other community members. But where can you find the answers? And what do you do with the information once you've found it?

That's where *Exploring Your School's Data*, a new online course from Kentucky Educational Television, can help. This three-hour course, written and facilitated by certified SBDM trainer Susan Perkins Weston, introduces participants to online data sources, takes them step-by-step through data analysis, and provides a graphing tool for interpreting and sharing data with others.

Participants examine student assessment results as well as data about student growth, readiness, and graduation rates. The course includes opportunities for reflection and online discussion based on school or district data, and the course facilitator is available via email to answer any questions that might arise.

You can register for *Exploring Your School Data* at www.edustore.ket.org. The fee for the course is \$75, and it is available for EILA credit.

Exploring Your School Data is offered on the following schedule:

Spring: March 1 – June 15

Summer/Fall: July 1 – Oct 15

Fall/Winter: Nov 1 – Feb 15

If you experience any problems with registration or payment, please contact Cynthia Barton, KET's professional development assistant, at 859.258.7271 or 800.432.0951 or at cbarton@ket.org.

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