

AN ACT relating to reducing the achievement gaps in the public schools.

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

SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 158 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

- (1) "Achievement gap" means a substantive performance difference on each of the tested areas by grade level of the Commonwealth Accountability Testing System between the various groups of students including male and female students, students with and without disabilities, students with and without English proficiency, minority and nonminority students, and students who are eligible for free and reduced lunch and those who are not eligible for free and reduced lunch.
- (2) By November 1 of each year, the Department of Education shall provide each school council, or the principal if a school council does not exist, data on its students' performance as shown by the Commonwealth Accountability Testing System. The data shall include, but not be limited to, information on performance levels of all students tested, and information on the performance of students disaggregated by race, gender, disability, English proficiency, and participation in the federal free and reduced price lunch program. The information from the department shall include an equity analysis that shall identify the substantive differences among the various groups of students identified in subsection (1) of this section.
- (3) By December 1, 2002, each local board of education upon the recommendation of the local district superintendent shall adopt a policy for reviewing the academic performance on the state assessments required under KRS 158.6453 for various groups of students, including major racial groups, gender, disability, free and reduced price school lunch eligibility, and limited English proficiency. The local board policy shall be consistent with Kentucky Board of Education administrative

regulations. Upon agreement of the school-based decision making council, or the principal if there is not a council, and the superintendent, the local board shall establish a biennial target for each school for reducing identified gaps in achievement as set out in subsection (4) of this section.

(4) By February 1, 2003, and each February 1 in odd-numbered years thereafter, the school-based decision making council, or the principal if there is not a council, with the involvement of parents, faculty, and staff shall set the school's biennial targets for eliminating any achievement gap and submit them to the superintendent for consideration. The superintendent and the school-based decision making council, or the principal if there is not a council, shall agree on the biennial targets before they are submitted to the local board of education for adoption.

(5) By April 1, 2003, and each April 1 in odd-numbered years thereafter, the school council, or the principal if a school council does not exist, with the involvement of parents, faculty, and staff shall review the data and revise the consolidated plan to include the biennial targets, strategies, activities, and a time schedule calculated to eliminate the achievement gap among various groups of students to the extent it may exist. The plan shall include, but not be limited to, activities designed to address the following areas:

(a) Curriculum alignment within the school and with schools that send or receive the school's students;

(b) Evaluation and assessment strategies to continuously monitor and modify instruction to meet student needs and support proficient student work;

(c) Professional development to address the goals of the plan;

(d) Parental communication and involvement;

(e) Attendance improvement and dropout prevention; and

(f) Technical assistance that will be accessed.

- (6) The principal shall convene a public meeting at the school to present and discuss the plan prior to submitting it to the superintendent and the local board of education for review, in the public meeting required under Section 4 of this Act.
- (7) Based on the disaggregated biennial assessment results, the local board shall determine if each school achieved its biennial targets for each group of students. Only data for a group of students including ten (10) or more students shall be considered.
- (8) Notwithstanding subsection (8) of Section 5 of this Act and KRS 158.070(8), if a local board determines that a school has not met its biennial target to reduce the identified gap in student achievement for a group of students, the local board shall require the council, or the principal if no council exists, to submit its revisions to the consolidated plan describing the use of professional development funds and funds allocated for continuing education to reduce the school's achievement gap for review and approval by the superintendent. The plan shall address how the school will meet the academic needs of the students in the various groups identified in subsection (1) of this section.
- (9) The superintendent shall report to the commissioner of education if a school fails to meet its targets to reduce the gap in student achievement for any student group for two (2) successive biennia. The school's consolidated plan shall be subject to review and approval by the Kentucky Department of Education and the school shall submit an annual status report. The Department of Education may provide assistance to schools as it deems necessary to assist the school in meeting its goals.
- (10) The school-based decision making council, or the principal if there is not a council, shall no longer be required to seek approval of the plan under subsections (8) and (9) of this section when it meets its biennial target for reducing the gap in student achievement for the various groups of students

identified in subsection (1) of this section.

Section 2. KRS 156.095 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) The Kentucky Department of Education shall establish, direct, and maintain a statewide program of professional development to improve instruction in the public schools.
- (2) Each local school district superintendent shall appoint a certified school employee to fulfill the role and responsibilities of a professional development coordinator who shall disseminate professional development information to schools and personnel. Upon request by a school council or any employees of the district, the coordinator shall provide technical assistance to the council or the personnel that may include assisting with needs assessments, analyzing school data, planning and evaluation assistance, organizing districtwide programs requested by school councils or groups of teachers, or other coordination activities.
 - (a) The manner of appointment, qualifications, and other duties of the professional development coordinator shall be established by Kentucky Board of Education through promulgation of administrative regulations.
 - (b) The local district professional development coordinator shall participate in the Kentucky Department of Education annual training program for local school district professional development coordinators. The training program may include, but not be limited to, the demonstration of various approaches to needs assessment and planning; strategies for implementing long-term, school-based professional development; strategies for strengthening teachers' roles in the planning, development, and evaluation of professional development; and demonstrations of model professional development programs. The training shall include information about teacher learning opportunities relating to the core content standards. The Kentucky Department of Education shall regularly collect and distribute this

information.

- (3) The Kentucky Department of Education shall provide or facilitate optional, professional development programs for certified personnel throughout the Commonwealth that are based on the statewide needs of teachers, administrators, and other education personnel. Programs may include classified staff and parents when appropriate. Programs offered or facilitated by the department shall be at locations and times convenient to local school personnel and shall be made accessible through the use of technology when appropriate. They shall include programs that: address the goals for Kentucky schools as stated in KRS 158.6451, **including reducing the achievement gaps as determined by an equity analysis of the disaggregated student performance data from the Commonwealth Accountability Testing System**; engage educators in effective learning processes and foster collegiality and collaboration; and provide support for staff to incorporate newly acquired skills into their work through practicing the skills, gathering information about the results, and reflecting on their efforts. Professional development programs may include, but not be limited to, focus on the following areas:
- (a) **Strategies to reduce the achievement gaps among various groups of students**;
 - (b) Curriculum content and methods of instruction for each content area;
 - (c)~~(b)~~ School-based decision making;
 - (d)~~(c)~~ Performance-based student assessment;
 - (e)~~(d)~~ Nongraded primary programs;
 - (f)~~(e)~~ Research-based instructional practices;
 - (g)~~(f)~~ Instructional uses of technology;
 - (h)~~(g)~~ Curriculum design to serve the needs of students with diverse learning styles and skills and of students of diverse cultures;

- ~~(i)(h)~~ Instruction of phonics;
 - ~~(i)(i)~~ Educational leadership; and
 - ~~(k)(j)~~ Strategies to incorporate character education throughout the curriculum.
- (4) The department shall utilize its regional service centers, in addition to collaboration with postsecondary education institutions, education cooperative and consortia, and professional education organizations, to provide local district personnel with access to high quality programming. The department shall assist school personnel in assessing the impact of professional development on their instructional practices and student learning.
- (5) The department shall assist districts and school councils with the development of long-term school and district improvement plans that include multiple strategies for professional development based on the assessment of needs at the school level.
- (a) Professional development strategies may include, but are not limited to, participation in subject matter academies, teacher networks, training institutes, workshops, seminars, and study groups; collegial planning; action research; mentoring programs; appropriate university courses; and other forms of professional development.
 - (b) In planning the use of the four (4) days for professional development under KRS 158.070, school councils and districts shall give priority to programs that increase teachers' understanding of curriculum content and methods of instruction appropriate for each content area based on individual school plans. The district may use up to one (1) day to provide district-wide training and training that is mandated by state or federal law. Only those employees identified in the mandate or affected by the mandate shall be required to attend the training.
 - (c) State funds allocated for professional development shall be used to support professional development initiatives that are consistent with local school

improvement and professional development plans and teachers' individual growth plans. The funds may be used throughout the year for all staff, including classified and certified staff and parents on school councils or committees. A portion of the funds allocated to each school council under KRS 160.345 may be used to prepare or enhance the teachers' knowledge and teaching practices related to the content and subject matter that are required for their specific classroom assignments.

- (6) The Department of Education shall establish an electronic consumer bulletin board that posts information regarding professional development providers and programs as a service to school district central office personnel, school councils, teachers, and administrators. Participation on the electronic consumer bulletin board shall be voluntary for professional development providers or vendors, but shall include all programs sponsored by the department. Participants shall provide the following information: program title; name of provider or vendor; qualifications of the presenters or instructors; objectives of the program; program length; services provided, including follow-up support; costs for participation and costs of materials; names of previous users of the program, addresses, and telephone numbers; and arrangements required. Posting information on the bulletin board by the department shall not be viewed as an endorsement of the quality of any specific provider or program.
- (7) The Department of Education shall provide training to address the characteristics and instructional needs of students at risk of school failure and most likely to drop out of school. The training shall be developed to meet the specific needs of all certified and classified personnel depending on their relationship with these students. The training for instructional personnel shall be designed to provide and enhance skills of personnel to:
 - (a) Identify at-risk students early in elementary schools as well as at-risk and

- potential dropouts in the middle and high schools;
- (b) Plan specific instructional strategies to teach at-risk students;
 - (c) Improve the academic achievement of students at risk of school failure by providing individualized and extra instructional support to increase expectations for targeted students;
 - (d) Involve parents as partners in ways to help their children and to improve their children's academic progress; and
 - (e) Significantly reduce the dropout rate of all students.
- (8) By July 1, 2001, the department shall establish teacher academies to the extent funding is available in cooperation with postsecondary education institutions for elementary, middle school, and high school faculty in core disciplines, utilizing facilities and faculty from universities and colleges, local school districts, and other appropriate agencies throughout the state. Priority for participation shall be given to those teachers who are teaching core discipline courses for which they do not have a major or minor or the equivalent. Participation of teachers shall be voluntary.

Section 3. KRS 158.805 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) There is hereby created the Commonwealth school improvement fund to assist local schools in pursuing new and innovative strategies to meet the educational needs of the school's students and raise the school's performance level. **Except for the school years 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 when the priority for the use of the fund shall be to provide technical assistance to schools identified under subsection (2) of this section to reduce the achievement gaps among the various groups of students as described in Section 1 of this Act,** the Kentucky Board of Education shall utilize the Commonwealth school improvement fund to provide grants to schools for the following purposes:
- (a) To support teachers and administrators in the development of sound and innovative approaches to improve instruction or management;

- (b) To assist in replicating successful programs developed in other districts *including those calculated to reduce achievement gaps as defined in Section 1 of this Act;*
 - (c) To encourage cooperative instructional or management approaches to specific school educational problems; and
 - (d) To encourage teachers and administrators to conduct experimental programs to test concepts and applications being advanced as solutions to specific educational problems.
- (2) The Kentucky Board of Education shall develop criteria for awards of grants from the Commonwealth school improvement fund to schools identified by the board as needing assistance under KRS 158.6455.
 - (3) The Kentucky Board of Education shall have the sole authority to approve grants from the fund.
 - (4) The Kentucky Board of Education may establish priorities for the use of the funds and, through the Department of Education, shall provide assistance to schools in preparing their grant proposals. The board shall require that no funds awarded under the Commonwealth school improvement fund are used to supplant funds from any other source. Requests for necessary equipment may be approved at the discretion of the state board, however the cost of equipment purchased by any grantee shall not exceed twenty percent (20%) of the total amount of money awarded for each proposal and shall be matched by local funds on a dollar for dollar basis.
 - (5) The Kentucky Board of Education shall establish maximums for specific grant awards. All fund recipients shall provide the board with an accounting of all money received from the fund and shall report the results and conclusions of any funded projects to the Kentucky Board of Education. All fund recipients shall provide the board with adequate documentation of all projects to enable replication of

successful projects in other areas of the state.

Section 4. KRS 160.340 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) Each board of education shall, on the forms prepared by the chief state school officer and approved by the Kentucky Board of Education, prepare and submit to the Kentucky Board of Education reports on all phases of its school service. Each board may prepare and publish for the information of the public a report on the progress of its schools.
- (2) Each board of education shall file in the board's office its policies relating to the following matters:
 - (a) Transportation of pupils;
 - (b) Discipline and conduct of pupils;
 - (c) Limitations or restrictions on use of school facilities;
 - (d) Conduct of meetings of the board of education, including policies on the calling of executive sessions;
 - (e) Personnel policies that apply to certified employees, including fringe benefits, salary schedules, nonclassroom duties, in-service training, teacher-student ratio, hiring, assignment, transfer, dismissal, suspension, reinstatement, promotion, and demotion;
 - (f) Evaluation of certified employees;
 - (g) Selection of textbooks and instructional materials;
 - (h) Expenditure and accounting for school funds, including all special funds; and
 - (i) Policies dealing with school-based decision making.
- (3) (a) The local board of education may adopt a policy requiring that each school council, or if none exists, the principal, make an annual report at a public meeting of the board describing the school's progress in meeting the educational goals set forth in KRS 158.6451 and district goals established by the board.

(b) Biennially, the local board shall review in a public meeting the portion of each school's consolidated plan that sets forth the activities and schedule to reduce the achievement gaps among the various groups of students as required in Section 1 of this Act. If a district has more than twenty (20) schools, the district may review the achievement gap data of each school in a comprehensive district report at a regularly scheduled meeting of the board. The report shall include the schools' and district's plans to reduce any identified gaps in student achievement.

- (4) It is intended that these policies shall cover matters within the authority and discretion of the district board of education and not matters otherwise required by law or regulation. Such policies shall be filed in the board's office by August 15, 1974, shall be kept up to date by filing annual amendments thereto each August 15 and shall be public records.

Section 5. KRS 160.345 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) For the purpose of this section:
- (a) "Minority" means American Indian; Alaskan native; African-American; Hispanic, including persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, and Central or South American origin; Pacific islander; or other ethnic group underrepresented in the school;
- (b) "School" means an elementary or secondary educational institution that is under the administrative control of a principal or head teacher and is not a program or part of another school. The term "school" does not include district-operated schools that are:
1. Exclusively vocational-technical, special education, or preschool programs;
 2. Instructional programs operated in institutions or schools outside of the district; or

3. Alternative schools designed to provide services to at-risk populations with unique needs;
- (c) "Teacher" means any person for whom certification is required as a basis of employment in the public schools of the state with the exception of principals, assistant principals, and head teachers; and
- (d) "Parent" means:
1. A parent, stepparent, or foster parent of a student; or
 2. A person who has legal custody of a student pursuant to a court order and with whom the student resides.
- (2) Each local board of education shall adopt a policy for implementing school-based decision making in the district which shall include, but not be limited to, a description of how the district's policies, including those developed pursuant to KRS 160.340, have been amended to allow the professional staff members of a school to be involved in the decision making process as they work to meet educational goals established in KRS 158.645 and 158.6451. The policy may include a requirement that each school council make an annual report at a public meeting of the board describing the school's progress in meeting the educational goals set forth in KRS 158.6451 and district goals established by the board. The policy shall also address and comply with the following:
- (a) Except as provided in paragraph (b)2. of this subsection, each participating school shall form a school council composed of two (2) parents, three (3) teachers, and the principal or administrator. The membership of the council may be increased, but it may only be increased proportionately. A parent representative on the council shall not be an employee or a relative of an employee of the school in which that parent serves, nor shall the parent representative be an employee or a relative of an employee in the district administrative offices. A parent representative shall not be a local board

member or a board member's spouse. None of the members shall have a conflict of interest pursuant to KRS Chapter 45A, except the salary paid to district employees;

- (b) 1. The teacher representatives shall be elected for one (1) year terms by a majority of the teachers. A teacher elected to a school council shall not be involuntarily transferred during his or her term of office. The parent representatives shall be elected for one (1) year terms. The parent members shall be elected by the parents of students preregistered to attend the school during the term of office in an election conducted by the parent and teacher organization of the school or, if none exists, the largest organization of parents formed for this purpose. A school council, once elected, may adopt a policy setting different terms of office for parent and teacher members subsequently elected. The principal or head teacher shall be the chair of the school council.
2. School councils in schools having eight percent (8%) or more minority students enrolled, as determined by the enrollment on the preceding October 1, shall have at least one (1) minority member. If the council formed under paragraph (a) of this subsection does not have a minority member, the principal, in a timely manner, shall be responsible for carrying out the following:
 - a. Organizing a special election to elect an additional member. The principal shall call for nominations and shall notify the parents of the students of the date, time, and location of the election to elect a minority parent to the council by ballot; and
 - b. Allowing the teachers in the building to select one (1) minority teacher to serve as a teacher member on the council. If there are no minority teachers who are members of the faculty, an additional

teacher member shall be elected by a majority of all teachers.

Term limitations shall not apply for a minority teacher member who is the only minority on faculty;

- (c) 1. The school council shall have the responsibility to set school policy consistent with district board policy which shall provide an environment to enhance the students' achievement and help the school meet the goals established by KRS 158.645 and 158.6451. The principal or head teacher shall be the primary administrator and the instructional leader of the school, and with the assistance of the total school staff shall administer the policies established by the school council and the local board.
2. If a school council establishes committees, it shall adopt a policy to facilitate the participation of interested persons, including, but not limited to, classified employees and parents. The policy shall include the number of committees, their jurisdiction, composition, and the process for membership selection;
- (d) The school council and each of its committees shall determine the frequency of and agenda for their meetings. Matters relating to formation of school councils that are not provided for by this section shall be addressed by local board policy;
- (e) The meetings of the school council shall be open to the public and all interested persons may attend. However, the exceptions to open meetings provided in KRS 61.810 shall apply;
- (f) After receiving notification of the funds available for the school from the local board, the school council shall determine, within the parameters of the total available funds, the number of persons to be employed in each job classification at the school. The council may make personnel decisions on

vacancies occurring after the school council is formed but shall not have the authority to recommend transfers or dismissals;

- (g) The school council shall determine which textbooks, instructional materials, and student support services shall be provided in the school. Subject to available resources, the local board shall allocate an appropriation to each school that is adequate to meet the school's needs related to instructional materials and school-based student support services, as determined by the school council. The school council shall consult with the school media librarian on the maintenance of the school library media center, including the purchase of instructional materials, information technology, and equipment;
- (h) From a list of applicants submitted by the local superintendent, the principal at the participating school shall select personnel to fill vacancies, after consultation with the school council, consistent with subsection (2)(i)10. of this section. Requests for transfer shall conform to any employer-employee bargained contract which is in effect. If the vacancy to be filled is the position of principal, the school council shall select the new principal from among those persons recommended by the local superintendent. When a vacancy in the school principalship occurs, the school council shall receive training in recruitment and interviewing techniques prior to carrying out the process of selecting a principal. The council shall select the trainer to deliver the training. Personnel decisions made at the school level under the authority of this subsection shall be binding on the superintendent who completes the hiring process. The superintendent shall provide additional applicants upon request when qualified applicants are available;
- (i) The school council shall adopt a policy to be implemented by the principal in the following additional areas:
 - 1. Determination of curriculum, including needs assessment and

- curriculum development;
2. Assignment of all instructional and noninstructional staff time;
 3. Assignment of students to classes and programs within the school;
 4. Determination of the schedule of the school day and week, subject to the beginning and ending times of the school day and school calendar year as established by the local board;
 5. Determination of use of school space during the school day;
 6. Planning and resolution of issues regarding instructional practices;
 7. Selection and implementation of discipline and classroom management techniques as a part of a comprehensive school safety plan, including responsibilities of the student, parent, teacher, counselor, and principal;
 8. Selection of extracurricular programs and determination of policies relating to student participation based on academic qualifications and attendance requirements, program evaluation, and supervision;
 9. Procedures, consistent with local school board policy, for determining alignment with state standards, technology utilization, and program appraisal; and
 10. Procedures to assist the council with consultation in the selection of personnel by the principal, including, but not limited to, meetings, timelines, interviews, review of written applications, and review of references. Procedures shall address situations in which members of the council are not available for consultation; and
- (j) Each school council shall annually review data on its students' performance as shown by the Commonwealth Accountability Testing System. The data shall include, but not be limited to, information on performance levels of all students tested, and information on the performance of students disaggregated by race, gender, disability, and participation in the federal free and reduced

price lunch program. After completing the review of data, each school council, **with the involvement of parents, faculty and staff,** shall **develop and** adopt a plan to ensure that each student makes progress toward meeting the goals set forth in KRS 158.645 and 158.6451(1)(b) **by April 1 of each year and submit the plan to the superintendent and local board of education for review as described in Section 4 of this Act.** The Kentucky Department of Education shall provide each school council the data needed to complete the review required by this paragraph no later than **November 1**~~December 31~~ of each year. If a school does not have a council, the review shall be completed by the principal **with the involvement of parents, faculty, and staff.**

- (3) The policy adopted by the local board to implement school-based decision making shall also address the following:
- (a) School budget and administration, including: discretionary funds; activity and other school funds; funds for maintenance, supplies, and equipment; and procedures for authorizing reimbursement for training and other expenses;
 - (b) Assessment of individual student progress, including testing and reporting of student progress to students, parents, the school district, the community, and the state;
 - (c) School improvement plans, including the form and function of strategic planning and its relationship to district planning, as well as the school safety plan and requests for funding from the Center for School Safety under KRS 158.446;
 - (d) Professional development plans developed pursuant to KRS 156.095;
 - (e) Parent, citizen, and community participation including the relationship of the council with other groups;
 - (f) Cooperation and collaboration within the district, with other districts, and with other public and private agencies;

- (g) Requirements for waiver of district policies;
 - (h) Requirements for record keeping by the school council; and
 - (i) A process for appealing a decision made by a school council.
- (4) In addition to the authority granted to the school council in this section, the local board may grant to the school council any other authority permitted by law. The board shall make available liability insurance coverage for the protection of all members of the school council from liability arising in the course of pursuing their duties as members of the council.
- (5) After July 13, 1990, any school in which two-thirds (2/3) of the faculty vote to implement school-based decision making shall do so. All schools shall implement school-based decision making by July 1, 1996, in accordance with this section and with the policy adopted by the local board pursuant to this section. Upon favorable vote of a majority of the faculty at the school and a majority of at least twenty-five (25) voting parents of students enrolled in the school, a school meeting its goal as determined by the Department of Education pursuant to KRS 158.6455 may apply to the Kentucky Board of Education for exemption from the requirement to implement school-based decision making, and the state board shall grant the exemption. The voting by the parents on the matter of exemption from implementing school-based decision making shall be in an election conducted by the parent and teacher organization of the school or, if none exists, the largest organization of parents formed for this purpose. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, a local school district shall not be required to implement school-based decision making if the local school district contains only one (1) school.
- (6) The Department of Education shall provide professional development activities to assist schools in implementing school-based decision making. School council members elected for the first time shall complete a minimum of six (6) clock hours of training in the process of school-based decision making, no later than thirty (30)

days after the beginning of the service year for which they are elected to serve. School council members who have served on a school council at least one (1) year shall complete a minimum of three (3) clock hours of training in the process of school-based decision making no later than one hundred twenty (120) days after the beginning of the service year for which they are elected to serve. School council training required under this subsection shall be conducted by trainers endorsed by the Department of Education, and school council members shall complete the required training no later than thirty (30) days after the beginning of the service year for which they are elected to serve. By November 1 of each year, the principal through the local superintendent shall forward to the Department of Education the names and addresses of each council member and verify that the required training has been completed. School council members elected to fill a vacancy shall complete the applicable training within thirty (30) days of their election.

- (7) A school that chooses to have school-based decision making but would like to be exempt from the administrative structure set forth by this section may develop a model for implementing school-based decision making including, but not limited to, a description of the membership, organization, duties, and responsibilities of a school council. The school shall submit the model through the local board of education to the commissioner of education and the Kentucky Board of Education, which shall have final authority for approval. The application for approval of the model shall show evidence that it has been developed by representatives of the parents, students, certified personnel, and the administrators of the school and that two-thirds (2/3) of the faculty have agreed to the model.
- (8) The Kentucky Board of Education, upon recommendation of the commissioner of education, shall adopt by administrative regulation a formula by which school district funds shall be allocated to each school council. Included in the school council formula shall be an allocation for professional development that is at least

sixty-five percent (65%) of the district's per pupil state allocation for professional development for each student in average daily attendance in the school. The school council shall plan professional development in compliance with requirements specified in KRS 156.095, *except as provided in Section 1 of this Act*. School councils of small schools shall be encouraged to work with other school councils to maximize professional development opportunities.

- (9) (a) No board member, superintendent of schools, district employee, or member of a school council shall intentionally engage in a pattern of practice which is detrimental to the successful implementation of or circumvents the intent of school-based decision making to allow the professional staff members of a school and parents to be involved in the decision making process in working toward meeting the educational goals established in KRS 158.645 and 158.6451 or to make decisions in areas of policy assigned to a school council pursuant to paragraph (i) of subsection (2) of this section.
- (b) An affected party who believes a violation of this subsection has occurred may file a written complaint with the Office of Education Accountability. The office shall investigate the complaint and resolve the conflict, if possible, or forward the matter to the Kentucky Board of Education.
- (c) The Kentucky Board of Education shall conduct a hearing in accordance with KRS Chapter 13B for complaints referred by the Office of Education Accountability.
- (d) If the state board determines a violation has occurred, the party shall be subject to reprimand. A second violation of this subsection may be grounds for removing a superintendent, a member of a school council, or school board member from office or grounds for dismissal of an employee for misconduct in office or willful neglect of duty.