

**CHAPTER 135****(HB 66)**

AN ACT relating to the Teachers' Professional Growth Fund.

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

Section 1. KRS 156.553 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) The Teachers' Professional Growth Fund is hereby created to provide teachers with high quality professional development in content knowledge in the core disciplines of mathematics, science, language arts, and social studies as well as teaching methodologies to impart the content to students. During the years 2000 to 2004, priority for funding shall be given to middle school teachers, and, based upon available funds, and in subsequent years, funding shall be made available to teachers in all grade levels in the subject areas listed in this subsection. During the years 2000 to 2002, ~~funds shall be directed to~~ improving the content knowledge of mathematics by middle school teachers ***shall be given priority in the use of funds, except that the Department of Education may approve funding for improving teachers' knowledge and skills in other content areas if all funds are not needed for middle school mathematics teachers.*** ~~and~~ In subsequent years, the Department of Education, under provisions of this section, shall determine the priority for content emphasis.
- (2) The fund may provide moneys to teachers for:
  - (a) Tuition reimbursement for successful completion of college or university level courses approved for this purpose by the Education Professional Standards Board;
  - (b) Stipends for participation in and successful completion of:
    1. College or university courses approved for this purpose by the Education Professional Standards Board;
    2. Teacher institutes developed for core content instructors by the Department of Education in compliance with KRS 156.095; and
    3. Other professional development programs approved by the Kentucky Department of Education; and
  - (c) Reimbursement for other approved professional development activities throughout the school year, including reimbursement for:
    1. Travel to and from professional development workshops; and
    2. Travel to and from other schools for the observation of, and consultation with, peer mentors.
- (3) The Education Professional Standards Board shall determine the college and university courses for which teachers may receive reimbursement from the fund.
- (4) The Department of Education shall:
  - (a) Administer the fund. ***In order to process reimbursements to teachers promptly, the reimbursements shall not be subject to KRS 45A.690 to KRS 45A.725;***
  - (b) Determine the professional development programs for which teachers may receive reimbursement from the fund;

- (c) Determine the level of stipend or reimbursement, subject to the availability of appropriated funds, for particular courses and programs, under subsection (2) of this section; and
  - (d) Provide an accounting of fund expenditures to the Center for Middle School Academic Achievement, upon request of the center, for use in preparing the center's annual report.
- (5) The professional development programs approved by the Department of Education for which teachers may receive support from the fund shall:
- (a) Focus on improving the content knowledge of core discipline teachers;
  - (b) Provide instruction on teaching methods to effectively impart core discipline content knowledge to all students;
  - (c) Include intensive training institutes and workshops during the summer;
  - (d) Provide programs for the ongoing support of teacher participants throughout the year, which may include:
    - 1. A peer coaching or mentoring, and assessment program; and
    - 2. Planned activities, including:
      - a. Follow-up workshops; and
      - b. Support networks of teachers of the core disciplines using technologies including, but not limited to, telephone, video, and on-line computer networks; and
  - (e) Provide teacher participants with professional development credit toward renewal of certification under the provisions of KRS 161.095, relating to continuing education for teachers.
- (6) The Kentucky Board of Education shall specify through promulgation of administrative regulations:
- (a) The application and approval process for receipt of funds;
  - (b) The requirements and process for the disbursement of funds; and
  - (c) The number of each kind of approved course for which applicants may receive funds.
- (7) *Notwithstanding the provisions of KRS 45.229, unexpended funds in the Teachers' Professional Growth Fund in the 2000-2001 fiscal year or in any subsequent fiscal year shall not lapse but shall carry forward to the next fiscal year and shall be used for the purposes established in subsections (1) and (2) of this section.*

**Approved March 20, 2001**