

Sinking Fork Elementary School
Consultation Policy
KRS 160.345(2)(i)11

Purpose:

Kentucky School, through its consultation policy, ensures that students have equitable access to highly effective, experienced educators, including, but not limited to the following: teachers, media specialists, instructional coaches, principals, paraeducators, etc. who are culturally competent and able to reach each student. Likewise, Kentucky School ensures students have access to qualified non-instructional staff who are dedicated to the school and the responsibilities their position requires.

Definitions:

For the purpose of this policy, Kentucky School defines **vacancy** as any of the following: a position that did not previously exist, but which can now be funded, a position previously held by an employee who has retired or resigned; or a position held by an employee who has indicated in writing that they will retire or resign at the conclusion of the current school year.

For the purpose of this policy, Kentucky School defines qualified **teacher** as a teacher who has completed an Educator Preparation Program approved by the Educational Professional Standards Board (EPSB); holds full Kentucky certification or statement of eligibility; and demonstrates competency in each subject taught. Kentucky School defines qualified **principal** as the instructional leader of the school who has at least three years of teaching experience and who holds the proper certification and credentials.

A **paraeducator** is defined as an instructional assistant who has completed at least two (2) years of study at an institution of higher education; obtained an associate's (or higher) degree; or has met a rigorous standard of quality and can demonstrate, through a formal state or local academic assessment – knowledge of, and the ability to assist in instructing, reading, writing and mathematics; or knowledge of, and the ability to assist in, instructing, reading readiness, writing readiness, and mathematics readiness, as appropriate.

Non-instructional staff is defined as staff who offer other non-instructional related services; however, their services greatly improve the experiences of all students and their families at the school in general. Non-instructional staff includes but is not limited to the following: custodial staff, food services and nutrition staff, clerical workers, and athletic and extracurricular personnel.

Certified and Classified Personnel Procedures:

The school council must be consulted by the principal prior to filling any certified or classified vacancies that occur at the school at a special called or regular meeting. The principal may include members of the school council in the interview, and candidate screening processes, but must comply with applicable Open Meetings Laws.

- At the school council's next meeting, whether regular or special called, the council will convene to closed session permitted by KRS 61.810(1)(f) and will consider the candidates and provide its thoughts on the candidates to the principal who will select a candidate to fill the vacancy.
- At the next regular or special called meeting, the principal must consult with the council and report his/her candidate selection.
- The principal will inform the superintendent of his/her selection and the superintendent will complete the hiring process.
- The superintendent or principal may meet this requirement by sending a written notification to the SBDM Council prior to the next meeting which will be reflected in the next meeting minutes.

Principal Selection Procedures:

The school council must be consulted, at a special called or regular meeting of the school council, by the superintendent prior to filling a principal vacancy that occurs at the school.

Prior to consultation with the school council, each member must sign a nondisclosure agreement forbidding the disclosure of information shared and discussions held during consultation.

The superintendent may include members of the council in applicant screening or the interview process but must comply with applicable open meetings laws.

- At the school council's next meeting, whether regular or special called, the council will convene to closed session permitted by KRS 61.810(1)(f) and will consider the candidates and provide its thoughts on the candidates to the superintendent who will select a principal candidate to fill the vacancy.
- At the next regular or special called meeting, the superintendent must report his/her candidate selection to the council.
- The superintendent or principal may meet this requirement by sending a written notification to the SBDM Council prior to the next meeting which will be reflected in the next meeting minutes.

Emergency Provisions:

If, after reasonable efforts by the principal or superintendent, a quorum of the members of the school council is not available and cannot feasibly be available in a timely manner for the purpose of conducting consultation in the filling of a vacancy, the principal (or superintendent when filling a principal vacancy) must conduct consultation with the council members who can attend. The timeline may also be amended with school council approval in order to fill a vacancy during times where continuation of instructional and non-instructional services may be affected and a waiver of the 15-day posting may be requested from the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE). Council members may be consulted virtually through video teleconference by following the procedures outlined in KRS 61.826.

Evaluation:

The school council must annually review the policy and timeline and make revisions as necessary to ensure highly qualified personnel are recruited and retained at the school. Any revisions to the policy must be made and approved prior to March 31

Date Adopted: October 24, 2022

Date Reviewed/Revised: 9/26/2022 First Reading

Date Reviewed/Revised: 10/24/2022 2nd Reading