KASA: HB211 Provisions that apply to 2013-2014

Provisions that apply to 2013-14 include:

- Districts must complete a minimum of 1062 hours of instructional time
- Districts may still waive up to five of these hours due to days on which they had a delayed start
- Any instructional day may be extended up to a maximum of seven hours in order to achieve the 1062 hour minimum
- The school year must be completed by June 6
- Districts that cannot accomplish 1062 hours by June 6 must request assistance from KDE to maximize their total instructional hours. If they cannot achieve 1062 after receiving assistance, the Commissioner shall waive the requirement.
- There is no requirement to conduct 170 six-hour instructional days
- If no school in the district is used as a polling place, the district may operate schools on primary election day
- All staff must complete their contractual work year
- Graduation ceremonies may be held prior to the end of the instructional year

Items from KDE

HB 211 (Calendar bill) – Implementation of Emergency Provisions

Governor Beshear signed HB 211 today to implement emergency provisions related to school calendars.

The most immediate impact of HB 211 relates to amending school calendars for the 2013-14 school year. This legislation boils down the myriad of calendar requirements to just one for 2013-14 – each school district must achieve a minimum of 1,062 instructional hours. Please note that districts may still use up to five emergency hours provided by 702 KAR 7:140. Other emergency relief granted previously to a school district during the 2013-14 school year will be included as well.

The last day of instruction in the district is a local decision. The date of June 6 was established in the legislation as the relief point for districts that are extraordinarily challenged to meet the 1,062 instructional hour requirement. Certainly districts may have instructional time past June 6 – it is purely a local decision.

In a good-faith effort to provide the required 1,062 instructional hours, districts should consider the following strategies:

- a. Lengthen the school day, not to exceed 420 instructional minutes per day.
- b. Convert non-instructional days (spring break days, Memorial Day, professional development days) to instructional days; Election Day (May 20) may be used as an instructional day if no school in the district is used as a polling place.
- c. Minimize non-instructional time (recess, passing time) during the existing day.

If a local district has implemented the strategies to reach 1,062 instructional hours and cannot do so by June 6, the district may request a waiver from the Commissioner for the hours that would occur after June 6.

For information on how to make a waiver request, please contact Kay Kennedy by e-mail at <u>kay.kennedy@education.ky.gov</u> or by phone at (502) 564-3930, ext. 4433.