

Statement Regarding Use of PD Funds for KASA Membership

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There is no specific reference in statute or regulation that states that PD funds can be used for KASA dues. However, given that KASA PD activities are offered free or at a reduced cost to members, we believe that the following statutory provisions clearly indicate a legislative intent that PD funds at the local school level are to be used to at the discretion of school staff and school councils to enhance the professional skills of the staff, and we believe that KASA PD activities, all of which receive EILA credit, meet the standards established in the statutes, and thus allowing a KASA member to access those programs at a reduced cost or no cost (by paying KASA dues) constitutes a permissible use of PD funds.

In addition, "instructional leaders" are specifically designated in statute to receive additional training that other certified staff is not required to receive, placing them in a different status in terms of obtaining PD.

KRS 156.095 Professional development programs

Subsection: (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.**

...

(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.**

KRS 156.101 Effective Instructional Leadership Program

(1) The purpose of this section is to encourage and require the maintenance and development of effective instructional leadership in the public schools of the Commonwealth and to **recognize that principals, with the assistance of assistant principals, supervisors of instruction, guidance counselors, and directors of special education, have the primary responsibility for instructional leadership in the schools to which they are assigned.**

...

(3) In order to carry out the purpose of this section, the Kentucky Board of Education shall establish a **statewide program to improve and maintain the quality and effectiveness of instructional leadership** in the public schools of the Commonwealth.

(4) The instructional leader improvement program shall contain the following provisions:

(a) Each instructional leader employed by the public schools of the Commonwealth shall participate in a continuing **intensive training program designed especially for instructional leaders;**

160.345 School Based Decision Making

(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 KRS 158.649.