

1 AN ACT relating to education.

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

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

5 *As used in Sections 1 to 6 of this Act:*

- 6 *(1) "Biological sex" means the physical condition of being male or female, as*  
7 *determined by a person's unambiguous internal and external genitalia or, if*  
8 *necessary, sex chromosomes present at birth, and formally recognized on the*  
9 *person's original birth certificate or the child's school enrollment documentation;*
- 10 *(2) "Child" means a person who has not reached the age of eighteen (18);*
- 11 *(3) "Community standard state of dress" means the condition of being fully clothed,*  
12 *or partially or fully unclothed in which the bodily coverage by opaque clothing is*  
13 *appropriate as determined by the average adult citizen of the Commonwealth*  
14 *applying contemporary community standards of what is appropriate dress, given:*
- 15 *(a) The age, biological sex, and other demographic factors of the unclothed*  
16 *person;*
- 17 *(b) The age, biological sex, familial relation, and other demographic factors of*  
18 *persons able to view the person within the situational context; and*
- 19 *(c) The conditions of expectation of privacy within the situational context;*
- 20 *(4) "Parent" means any biological, foster, or adoptive parent, de facto custodian as*  
21 *defined in KRS 403.270, legal guardian who has legal custody of a child, or any*  
22 *adult caregiver authorized to make school-related decisions for a child under*  
23 *KRS 158.144, whose custody of the child has not been suspended or terminated*  
24 *by a court order;*
- 25 *(5) "Public school" means any school district or public charter school organization,*  
26 *any public school operated by those entities, the governing boards of those*  
27 *entities, and the employees, agents, and officers of those entities; and*

1 (6) "School enrollment documentation" means either:

2 (a) A certified copy of the child's birth certificate; or

3 (b) Other reliable proof of the child's identity, age, and biological sex and an  
4 affidavit of the inability to produce a copy of the birth certificate as provided  
5 upon enrollment of the child for the first time in any primary or secondary  
6 school to fulfill the requirements of KRS 158.032.

7 ➔SECTION 2. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 158 IS CREATED TO  
8 READ AS FOLLOWS:

9 (1) As it relates to public education, the General Assembly hereby finds and declares  
10 that:

11 (a) A parent of a child shall have the fundamental right to make decisions  
12 concerning the child's care, custody, and control without obstruction or  
13 interference from a public school. As it relates to public schools, this shall  
14 include the:

15 1. Right to make decisions concerning the child's education, including  
16 the right to cause the child to be educated in any manner that meets  
17 the compulsory attendance requirements and exemptions established  
18 in KRS 159.010 and 159.030 and in any other manner established by  
19 statute or the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Kentucky; and

20 2. High duty and right to nurture and direct their children's destiny,  
21 including their upbringing and education; mental, emotional, and  
22 physical health care; and moral and religious development;

23 (b) The interests and role of parents in the care, custody, and control of their  
24 children are implicit in the concept of ordered liberty, deeply embedded in  
25 our nation's history and tradition, and among the unalienable rights  
26 retained by the people under the Ninth Amendment to the Constitution of  
27 the United States;

- 1        (c) A parent of a child in this Commonwealth has inalienable rights that are  
2                    more comprehensive than those listed in Sections 1 to 6 of this Act, unless  
3                    such rights have been lawfully waived or terminated;
- 4        (d) The Commonwealth has independent authority to protect the parental rights  
5                    of its citizens; and
- 6        (e) The rights recognized and the protections established in Sections 1 to 6 of  
7                    this Act as they are related to public school are rooted in the right to due  
8                    process of law guaranteed pursuant to the Constitution of the United States.
- 9        (2) The public schools of the Commonwealth shall not violate a parent's  
10                    fundamental rights identified in Sections 1 to 6 of this Act. Any restriction of or  
11                    interference with these rights shall not be upheld unless it is demonstrated by  
12                    clear and convincing evidence to be:
- 13                    (a) Essential to further a compelling governmental interest; and
- 14                    (b) The least restrictive means available for the furthering of that compelling  
15                    governmental interest.
- 16        (3) To guard the rights established in Sections 1 to 6 of this Act, each local board of  
17                    education and charter school board of directors shall establish a process to  
18                    receive complaints regarding violations of those rights that includes:
- 19                    (a) A designated recipient of complaints for each school;
- 20                    (b) The procedure for submission of the complaint;
- 21                    (c) Written confirmation to the parent that the complaint has been received  
22                    within five (5) business days of receipt of the complaint;
- 23                    (d) A written response to the complaint within thirty (30) business days of  
24                    receipt of the complaint that outlines how the school will resolve the  
25                    complaint or a written statement of the specific reasons for not resolving the  
26                    complaint; and
- 27                    (e) A final written determination of the merits of the complaint and the actions

1           taken, if any, by the school to resolve the complaint within sixty (60) days  
2           following the receipt of the complaint or the basis for taking no action.

3           (4) (a) After exhausting the complaint process established in subsection (3) of this  
4           section without satisfactory resolution, or if the school does not issue the  
5           final written determination within the time established under subsection (3)  
6           of this section, a parent shall have a civil cause of action.

7           (b) The complaint shall be filed within sixty (60) days of the school's failure to  
8           comply within the time established under subsection (3) of this section or  
9           within sixty (60) days of the final written determination, whichever occurs  
10           last.

11           (c) The action shall be brought in the Circuit Court of the county in which the  
12           school is located or the parent resides.

13           (d) Remedies available to a parent under this subsection shall include:

14           1. Declaratory relief;

15           2. Injunctive relief to prevent or remedy a violation of Sections 1 to 6 of  
16           this Act or the effects of such a violation;

17           3. Compensatory damages for pecuniary or nonpecuniary losses;

18           4. Reasonable attorney's fees and costs; and

19           5. Any other appropriate relief.

20           (e) If a parent brings an unsuccessful civil action against a public school, the  
21           parent shall not be required to pay any associated attorney's fees or costs  
22           incurred by the public school.

23           (f) All claims shall be initiated within one (1) year of the violation.

24           (5) Nothing in Sections 1 to 6 of this Act shall be construed:

25           (a) To prescribe all rights held by the parent of a child in this state; or

26           (b) As altering the established presumption in favor of the constitutionality of  
27           statutes and regulations.

1 (6) Any portion or section of Sections 1 to 6 of this Act declared invalid shall not  
2 affect the validity of the remaining portions or sections of Sections 1 to 6 of this  
3 Act.

4 ➔SECTION 3. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 158 IS CREATED TO  
5 READ AS FOLLOWS:

6 (1) In accordance with Section 2 of this Act, a parent shall have the following rights  
7 as they relate to the parent's child and a public school:

8 (a) To access and review:

9 1. All education records relating to his or her minor child as provided in  
10 KRS 160.700 to 160.730;

11 2. Any record associated with the selection or approval of any guest  
12 lecturer, guest instructor, or outside presenter who participates in the  
13 child's education;

14 3. Any records in the possession of the school relating to third-party  
15 individuals and organizations contracted with the school that the child  
16 attends; and

17 4. Any student well-being questionnaire or health screening form used  
18 for research purposes;

19 (b) To provide consent prior to:

20 1. A well-being questionnaire or health screening form used for research  
21 purposes being given to the child. A school shall not require a grant of  
22 general consent to these questionnaires or forms by a parent, but shall  
23 request consent specific to each questionnaire or form to be provided  
24 to the child;

25 2. A biometric scan of the child is made, shared, or stored by a school;

26 3. Any record of the child's blood or deoxyribonucleic acid is created,  
27 stored, or shared by a school, except as required by law and authorized

- 1                    pursuant to a court order; and
- 2                    4. Each video or voice recording of the child is made by a school unless
- 3                    it is made during or as part of a court-ordered proceeding or a
- 4                    forensic interview in a criminal investigation or is to be used primarily
- 5                    for the following purposes:
- 6                    a. Documentation of regular classroom instruction, such as
- 7                    participation in journalism;
- 8                    b. Security or surveillance of buildings, grounds, or transportation
- 9                    vehicles; or
- 10                   c. Documentation of an extracurricular activity or public event
- 11                   where recording is common practice;
- 12                   (c) To know the people to whom and material to which the child is exposed
- 13                   while on property owned, leased, or operated by the school;
- 14                   (d) To know the identity of the people and entities, including but not limited to
- 15                   organizations, agencies, third-party clearinghouses, and consultants, that
- 16                   have accessed the child's education records, whether authorized by the
- 17                   school or not;
- 18                   (e) To access and review information identified in this section without entering
- 19                   into a nondisclosure agreement;
- 20                   (f) To access and review, in physical or digital format, and make copies of any
- 21                   curricular documents, books, and other educational materials used in the
- 22                   child's education;
- 23                   (g) To receive, without request, any course syllabus or course reading list prior
- 24                   to the child's beginning of the coursework or upon the child's enrollment in
- 25                   the course;
- 26                   (h) To visit his or her child at school during school hours unless the visit would
- 27                   disrupt the educational process of other children;

1 (i) To be provided a consent form prior to, and give written prior consent:

2 1. To each specific nonemergency health care service provided by the  
3 school to the child;

4 2. To each and every session of nonemergency mental health care service  
5 provided by the school to the child;

6 3. That is not a grant of general consent but is specific to each service  
7 provided to the child;

8 4. That shall not waive the parent's right to access the child's education  
9 or health records or the right to receive notifications required by this  
10 section; and

11 5. That, if not obtained from the parent, shall prohibit the school from  
12 providing that service;

13 (j) To be notified:

14 1. At the beginning of each school year, or upon enrollment, of all  
15 programs and health care services offered at the child's school;

16 2. Of major changes in his or her child's mental, emotional, and physical  
17 health and well-being, including but not limited to:

18 a. Significant changes to the child's gender expression;

19 b. Any request to be referred to by a name, pronoun, or other  
20 identifier inconsistent with the school enrollment documentation  
21 submitted in accordance to KRS 158.032;

22 c. Indicators of eating disorders;

23 d. Indicators of chemical dependency;

24 e. Evidence of pregnancy, whether the result of consensual or  
25 nonconsensual sexual activity;

26 f. Evidence of self-harm; and

27 g. Evidence of suicidal or violent ideation or intention;

- 1           3. At the beginning of the school year and upon a change of status,  
2           whether the child's school campus is assigned a school resource  
3           officer or not;
- 4           4. Within one (1) business day of the school attaining knowledge, of the  
5           occurrence of the following incidents on the campus of the school the  
6           child attends:
- 7           a. Physical assault;  
8           b. Sexual assault;  
9           c. Unlawful possession of a weapon on school property;  
10          d. Unlawful drug use or possession;  
11          e. Police investigations, unless no report is requested by police;  
12          f. Notice to the parent of the parent's child being involved in a  
13          bullying incident, as defined in Section 7 of this Act; and  
14          g. Regardless of the incident's location, serious crimes such as  
15          capital offenses, felonies, or Class A misdemeanors, of which a  
16          teacher or other school employee who works at the child's school  
17          campus is charged or convicted; and
- 18          5. At the beginning of the school year or upon enrollment of a report  
19          compiling the incidents outlined in subparagraph 4. of this paragraph  
20          from the previous school year;
- 21          (k) To request and receive, without charge, one (1) copy of all information  
22          identified in this subsection related to the child; and
- 23          (l) The rights outlined in the Sections 4 and 5 of this Act.
- 24          (2) To guard the rights outlined in Sections 1 to 6 of this Act, each local board of  
25          education or charter school board of directors shall take necessary actions and  
26          shall adopt policies and procedures to:
- 27          (a) Notify the parents of each enrolled child at the beginning of the school year



- 1           or upon enrollment of the parental rights outlined in Sections 1 to 6 of this  
2           Act;
- 3           (b) Ensure that no information relating to a child that requires prior consent  
4           under Sections 1 to 6 of this Act is created, collected, stored, or shared  
5           without the prior consent of the parent;
- 6           (c) Ensure that no service or activity relating to a child that requires prior  
7           consent under Sections 1 to 6 of this Act is conducted without the prior  
8           consent of the parent;
- 9           (d) Provide prompt notification without solicitation, request, or inquiry from a  
10           parent as required by Sections 1 to 6 of this Act;
- 11           (e) Provide the opportunity to access, review, and receive in digital form,  
12           without charge, any requested information involving a parent's minor child  
13           as permitted by Sections 1 to 6 of this Act, upon the written request of the  
14           parent, within five (5) business days of the receipt of the request;
- 15           (f) Notify parents of major changes in their child's mental, emotional, and  
16           physical health and well-being, including but not limited to those listed in  
17           subsection (1)(j) of this section;
- 18           (g) Prohibit any teacher or other school employee from withholding any  
19           information concerning a child's academic record or mental, emotional, or  
20           physical well-being, including but not limited to those referenced in  
21           subsection (1)(j) of this section, from the child's parent;
- 22           (h) Prohibit any teacher or other school employee from coercing or  
23           discouraging a child from sharing any information concerning the child's  
24           academic record or mental, emotional, or physical well-being with his or  
25           her parent, including but not limited to those listed in subsection (1)(j) of  
26           this section;
- 27           (i) Prohibit the funding of any professional development activity, consultant

1 services, trainings, or incentives, or the adoption of any policies, practices,  
2 or procedures, that:

3 1. Advise, compel, or incentivize any teacher, school employee, or  
4 presenter to use pronouns that are inconsistent with the information  
5 on the child's school enrollment documentation;

6 2. Discourage, punish, or disadvantage a teacher, school employee, or  
7 presenter in any way for refusal or failure to use a name or other  
8 identifier in reference to a child that is inconsistent with the child's  
9 information listed on the school enrollment documentation;

10 3. Assert that possessing any set of immutable characteristics makes a  
11 person in any way responsible for, or a contributor to, the suffering or  
12 adverse conditions experienced by another group of people; or

13 4. Advise, compel, or incentivize any persons to:

14 a. Segregate or form affinity groups according to any protected  
15 class;

16 b. Engage in any activity meant to separate persons based upon any  
17 immutable characteristic with the intent or effect of ascribing  
18 disadvantage, advantage, inferiority, or superiority; or

19 c. Assert that a person, simply by virtue of any immutable  
20 characteristic, is inherently more valuable than another person  
21 or better qualified to understand or empathize with persons with  
22 that characteristic; and

23 (j) 1. Prohibit the imposition of any requirement on any child as a condition  
24 for school admittance or attendance, employment, participation in or  
25 attendance at extra-curricular activities, or access or use of property  
26 located in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, whether owned, leased, or  
27 operated by the institution, to:

- 1                    a. Force the use of any type of medical device, including but not  
2                    limited to any type of facial coverings; or  
3                    b. Submit to any type of medical procedure or treatment, including  
4                    but not limited to any type of vaccination or testing unless  
5                    otherwise directed by a court of competent jurisdiction.

6                    2. Nothing in this paragraph shall:

- 7                    a. Contradict the requirements of KRS 158.035 regarding  
8                    certificates of immunization;  
9                    b. Apply to nonmedical safety equipment used as a precaution to  
10                   avoid bodily injuries in athletic activities, physical education  
11                   instruction, extracurricular activities, classroom instruction, or  
12                   demonstrations involving dangerous materials or activities;  
13                   c. Apply to a physical examinations or fitness required to  
14                   participate or resume participation in any interscholastic athletic  
15                   activity; or  
16                   d. Invalidate requirements, including those of students that have  
17                   curricular or work responsibilities, necessary for student  
18                   presence in a medical setting.

19                   (3) The Kentucky Department of Education and the Kentucky Board of Education  
20                   shall:

- 21                   (a) Eliminate any administrative regulations or recommended practices or  
22                   procedures that are inconsistent with Sections 1 to 6 of this Act; and  
23                   (b) Develop and recommend best practices to facilitate compliance by schools  
24                   with Sections 1 to 6 of this Act.

25                   (4) A school shall not be required to adopt or comply with the recommended best  
26                   practices developed under subsection (3)(b) of this section, so long as the school  
27                   complies with Sections 1 to 6 of this Act.

1           ➔SECTION 4. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 158 IS CREATED TO  
2 READ AS FOLLOWS:

3 (1) As it relates to public schools, the General Assembly hereby finds and declares  
4 that:

5 (a) Children have natural and normal concerns about bodily privacy while  
6 partially or completely unclothed, and most children prefer that members of  
7 the opposite biological sex not be present in those circumstances;

8 (b) A parent has the right, when entrusting the supervision of his or her child to  
9 a school, to not have:

10 1. His or her child permitted to view persons of the opposite sex outside  
11 of the community standard state of dress;

12 2. Persons of the opposite sex permitted to view his or her child outside  
13 of the community standard state of dress; and

14 3. Persons of the opposite sex in the presence of his or her child where  
15 there is a reasonable expectation of bodily privacy;

16 (c) Allowing students to share private quarters, restrooms, locker rooms, or  
17 shower rooms where there is a reasonable expectation of bodily privacy,  
18 which are reserved for students of a different biological sex creates:

19 1. A significant potential for disruption of school activities and unsafe  
20 conditions; and

21 2. Potential embarrassment and shame to children; and

22 (d) Providing children who object to the use of private quarters, restrooms,  
23 locker rooms, or shower rooms designated for the child's biological sex with  
24 reasonable alternative accommodations, if and when available, avoids  
25 potential complications and serves to protect their dignity and safety.

26 (2) To safeguard the rights recognized in subsection (1) of this section:

27 (a) Every school shall respect and protect the bodily privacy of children and

1 shall not compel or permit a student to be outside a community standard  
2 state of dress in the presence, or within view of members of the opposite  
3 biological sex;

4 (b) In the private areas identified in subsection (1) of this section where there is  
5 a reasonable expectation of bodily privacy, school personnel shall provide  
6 areas designated for students separated by their biological sex; and

7 (c) A student who informs school officials that the student's gender expression  
8 is, or will be, different from the student's biological sex and whose parent  
9 provides written consent to the school shall be provided with reasonable  
10 alternative facility accommodations, if available. Reasonable facility  
11 accommodations:

12 1. May include but are not limited to access to single-stall restrooms or  
13 the controlled use of faculty bathrooms, locker rooms, or shower  
14 rooms; and

15 2. Shall not include the use of school restrooms, locker rooms, or shower  
16 rooms designated for use by persons of the opposite biological sex, or  
17 the use of private quarters with members of the opposite biological sex  
18 who are not family members of the student.

19 (3) While accessing private quarters, restrooms, locker rooms, or shower rooms  
20 designated for use by the child's biological sex where there is a reasonable  
21 expectation of bodily privacy, a child who encounters a person of the opposite  
22 biological sex shall have a private cause of action against the school if school  
23 personnel:

24 (a) Authorized the encountered person to use the facilities of the opposite  
25 biological sex in the same manner as the child; or

26 (b) Failed to take reasonable steps to prevent the encountered person from  
27 using facilities of the opposite biological sex in the same manner as the

1 child.

2 (4) Any student, teacher, or employee required by the school or school personnel to  
 3 share private quarters where there is a reasonable expectation of bodily privacy  
 4 with a member of the opposite biological sex shall have a cause of action against  
 5 the school, unless the person sharing the quarters is a family member of the  
 6 student, teacher, or employee, as applicable.

7 (5) Nothing in this section shall apply to the following persons:

8 (a) A child younger than six (6) years of age, who may be present in the  
 9 facilities designated for use by the opposite biological sex of the child if  
 10 accompanied by the child's caregiver of designated biological sex;

11 (b) A person engaged in sanctioned inspection, maintenance, janitorial, or  
 12 custodial activities if reasonable precautions are made to prevent being in  
 13 the presence of, or viewing, a person of the opposite sex;

14 (c) A medical professional engaging in the practices of the profession under the  
 15 accepted standard of care;

16 (d) A person rendering medical or other emergency services; or

17 (e) A person serving in a law enforcement or school safety capacity, including  
 18 but not limited to pursuing a fleeing criminal suspect, executing a duly  
 19 issued warrant, or conducting a school authorized activity.

20 ➔SECTION 5. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 158 IS CREATED TO  
 21 READ AS FOLLOWS:

22 (1) For the purposes of this section, "controversial subject matter" means an issue  
 23 that is a point made in the electoral platform of a political party as defined in  
 24 KRS 118.015 and is contested by the electoral platform of another political party  
 25 at the local, state, or federal level.

26 (2) The General Assembly hereby finds and declares that:

27 (a) The common school environment and interactions between teachers and

1 students in kindergarten through grade twelve (12) are primarily intended  
2 to facilitate the learning of approved curricula and development of approved  
3 sets of skills; and

4 (b) The common school environment is not an appropriate place to engage in  
5 teacher-led or teacher-promoted social or political advocacy with respect to  
6 controversial subject matter.

7 (3) A parent has a right to have his or her child spend time at school primarily  
8 learning approved curricula and developing approved sets of skills with no time  
9 spent being indoctrinated into any partisan political position or being involved in  
10 teacher-led or teacher-promoted social or political advocacy with respect to  
11 controversial subject matter.

12 (4) In the school setting or while serving in the scope of duties of temporary, part-  
13 time, or full-time employment at a school, a teacher, school employee, guest  
14 lecturer, guest instructor, or outside presenter shall not:

15 (a) Discuss with or provide instruction to any student in kindergarten through  
16 grade eight (8) on the topics of sexual orientation, sexual preference, or  
17 gender expression inconsistent with biological sex;

18 (b) Discuss with or provide instruction to any student in grades nine (9)  
19 through twelve (12) the topics of sexual orientation, sexual preference, or  
20 gender expression inconsistent with biological sex, unless required for  
21 instruction of the school's approved curriculum for the course being taught;

22 (c) Discuss the person's own sexual orientation, sexual preference, or gender  
23 expression that is inconsistent with his or her biological sex with any  
24 student; or

25 (d) Display slogans, emblems, phrases, or symbols within view of any student  
26 on school property that are associated with any sexual orientation, sexual  
27 preference, or gender expression inconsistent with biological sex.

- 1 (5) In the school setting or while serving in the scope of duties of temporary, part-  
2 time, or full-time employment at a school, a teacher, school employee, guest  
3 lecturer, guest instructor, or outside presenter shall:
- 4 (a) Not endorse, support, or oppose any candidate or nominee for public office  
5 or any elected or appointed official of the local, state, or federal  
6 government;
- 7 (b) Not endorse, support, or oppose any pending, proposed, or enacted  
8 legislation or regulation at the local, state, or federal level in the presence of  
9 students;
- 10 (c) Not endorse, support, or oppose any pending, proposed, or decided court  
11 case or judicial action at the local, state, or federal level in the presence of  
12 students;
- 13 (d) Not endorse, support, or oppose any pending, proposed, or executed  
14 executive action at the local, state, or federal level in the presence of  
15 students;
- 16 (e) Only introduce or discuss with students a controversial subject matter if it is  
17 germane to the curriculum and topic of the course being taught and shall  
18 not advocate in a partisan manner for a specific side;
- 19 (f) Not display slogans, emblems, phrases, flags, or symbols that are associated  
20 with any controversial subject matter, including the confederate flag, with  
21 the exception of historical American, patriotic, war, or battle slogans,  
22 emblems, phrases, flags, or symbols, even if they may have since acquired  
23 secondary associations with controversial subject matter;
- 24 (g) Not segregate students or form affinity groups of students according to any  
25 protected class;
- 26 (h) Not engage in any activity meant to separate one (1) or more students based  
27 upon any immutable characteristic with the intent or effect of ascribing



- 1           disadvantage, advantage, inferiority or superiority;
- 2           (i) Not assert that a person, simply by virtue of any immutable characteristic, is
- 3           inherently more valuable than others, or better qualified to understand, or
- 4           empathize with, persons with that characteristic;
- 5           (j) Not assert that possessing any set of immutable characteristics makes a
- 6           person in any way responsible for, or a contributor to, the suffering or
- 7           adverse conditions experienced by another student or group of people; and
- 8           (k) Not encourage or coerce, or attempt to encourage or coerce, a child to
- 9           withhold any information about material or instruction presented to, or
- 10           conversation held with, the child from his or her parent.
- 11       (6) Notwithstanding the prohibitions on conduct in this section, a teacher, school
- 12       employee, guest lecturer, guest instructor, outside presenter, or student shall not
- 13       be compelled to endorse, affirm, support, oppose, or advocate for or against
- 14       anything in opposition to his or her sincerely held beliefs and convictions,
- 15       religious or otherwise, including but not limited to:
- 16       (a) Political candidates, parties, platforms, issues, judicial judgements,
- 17       legislation, regulation, executive order, or policies;
- 18       (b) Any position on controversial subject matter;
- 19       (c) Any position on a religious belief, dogma, doctrine, or practice;
- 20       (d) Any perspective on sexual orientation, sexual preference, or gender
- 21       expression; or
- 22       (e) The use of pronouns or other identifiers to refer to a person that are
- 23       inconsistent with the person's biological sex.
- 24       (7) In support of the rights outlined in this section, each local board of education or
- 25       charter school board of directors shall adopt policies and procedures to ensure
- 26       that:
- 27       (a) No funds are expended for any professional development, trainings, or

1 incentives that instruct, advise, reward, or compel any teacher, school  
2 employee, or presenter to take a particular position on, or advocate for or  
3 against, anything listed in subsection (5) or (6) of this section;

4 (b) No professional advantage, disadvantage, incentive, disincentive,  
5 promotion, demotion, reward, or penalty of any type is conferred or  
6 contingent upon a teacher, school employee, or presenter's willingness,  
7 refusal, or failure to take a particular position on, or advocate for or  
8 against, anything listed in subsection (5) or (6) of this section;

9 (c) All teachers, school employees, guest lecturers, guest instructors, and  
10 outside presenters at a school are aware of the prohibitions of this section  
11 and the penalties for willful violation; and

12 (d) All teachers, school employees, guest lecturers, guest instructors, and  
13 outside presenters at a school comply with the prohibitions of this section  
14 and that repeated willful violations are subject to dismissal.

15 (8) Nothing in this section shall prevent or limit:

16 (a) A school employee from conversationally referencing his or her own legal  
17 spouse, without discussion of sexual conduct as defined in Section 5 of this  
18 Act;

19 (b) The provision of one-on-one counseling or mental health or health care  
20 services by an appropriately licensed professional employed to serve in that  
21 capacity; or

22 (c) The requirement to address in an impartial and factual way topics that are  
23 permissible under statute and approved by standard school district or public  
24 charter school policies, and which satisfy all administrative regulations,  
25 including but not limited to those established in the standards for the course  
26 being taught.

27 ➔SECTION 6. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 158 IS CREATED TO

1 READ AS FOLLOWS:

2 (1) As used in this section:

3 (a) "Distribute" means to transfer possession of or provide access to other  
4 persons for observation, as might occur with matter in a common library,  
5 performance, or digital streaming service, whether with or without  
6 consideration;

7 (b) "Drag performance" means a performance in which a performer sings, lip  
8 syncs, dances, reads, or otherwise performs before an audience for  
9 entertainment while exhibiting a gender expression that is inconsistent with  
10 the biological sex formally recognized on the performer's original birth  
11 certificate using clothing, makeup, or other physical markers, and this  
12 gender expression is a caricatured, advertised, or featured aspect of the  
13 performance taken as a whole;

14 (c) "Harmful to minors" means that quality of any description, depiction, or  
15 representation, in whatever form, of nudity, sexual conduct, sexual  
16 excitement, or sadomasochistic abuse that:

17 1. Taken as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest of minors;

18 2. Is patently offensive to prevailing standards in the adult community as  
19 a whole with respect to what is suitable for minors; and

20 3. Taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific  
21 values for minors;

22 (d) "Matter" or "material" has the same meaning as matter in KRS 531.010;

23 (e) "Minor" has the same meaning as in KRS 500.080;

24 (f) "Nudity" or "nude" means the:

25 1. Showing of the human male or female genitals, pubic area, or  
26 buttocks with less than a fully opaque covering;

27 2. Showing the female breast with less than a fully opaque covering of

- 1                   any portion below the top of the nipple;
- 2                   3. Depiction of covered male genitals in a discernibly turgid state;
- 3                   (g) "Obscene" means;
- 4                   1. To the average person, applying contemporary community standards,
- 5                   the predominant appeal of the matter, taken as a whole, is a prurient
- 6                   interest in nudity, sexual conduct, excretion, sexual stimulation, or
- 7                   sexual gratification;
- 8                   2. The matter depicts or describes the nudity, sexual conduct, excretion,
- 9                   sexual stimulation, or sexual gratification in a patently offensive way;
- 10                   and
- 11                   3. The matter, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political,
- 12                   or scientific value;
- 13                   (h) "Obscene imagery representing minors" means a visual depiction of any
- 14                   kind produced by any means, including but not limited to a drawing,
- 15                   cartoon, sculpture, or painting, that:
- 16                   1. a. Depicts a minor engaging in sexual conduct; and
- 17                   b. Is obscene; or
- 18                   2. a. Depicts an image that is or appears to be of a minor engaging in
- 19                   graphic bestiality, sadomasochistic abuse, or sexual intercourse;
- 20                   and
- 21                   b. Lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value;
- 22                   (i) "Performance" means any physical human bodily activity, including
- 23                   singing, dancing, speaking, acting, simulating, or pantomiming or any play,
- 24                   motion picture, exhibition, or presentation, whether picture, animated, live,
- 25                   or recorded, that is intended for an audience of one (1) or more persons;
- 26                   (j) "Prurient interest" means an erotic, lascivious, degrading, shameful, or
- 27                   morbid interest in defecation, urination, nudity, sexual conduct, sexual

- 1            stimulation, or sexual gratification;
- 2            (k) "Sadomasochistic abuse" means flagellation, torture, or physical restraint
- 3            by or upon a person for the purpose of sexual gratification of either person;
- 4            (l) "Serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value" or "serious literary,
- 5            artistic, political, or scientific value for minors" means that a performance's
- 6            or matter's main contribution and importance, taken on the whole
- 7            exclusively in one (1) of the specific and limited literary, artistic, political, or
- 8            scientific areas is sufficient that a reasonable person would determine it
- 9            substantially outweighs the totality of the government's compelling interests
- 10           in limiting access to matter or performances that, if made widely available,
- 11           would among other harms:
- 12           1. Weaken public morality;
- 13           2. Promote disorder;
- 14           3. Exacerbate the public health crises related to pornography recognized
- 15           by the General Assembly;
- 16           4. Promote or normalize sexual or sadomasochistic abuse; and
- 17           5. In the case of performances or matter that make indecency,
- 18           pornography, obscenity, or harmful to minors content accessible to
- 19           children, infringe upon parental rights to control the upbringing and
- 20           education, mental, emotional, and physical health care, and moral and
- 21           religious development of their children.
- 22           Winning any award, prize, or other institutional recognition that considers
- 23           any factor, including but not limited to demographic characteristics of the
- 24           author, the author's historical significance, or the matter's social impact,
- 25           other than the purely literary, artistic, political, or scientific value of the
- 26           performance or matter in question, shall not factor into the assessment of
- 27           the matter for either adults or minors;

1 (m) "Sexual conduct" has the same meaning as in KRS 531.010 and shall  
2 include:

- 3 1. Human genitals in a state of sexual stimulation or arousal;  
4 2. Acts of human masturbation, sexual intercourse, or sodomy;  
5 3. Fondling or other erotic touching of human genitals or pubic region;  
6 or  
7 4. Fondling or other erotic touching of human buttocks or the female  
8 breast;

9 (n) "Sexual excitement" means a condition of human male or female genitals  
10 when in a state of sexual stimulation or arousal, or the sensual experiences  
11 of humans engaging in or witnessing sexual conduct or nudity;

12 (o) "Sexual intercourse" has the same meaning as in KRS 510.010 and  
13 includes "deviate sexual intercourse" as defined in KRS 510.010; and

14 (p) "Stripping" means any act which involves the intentional removal or  
15 simulated removal of clothing in a sexual manner, or intentional nudity, for  
16 the entertainment of one (1) or more individuals.

17 (2) A parent with the fundamental rights identified in Sections 1 to 6 of this Act also  
18 has the right and reasonable expectation that his or her child will not be exposed  
19 to or be given access to any pervasively vulgar or obscene matter or performance  
20 harmful to minors, or any obscene imagery representing minors.

21 (3) To safeguard the rights identified in subsection (2) of this section, each local  
22 board of education or charter school board of directors shall take necessary  
23 actions and adopt policies and procedures to:

24 (a) Take reasonable precautions to make inaccessible, on any property owned,  
25 leased, or operated by the public school, to any minor any pervasively  
26 vulgar or obscene matter harmful to minors, obscene imagery representing  
27 minors, or any performance that is harmful for minors, pervasively vulgar,

1           or obscene; and

2           (b) Prohibit on the site of on any property owned, leased, or operated by the  
3           public school, any performance that is harmful to minors, drag  
4           performance, pervasively vulgar performance, obscene performance, or any  
5           performance involving sexual conduct, nudity, or stripping.

6           (4) Willful violation of this section by an employee of a school shall be a basis for  
7           disciplinary action.

8           (5) In addition to the actions authorized under subsection (4) of this section, willful  
9           violation of this section may also be the basis for criminal prosecution under KRS  
10           Chapter 531 or any other applicable statute.

11           (6) No obscene matter, obscene imagery representing minors, matter or performance  
12           that is harmful to minors, obscene performance, drag performance, stripping, or  
13           pervasively vulgar matter or performance shall be deemed to have educational  
14           value for minors in the Commonwealth.

15           (7) This section shall not prohibit the use of approved instructional material used in  
16           public schools, provided that parents of a child are given advance notice of matter  
17           or materials that are potentially harmful to minors in the planned instruction,  
18           and parents are given the opportunity to remove the child, without penalty, from  
19           the instruction if the instructional material:

20           (a) Is permissible under state law;

21           (b) Is approved by standard school district or public charter school policies;  
22           and

23           (c) Satisfies all administrative regulations for academic standards for the  
24           course being taught.

25           ➔Section 7. KRS 158.148 is amended to read as follows:

26           (1) A parent that has the fundamental rights established under Sections 1 to 6 of this  
27           Act also has a right and reasonable expectation that his or her child will not be

1 *bullied while at school, at school-sanctioned events, or on school-sponsored*  
2 *transportation. To safeguard this right, a school board shall establish policies and*  
3 *procedures in accordance with this section to ensure that if a child is involved in*  
4 *a bullying incident, the school will notify the parents of all circumstances*  
5 *involved and take actions to provide support for the victim and to prevent further*  
6 *bullying.*

7 ~~(2)~~~~(1)~~ (a) As used in this section, "bullying" means any unwanted verbal, physical,  
8 or social behavior among students that involves a real or perceived power  
9 imbalance and is repeated or has the potential to be repeated:

- 10 1. That occurs on school premises, on school-sponsored transportation, or  
11 at a school-sponsored event; or  
12 2. That disrupts the education process.

13 (b) This definition shall not be interpreted to prohibit civil exchange of opinions  
14 or debate or cultural practices protected under the state or federal Constitution  
15 where the opinion expressed does not otherwise materially or substantially  
16 disrupt the education process.

17 ~~(3)~~~~(2)~~ In cooperation with the Kentucky Education Association, the Kentucky  
18 School Boards Association, the Kentucky Association of School Administrators,  
19 the Kentucky Association of Professional Educators, the Kentucky Association of  
20 School Superintendents, the Parent-Teachers Association, the Kentucky Chamber  
21 of Commerce, the Farm Bureau, members of the Interim Joint Committee on  
22 Education, and other interested groups, and in collaboration with the Center for  
23 School Safety, the Department of Education shall develop or update as needed and  
24 distribute to all districts by August 31 of each even-numbered year, beginning  
25 August 31, 2008:

26 (a) Statewide student discipline guidelines to ensure safe schools, including the  
27 definition of serious incident for the reporting purposes as identified in KRS



1 158.444;

2 (b) Recommendations designed to improve the learning environment and school  
3 climate, parental and community involvement in the schools, and student  
4 achievement; and

5 (c) A model policy to implement the provisions of this section and KRS 158.156,  
6 158.444, 525.070, and 525.080.

7 ~~(4)~~~~(3)~~ The department shall obtain statewide data on major discipline problems and  
8 reasons why students drop out of school. In addition, the department, in  
9 collaboration with the Center for School Safety, shall identify successful strategies  
10 currently being used in programs in Kentucky and in other states and shall  
11 incorporate those strategies into the statewide guidelines and the recommendations  
12 under subsection ~~(3)~~~~(2)~~ of this section.

13 ~~(5)~~~~(4)~~ Copies of the discipline guidelines shall be distributed to all school districts.  
14 The statewide guidelines shall contain broad principles and legal requirements to  
15 guide local districts in developing their own discipline code and school councils in  
16 the selection of discipline and classroom management techniques under KRS  
17 158.154; and in the development of the district-wide safety plan.

18 ~~(6)~~~~(5)~~ (a) Each local board of education shall be responsible for formulating a  
19 code of acceptable behavior and discipline to apply to the students in each  
20 school operated by the board. The code shall be updated no less frequently  
21 than every two (2) years, with the first update being completed by November  
22 30, 2008.

23 (b) The superintendent, or designee, shall be responsible for overall  
24 implementation and supervision, and each school principal shall be  
25 responsible for administration and implementation within each school. Each  
26 school council shall select and implement the appropriate discipline and  
27 classroom management techniques necessary to carry out the code. The board

1 shall establish a process for a two-way communication system for teachers  
 2 and other employees to notify a principal, supervisor, or other administrator of  
 3 an existing emergency.

4 (c) The code shall prohibit bullying.

5 (d) The code shall contain the type of behavior expected from each student, the  
 6 consequences of failure to obey the standards, and the importance of the  
 7 standards to the maintenance of a safe learning environment where orderly  
 8 learning is possible and encouraged.

9 (e) The code shall contain:

- 10 1. Procedures for identifying, documenting, and reporting incidents of  
 11 bullying, incidents of violations of the code, and incidents for which  
 12 reporting is required under KRS 158.156, **including but not limited to**  
 13 **the appropriate order of reporting to staff and escalation to staff if the**  
 14 **incidents persist;**
- 15 2. Procedures for investigating and responding to a complaint or a report of  
 16 bullying or a violation of the code, or of an incident for which reporting  
 17 is required under KRS 158.156, **including but not limited to specific**  
 18 **time requirements for beginning and completing an investigation;**
- 19 **3. Procedures for the appeal and review of each incident, including but**  
 20 **not limited to specific time requirements;**
- 21 **4. Procedures for**~~including~~ reporting incidents to the parents, legal  
 22 guardians, or other persons exercising custodial control or supervision of  
 23 the students involved, **including the actions to be taken to prevent any**  
 24 **possible future acts of bullying or retaliation;**
- 25 **5. Procedures for providing support for the victim and assessing the need**  
 26 **for protection of the victim;**
- 27 **6.**~~[3]~~. A strategy or method of protecting from retaliation a complainant or

1 person reporting an incident of bullying, a violation of the code, or an  
2 incident for which reporting is required under KRS 158.156;

3 ~~7.14.1~~ A process for informing students, parents, legal guardians, or other  
4 persons exercising custodial control or supervision, and school  
5 employees of the requirements of the code and the provisions of this  
6 section and KRS 158.156, 158.444, 525.070, and 525.080, including  
7 training for school employees; and

8 ~~8.15.1~~ Information regarding the consequences of bullying and violating the  
9 code and violations reportable under KRS 158.154, 158.156, or 158.444.

10 (f) The principal of each school shall apply the code of behavior and discipline  
11 uniformly and fairly to each student at the school without partiality or  
12 discrimination.

13 (g) A copy of the code of behavior and discipline adopted by the board of  
14 education shall be posted at each school. Guidance counselors shall be  
15 provided copies for discussion with students. The code shall be referenced in  
16 all school handbooks. All school employees and parents, legal guardians, or  
17 other persons exercising custodial control or supervision shall be provided  
18 copies of the code.

19 ➔Section 8. Section 1 to 6 of this Act shall be known as the Childhood Protection  
20 in Education Act.