

72-1923. Public innovative districts, grant of authority to operate; duties; applicability of laws. (a) Except as provided in K.S.A. 2014 Supp. 72-1925, and amendments thereto, the board of education of any school district may apply to the state board for a grant of authority to operate such school district as a public innovative district. The application shall be submitted in the form and manner prescribed by the state board, and shall be submitted not later than December 1 of the school year preceding the school year in which the school district intends to operate as a public innovative district.

(b) The application shall include the following:

- (1) A description of the educational programs of the public innovative district;
- (2) a description of the interest and support for partnerships between the public innovative district, parents and the community;
- (3) the specific goals and the measurable pupil outcomes to be obtained by operating as a public innovative district; and
- (4) an explanation of how pupil performance in achieving the specified outcomes will be measured, evaluated and reported.

(c) (1) Within 90 days from the date such application is submitted, the state board shall review the application to determine compliance with this section, and shall approve or deny such application on or before the conclusion of such 90-day period. If the application is determined to be in compliance with this section, the state board shall approve such application and grant the school district authority to operate as a public innovative district. Notification of such approval shall be sent to the board of education of such school district within 10 days after such decision.

(2) If the state board determines such application is not in compliance with either this section, or K.S.A. 2014 Supp. 72-1925, and amendments thereto, the state board shall deny such application. Notification of such denial shall be sent to the board of education of such school district within 10 days after such decision and shall specify the reasons therefor. Within 30 days from the date such notification is sent, the board of education of such school district may submit a request to the state board for reconsideration of the application and may submit an amended application with such request. The state board shall act on the request for reconsideration within 60 days of receipt of such request.

(d) A public innovative district shall:

- (1) Not charge tuition for any of the pupils residing within the public innovative district;
- (2) participate in all Kansas math and reading assessments applicable to such public innovative district, or an alternative assessment program for measuring student progress as determined by the board of education;
- (3) abide by all financial and auditing requirements that are applicable to school districts, except that a public innovative district may use generally accepted accounting principles;
- (4) comply with all applicable health, safety and access laws; and
- (5) comply with all statements set forth in the application submitted pursuant to subsection (a).

(e) (1) Except as otherwise provided in K.S.A. 2014 Supp. 72-1921 through 72-1930, and amendments thereto, or as required by the board of education of the public innovative district, a public innovative district shall be exempt from all laws and rules and regulations that are applicable to school districts.

(2) A public innovative district shall be subject to the special education for exceptional children act, the virtual school act, the school district finance and quality performance act, the provisions of K.S.A. 72-8801 et seq., and amendments thereto, all laws governing the issuance of general obligation bonds by school districts, the provisions of K.S.A. 74-4901 et seq., and amendments thereto, and all laws governing the election of members of the board of education, the open meetings act as provided in K.S.A. 75-4317 et seq., and amendments thereto, and the open records act as provided in K.S.A. 45-215 et seq., and amendments thereto.

History: L. 2013, ch. 116, § 3; July 1.