

DATE: 10/24/2025

AGENDA ITEM (ACTION ITEM):

Consider/Approve LifeWise Academy's application to provide moral instruction in the Kenton County School District pursuant to KRS 158.200.

APPLICABLE BOARD POLICY: 01.11 General Powers and Duties of the Board

HISTORY/BACKGROUND:

During the **2025 Kentucky Legislative Session**, **KRS 158.200, Moral instruction—Conditions—Quarterly reports**, was enacted into law. This statute permits **local boards of education** to authorize an opportunity for pupils within their jurisdiction to attend **moral instruction**.

The law establishes specific requirements for any such program, including:

- It provides for up to one (1) hour on no more than one (1) day each week.
- It must be **voluntary** and provided **without expense** to the local school district.
- It outlines parameters regarding the **time, location, and transportation** of participating students.
- It mandates that any individual, organization, or entity seeking to offer moral instruction must submit a formal application detailing their proposed program.

Upon application approval, the statute allows the local board to establish necessary arrangements with the provider. Furthermore, the law mandates a critical non-discrimination component, requiring the district to ensure that a pupil is **not discriminated against** based on their participation or non-participation in a moral instruction offering. Finally, it requires **quarterly reporting to the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE)**, detailing implementation if an application is approved, or providing the reason for denial if the application is rejected.

This board discussion item concerns the **application submitted by LifeWise Academy** to provide moral instruction to students in the **Kenton County School System** pursuant to KRS 158.200. The application and supporting documentation are attached for your review.

As Superintendent of Schools, I must bring to the Board's attention a significant statutory component that I believe will lead to the **disruption to the core educational process** should this application be approved.

KRS 158.200, Section (6), addresses the instruction for students who do *not* participate in the moral instruction offering. It states:

"A pupil who does not participate in a moral instruction offering shall remain in school during the time when the instruction is being given, and shall take noncredit enrichment courses or participate in educational activities not required in the regular curriculum, and that time shall be included as part of the actual school work required in KRS 158.060. Students of different grade levels may be placed into combined classrooms in accordance with maximum class size allotments as described in KRS 157.360. These courses or activities shall be supervised by certified school personnel and may include but are not limited to study hall, computer instruction, music, art, library, physical education, and tutorial assistance."

If the application is approved, and even a single student participates in the moral instruction, the **regular, credit-bearing academic instruction for all remaining students in that school must cease** during that time block. These non-participating students would then transition to the required "noncredit enrichment courses or educational activities."

It is for this reason—the **inevitable disruption to scheduled, core curriculum instruction** for students that I **recommend the denial of the application** submitted by LifeWise Academy. I have consulted with the board attorney, who concurs with this interpretation and recommended position.

FISCAL/BUDGETARY IMPACT:

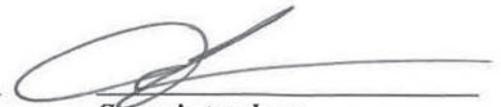
N/A

RECOMMENDATION: Deny LifeWise Academy's application to provide moral instruction in the Kenton County School District pursuant to KRS 158.200.

CONTACT PERSON: Henry Webb, Superintendent

Principal/Administrator

District Administrator



Superintendent

Use this form to submit your request to the Superintendent for items to be added to the Board Meeting Agenda. Principal –complete, print, sign and send to your Director. Director –if approved, sign and put in the Superintendent's mailbox.