AN ACT relating to the Collaborative Center for Literacy Development.

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

Section 1. KRS 164.0207 is amended to read as follows:

(1) The Collaborative Center for Literacy Development: Early Childhood through Adulthood is created to make available professional development for educators in reliable, replicable research-based reading programs, and to promote literacy development, including cooperating with other entities that provide family literacy services. The center shall be responsible for:

(a) Developing and implementing a clearinghouse for information about programs addressing reading and literacy from early childhood and the elementary grades (P-5) through adult education;

(b) Providing advice to the Kentucky Board of Education regarding the Reading Diagnostic and Intervention Grant Program established in KRS 158.792 and in other matters relating to reading;

(c) Collaborating with public and private institutions of postsecondary education and adult education providers to provide for teachers and administrators quality preservice and professional development relating to reading diagnostic assessments and intervention and to the essential components of successful reading: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, and the connections between writing and reading acquisition and motivation to read;

(d) Collaborating with the Kentucky Department of Education to assist districts with students functioning at low levels of reading skills to assess and address identified literacy needs;

(e) Providing professional development and coaching for early childhood educators and classroom teachers, including adult education teachers, implementing selected reliable, replicable research-based reading programs.
The professional development shall utilize technology when appropriate;

(f) Developing and implementing a comprehensive research agenda evaluating the early reading models implemented in Kentucky under KRS 158.792;

(g) Maintaining a demonstration and training site for early literacy located at each of the public universities;

(h) Assisting middle and high schools in the development of comprehensive adolescent reading plans and maintaining a repository of instructional materials or summary materials that identify comprehension best practices in the teaching of each subject area and a list of classroom-based diagnostic reading comprehension assessments that measure student progress in developing students' reading comprehension skills; and

(i) Evaluating the reading and literacy components of the model adult education programs funded under the adult education and literacy initiative fund created under KRS 151B.409.

(2) The center shall review national research and disseminate appropriate research abstracts, when appropriate, as well as conduct ongoing research of reading programs throughout the state. Research activities undertaken by the center shall consist of descriptive as well as empirical studies.

(a) The center may contract for research studies to be conducted on its behalf.

(b) The research agenda should, at a minimum, consider the impact of various reading and intervention programs:

1. In eliminating academic achievement gaps for students, including subpopulations of students with disabilities, students with low socioeconomic status, students from racial minority groups, students with limited English proficiency, and students of different gender;

2. In schools with differing characteristics, such as urban versus rural schools, poverty versus nonpoverty schools, schools with strong library
media center programs versus schools with weak library media center programs, and schools in different geographic regions of the state;

3. In terms of their costs and effectiveness; and

4. In maintaining positive student progress over a sustained period of time.

(3) All funding for the center shall be contingent upon the center fulfilling the statutory duties set forth in this section.

(4) (a) The center shall submit an annual report of its activities to the Kentucky Department of Education, the Governor, and the Legislative Research Commission no later than September 1 of each year. The report shall clearly summarize the specific actions taken by the center to meet each of the statutory duties set forth in this section during the year.

(b) The Kentucky Department of Education shall review the report and determine by October 1 of each year whether the center has fulfilled each of its statutory duties during the year reported. If the Kentucky Department of Education determines that the center has not met each of its statutory duties during the year reported, the department shall send a notice of probation to the executive director of the center, the president of the Council on Postsecondary Education, and the Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations and Revenue.

(c) The center shall have a probationary period of one (1) year to fulfill its statutory duties under the guidance and direction of the Kentucky Department of Education.

(d) If the Kentucky Department of Education determines that the center has not fulfilled its statutory duties upon the expiration of the one (1) year probationary period, the commissioner shall send a notice of suspension to the executive director of the center, the president of the Council on Postsecondary Education, the Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations
and Revenue, and the State Treasurer.

(e) Upon notice from the commissioner that the center has not fulfilled its statutory duties after expiration of the one (1) year probationary period, the State Treasurer shall withhold all funds reserved for the center for the remainder of the biennial budget.

(5)(4) With advice from the Department of Education, the Council on Postsecondary Education shall develop a process to solicit, review, and approve a proposal for locating the Collaborative Center for Literacy Development at a public institution of postsecondary education. The Council on Postsecondary Education shall approve the location. The center, in conjunction with the council, shall establish goals and performance objectives related to the functions described in this section.