



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Local Superintendent's Advisory Council (LSAC)

SUMMARY

May 31, 2022

Members: Tim Bobrowski, Kirk Biggerstaff, Harry Burchett, Thom Cochran, David Cox, Robbie Fletcher, Will Hodges, Sheila Mitchell, David Raleigh, Kelley Ransdell, Russ Tilford

Agenda Item: Accountability Standard Setting for Fall 2022

Presenters: Rhonda Sims, Associate Commissioner, Office of Assessment and Accountability, Kentucky Department of Education; and Jennifer Stafford, Director, Division of Assessment and Accountability Support, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: Sims and Stafford provided an overview of the accountability standard setting that will occur in the fall of 2022. Sims and Stafford explained the impact of Senate Bill 158 (SB 158) (2020), statutory requirements, plans for the accountability standard setting which included the processes and key activities, LSAC participation and approval, and timeline. At the end of the presentation, LSAC members had the opportunity to ask questions and then selected two members to represent the council on the standard setting committee.

Action Taken: LSAC selected and approved two members to serve on the accountability standard setting committee. Members selected were Robbie Fletcher and Sheila Mitchell.

Follow-up Required: None.

Agenda Item: Amendments to 704 KAR 3:305, Minimum requirements for high school graduation

Presenters: [SS-DoC1] Micki Ray, Chief Academic Officer, Office of Teaching and Learning, Kentucky Department of Education; and Sarah Peace, Policy Advisor, Office of Teaching and Learning, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: LSAC members heard a discussion on proposed amendments to 704 KAR 3:305, minimum requirements for high school graduation. These regulatory changes are needed to conform to Senate Bill 61 (SB 61) (2022) amendments to KRS 158.142, Early Graduation Program, which requires subsequent changes to the regulation. Per KRS 158.142, the Early Graduation Program (EGP) establishes provisions to allow highly successful learners, who demonstrate competencies needed to pursue postsecondary opportunities, to graduate

prior to completion of the traditional four years of high school. The statute also awards students an Early Graduation Certificate and scholarship through the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA) upon completion of the EGP.

First, SB 61 (2022) removes end-of-course assessment provided in KRS 158.142 (3)(a) as a requirement for the Early Graduation Program. End-of-course (EOC) assessments are not aligned to the *Kentucky Academic Standards (KAS)*, and, therefore, are not a reliable measure of a Kentucky student's academic attainment and ability. Additionally, the vendor no longer produces the end-of-course examinations that were named in this statute.

Second, SB 61 also amends KRS 158.142 by removing language provided under (3)(c) which states, "Scores on the ACT examination at or above the benchmarks set by the Council on Postsecondary Education for mathematics, reading, and English and any additional content areas for which the Council on Postsecondary Education establishes benchmarks." The statute names a vendor that may not be applicable long-term as educational practices and state-level contracts evolve.

SB 61 eliminates these requirements; however, the bill maintains statutory language providing the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) the authority to promulgate regulations establishing the requirements of the EGP. As a result, the program requirements, including the benchmark requirements for college entrance examinations, will be contained within the corresponding regulation 704 KAR 3:305.

In developing program requirements to supplement the removal of EOCs from statute, the Office of Teaching and Learning (OTL) considered the competencies, both academic and skills-based, that Kentucky students need in order to be successful beyond high school. The programmatic amendments seek to ensure that Kentucky students who complete the EGP have opportunities to exhibit and successfully apply postsecondary readiness.

Following the discussion of the proposed regulatory changes, there were no further questions from LSAC members. LSAC Chair Bobrowski affirmed the use of performance-based opportunities to demonstrate both academic readiness and critical skills and competencies for long-term success.

Action Taken: A motion was made to approve the amendment to regulation. The motion passed unanimously.

Follow-up Required: None