



## KENTUCKY BOARD OF EDUCATION

### APRIL BOARD NOTES

**NOTE:** The agenda and materials for all Kentucky Board of Education meetings can be found on the [board's online materials site](#). Also, [a recording of the April 11 regular session](#) can be found online.

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#### **Volume 25, No. 2 – Report of the April 11, 2018 Regular Meeting**

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#### **KENTUCKY BOARD OF EDUCATION HEARS NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE ON MINIMUM HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

The Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) held its regular meeting on April 11 in Frankfort, where the board heard a national overview of what other states are doing to ensure their high school graduates can successfully transition to careers and college. Kentucky is among many states that are in the process of reviewing and upgrading their graduation requirements, including some that are opting to move away from students collecting credits based on courses. Instead, some states are moving to more competency-based models, which involve students progressing at their own pace based on when they can demonstrate they have obtained required skills and knowledge in specific subject areas.

This spring, KDE convened a group of 80 shareholders from business and industry, postsecondary education, and K-12 teachers and leaders to identify the knowledge and skills a Kentucky graduate should have as he or she transitions out of high school. The profile will be used as a guide for the team of educators and education partners who will be developing and revising the graduation requirements.

In addition to that group's work, KDE is asking educators, parents, students, business representatives and community members to share their thoughts through an online survey on what they think high school graduates be able to know, do and experience to be ready for postsecondary education and/or a career.

The board will spend the next several months looking at ways amend the [state's minimum graduation requirements](#), which currently require students to earn 22 course credits in specific subject areas and other courses, like health and physical education. The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) is looking to implement new requirements with the freshmen class entering high school in the fall of 2019.

For more information contact:

- [Laura Arnold](#) by email or via phone at (502) 564-4286, ext. 4230
- [Amanda Ellis](#) by email or via phone at (502) 564-9850, ext. 4151

## **FIRST READING HELD ON KENTUCKY ACADEMIC STANDARDS FOR HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL INFLUENCES OF THE BIBLE ELECTIVE SOCIAL STUDIES COURSE**

The board's Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Committee held the first reading of the Kentucky Academic Standards for Historical and Cultural Influences of the Bible Elective Social Studies Course, an elective course for grades 9 and up that was created with the passage of HB128 (2017). Similar electives have been taught in several schools previously, but this is the first time standards have been created for the course.

According to statute, the course has to follow applicable laws and federal and state guidelines in maintaining religious neutrality. Courses are secular and shall not endorse, favor and promote a particular religion or faith.

The proposed standards will be brought back to the board for a second reading at the June meeting.

For more information, contact [Amanda Ellis](#) by email or via phone at (502) 564-9850, ext.4151

## **2017 NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS (NAEP) RESULTS**

The board heard disappointing results from the 2017 administration of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), also known as the nation's report card. The National Center for Education Statistics released results from the 2017 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) in reading and mathematics on April 10.

Every two years, NAEP math and reading tests are given to a representative, random sampling of students in 4th and 8th grades across the country. In Kentucky, about 2 percent of students (12,400) representing 63 percent of districts (111) participated in the 2017 assessments.

In 2017, the average reading scale score for 4th-grade students in Kentucky was 224 – slightly lower than that in 2015 (228), yet higher than for students across the nation (221). The average reading scale score for 8th-grade students in Kentucky was 265 – unchanged from 2015 and the same as the average for students nationwide. The NAEP reading assessment tests students on literary and informational texts. The questions measure students' ability to locate and recall, integrate and interpret, and critique and evaluate.

In 4th-grade mathematics, the average scale score for Kentucky students was 239 – the same as the national average and not significantly different statistically from the 2015 score (242). In 8th-grade mathematics, the average scale score for Kentucky students in 2017 (278) remained unchanged from 2015 and though slightly lower than the average scale score for students in public schools across the nation in 2017 (282), was not significantly different statistically. The mathematics assessment addresses five content areas: number properties and operations; measurement; geometry; data analysis, statistics, and probability; and algebra.

Student performance on NAEP fits into one of four categories: Below Basic, Basic, Proficient or Advanced. In Kentucky, in reading, 70 percent of 4th graders and 75 percent of 8th graders scored at the Basic level or above. In mathematics, 80 percent of 4th graders and 65 percent of 8th graders scored at the Basic level or above.

The Basic level signifies partial mastery of the knowledge and skills that are fundamental for proficient

work in a grade and subject. Proficient denotes solid academic performance demonstrating competency over challenging subject matter, including subject-matter knowledge, application of such knowledge to real-world situations, and analytical skills and is not the same as being “on grade level,” which refers to student performance based on local standards and curriculum that can vary among school districts. Advanced represents superior performance beyond proficiency.

The data shows performance gaps persist and in some cases widened at both the state and national levels.

Based on what we are seeing, we should be greatly concerned about not making the progress we hoped to make and the large percentages of children scoring in the very lowest achievement categories. Too many of our students are not achieving at levels of proficiency and higher. That lack of progress means we have much work to do.

It is worth noting that in recent years, the state’s exclusion rates – the percentage of students with disabilities and English Language Learners excluded from taking the test – dropped. These students typically do not score as high as their peers.

Additional information on the [Nation’s Report Card](#) is available online.

### **GRISSOM AND ROBINSON AWARDS GIVEN**

It was a great honor for the board to bestow two of its annual awards to such deserving Kentuckians during the April meeting.

The 2018 Dr. Johnnie Grissom Award was given to Dr. Soraya Matthews, director of curriculum, instruction and assessment for the Fayette County Public Schools.

The 2018 Dr. Samuel Robinson Award was presented to the Black Males Working (BMW) Academy program in Lexington.

### **ITEMS APPROVED AT THE APRIL BOARD MEETING WERE:**

- *a Statement of Consideration for 703 KAR 5:280, School Improvement procedures*
- *the reappointment of Pete Galloway to the Kentucky High School Athletics Association (KHSAA) Board of Control*
- *the 2018-19 Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education State Plan*
- *a request for an Alternative Model of School-Based Decision Making (SBDM) from Mt. Sterling Elementary School (Montgomery County)*
- *a request for a waiver of 702 KAR 7:140, Section 4, from the Marshall County school district*
- *a request for a waiver from 702 KAR 5:060, Section 6(2), from the Fort Thomas Independent school district*

### **ITEMS REVIEWED AT THE APRIL BOARD MEETING WITH NO ACTION TAKEN WERE:**

- *the 2018 Session of the Kentucky General Assembly*
- *local school districts finances*
- *state management in Breathitt and Menifee School Districts*
- *the 2018-2020 Executive Budget Recommendation regarding P-12 education*
- *Audit Report of the Commissioner and KBE Expenses for July-December 2017*

**Future KBE Regular Meeting Dates for 2018**

June 6, 2018	Regular meeting	Frankfort
August 1-2, 2018	KBE Retreat & Regular meeting	Frankfort
October 2-3, 2018	Commissioner's Evaluation Discussion & Regular Meeting	Frankfort
December 5, 2018	Regular meeting	Frankfort

**Future KBE Regular Meeting Dates for 2019**

February 6, 2019	Regular meeting	Frankfort
April 10, 2019	Regular meeting	Frankfort
June 5, 2019	Regular meeting	Frankfort
August 6-7, 2019	KBE Retreat & Regular meeting	Frankfort
October 2-3, 2019	Commissioner's Evaluation Discussion & Regular Meeting	Frankfort
December 4, 2019	Regular meeting	Frankfort

For more information on meeting dates, please contact [Susan Palmer](#) at (502) 564-3141, ext. 4808.

*The actions described above were taken in open session of the Kentucky Board of Education at the April 11, 2018, regular meeting, conducted in Frankfort, Kentucky. This information is provided in summary form, and an official record of the meeting is available on tape in the permanent records of the Kentucky Board of Education, 300 Sower Blvd., 5th Floor, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601. These records are open for inspection Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.*

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