



## KENTUCKY BOARD OF EDUCATION

### FEBRUARY BOARD NOTES

(NOTE: The agenda and materials for all Kentucky Board of Education meetings can be found on the board's online materials site at: <http://portal.ksba.org/public/Agency.aspx?PublicAgencyID=4388&AgencyTypeID=1>. Also, a recording of the February 5 session can be found at <http://education.ky.gov/KBE/meet/Pages/default.aspx> link.

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#### **Volume 22, No. 1 -- Report of the February 5, 2014, Regular Meeting**

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The Kentucky Board of Education's February 5<sup>th</sup> agenda was busy and full of content. In particular, the board reviewed for its first reading 703 KAR 3:370, Professional Growth and Effectiveness System, the regulation that will provide the specifics for implementation of the new growth and effectiveness system designed to improve the performance of certified personnel and the learning of Kentucky's students.



This new system has been under development for the last four years with the assistance of two statewide steering committees, one for the teacher system and the other for the principal system. Additionally, it has been field tested and piloted statewide with much constituent feedback considered to help shape the system.

As the board moves toward final approval of this regulation at its April 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, I encourage all superintendents, principals and educators to review the draft regulation on the board's online meeting system site and provide any final input that you feel should be considered by Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) staff. The board has asked KDE staff to look at all feedback before bringing back a revised version of the regulation for final approval in April.

The regulation can be found under Agenda Item XVIII., the second attachment (704 KAR 3:370), at the following link: <http://portal.ksba.org/public/Meeting.aspx?PublicAgencyID=4388&PublicMeetingID=10511&AgencyTypeID=1>. Feedback can be forwarded to David Wickersham at [david.wickersham@education.ky.gov](mailto:david.wickersham@education.ky.gov) or Robin Chandler at [robin.chandler@education.ky.gov](mailto:robin.chandler@education.ky.gov).

Once adopted in April, I encourage you to get behind this new system and make sure your teachers and principals know where to find assistance for implementation, if needed. The bottom line is to use this new system as one more way to help us ensure more students become college- and career-ready.

**704 KAR 3:370, PROFESSIONAL GROWTH AND EFFECTIVENESS SYSTEM  
RECEIVES FIRST READING**

At its February 5, 2014, regular meeting, the Kentucky Board of Education conducted a review of 704 KAR 3:370, Professional Growth and Effectiveness System through a first reading of this new regulation. A proposal to repeal the current regulation for evaluation of certified personnel, 704 KAR 3:345, Evaluation Guidelines, was also presented for review since it will be replaced by the new regulation.

Kentucky Department of Education staff reminded the board that this new system has been under development over the last four years through recommendations from two statewide steering committees, one for the teachers' model and one for the principals' model. It was also noted that a field test, statewide pilot and constituent feedback have helped to shape the system.

Some of the main features of the new regulation include:

- Teachers and principals will be evaluated in two main areas: professional practice and student growth trends. All evaluators and observers must be trained and tested before conducting evaluations.
- For teachers, the professional practice rating will be determined by observations, a student voice survey, professional growth plans and self-reflection and district-determined sources weighed against components and indicators in four domains: planning and preparation, classroom environment, instruction and professional responsibilities.
- Principals and assistant principals will be subject to performance criteria in instructional leadership, school climate, human resources management, organization management, communication and community relations, and professionalism to determine the professional practice rating.
- Depending on how educators measure up, they will receive a professional practice rating of ineffective, developing, accomplished or exemplary.
- For the student growth area, a rating of high, expected or low will be based on professional judgment and three years of student growth data -- state test data and district-developed student growth ratings.
- An overall performance category of exemplary, accomplished, developing or ineffective will result from the ratings. However, no individual performance ratings will be made public. Instead, these will be reported in the aggregate for use in state accountability starting in 2015-16. Additionally, the new system's results will not be used to make personnel decisions until 2015-16.
- Districts may develop alternative systems for certified personnel evaluation; however, these must meet statutory and regulatory requirements and be approved by the Kentucky Department of Education.

The regulation repealing the existing system and 704 KAR 3:370 (the new system) will come back to the board on April 9 for approval. For more information on these regulations, contact Dr. Amanda Ellis at (502) 564-1479, ext. 4504 or via e-mail at [Amanda.ellis@education.ky.gov](mailto:Amanda.ellis@education.ky.gov).

### ***THREE NEW DISTRICTS OF INNOVATION APPROVED***

Owensboro Independent, Owley County and Trigg County were approved by the Kentucky Board of Education as the newest Districts of Innovation. Each district submitted an application and requests to be exempt from certain administrative regulations and statutory provisions, as well as the ability to waive local board policy, in an effort to improve student learning.

The applications were considered by individual district with exemptions approved except in cases where the law or authority of the state board did not permit. A memoranda of understanding (MOU) will be entered into with each of the districts detailing the waivers that were approved.

The central idea behind each district's model within its application is as follows:

- Owensboro Independent – The district is adopting the New Tech High model currently used by 134 schools in 23 states and Australia. This model believes that deeper learning and college readiness for students are what matter most. Deeper learning is defined as the ability to master core academic content, think critically, solve complex problems, work collaboratively, communicate effectively, and learn how to be self-directed learners. Student success within this model is gauged by more than standardized state tests alone.
- Owsley County – The central tenet of this model is developing personalized education plans for students. Plans may consist of virtual school, independent study, dual credit and/or online college courses, career coop, job shadowing, career mentoring, etc. It moves away from the one-size-fits-all approach. Three types of learning environment models will be offered: traditional, virtual and a hybrid (combines traditional and virtual).
- Trigg County – This model is a competency-based approach where learning remains constant, though the method of instruction and the amount of instructional time may vary in order to ensure that learning occurs. In addition to the Kentucky Core Academic Standards, focus also occurs on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills as an additional set of competencies necessary for students to master to be successful in today's world. Two primary delivery methods are used: problem-based learning and blended learning.

For more information on these innovative models, contact David Cook at (502) 564-4201, ext. 4832 or via e-mail at [david.cook@education.ky.gov](mailto:david.cook@education.ky.gov).

### ***PRIORITY SCHOOLS UPDATE PROVIDED TO STATE BOARD***

Associate Commissioner Kelly Foster provided an update to the board on the progress of Priority Schools, the state's persistently low-achieving schools. For the purpose of the 2013-14 school

year, Foster indicated this to be 39 schools, with the closing of one school and the exiting of another from Priority status.

In her report, Foster indicated the following progress had occurred:

- 6 schools scored in the Distinguished category.
- 8 schools scored in the Proficient category.
- 19 schools were categorized as Progressing (met Annual Measurable Objective (AMO), student participation rate for all groups, and graduation rate goal) in addition to their classification as Distinguished, Proficient or Needs Improvement.
- 11 of 41 schools had Overall Scores above the state average.
- 36 of 41 schools met their Annual Measurable Objective (AMO).
- 21 of 41 schools achieved their College and Career Ready (CCR) targets.
- 4 schools made the Rewards category of High Progress, which requires a school to be in the top 10% of improvement in all schools.
- Of the 8 Proficient schools, 4 were also identified as Progressing.
- Of the 27 schools categorized as Needs Improvement, 15 were also identified as Progressing.
- 11 schools had an Overall Score above the state average.
- 8 schools had Achievement scores above the state average.
- 9 schools had Gap scores above the state average.
- 13 schools had Growth scores above the state average.
- 29 schools had 10% or greater increases in their percentile rank than the previous year.

The board also learned that two Priority Schools, Franklin-Simpson and Pulaski County High Schools, have been named Hub Schools to serve as regional models that showcase best or promising practices to share with other schools in their region. These two schools have made extremely high levels of progress; both were rated Distinguished in the last round of the state assessment.

While good progress has occurred in many of these schools, it also was shared that:

- 5 schools had Overall Scores lower than the previous year.
- 12 schools had 6% or less increases in percentile rank than the previous year. Of these schools, 6 had no gain and 3 had decreases in their percentile ranking.
- These same 12 schools were lower-performing across multiple measures, and failed to make state averages across several categories.

The final point made during the presentation was that no state funds are currently appropriated to support this important and highly successful intervention program. Moreover, Associate Commissioner Foster emphasized that without the \$8.17 million the department requested as part of its budget request for this purpose, the level of work that is making a difference for students in these schools will not be possible.

For more information on this transformative work, contact Dr. Kelly Foster at (502) 564-5130, ext. 4001 or via e-mail at [kelly.foster@education.ky.gov](mailto:kelly.foster@education.ky.gov).

***BOARD PASSES RESOLUTION PROMOTING SCHOOL BREAKFAST***

As part of a push by the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) to encourage school districts to seek multiple and innovative ways of increasing school breakfast participation in their schools, the following resolution was proposed to and approved by the board:

***RESOLUTION BY THE KENTUCKY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY***

***PROMOTING SCHOOL BREAKFAST***

**WHEREAS, The Kentucky Board of Education and Kentucky’s Commissioner of Education value the more than 650,000 public school children as one of the State’s most precious natural resources; and**

**WHEREAS, Good and ample nutrition for children enhances and enables learning and attentiveness, and improves attendance and behavior at school; and**

**WHEREAS, Kentucky ranks among the top 25% of states in the nation where families suffer from hunger and food insecurity; and**

**WHEREAS, Over half of the students enrolled in Kentucky’s public schools qualify for free or reduced-price meals, but only 39% participate in the school breakfast program; and**

**WHEREAS, Scientific research indicates that students who eat school breakfast show a general improvement in academic performance, including a general increase in math and reading scores; and**

**WHEREAS, Research concludes that children who eat school breakfast eat more fruits, drink more milk, and consume less saturated fat and sugar than children who do not eat breakfast, thus helping to prevent childhood obesity.**

***NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Kentucky Board of Education encourages school districts to seek multiple and innovative ways of increasing school breakfast participation in their schools as an additional means of caring for and nurturing the state’s public school children and encourages them to consider providing breakfast in the classroom during appropriate instructional and educational activities as one of the multiple options for removing barriers to participation in the school breakfast program.***

This is part of the department’s launching of the Breakfast Challenge Promotion, a collaboration between KDE and the Southeast United Dairy Association. Grant opportunities will be available to allow districts to implement their promotion plans for the Breakfast Challenge.

For more information on the Breakfast Challenge, contact Deanna Tackett at (502) 564-5625, ext. 4929 or via e-mail at [deanna.tackett@education.ky.gov](mailto:deanna.tackett@education.ky.gov).

***OTHER ITEMS APPROVED AT THE FEBRUARY MEETING WERE:***

- Minutes from the December 3-4, 2013 Kentucky Board of Education regular meeting
- Statement of Consideration for 703 KAR 5:070, Procedures for Inclusion of Special Populations in State-Required Assessment and Accountability Programs
- Statement of Consideration for 703 KAR 5:080, Administration Code for Kentucky’s Educational Assessment Program
- New District Facility Plans for Clinton and Lawrence County School Districts
- District Facility Plan Amendment for Madison County School District
- 702 KAR 3:300, Approval for school district lease and retirement incentive annuity agreements (Second Reading)
- Revisions to the Kentucky State Plan for FY15 for the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006
- David Karem’s travel to the Effective Implementation of College- and Career-Ready Standards through Labor Management Partnerships meeting (costs paid for by U.S. Department of Education)
- Brigitte Ramsey’s travel to the NASBE Regional Meeting (costs paid for by NASBE)

***OTHER ITEMS REVIEWED WITH NO ACTION TAKEN WERE:***

- Strategic Plan Update
- Status Update on School Districts in State Assistance
- Hearing Officer’s Report on status of regulations
- Legislative Update
- Overview of Mapping the Nation Website and World Language Program Review Update
- Common Kindergarten Entry Screener
- 702 KAR 7:065, Designation of Agent to Manage Middle and High School Interscholastic Athletics and Revisions to KHSAA Bylaws (First Reading)
- KDE Employment Reports (Both for CTE and all KDE Offices)

***KBE MEETING DATES***

**KBE Meeting Dates for 2014**

April 8-9, 2014	Study session on April 8 and Regular meeting on April 9	Frankfort
June 4, 2014	Regular meeting	Frankfort
August 6-7, 2014	KBE Retreat & Regular meeting	Frankfort
October 7, 2014	Regular meeting	Frankfort
December 3, 2014	Regular meeting	Frankfort

**KBE Meeting Dates for 2015**

February 4, 2015	Regular meeting	Frankfort
April 1, 2015	Regular meeting	Frankfort
June 3, 2015	Regular meeting	Frankfort
August 5-6, 2015	KBE Retreat & Regular meeting	Frankfort
October 6, 2015	Regular meeting	Frankfort
December 9, 2015	Regular meeting	Frankfort

For more information on meeting dates, contact Susan Palmer at (502) 564-3141, Ext. 4805 or via e-mail at [susan.palmer@education.ky.gov](mailto:susan.palmer@education.ky.gov).

*The actions described above were taken in open session of the Kentucky Board of Education at the February 5, 2014, regular meeting, conducted in the State Board Room, Capital Plaza Tower, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, 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, First Floor, Capital Plaza Tower, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601. These records are open for inspection Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.*

*For additional information about the Kentucky Board of Education meetings, agendas, minutes or special accommodations needed for attending meetings, contact Mary Ann Miller, Policy Advisor, at (502) 564-3141.*

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