

## KENTUCKY'S PROCESS FOR ADOPTING THE NEW COMMON CORE STANDARDS

The passage of Senate Bill 1 (SB1) by the Kentucky General Assembly in the 2009 regular session required that content standards in all content areas be revised. The goals of the revision were to have fewer, clearer and higher standards that are internationally benchmarked. The revision also allowed the opportunity to discontinue the use of the Core Content for Assessment document as its contents are already included in the current Program of Studies (POS) regulation adopted by the Kentucky Board of Education.

Kentucky is working with a consortium of several other states to develop standards in mathematics, English/language arts and, possibly, science (a little later) that will be known as the common core standards. It is necessary to replace the currently existing standards in the POS with these new, internationally benchmarked ones.

The Kentucky Board of Education brings regulations being considered for adoption before that body twice, once for review and the other time for final approval. At the December 9-10, 2009, meeting, the board did the first review of 704 KAR 3:303, Required program of studies, the regulation that incorporates the POS within it as a document incorporated by reference. Kentucky Department of Education staff recommended to the board in December that the name of Kentucky's Program of Studies for Grades Primary - 12 (revised 2006) be changed to Kentucky's Core Academic Standards. All places where POS is listed would be replaced with Core Academic Standards. Staff also recommended that content within Kentucky's Core Academic Standards be the content assessed on the state assessment and that the board replace the mathematics and reading/language arts standards in the current POS with new common core standards currently being developed in collaboration with other states in order to implement the changes required by SB1. The regulation will come back to the February 10-11, 2010 meeting for final approval. For science and any other content area standard changes, the regulation will be brought back to incorporate them in the future when these are ready.

In addition to the legal approval process for regulations to make the new standards for mathematics and reading/language arts have the force of law, a joint meeting of the Kentucky Board of Education with the Council on Postsecondary Education and Education Professional Standards Board is being planned for February 10 at which time the standards for mathematics and English/language arts will be considered for approval by all three boards. This joint approval signals public agreement and alignment between Kentucky's teacher certification board, higher education board and preschool through grade 12 board on what students need to know and be able to do.

Once 704 KAR 3:303 is given final approval by the Kentucky Board of Education at the February 10-11 meeting, the regulation and its document incorporated by reference (the standards), will then proceed through the legally required public hearing process and review by a series of legislative committees before officially becoming law. That process will take approximately through the end of May 2010 to be completed.