



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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BOARD APPROVES SCIENCE STANDARDS, NAMES DISTRICTS OF INNOVATION

(Frankfort, KY) – The Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) approved the [Next-Generation Science Standards](#) (NGSS) at its meeting today.

A coalition of 26 states including Kentucky developed the standards; they identify science and engineering practices and content that all K-12 students should master in order to be fully prepared for college and careers. The science standards are based on the National Research Council's [Framework for K-12 Science Education: Practices, Crosscutting Concepts, and Core Ideas](#).

The NGSS have been in development for two years and meet the requirements for new standards mandated by Senate Bill 1 (2009). The science standards are internationally benchmarked, rigorous, research-based and aligned with expectations for college and careers. They provide for deeper understanding of content and application.

The Next-Generation Science Standards now move through the regulatory process.

In other action, the board named four districts, out of 16 that applied, a [District of Innovation](#). In the application process, the districts sought waivers from specific regulations that could stand in the way of innovative practices and programs to boost student achievement and college/career-readiness for all students. Not all waivers requested were approved.

Those approved as Districts of Innovation are:

- Danville Independent
- Eminence Independent
- Jefferson County
- Taylor County

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The districts will sign a memorandum of understanding with the department that lays out what the Kentucky Department of Education's (KDE's) and the district's responsibilities are during the five-year designation period. The MOU will include the approved waivers and a series of assurances; district plans and progress will be reviewed annually.

In other news, the board heard the preliminary results of the 2013 TELL (Teaching, Empowering, Leading and Learning) Survey of school working conditions. Nearly 44,000 or 87 percent of school-based educators responded to the [2013 TELL Survey](#) given online in March.

"I'm so proud of our educators, all of the participants and our education partners. They should be congratulated and commended for their work on this survey," said Kentucky Education Commissioner Terry Holliday. "During the past few years our state has focused much of our work around highly effective teachers and leaders. These 2013 TELL Survey results show our efforts are succeeding. By continually improving the teaching conditions in our schools, student learning improves and we reduce teacher turnover rates. That will have a long-term impact on Kentucky's economy."

The results of the survey will be used by school-based decision making councils, schools, districts, local boards of education, KDE, KBE and numerous other organizations to improve the teaching and learning conditions in the state's schools and districts. Results can be accessed at <http://www.tellkentucky.org/>.

The board also:

- approved [704 KAR 3:035](#), Annual Professional Development Plan, which now moves through the regulatory process
- approved the 2013-14 [preschool funding process and formula](#) with calculations for at-risk and children with disabilities and a mid-year growth allocation
- approved district facility plans for Bourbon, Breathitt, Calloway, Christian, Elliott, Fulton, Grayson, Jefferson, Lee, Menifee, Muhlenberg, Pendleton, Perry, Rockcastle, Whitley, Wolfe and Woodford County school districts and Campbellsville, Corbin, Harlan, Ludlow, Newport, Southgate and Williamsburg Independent school districts

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- approved the Statement of Consideration for [702 KAR 4:160](#), Capital Construction Process
- approved the Kentucky Education Technology System ([KETS](#)) [FY 2014 Unmet Need](#) of \$156 million for districts
- heard the first reading of [704 KAR 3:390](#), Extended School Services
- appointed Kimberly Parker-Brown to the KHSAA Board of Control
- re-appointed David McFadden to the State Textbook Commission

The Kentucky Board of Education will meet August 7 in Frankfort for its annual retreat.

The board's next regular meeting will be the following day, August 8, also in Frankfort.

For more information about the board, click on the Kentucky Board of Education [link](#) on the Kentucky Department of Education's homepage.

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