



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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COMMISSIONER PRAISES GOVERNOR'S SWIFT ACTION ON SCIENCE STANDARDS

(FRANKFORT, Ky.) – Kentucky Education Commissioner Terry Holliday praised Gov. Steve Beshear's swift action to implement new science standards today despite a legislative committee's rejection of them earlier in the day.

"We appreciate the Governor's courage and wisdom in executing his legal authority to implement the Kentucky Core Academic Standards in science," said Holliday. "This is good for Kentucky teachers and it's good for Kentucky students. As mandated by Senate Bill 1, these new science standards will ensure our graduates are prepared for college and that they will be able to compete with those from around the country and the world."

Senate Bill 1, passed unanimously by the 2009 General Assembly, directed the department to develop new standards in science and other subject areas that were more rigorous and aligned with college expectations.

The commissioner said he was disappointed that the Administrative Regulation Review Subcommittee did not give the Department of Education an opportunity to refute the misinformation shared by opponents of the standards at today's hearing. He said that the committee was led to believe that there was little support across the state for the new science standards and "that's just not the case," he said.

"There were multiple opportunities for public feedback on the Next-Generation Science Standards (NGSS) during the development and adoption processes and support was overwhelming," he said. "During our public comment period, we had more than 3,700 comments in favor of the standards, and less than two hundred opposed."

(more)

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Page 2 – Science Standards

The Kentucky Academy of Science, the Kentucky Science Teachers Association, the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence, and thousands of Kentuckians have endorsed the adoption of the KCAS, in their present form and without modification.

In addition, more than 70 state and national groups have endorsed the NGSS, including The Bayer Corporation, Chevron, CISCO Systems, Comcast, Corning, Inc., Dell Inc., Dupont, Eaton, Eli Lilly, ExxonMobil, IBM, Intel, Merck, Prudential, Raytheon, State Farm, Symantec, and the Travelers Companies, Inc.

A few weeks ago, Toyota donated more than \$550,000 to Northern Kentucky University to provide professional development on the NGSS to 1,100 teachers and administrators, and by extension to at least 26,000 students, the commissioner said.

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