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The Kentucky Department of Education's mission is to prepare all Kentucky students for next-generation learning, work and citizenship by engaging schools, districts, families and communities through excellent leadership, service and support.

Senate Bill 1 Update

Revised Content Standards: Kentucky's Core Academic Standards

After months of intensive work involving multiple Kentucky stakeholders, the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) is excited to announce the release of the final version of the Common Core State Standards for mathematics and English/language arts – the *Kentucky's Core Academic Standards*. Please visit www.corestandards.org for a wealth of resources and information.

In the coming months, KDE will be convening groups of Kentucky educators from every district in the state to begin the process of digging deep into the standards to establish an implementation process that ensures all students benefit from the new standards. These groups will be known as Kentucky's Leadership Networks.

"With the states' release today of a set of clear and consistent academic standards, our nation is one step closer to supporting effective teaching in every classroom, charting a path to college and careers for all students, and developing the tools to help all children stay motivated and engaged in their own education. The more states that adopt these college and career based standards, the closer we will be to sharing innovation across state borders and becoming more competitive as a country."

- **Bill Gates, Co-Chair, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation**

Standards Professional Development: Leadership Networks

Please click [here](#) to gain access to the most up-to-date information about the rollout of the new core academic standards in English/language arts and mathematics. The materials located in the [Leadership Network Information: Executive Summaries](#) may be of most interest to you at this time.

Also, as a reminder, please forward the names of the district-level administrators planning to attend the Instructional Supervisors' Network. In order to adequately plan for this upcoming work, we need this information. Please forward your names to Leslee Hellmann at leslee.hellmann@education.ky.gov.

Assessment and Accountability System

The School Curriculum, Assessment and Accountability Council (SCAAC) was developed to study, review and make recommendations concerning Kentucky's system of setting academic standards; assessing learning; holding schools accountable for learning; and assisting schools to improve their performance. SCAAC's legislated purpose is to advise the Kentucky Board of Education and the Legislative Research Commission on issues related to the development and communication of the Academic Expectations and *Core Content for Assessment*; the development and implementation of the statewide assessment and accountability program; the distribution of rewards and imposition of sanctions; and assistance for schools to improve their performance.

The Governor appoints members to SCAAC. The council is composed of 17 voting members appointed by the Governor. The members are appointed as follows:

- two parents
- two teachers
- two superintendents
- two principals
- two local school board members
- two school district assessment coordinators
- two employers in the state
- two university professors with expertise in assessment and measurement
- one at-large member

Members serve two-year terms and may be reappointed only once, for a maximum of four years.

Lu Young, superintendent of the Jessamine County school system, currently serves as the chair at the council's quarterly meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for July 13 in Frankfort.

Program Reviews

On June 17th, KDE leadership staff will be meeting with six districts that took part in the Program Review pilot. Representatives from these districts will share their findings on the program review process; the role of evidence in the review and its management; and the usability of the program review rating tool. In addition, schools will be asked to provide their thoughts about access to programs for all students, including those in alternative schools. A brief report of this phase and pilot overview will be made available on KDE's website closer to the end of the month. For more information about the program reviews, contact Rae McEntyre at rae.mcentyre@education.ky.gov.

College and Career Readiness Unified Plan

The unified strategy we are focusing on in this newsletter is Strategy 2: Secondary and Postsecondary Interventions. Although there are several components within this strategy, we are highlighting the collaborative work that has occurred over the past six months on the development of transition courses.

At its February meeting, the Kentucky Board of Education approved a change to 704 KAR 3:305 (minimum high school graduation requirements), effective in the 2010-11 school year. The change is outlined below:

If students do not meet the college readiness benchmarks for English/language arts or mathematics as established by the Council on Postsecondary Education, a transitional course or monitored intervention to address remediation needs shall be required before exiting high school.

We know several districts already are partnering with their institutions of higher education to support students at this critical transitional point. KDE is working to scale up this partnership work by developing transitional course materials in reading and mathematics. All districts and schools will have access to these resources when completed. An anticipated completion date is June 30, 2010.

RTTT Update

The MOU for the Kentucky Race to the Top (RTTT) Phase 2 application has not changed significantly from the Phase 1 application, so we are utilizing an opt-out method this time. If you desire to continue participating in RTTT, no action is necessary.

A copy of the “Preliminary Scope of Work” section of the RTTT MOU is attached, and that contains added notations at the bottom relating to the two substantive changes that occurred in the revision of the application. An RTTT opt-out form is also attached. **Note that for districts desiring to opt out of RTTT, local board approval must occur prior to submitting the form.** A faxed copy or scanned e-mail copy of the signed form must be received by 4:30 p.m. ET on Friday, May 28 in order for your district to be reflected as an opt-out district in our RTTT application.

Fax it to David Cook at (502) 564-0062, or e-mail it to david.cook@education.ky.gov. The original signed copy must follow via regular mail to David Cook, Kentucky Department of Education, 500 Mero Street, 17th Floor, Capital Plaza Tower, Frankfort KY 40601. We encourage superintendents to call David Cook at (502) 564-2116 if you have concerns or questions about the Phase 2 application and opt-out process.

Transforming Education in Kentucky (TEK) Task Force

The focus of the June 8 meeting is teacher recruitment and retention, which includes teacher effectiveness and evaluation. A representative panel of deans of colleges of education in Kentucky will discuss the new teacher, principal and superintendent programs and the role of the universities in professional development for educators. Bob Sexton, executive director of the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence, will discuss the report on teacher performance prepared by the committee. The Great Teachers and Leaders section of the RTTT application also will be discussed. The meeting will be held at the Chamber of Commerce in Frankfort on June 8 from 1 – 4 p.m. ET.

Information about the TEK and links to presentations and resource materials are now available at www.tek.ky.gov.

Announcements

Announcement 1: KDE's Support for Summer Reading Programs

The Kentucky Department of Education would like to encourage support for Kentucky's Summer Reading Programs to ensure students maintain a focus on reading and literacy. There is an abundant amount of research that shows when students are out of school during the summer, they return with a lag in their reading/literacy abilities. In order to maintain a focus on enjoying reading and continuing their academic growth and development, the department is encouraging students to remain active readers.

The 2010 Summer Reading Program theme is *Make a Splash—READ!* Public libraries across Kentucky will host programs and events that will encourage children to explore the world of water through stories, songs, games and other activities about oceans, rivers, lakes and pools and the creatures that live there. The 2010 Summer Reading Program is free and open to young people, preschool through young adult, with library programs, prizes, story hours and more. Whether counting the amount of time your children spend reading or the number of books they have read this summer, children who join the Summer Reading Program keep their brains active and enter school in the fall ready to learn and ready to succeed.

Teachers, parents and students are encouraged to access www.Lexile.com/findabook* to find books available from local public libraries that match students' reading levels and needs. Librarians at the state's public libraries are ready to assist students and parents as they make summer reading selections. For more information about specific activities, contests and reading events for the Summer Reading Program in your county, contact your local public library.

* *The Lexile Framework® for Reading is a unique resource for accurately matching readers with texts.*

Announcement 2: National Association of School Boards of Education Foundation Obesity Prevention Project

Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina and Kentucky have received funding to help their state boards of education develop school policies to fight childhood obesity. The funding is one aspect of a National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE)/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Obesity Prevention Project. The \$15,000 awarded to each state is intended to help them adopt, strengthen or implement policies that promote healthy eating and physical activity in schools. NASBE also will provide ongoing support in developing policies to prevent obesity to all state boards and policymakers and work to raise awareness among federal policymakers of successful state-level obesity policies and initiatives.

NASBE's goal for the project is to help state boards develop the most effective policies to support high-quality health education and healthy school environments for all children, with a special emphasis on children in lower-income communities. During the grant period, the state boards will address policies to:

- improve the quality of school food
- increase students' physical activity
- restrict food and beverage marketing to students
- strengthen health education standards and requirements

As part of the funding requirements, the Kentucky Board of Education will establish a school health subcommittee. This subcommittee, along with various state-level stakeholders, will address the **link of health to student learning**. Barbara Donica, project director for the Kentucky Department of Education's Coordinated School Health Initiative, will serve as the project liaison. Her e-mail address is barbara.donica@education.ky.gov, or you may reach her by phone at (502) 564-5625.

Announcement 3: Notification to Title III/ELL Coordinators

Effective immediately, the Kentucky Department of Education will no longer fund **TransACT**, due to budget constraints. Districts are encouraged to continue this service on their own. The attached document is to inform you of the renewal process related to the **TransACT** online service. This document explains that beginning immediately, schools and districts will have the option of renewing the service at a discounted rate.



KDE TransACT
Renewal Notice.do...

Please note that the deadline for this option of renewal is **June 18**. Schools and districts will contact **TransACT** and work directly with the staff rather than going through KDE.

Contact Shelda Hale at shelda.hale@education.ky.gov if you have any additional questions.

Quotable Quotes

"The study of history and civics helps provide that sense of time beyond the here and now. The study of geography and culture helps build a sense of space and place. And the study of drama, dance, music, and visual arts helps students explore realities and ideas that cannot be summarized simply or even expressed in words or numbers."

--- U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan

Education Links

[ISN Web page](#)

[Content Networks](#)

[Refocusing Secondary](#)

[Professional Development Opportunities Bulletin Board](#)

[Improvement Planning Web Site](#)

[Teaching Tools](#)

[SISL Toolkit](#)

[Kentucky Education Cooperatives](#)