



ISN Contact: Felicia Cumings Smith, Associate Commissioner
Office of Teaching and Learning
felicia.smith@education.ky.gov

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 (2009) Update

Revised Content Standards: Kentucky's Core Academic Standards

On Friday, May 14, the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) received a communication from the Council Chief State School Officers indicating the final release date for the Common Core Standards for English language arts and mathematics. The new release date for the standards has been moved to June 2. Those standards will reflect the revisions made based on stakeholder input from across the nation. Although this new release date is well past the original projected date for the standards, KDE realizes the revised set will encompass much of the feedback Kentuckians contributed.

Districts and schools are asked to wait to create curriculum documents and resources until the final standards have been released. This cautionary note is presented in every attempt to ensure your district/school does not engage in unnecessary work before receiving a final copy of the standards.

Preliminary work in planning for the revision to the remaining content areas has begun. 2009's Senate Bill 1 (codified as KRS 158.6453) called for a revision to all the content areas by December 15, 2010. The Division of Curriculum consultants in the Office of Teaching and Learning have reviewed other leading states' standards as a first step in this process. Consultants also are participating in national content-specific conversations to stay abreast of ongoing conversations among various professional organizations calling for a common set of standards in the other content areas. To date, KDE has not received a confirmed completion date for expected common core standards in any of the other content areas, which may influence the state's next steps in this process.

For more information about the standards revision process, please contact Michael Miller, director of the Division of Curriculum, at michael.miller@education.ky.gov.

Standards Professional Development Rollout: Kentucky's Content Leadership Networks

KDE has prepared a document to assist districts in preparing for the Leadership Networks beginning in July. Click [here](#) for this resource.

Classroom-Level Leadership

Activity for the Content Leadership Networks is well underway. The eight educational cooperatives have received a memorandum of agreement to host the English/Language Arts and Math Content Leadership Networks. The Content Leadership Networks will provide the professional learning experiences for up to three teachers/teacher leaders from each district. The primary goal for the Content Leadership Networks is to ensure that every participant has a clear understanding of how to translate standards into clear learning targets in order to design high-quality formative and summative assessments and to plan/select rigorous and congruent learning experiences. The network approach is designed to build capacity within the district. Districts should utilize the membership of the networks to scale up professional development at the local level.

Each cooperative will engage in deconstructing a particular strand of the English/language arts and mathematics standards. A core team will ensure consistency and fidelity to the process for both sets of standards. KDE will share these models to assist districts/schools through the process.

The names of the representatives from each district should be submitted to your local cooperative director, unless you have been notified otherwise.

Building-Level Leadership

The Kentucky Leadership Academy (KLA) will provide a similar experience for building-level administrators. Districts are asked to identify up to three building-level administrators to attend the KLA Leadership Networks. There will be no cost associated with this professional development experience. The basic level professional development will provide four face-to-face sessions with three online learning experiences. There will be seven sites for the administrator networks sessions. KLA will continue to offer additional professional learning support highlighting various speakers related to building a deeper understanding for highly effective teaching and learning and assessment literacy. For an additional cost, leaders may participate in these sessions. Districts are asked to submit your names to Shirley LaFavers at Shirley@kasa.org on or before June 11. For more information, please contact Shirley LaFavers at the e-mail address above.

District-Level Leadership

For district-level administrators, KDE will work collaboratively with some experienced district-level leaders to provide a parallel track or experience. Instructional supervisors will be led through a year-long experience in developing strategies for enhancing teaching and learning to improve overall student achievement. The instructional support network will meet eight times during the year. Up to three district administrators are asked to participate in this network. There will be four regional locations established for these network sessions. Please forward the names

of your district level administrators to Leslee Hellmann at leslee.hellmann@education.ky.gov on or before Friday, June 11.

Superintendent-Level Leadership

Education Commissioner Terry Holliday will be providing additional information to superintendents regarding the design for the superintendent's parallel track of learning for the upcoming academic school year. Superintendents should expect to meet together for continued learning at least four times throughout the year. The first meeting for superintendents will be on June 21 and 22, and superintendents will have a one-on-one session with Rick Stiggins. Stiggins' conversation will lead superintendents to a deeper understanding in clarifying their roles in supporting the work of the Leadership Networks. Some of the other sessions will showcase the journey that several Kentucky districts have taken to begin implementing this work.

The intent of the leadership networks is to build capacity within every district. A link to several executive summaries can be accessed [here](#). *Network Capacity Building (May, 2010)* further explains how the networks are designed to build district leadership capacity. This design is not intended to serve as a 'train the trainer' model, so districts must develop a plan for scaling up professional learning experiences for teachers within their districts. Many districts have schools with effective professional learning communities (PLCs) established. In order for teachers to engage in collegial conversations where they may reflect and refine their practices based on their implementation of the new standards, PLCs are ideal. You may access more information about the network design by clicking [here](#).

Assessment and Accountability System

Every state must have a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to provide advice for its assessment and accountability system. Kentucky's TAC is the National Technical Advisory Panel for Assessment and Accountability (NTAPPA) and is a group of nationally recognized assessment experts who report to the Kentucky legislature and advise on Kentucky's assessment program. Organized by the Legislative Research Commission, the following members discuss topics including the future testing system, test design and accountability.

National Technical Advisory Panel on Assessment and Accountability

Dr. Ronald K. Hambleton, University of Massachusetts

Dr. Daniel Koretz, Harvard Graduate School of Education

Dr. Robert Linn, University of Colorado

Dr. Jeffrey Nellhaus, Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Dr. Doris L. Redfield, Edvantia

Dr. Pat Roschewski, Nebraska Department of Education

NTAPPA met this past weekend and presented information to the Education Assessment and Accountability Review Subcommittee (EAARS). During this meeting, NTAPPA and EAARS members discussed the following items:

- test design as it relates to guidelines in SB 1
- timeline for national development of common core assessments

As the state gains greater clarity about the design of the new assessment and accountability system, we will make that information available to you. For more information, please contact Jennifer Stafford at jennifer.stafford@education.ky.gov.

College- and Career-Readiness Initiatives: Focus on Accelerated Learning Opportunities

SB 1 called for the development of a unified plan for college readiness. Four key strategies have been identified by the Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) and KDE to promote college and career readiness and degree completion:

- Accelerated Learning Opportunities (focusing on the expansion of AP/IB access and dual-credit opportunities)
- Secondary Intervention Programs (focusing on the development of transitional coursework)
- College- and Career-Readiness Advising (focusing on the full implementation of the Individual Learning Plan)
- Postsecondary College Persistence and Degree Completion (focusing on bridge programming, accelerated learning opportunities, and student support and intervention systems)

The attachment to this newsletter further outlines the strategies and goals proposed for the plan. Our next newsletter will have a survey link for you to provide input on the proposed strategies and goals within this plan.



CCR USP Summary
(2).doc

However, to provide a more detailed glimpse of the vision proposed in the *Unified College and Career Readiness (CCR) Plan*, each *ISN Newsletter* will focus on one strategy in the plan. The focus for this newsletter addresses the strategies and action plans aimed at enhancing the **accelerated learning opportunities** for children across the state.

This section of the CCR plan is the most ambitious and will build upon some existing initiatives. For example, the CCR plan proposes to scale up the work of AdvanceKentucky by setting a goal that 75 percent of Kentucky's school districts will have access to an AdvanceKentucky AP teacher training and incentive program. Kentucky's Phase II application for Race to the Top includes funding for the scale-up of this initiative.

For more information, contact Christine Powell at christine.powell@education.ky.gov.

Guidance in Developing Writing Policy and PlanA new set of resources now available on KDE's website is designed to provide school councils and literacy teams guidance in developing their school writing policies and plans. It includes an overview of the requirements of SB 1 related to writing and provides recommendations to teams as they develop writing plans and policies to support their writing programs. Resources include a PowerPoint document with

facilitator notes, a process tool that leads teams through a process of building on their current programs and a sample survey that guides discussion of recommendations to the fictional ABC Middle School as its school-based decision making council updates a past policy to meet the new requirements.

<http://www.education.ky.gov/KDE/Instructional+Resources/Literacy/Kentucky+Writing+Program/Writing+Policy+Guidance.htm>

Transforming Education in Kentucky Task Force

The Governor's Task Force on Transforming Education in Kentucky (TEK) held its third meeting on April 15 at Jeffersontown High School in Louisville. Marc Tucker, president and founder of the National Center on Education and the Economy, was the featured speaker. Tucker, who authored *Tough Choices or Tough Times*, discussed the concept of board exams with the TEK members. NCEE is attempting to secure grants to conduct a pilot in 10-20 high schools/districts across the state. 2010-11 will be a planning year. This opportunity also is highlighted as an action step for strategy one (Accelerated Learning Opportunities) in the College and Career Readiness Plan.

The May 11 TEK meeting focused on Next Generation Learning. Gene Wilhoit, executive director of the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), was the featured guest and was joined by University of Kentucky College of Education Dean Mary John O'Hair. Her presentation highlighted the new P-20 Innovation Lab project.

Previous topics addressed by the TEK have included the concept of middle college, early graduation, 21st-century skills and college readiness.

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

KSI-RTI School Survey

On April 26 the following message was included in Commissioner Holliday's Monday e-mail to superintendents. **As a reminder, we ask that you forward this request to the superintendent, supervisors of instruction, special education director, principals and assistant principals and ask each one of them to take some time to complete the appropriate survey if they have not done so already.**

Online Survey - Kentucky System of Interventions (KSI) Response to Intervention (RTI) Components Survey for Superintendents, Supervisors of Instruction, Special Education Directors, Principals and Assistant Principals

I am writing to request your participation in a survey on your district's implementation of the Kentucky System of Interventions (KSI), specifically its Response to Intervention (RTI) components. A University of Kentucky researcher, Dr. Kellie Terry, is conducting the survey. While KDE is distributing the survey electronically, we will not have access to raw survey data, so your responses will be entirely confidential. Dr. Terry will be reporting overall survey results

to KDE. The survey data will help us better understand issues related to KSI/RTI implementation, including how KDE can support Kentucky districts and schools to implement KSI/RTI.

More complete information on the survey is described in a letter attached to this e-mail. To access the survey, please “control-click” on the appropriate link below.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/5WZ5KD5> (This link is only for **superintendent, supervisor of instruction and special education director** responses.)

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/5QWZG9N> (This link is only for **principal and assistant principal** responses.)

Thank you for participating in the survey. The information you provide will significantly increase KDE’s understanding of how Kentucky districts are implementing KSI/RTI. For more information, please see the attached letter.



Final Signed
KSI_RTI Letters_0...

Education Links

[ISN Web Page](#)

[Content Networks](#)

[Refocusing Secondary](#)

[Professional Development Opportunities Bulletin Board](#)

[Improvement Planning Website](#)

[Teaching Tools](#)

[SISI Toolkit](#)

[Kentucky Education Cooperatives](#)