



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION ADVISORY GROUP TOPIC SUMMARY

ADVISORY GROUP: GIFTED AND TALENTED ADVISORY COUNCIL

MEETING DATE: SEPTEMBER 5, 2018

Agenda Item: Proposed High School Graduation Requirements

Presenter: Amanda Ellis, Office of Teaching and Learning, KDE

Summary of Discussion: Graduation requirements are being redrafted. Current requirements were being assessed for accountability by end of course exams for very specific courses that were not required for students to take (i.e. biology when that was not necessarily a required science course). New requirements will have more flexibility and be more career focused. Requirements should not prevent students from taking courses that meet their needs and prepare them for careers.

New requirements needed to focus on foundational and functional reading and math skills. They will be assessed in sophomore year in reading and math. Dr. Ellis reviewed the new proposed credits and requirements.

The Council had several questions regarding coursework, student expectations, Advanced Placement classes, Response to Intervention and Visual and Performing Arts pathways.

Action Taken:

The Council decided to make a recommendation at their next meeting in November.

Follow-up Required:

None

Any other feedback can be sent to:

amanda.ellis@education.ky.gov

Agenda Item: Early High School Graduation

Presenter: Damien Sweeney, Office of Teaching and Learning, KDE

Summary of Discussion:

Early graduation is a pathway for students in grades 9-11 to receive a diploma and be eligible for enrollment in college. It is important students receiving early counseling and advising and they understand early graduation is more than academics. Staff and students must ask questions such as goals, social and emotional preparedness and is the family financially prepared if thinking about college. Students need to also think about missing their school's prom, Valedictorian eligibility, missing Governor's Scholars opportunities and graduation recognition. Counseling is a critical component for students considering early graduation. There is a two thousand dollar scholarship for early graduation students on top of KEES money.

Council members asked questions about ACT benchmarks versus Kentucky colleges, End of Course assessments, equity, gatekeeping and expectations.

Dr. Sweeney offered the email below for more information:

<http://education.ky.gov/education/AL/earlygrad>

Action Taken:

None at this time.

Follow-up Required:

None

Agenda Item: Council Business

Presenter: Julia Roberts

Summary of Discussion:

Minutes from May meeting were reviewed and approved without revisions. AT the last Council meeting the council worked to review the regulation. Due to the reorganization of KDE, it was decided by KDE leadership that a hold will be placed on updating the GT regulation until the reorganization is complete.

Work Groups updates were given as follows:

State Assessment Workgroup - met and discussed the KPREP no longer having norm referenced tests. Many districts relied on the KPREP in order identify student in the academic areas. Kathie share some data that showed that although several districts use the IOWA or the Terra Nova, many districts were uncertain what assessment they would use to identify students, especially in Science and Social Studies.

When districts request guidance, they are directed to the GT Coordinator Sample Handbook which lists many different assessment for identification. This guidance was created with the assistance of the GT Education Advisory Council and several veteran GT Coordinators and teachers.

Administration of testing and scoring is an issue across the state. The Council discussed providing guidance for consistency. Another topic discussed was funds for testing materials. Due to the regulation requiring 75% of funds be used for certified GT personnel, there are not many funds left over for other GT needs.

GT Non-Academic Areas - Reviewed Ohio Dept of Ed's VPA website and their tests and rubrics. They discussed ODE handbook and Justin Mitchell used the GT listserv to request information about how districts and serve students in the VPA areas. Carla Pleasant is compiling lists of regional resources for Central KY. Justin will create list for GRREC region. Taylor Thompson will talk to his colleagues. Kathie will investigate ODE handbooks and reach out for additional resources for web page.

Social Emotional Work Groups - Reviewed guidance document created by previous Council members and made suggestions. It was suggested the guidance offer suggestions for next steps or what to do when a student is presenting social emotion needs. The group discussed that sometimes professional help may be required such as counseling. They asked if twice exceptional fit into social/emotional document or should it be a separate document.

Action Taken:

Work groups will be continued throughout the year.

Follow-up Required:

Anyone who wants to be added to a workgroup should let Kathie know. She will be setting up future meetings.

Agenda Item: VIII Gifted Talented Student Service Plan and Progress Report in IC

Presenter: Kathie Anderson

Summary of Discussion:

Kathie shared the new Gifted Student Service Plan and Progress, which is an editable PDF form in Infinite Campus. The benefits of the form is consistency around the state, transfers with student and keeps a chronological record.

There were questions about there not being a place for parent's to sign the form. It was suggested that a signature page could be sent home with parents with the GSSP/Progress Report form or parents could respond through email to verify they had reviewed the form.

Action Taken:

Justin Mitchell composed a statement from the council voicing our concerns and issues we think should be addressed in Infinite Campus regarding GSSP to streamline the process and make it more user friendly and efficient.

The Council made a motion to send the following items to Infinite Campus:

- The ability to see the forms in Parent Portal
- Population of services and categories onto the form
- Check box for parent signature
- The ability to batch print the forms

Follow-up Required:

Recommendation needs to be sent to Infinite Campus.

Agenda Item: VII Election of Officers, X Selection of Meeting Dates

Presenter: Julia Roberts, Lynette Baldwin, Kathie Anderson

Summary of Discussion:

There were nominations for Chairman. Carla Pleasant nominated Dr. Julia Roberts. No other nominations from the floor. Nominations ceased. Motion made to elect, Seconded. Dr. Julia Roberts is elected Chair of the Gifted Advisory Council.

Joe Percefull was nominated for Vice Chairman. No other nominations from the floor. Nominations cease. Motion made to elect, Seconded. Joe Percefull was elected Vice Chair of the Gifted Advisory Council.

Action Taken:

Meeting Dates Set:

- November 7th
- February 7th
- April 18th

Follow Up Required:

None at this time

Agenda Item: IX Updates in Gifted Ed

Presenter: Julia Roberts, Lynette Baldwin, Kathie Anderson

Summary of Discussion:

KAGE - Lynette Baldwin shared handouts and information about upcoming calendar events/workshops for Gifted Ed. There was a question about upcoming legislation and Kathie responded that updates are monitored and she will send keep all the members informed.

World Council for Gifted and Talented Education-Dr. Julia Roberts

Julia said WKU had received a grant from the Kentucky School Board Association to offering professional development on excellence gaps to school boards (video-found on website for Center for Gifted Studies), gives a discussion on the excellence gap looking at local data. It is available for school board and is posted on the WKU Center for Gifted Studies website. Other Javits videos are also available on the webpage

At the National Association of Gifted Education Conference in November, Representative Jody Richards will be recognized for his dedication to Gifted Education and students.

State-Kathie Anderson

A list of council members and their terms were shared with members. She asked for members to send suggestions for the Arts and Humanities member.

She asked if the Council wanted to make any recommendations for graduation requirements. The Council wanted to take some time to investigate requirements, seek input in their districts, and bring feedback to November meeting to make comment or recommendation.

There was a question about how students are recognized for taking advanced course work. Some members responded students receive recognition through different seals on the diploma.

KDE Update

Kathie encouraged the Council to watch the video of the State of Education Address by Interim Commissioner Lewis. There was an emphasis in the address regarding graduation requirements and emphasis on pathways

The Kentucky Board of Education is meeting today and deciding standards to identify the lower 5% of our schools, when state assessments will take place and potential need for a required career exploration course.

There is a reorganization the Division of Learning Services. The division has been upgraded to office status. There will be three divisions: Special Education, Early Learning and Special Projects.

Kathie encourage the members to review the new Social Studies Standards and gave the link for comment/feedback. Comments may be given Aug 29th-Sept 27th.

The Educational Professional Standards Board (EPSB) has been reorganized under KDE. The EPSB board waived the requirement for Rank II ([link to article](#)).

Draft meeting notes until approved by the Council On November 7, 2018

The Javits grant is in its third and final year. The partners of the grant have requested a no cost extension until November 30, 2018. The project activities will continue to focus on identifying and serving gap groups, provide professional learning for staff and dissemination of information on the Excellence Gap.

Data is being reviewed at the school level for a rubric to use for the Opportunity and Access score in the new accountability system. KDE reviewing GT data and working to appropriate benchmarks. Information will be shared with KBE at the October meeting.

Interim Education Commissioner Wayne Lewis

Dr. Lewis addressed the Council and reiterated his focus to help our students to become ready to lead successful lives (be that college, workforce, etc.).

He said we are falling short on the high end of the spectrum (distinguished scores, NAEP scores), and that students are not taking advantage of advanced courses. He indicated there needs to be an expansion of the conceptualization of what gifted means, we need to reach minorities/low income students. He said we don't talk about students at the gifted end of the continuum as often as we do struggling students, but that it is talked about and it is important work. He said students are graduating who can't read or do basic math and it is an emergency situation that must be addressed.

Questions/Comments:

The Council asked about the new accountability model and the ability to address the growth of students who are already performing at high levels. Council members said this needs to be addressed and that it will only become a priority when it becomes measured.

Dr. Lewis agreed only measured items become priorities, but did not think accountability is the be all, end all, it's the minimum bar, you can't do any less and doesn't agree with putting things beyond minimum in accountability model. He thought it is up to districts to open to ways to incentivize and encourage districts to push kids, especially gifted. He benefited personally from gifted services and realizes the impact it makes on students and requested thoughts, feedback and idea from the Council.

Action Taken:

None

Follow-up Required:

- Social Studies Standards-link for comment/feedback if any, Aug 29th-Sept 27th
- Come prepared to make recommendations for proposed graduation requirements at November meeting