



June 2014

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Urgent requests

The Office of Next-Generation Learners will use People Manager/SRIM to make sure that the role lists are current. The list in People Manager will be used to determine who in your district will receive communications related to various roles.

Please work with your KSIS district contact or Web Point of Contact (WPOC) to make sure names are entered for the various roles. Three that we are focused on in this newsletter are Chief Academic Officer, Course Code Contact, and Professional Development Coordinator.

- Chief Academic Officer
- Course Code Contact
- Professional Development Coordinator

<http://applications.education.ky.gov/sdci/Other.aspx>

WEBCASTS

Superintendents

If you were unable to participate in the April 30 superintendents' webcast, you can access a recording of it at the following link:

<http://mediaportal.education.ky.gov/leadership/commissioner/2014/05/superintendent-webcast-april-2014/>.

ISN Monthly

The next ISN webcast will be **August 26 at 3:30 pm** (EST). To access the webcast, go to <http://mediaportal.education.ky.gov/watch-live/>. To access previous webcast and newsletters, go to <http://education.ky.gov/school/Pages/ISN.aspx>.

Updates

Kentucky Board of Education (KBE)

At its April meeting, the KBE took the following actions directly related to teaching and learning:

- Voted to move ahead with implementation of the [World Language Program Review](#) at the high school level in the 2014-15, with accountability in the 2015-16 school year. Elementary and middle schools would start the planning needed to implement a world language and global competency program. Those schools would be held accountable for the World Language Program Review in 2016-17.
- Approved a motion to support Commissioner Holliday's plan for moving ahead with teaching the Next-Generation Science Standards this fall in every grade, K-12 with development of a new test for elementary and middle school occurring after the 2014-15 school year. While there will be no K-PREP science test in 4th- and 7th-grades in the coming school year, students will still take science assessments as part of the EXPLORE (8th grade), PLAN (10th grade), ACT (11th grade) and End-of-Course (high school) tests.
- Unanimously approved the [Statement of Consideration](#) for 704 KAR 3:370, the regulation governing the Professional Growth and Effectiveness System. Based on [comments](#) submitted, the board approved several minor changes in the regulation. The amended regulation now goes to the Administrative Regulation Review Subcommittee.

The next KBE meeting is scheduled for **August 6-7, 2014**. Some of the topics being discussed are Social Studies and Arts standards, World Language grants and the Professional Growth and Effectiveness System.

To access meeting materials, go to <http://education.ky.gov/KBE/meet/Pages/default.aspx>.

Unbridled Learning

Standards

Leadership Networks for 2014-15 Academic Year: Leadership Networks for teacher leaders in both science and social studies will continue in the coming year. The networks will continue to focus on four main pillars: standards, assessment literacy, highly effective teaching and learning, and leadership. The selection of teacher leaders remains critical to the intent of this work—to build districtwide capacity that supports the implementation of standards through highly effective practices, which should manifest

in greater student success and higher numbers and levels of educator effectiveness. The networks are not intended to provide professional learning only to those in attendance, but to develop knowledge, skills, tools, and processes that can be utilized to scale in each district. Teacher leaders need to be provided opportunities to plan and then carry out professional learning for other educators districtwide. The most common comments/concerns we receive are that the teacher leaders are either not involved in district level planning or they are not provided opportunities to systemically work with others throughout the district.

The Leadership Networks were designed on the assumption that if each district had the opportunity to select a leadership team who would be given more intensive, ongoing support, then the district could use that team to scale learning to all others. A number of tools have been developed to help district teams assess their strengths and identify needs. One of those is the Innovation Configuration Map developed by Kentucky educators with Learning Forward. The IC Map helps define an ideal level of implementation of the four network pillars and can be used to assess current status and point toward best next steps to take. You can find that at:

http://learningforward.org/docs/default-source/commoncore/kyccss_icmaps.pdf?sfvrsn=2

In 2014-15, professional learning in the Leadership Networks will continue to emphasize integrating the pillars with the implementation of PGES to create a seamless system of both student success and educator success. We hope your district team is comprised of those committed to learning and leading others. Please use the summer to make any necessary adjustments to your team. Let the regional instructional specialists know of any changes as soon as possible.

Social Studies Standards Development Work Continues: The social studies standards development plan calls for a draft to be presented to the Kentucky Board of Education in the fall of 2014. The need for completion is driven by Senate Bill 1, which required all state standards to be revised.

The new Kentucky Core Academic Standards for Social Studies will be developed by Kentucky educators for Kentucky educators. Work has already begun on this development and has been progressing since late spring 2013. The initial standards revision and advisory team, composed of key stakeholders and experts from around the state, has brought this massive task to the point where development will need to be continued in smaller teams. The new standards will be informed by a document called the [College, Career, and Civic Life \(C3\) Framework for Social Studies](#). The C3 Framework is not a set of standards, but rather designed to assist states in updating, revising, or reinventing their state social studies standards. Other influential documents that will inform this work include the [Global Competency Matrix](#) and the [Framework for 21st Century Learning](#).

Program Reviews

Implementation timeline for World Language Program Review:

1. All high schools in all districts will pilot the World Language Program Review (WL PR) in 2014-15, entering information and evidence in ASSIST to set their baseline.
2. High schools will be held accountable for the WLPR in 2015-16.

3. All elementary and middle schools in all districts in 2014-2015, under the leadership of school-based decision making councils, will answer the questions in the World Language Program Review template in ASSIST, but will not upload evidences which would provide a needs assessment and baseline data. This would provide each elementary and middle school the opportunity to become more familiar with the rubric itself, examine current practices, identify needs, and create a stronger programmatic improvement plan PRIOR to the required statewide pilot/baseline setting year. These schools will also answer two questions around what resources (time, training, human, fiscal) are necessary to implement the WLPR in 2015-2016. This will be key information that the KDE can use in planning supports for the successful implementation of this program review.

4. Elementary and middle schools would be given the *option* to use the current World Language Program Review rubric to upload evidences as a 2014-15 “informational pilot”. They would be using that information to more fully inform program planning and improvements for 2015-16. All information entered could be maintained for the statewide pilot year (2015-16), with the need to only update changes as new evidence is produced. 703 KAR 5:230 requires piloting in 2014-15 and the board would need to waive this requirement.

5. Elementary and middle schools would be held accountable for their WLPRs in 2016-17. 703 KAR 5:230 requires accountability to occur in 2015-16 and the board would need to waive this requirement.

Reminder: Districts are reminded that the expectation for Program Reviews is one review per year with reviews conducted on a cycle based on the number of reviews a school performs (4- or 5-year cycle). Of course, schools and districts may exceed these minimum requirements.

Strategic Work

Next Generation Professionals

#PGES4Me July 21-Be there! Based on district feedback to the structure of the #PGES4Me Simulcast, KDE has made a few changes. We will still be simulcasting live from Southland Christian Church on Richmond Road in Lexington location, but have cancelled the satellite locations. We apologize for the inconvenience to any who had already signed up to attend at these locations.

The simulcast will be made available to all from any location on July 21. A link will be sent out in advance to view the simulcast. A backchannel, an online question and answer platform, will be open during the simulcast to take questions from those watching remotely. The simulcast will also be archived and available for school and district use starting July 22.

Educators are encouraged to attend the live simulcast at Southland Christian Church on Richmond Road in Lexington to receive the benefits of in-person training, small group sessions, networking opportunities, live facilitators, and the opportunity to earn PD and EILA credit.

Click [here](#) for registration instructions.

KDE’s Professional Growth and Effectiveness System (PGES) webpages offer a wealth of information for Kentucky teachers: With full implementation of the Professional Growth and Effectiveness System (PGES) just around the corner, teachers are interested in learning more about the new effectiveness system. One place to learn more is the [PGES webpages](#) on KDE’s website.

KDE has recently reorganized these pages to provide a streamlined experience. The PGES main page contains links to many pages that provide an overview of the PGES system as well as the Teacher Professional Growth and Effectiveness System (TPGES), Other Professional Growth and Effectiveness System (OPGES) and more. Each page has information about important aspects of PGES, such as Student Growth, Self-Reflection and Professional Growth Planning, Observation, and Student Voice. The new structure enables teachers to easily navigate the site and find the information that is important to them.

The PGES main page is accessible via the logo on the right side of the KDE homepage or through the Teachers/Leaders drop down menu on the KDE Homepage.

Next Generation Learners

Persistence to Graduation: The 26th Annual National Dropout Prevention Network Conference will be held November 2-5, 2014 in Louisville. Kentucky will demonstrate its support for dropout prevention by having all school districts represented at the conference. Please see the [National Dropout Prevention Network webpage](#) for registration information.

Criteria for Early Graduation from high school: Starting in the 2014-15 school year, certain students may opt for early graduation from high school. It provides students the opportunity to “move on when ready” after meeting both rigorous academic benchmarks and the definition of being college-ready. An early graduation candidate is a student who intends to meet all regulatory benchmarks on an accelerated pathway before the end of his/her third full year of enrollment. The criteria for early graduation requires a student to declare his/her intention to graduate early, complete an intent form, meet ACT college readiness benchmarks as determined by the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education and meet minimum benchmarks on the four state-required end-of-course exams.

Early graduation is a deliberate pathway for students to receive a diploma from the district and be eligible for acceptance into a SACS-accredited Kentucky public or non-profit, two- or four-year college. 704 [KAR 3:305](#) provides a financial incentive, known as the Early Graduation Certificate, for the student to support this action.

For more information please visit <http://education.ky.gov/educational/AL/Pages/Early-Graduation.aspx> or contact Kelly Clark at kelly.clark@education.ky.gov.

Alternative Education Guidance: In order to provide guidance and assistance to Kentucky Alternative Education programs and ensure continuous improvement in instruction, practices and curriculum to help all Kentucky students to be college and career ready, resources have been placed on the KDE website.

<http://education.ky.gov/school/eap/Pages/default.aspx>

Interventions Tab: Kentucky statute and regulation outline the intervention requirements schools must have in place to meet proficiency and college and career readiness goals. [704 KAR 3:305](#) outlines requirements for transitional courses/interventions for all students who do not meet statewide college readiness benchmarks. [KRS 158.6459](#) outlines legislative requirements for Educational Planning and

Assessment System (EPAS) related interventions. [KRS 158.305](#) and [703 KAR 3:095](#) define intervention requirements for grades K-3 and [KRS 158.6453](#) defines intervention requirements for grades 3-8.

A new custom intervention tab in Infinite Campus is designed to collect intervention data for students in kindergarten through 12th grade. Schools can use this tab to track student-level interventions and the results of the interventions; there is a combination of required and optional areas within the tab. A statewide report on interventions will be produced annually.

Beginning in the 2014-15 school year, the following schools will be required to enter information on intervention plans for specific students within Infinite Campus.

- *Third year Focus Schools – All novice students*
- *High Schools – All seniors who did not meet ACT benchmark(s) on their junior year assessment*
- *Read to Achievement (RtA) grant schools – All students served through grant funds*
- *Mathematics Achievement Fund (MAF) grant schools – All students served through grant funds*
- *All schools offering [Extended School Services](#) (ESS)– replaces ESS tab for all students*

Additionally, in 2014-15 schools will no longer be required to enter student intervention plans in the [Individual Learning Plan](#) (KY ILP). KDE has gotten questions about the KY ILP (Individual Learning Plan) and some confusion that is ensuing in response to the new IC Intervention Tab. Just to clarify, the KY ILP is **NOT** going away. It is still a requirement that all students grades 6th through 12 have an ILP.

As for the new intervention tab, schools that use the new intervention tab in IC to create student intervention plans do not have to also enter those intervention plans into the KY ILP. This would be duplicate work.

For more information, contact April Pieper at april.pieper@education.ky.gov.

Assessment and Accountability

During The Commissioner’s Report at the June 4 Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) meeting, the KBE endorsed a plan for science instruction and testing for the 2014-15 school year.

The new Next-Generation Science Standards will be implemented instructionally in the 2014-15 school year. Science teachers across Kentucky will spend the year re-designing curriculum, developing new units and teaching the standards to students. The goal is to begin teaching the new standards immediately; however, development of a new test for elementary and middle school will not take place until after the 2014-15 school year. There is at least a one year disconnect between the standards and the test because the only test available in 2014-15 measures out-of-date standards. To continue using the out-of-date test would not meet state and federal guidelines that call for a test to measure the current standards. In order to maintain an emphasis on teaching the new science standards, the 2014-15 elementary and middle school K-PREP science test will not be administered. Once the new test is built to match the new science standards, testing will resume. Accountability would be adjusted per 703 KAR 5:200 that calls for redistributing missing data in equal proportions across other subject matter. By implementing this decision, two important outcomes occur: (1) teachers receive a clear message to teach the new science standards immediately; and (2) Kentucky saves a substantial amount of money

that can be repurposed to support the development of the new science test. Staff is working on the new science test framework and updates will be provided to the Kentucky Board of Education during the transition period.

Below are some key clarifications regarding the science instruction and testing plan for 2014-15.

1. The focus is science instruction.

With KBE's support, teachers will focus fully on classroom implementation of the Next-Generation Science Standards (NGSS) during the upcoming school year. Teachers will continue developing proficiency and understanding of the science standards with the support of teacher networks, develop new curriculum and units, and engage students in the kind of classroom experiences expected with more rigorous, performance-oriented standards. This provides teachers the time to develop facility with pedagogical strategies that support the three-dimensional learning as required by the standards: integration of content with science and engineering practices and cross-cutting concepts.

2. While implementing new standards, there is no need to prepare students for a test of outdated standards.

- In 2014-15, students will NOT complete a science test during K-PREP at grades 4 and 7. The current test available measures Core Content 4.1.
- In 2014-15, high school students will continue to take the End-of-Course test in Biology. In April, the KBE reaffirmed its commitment to continue EOC testing in high school. The ACT QualityCore[®] EOC test was not developed to measure Core Content 4.1, but reflects standards aligned to the ACT that is required of all Kentucky juniors.
- Students will also continue to take science tests as part of ACT Explore (grade 8), ACT Plan (grade 10) and the ACT (grade 11). There is no change to how the results of these assessments are used. For example, the results will NOT replace science scores at grades 4 and 7.
- The new standards will require a different kind of assessment. KDE is working to define the concepts and testing framework for a new science test; then, will move forward with test development.

3. Accountability is adjusted to move the contribution from the science test to other subject area tests.

- The Next-Generation Learners regulation (703 KAR 5:200) states "if data cannot be calculated for any category of next-generation learners, the weights shall be redistributed using an equal proportion to categories that shall be reported for the school or district."
- For example, let us consider the Achievement category that is weighted 30% at elementary, 28% at middle and 20% at high school. Five tests (reading, mathematics,

science, social studies and writing) contribute equally to Achievement. Each test is one-fifth or 20% of the Achievement category. When science is removed at grades 4 and 7, the remaining four tests increase to 25% of Achievement.

4. The Annual Measurable Objective (AMO) for 2014-15 will be adjusted. Until all components of the accountability system are fully implemented, an annual goal (i.e., AMO) for improving the Overall Score is set. The annual goal, released each fall, includes the pieces of the assessment and accountability system expected for the upcoming school year. The 2014-15 AMO will reflect the changes for the 2014-15 school year; removing science at grades 4 and 7 and adding K-3 Program Review.

Schedule for gathering input on possible assessment/accountability changes: KDE's Office of Assessment and Accountability has a plan to gather feedback for the Kentucky Board of Education on possible changes to the assessment and accountability system. The first session to gather feedback recently occurred with the District Assessment Coordinators' advisory network. Last week, the Teachers' Advisory Council was asked for input and other groups will be consulted throughout the summer. The collection of ideas will culminate at the September Superintendents' Summit. Following that meeting, the collected feedback will be presented to the board at its October meeting along with the discussion of 2014-15 test scores. After getting direction from the state board in October, draft regulation changes will be brought forward for the board's review in December with final approval of the regulation changes occurring in February. KDE's intention all along was to look at possible changes following the third year of implementation of the system and we are now at that point. Soon, we will share with you and others how to offer your suggestions on this matter through the KDE website.

Resources

Promoting positive behavior in schools sessions available: At the start of the 2013-14 school year, all Kentucky school personnel were required to have annual training in positive behavioral interventions and supports pursuant to [704 KAR 7:160, The Use of Physical Restraint and Seclusion in Public Schools, Section 6\(1\)](#). *Promoting Positive Behavior in Schools I* is a free, online professional development course produced in collaboration by the KDE and KET, focused on preventing, decreasing, or eliminating problem behavior through the implementation of positive instructional discipline strategies and systems in schools. Over 55,000 people have used this training and received certificates.

Promoting Positive Behavior in Schools II (PPBIS II) will be available June 1, 2014 to meet the 2014-15 training requirement. This year's training will be two (2) hours in length. The content focuses on district-wide implementation of positive behavioral interventions and supports (PBIS), relationship-building and de-escalation strategies. It also includes new videos featuring Kentucky schools and vignettes with actors showing how to de-escalate problem situations.

While there is no requirement for districts to use this specific training, it satisfies the requirements of the regulation and is free to districts.

Once PPBIS II is available, a second announcement will provide a link to the course along with the login instructions. PPBIS II, like PPBIS I, will be on PBS LearningMedia. If you have questions, please contact Gretta Hylton at Gretta.Hylton@education.ky.gov or at (502) 564-9850, ext. 4109.

Announcements

Extension of Deadline for Non-Traditional Instruction Program: The deadline for submitting applications to participate in the Non-Traditional Instruction Program for 2014-2015 **HAS BEEN EXTENDED To AUGUST 15, 2014**. The application and all supporting materials can be found at <http://education.ky.gov/school/innov/Pages/default.aspx>.

Please contact David Cook or Pat Trotter at 502-564-4201 if you have questions.

Individualized Learning Plan (ILP) training for district and school leaders: Two special Individualized Learning Plan (ILP) half-day trainings for district and school leaders are being offered. The first training will be held on July 8 at Dixie Heights High School in Fort Mitchell. The second training will be held on July 10 at The Garland Building in London.

District and school leaders are strongly encouraged to attend this hands-on training to learn how the use of the ILP can help all students become college- and career-ready. Attendees will learn how the ILP can help with college- and career-advising, assist with schedule forecasting, help teachers to know the learning styles of each of their students and much more.

Come find out how the ILP can be incorporated throughout the entire school to best help each of your students.

Please visit the [KDE website](#) to register. For more information contact Jennifer.smith@education.ky.gov. **Kentucky Continuous Improvement Summit – save the date:** Mark your calendars for the Kentucky Continuous Improvement Summit, Focusing on Best Practice to Close the Achievement Gap, sponsored by KDE and AdvanceED Kentucky. The summit will be held **September 22-23** at the Lexington Convention Center. Follow the conversation on Twitter for updates and announcements by using #KYCIS2014.