



COVID-19 Considerations for Reopening Schools

August 25, 2020

2020-2021 Improvement Planning: The Superintendent Gap Assurance

The COVID-19 pandemic has created many uncertainties for schools and districts. Approval of a waiver from the U.S. Department of Education allowed Kentucky to bypass standardized testing and the federal assessment, accountability and specific reporting requirements for the 2019-2020 school year. The cancellation of K-PREP assessments, along with legislative changes made during the 2020 session, will affect Kentucky's accountability system moving forward.

The need for thoughtful planning has never been more important. Kentucky's continuous improvement model remains an effective process to ensure systems are in place for the delivery of high-quality learning opportunities for all students.

2020-2021 Phase Three: The Superintendent Gap Assurance

Pursuant to [KRS 158.649](#) and [703 KAR 5:225](#), every school in Kentucky must annually develop, review and revise a comprehensive school improvement plan that includes biennial targets, strategies, activities and a time schedule calculated to eliminate the achievement gap among various groups of students to the extent that such a gap exists.

Likewise, [KRS 158.649\(9\)](#) states, "The superintendent shall report to the local school board and the commissioner of education if a school fails to meet its targets in any academic content area to reduce the gap in student achievement for any student group for two (2) consecutive years."

Each district's superintendent reports this information to the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) in [eProve](#) during Phase Three of the improvement planning process.

When completing the 2020-2021 Phase Three: Superintendent Gap Assurance, superintendents should use 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 data. Please note that while the answer to this year's gap assurance will be the same entry as the previous year, a new diagnostic must be opened in eProve. The newly revised diagnostic includes a **supplemental form** that superintendents must complete if one or more schools did not meet its targets to reduce the gap in student achievement for any student group for both the last two consecutive years.

Forward Thinking

As part of [Senate Bill 158 \(2020\)](#), a new definition of achievement gap has been established. When Kentucky has two consecutive assessment cycles for comparison, the Superintendent Gap Assurance will be subject to re-evaluation. Diagnostics and templates created for future years will complement the new requirements and the improvement planning process.

If you have questions related to eProve and improvement planning, email [Natasha Stein](#) or [Ruth Swanson](#).



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References: [KRS 158.649](#), [KRS 160.345](#), [703 KAR 5:225](#), [KBE racial equity resolution](#), [KDE's Comprehensive Improvement Planning webpage](#)

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