

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Review Item:

Assessment and accountability results regarding Kentucky's new system, Unbridled Learning: College/Career Readiness for All and summary of data issues

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 158.6453, KRS 158.6451

History/Background:

Existing Policy. As required in Kentucky legislation, in the 2011-12 school year, the Commonwealth began a new assessment and accountability model — Unbridled Learning: College/Career Readiness for All. The Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) developed an accountability model that is balanced. It incorporates all aspects of school and district work and is organized around the KBE's four strategic priorities: Next-Generation Learners, Next-Generation Professionals, Next-Generation Support Systems and Next-Generation Schools/Districts.

In the first year of reporting, next-generation learners is the basis of the new model; other components are scheduled to enter the model in future years. All data for the assessment and accountability system are located within the new School Report Card on the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) website. In February 2012, the U.S. Department of Education granted Kentucky flexibility under the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act. This flexibility allows Kentucky to use the Unbridled Learning model to report both state- and federal-level accountability measures.

In the spring of 2012, Kentucky public schools completed tests collectively named the Kentucky Performance Rating for Educational Progress (K-PREP) in five content areas: reading, mathematics, science, social studies and writing. At high school, four End-of-Course exams for Algebra II, English II, Biology and Social Studies are included. Individual student reports and student performance level definitions have been revised, but the terms remain the same. Students will still receive reports that place their performance in each content area into the categories of Novice, Apprentice, Proficient and Distinguished (NAPD). The Unbridled Learning accountability model also continues annual public reporting of disaggregated student data.

The Next-Generation Unbridled Learning accountability model includes student achievement growth measures, emphasis on college and career readiness, high school graduation rates, student performance in the five content areas, and increased focus on the lowest-performing schools. Additionally, the new accountability model holds all schools and districts accountable for improving student performance and creates three performance classifications that determine consequences and guide interventions and supports. School and district classifications for 2011-12 are based on the following measures:

- ☐ **Achievement** (Content areas are reading, mathematics, science, social studies and writing.)
- ☐ **Gap** (percentage of proficient and distinguished) for the Non-Duplicated Gap Group for all five content areas
- ☐ **Growth** in reading and mathematics (percentage of students at typical or higher levels of growth)
- ☐ **College Readiness** as measured by the percentage of students meeting benchmarks in three content areas on EXPLORE at middle school and by ACT benchmarks, college placement tests and career measures at high school
- ☐ **Graduation Rate**, based on the Averaged Freshman Graduation Rate (AFGR)

During the December meeting of the Kentucky Board of Education, staff will provide an update on state-level assessment results and discuss associated data issues.

Impact on Getting to Proficiency:

The new accountability system will establish how schools/districts are held responsible for assuring Kentucky's students are proficient and prepared for success. The standard setting processes defined the student performance levels and ensured that student performance is consistently measured in Kentucky's public schools.

Groups Consulted and Brief Summary of Responses:

Kentucky's National Technical Advisory Panel on Assessment and Accountability, the School Curriculum, Assessment and Accountability Council, the Office of Education Accountability (OEA) and other stakeholders continue to provide important direction and feedback regarding the assessment and accountability system.

Contact Person:

Ken Draut, Associate Commissioner
Office of Assessment and Accountability
(502) 564-2256
Ken.Draut@education.ky.gov



Commissioner of Education

Date:

December 2012