

## **KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

### **STAFF NOTE**

#### **Action/Discussion Item:**

704 KAR 3:303, Kentucky Core Academic Standards (Second Reading)

#### **Applicable Statute or Regulation:**

KRS 156.070, 156.160

#### **Action Question:**

Should the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) approve revisions to 704 KAR 3:303, Kentucky Core Academic Standards to incorporate the new science standards?

#### **History/Background:**

***Existing Policy.*** The final draft of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) was released to the public on April 9, 2013. The draft was shared with the Kentucky Board of Education at its April meeting. No content changes in the standards have been made since the April meeting; however, three changes in the organization of the standards document have occurred.

1. In order to meet the requirements of all lead states, the NGSS is available in two different configurations, a Topic version and a Disciplinary Core Ideas (DCI) version. It is important to note that both versions contain exactly the same standards, differing only in how they are grouped. The Topic version is presented for adoption into regulation based on feedback indicating the organizing topics will be useful for curriculum development.
2. In the version the KBE saw in April, the middle school performance expectations were published in grade bands rather than in discrete grades. KDE science consultants received a great number of public comments and questions regarding the middle school performance expectations. Feedback from both the review team and feedback from middle school teachers and curriculum developers overwhelmingly requested that KDE provide guidance on the distribution of the middle school performance expectations into discrete 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade level courses. In response to Kentucky feedback, Achieve has created a version of the NGSS that organizes standards into discrete 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade levels.
3. In addition to the middle grades assignments, this version includes explicit connections to the Common Core State Standards that were not present in the April version.

Note: There are no differences in the actual content between the different versions and configurations of the standards.

**Attachment A** is the final NGSS document incorporating the revisions described above.

### **Staff Recommendation and Rationale:**

In order to meet the requirements of Senate Bill 1 (2009) and ensure alignment with college-ready expectations, staff recommends that the Kentucky Board of Education approve proposed changes to 704 KAR 3:303, Kentucky Core Academic Standards to incorporate the new science standards.

### **Impact on Getting to Proficiency:**

Adoption of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) adheres to the expectations outlined in SB 1(2009) which established the state's college and career readiness agenda for students in Kentucky schools. The standards compliment the Common Core Standards in English/language arts and mathematics and infuse principles of science, technology, mathematics and engineering (STEM) that result in more rigorous learning expectations for students K-12.

### **Groups Consulted and a Brief Summary of Responses**

For both drafts the general public was given the opportunity to review and comment on the draft standards via the NGSS website. Public feedback from each draft release was used by Achieve to guide significant revisions to the standards. According to Achieve, Kentucky residents responded to the first draft at the highest percentage rate of any state, and were in the top 15% of states in responding to the second public release.

A science standards review committee had already been established in response to Senate Bill 1 (2009) in anticipation of revising our science standards. This team has responded to five separate draft versions of the NGSS. Three of those drafts were confidential versions that were only available to the lead states. The team also provided feedback on both public drafts.

A significant reduction in the total number of Performance Expectations occurred between the second public draft and the final release as a result of feedback from the lead states and national organizations.

Also, the KBE will receive a letter from the Local Superintendents Advisory Council as to their feedback prior to the June meeting.

### **Contact Person:**

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**Commissioner of Education**

**Date:**

June 2013