

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Action/Discussion Item:

704 KAR 3:035, Annual Professional Learning Plan (Second Reading)

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 156.070, KRS 156.095, KRS 157.557, 704 KAR 3:035, 704 KAR 3:345

Action Question:

Should the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) approve changes to 704 KAR 3:035?

History/Background:

Existing Policy: Currently, 704 KAR 3:035 includes a definition and standards that have been in place since 2005. The definition and standards have guided districts and schools over the past 8 years. As a result, in new research and learning in the field, there is a need to update and revise Kentucky's definition and standards for professional learning.

At the December 2012 KBE meeting, board members received a copy of a policy report for Kentucky by Learning Forward (formerly named the National Staff Development Council). Learning Forward selected Kentucky in 2011 as the demonstration state for implementation of the Kentucky Core Academic Standards (Common Core State Standards). As a result the policy report outlined 13 recommendations for policy makers to consider for transforming Kentucky's professional learning system.

The following recommendations from Learning Forward were addressed in the changes proposed to 704 KAR 3:035:

Recommendation 1: Replace the definition of professional development with the definition recommended by Professional Learning Task Force;

Recommendation 2: Replace the 2005 professional development standards with the research-based *Standards for Professional Learning*.

Recommendation 3: Replace Kentucky's professional development standards with the most current, research-based Standards for Professional Learning; and

Recommendation 8: Establish statewide terminology, standards, and a definition of professional learning.

While not explicitly stated in the regulation, KDE staff are responding to recommendations 4, 5, and 10 as a part of the strategic work outlined and related to the KBE strategic plan to have every student taught by an effective teacher and every school led by an effective leader. Other guidance recommendations within the policy report will be addressed through the implementation efforts as the policy work translates to practice.

The following policy recommendations have not been addressed at this time – recommendations 6, 7, 12, and 13 – these involve other education entities, such as the Education Professional Standards Board. KDE will continue to work with partner organizations in order to address these recommendations.

Staff Recommendation and Rationale:

In light of the recommendations of the Professional Learning Task Force and the requirements of HB 180, staff recommends that the Kentucky Board of Education approve the proposed changes to 704 KAR 3:035.

Impact on Getting to Proficiency:

Transforming professional learning is key to educator effectiveness and improving student learning outcomes. A comprehensive, sustained, and intensive approach is necessary to elevate the state's commitment to professional learning in support of teachers and leaders across the Commonwealth.

Groups Consulted and a Brief Summary of Responses

Professional Learning Task Force (Membership list is Attachment A.)
Local Superintendents Advisory Council

The Professional Learning Task Force is in support of the changes to the regulation. A letter from the Local Superintendents Advisory Council to the board that will be received prior to the June meeting will indicate their recommendations on the regulation.

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Commissioner of Education

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