

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Review Item:

Overview of Mapping the Nation Website and World Language Program Review Update

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

703 KAR 5:230

History/Background:

Existing Policy. Mapping the Nation, sponsored by the Asia Society and Longview Foundation, is a new interactive map that pulls together demographic, economic, and education indicators—nearly one million data points—to show that the United States is a truly global nation. Each state is provided a profile. A poster will be provided at the February board meeting to illustrate Kentucky’s data. An image of the poster is posted on the board’s online materials site. The data can be used to support the work of states in developing globally competent citizens. The website for Mapping the Nation is <http://mappingthenation.net/>.

Important work going on in Kentucky focused on supporting global competence and second language skills is the implementation of a world language program review. The first of two scheduled field tests of the World Language Program Review took place from September to December 2013. Eleven districts participated in the field test. Schools participating in the field test (11 elementaries, two middles and nine high schools) did so either voluntarily or as a requirement for having received an Arts & World Language Grant from the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE). KDE provided on-going technical assistance to support implementation throughout the field test period.

Field test participants gave the following recommendations to support the World Language Program Review implementation moving forward:

- An explanation of terms is needed.
- A narrative guide is needed to clarify points and give examples, such as learning opportunities outside of school; awarding course credit for proficiency and illustrating what proficiency looks like; and offering learning opportunities, especially at the elementary level, without funding/teachers.
- Evidence was not hard to find for descriptors.

- Many felt that world language departments needed to work internally first to understand the program review demonstrators and figure out a strategy to explain it to their administrators and other content area colleagues.
- Professional development is needed to educate more world language teachers and leaders about how to implement the teaching and learning required to demonstrate proficiency.
- Attitudes will continue to change toward acceptance of preparing all children with global competencies and second language skills through the program review process.

Impact on Getting to Proficiency:

In order for students to be proficient and prepared for success, they must develop global competencies and second language skills.

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Commissioner of Education

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