

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Review Item:

Southern Regional Education Board's Study on Career and Technical Education in Kentucky

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 156.802

History/Background:

Existing Policy. In September 2013, the Kentucky Department of Education asked the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) to conduct a study of Kentucky's 95 area technology centers and career technical centers. The purpose was to assess the impact of career and technical education (CTE) on student performance, graduation and preparation for college and a career, as well as to examine the strength of the relationships between high school career preparation programs and the regional workforce needs of Kentucky's businesses and industries.

SREB's study of the centers included: (1) administering teacher and study surveys, (2) conducting desk audits of current data, (3) conducting on-site institutional reviews at six centers, (4) facilitating two focus group interviews, and (5) conducting interviews with a number of state personnel.

The study made some significant findings on the alignment of CTE programs and workforce needs. It addresses issues related to dual credit opportunities and career-readiness, among others. As a result, the report made four over-arching recommendations to strengthen CTE programs in Kentucky. An executive summary can be found on pages 1-7 of the report. The full report can be found at this link:

http://education.ky.gov/CTE/cter/Documents/SREB_ky_report_final.pdf.

This report serves as a starting point and should not be seen as a predictor of what will or will not happen with career and technical education in the state. Much discussion and work remains before any change happens. The report has been shared with leadership in the Kentucky General Assembly and will likely be presented to the Interim Joint Education Committee once the current session of the General Assembly has adjourned.

Dr. Gene Bottoms, Senior Vice President of SREB, will present the findings of the study on the 95 career and technical centers in the Commonwealth of Kentucky at the April meeting.

Impact on Getting to Proficiency:

The intent of this study is to determine how well state and local technical centers are on a trajectory to adhere to KDE's mission for CTE and to meet the goals of SB1(2009), SB38(2012), and HB207(2013).

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ray Holliday". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ray" and last name "Holliday" clearly distinguishable.

Commissioner of Education

Date:

April 2014