

**KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**STAFF NOTE**

**Review Item:**

Continued Expansion of Schools Participating in AdvanceKentucky

**Applicable Statute or Regulation:**

KRS 158.007, KRS 158.622, KRS 158.847, KRS 158.848, KRS 158.849, 704 KAR 3:510

**History/Background:**

*Existing Policy.* In the summer of 2007, the National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI) awarded Kentucky \$13 million as one of the original six states with nonprofit enterprises with the proven capacity to partner in a statewide effort to dramatically expand participation and success in Advanced Placement courses in Mathematics, Science and English. NMSI is a national non-profit organization funded by ExxonMobil, Dell and the Gates Foundation, among others. The Kentucky Science and Technology Corporation (KSTC) was invited by the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) to be the nonprofit applicant to NMSI and serve as the partner assuming responsibility for creating and operating the program, called AdvanceKentucky, to implement Kentucky's grant.

Joanne Lang, Executive Vice President of KSTC, heads AdvanceKentucky. The KDE continues as an annual funding partner in addition to providing support from the State's Race to the Top 3 grant, along with the prior federal APIP grant, two grants from the Appalachian Regional Commission, James Graham Brown Foundation, Berea College (supported by four federal grants), Lockheed Corporation, ExxonMobil, and support from the Council on Postsecondary Education and Kentucky Downs. Local funding helps support many of the participating schools' efforts to implement selected elements of the program.

An overview of KDE's current support and future commitment to this program is summarized below. All funding sources support the NMSI model, which is focused on serving underrepresented low income and minority students in Advanced Placement (AP).

<b>Academic Year</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Funding</b>
2008-2012	KDE – Federal APIP	\$2,000,000
2010-2011	KDE	\$500,000
2011-2012	KDE	\$500,000

2012-2013	KDE	\$500,000
2012-2013	KDE – Federal RTTT 3	\$250,000
2013-2014	KDE	\$500,000
2013-2014	KDE – Federal RTTT 3	\$500,000
2014-2015	KDE – Federal RTTT 3	\$750,000
2015-2016	KDE – Federal RTTT 3	\$750,000
Total to Date		\$6,250,000

AdvanceKentucky is a key strategy in the KDE College and Career Readiness Delivery Plan. As of the 2013-14 school year, AdvanceKentucky will have served 88 Kentucky schools involving 23,000 student enrollments. The rigorous professional learning opportunities for participating teachers in AdvanceKentucky is a focal piece of the model. Over 650 AP teachers and 2,500 pre-AP teachers have received support. This proven model encourages more students to take AP classes, more time spent on content learning for students through weekend or after school study sessions, extensive AP and Pre-AP teacher training, and rewarding students, teachers and administrators for success on AP math, science and English exams.

The April 2013 Kentucky Board of Education meeting will present an opportunity to name 11 new schools as a sixth cohort for AdvanceKentucky. Participation is voluntary, based on an application process and commitment to open enrollment to serve students traditionally underrepresented in advanced placement.

*Expansion Goals, Premise and Results to Date*

AdvanceKentucky’s goal is to achieve inclusion of 50 percent of Kentucky’s public high schools in the program by 2014 and to serve the balance of interested high schools by 2020. In order to help meet this goal, Kentucky’s Race to the Top 3 grant funding and general agency funds support the expansion. Due to overall funding limitations, the program is projected to reach approximately 42 percent of Kentucky’s public high schools in the 2013-14 school year.

AdvanceKentucky and advanced placement have positively impacted the recent rankings of K-12 public education. Two rankings in particular reveal gains and public acknowledgement of Kentucky's improvements.

- According to *Education Week’s* most recent 2013 *Quality Counts* report, an annual report that evaluates and ranks state-level efforts to improve public education, Kentucky currently has improved from **23<sup>rd</sup>** in 2008 to **10<sup>th</sup>** in 2012.

Upon review of the *Quality Counts* metrics, the advance placement strategy emerges from the details. The state's AP success contributed to this ranking. It falls under the category of "K-12 Achievement" and measures qualifying AP scores (3 or higher) per 100 students.

- In this category, K-12 Achievement, Kentucky has improved from **34<sup>th</sup>** nationally in 2007 to **13<sup>th</sup>** in 2013.

Factored into this category are a few relevant AP items:

- Kentucky has seen the number of AP students with qualifying scores increase from **8.9** per 100 students in 2007 to **16.4** per 100 students in 2013.
- This change has increased Kentucky's ranking from **29<sup>th</sup>** in 2007 to **24<sup>th</sup>** in 2013.
- Kentucky is currently **20<sup>th</sup>** in change in the number of qualifying AP scores per 100 students from 2000-2010.

Additional statistics include:

- After four years in AdvanceKY, **Cohort 1** (12 schools) realized a *four-year* increase of **275%** in AP MSE qualifying scores (includes **967%** increase in minority and **716%** increase in low income).
- After three years in AdvanceKY, **Cohort 2** (16 schools) realized a *three-year* increase of **117%** in AP MSE qualifying scores (includes **224%** increase in minority and **313%** increase in low income).
- After two years in AdvanceKY, **Cohort 3** (16 schools) realized a *two-year* increase of **164%** in AP MSE qualifying scores (includes **100%** increase in minority and **175%** increase in low income).
- After one year in AdvanceKY, **Cohort 4** (20 schools) realized a *one-year* increase of **110%** in AP MSE qualifying scores (includes **367%** increase in minority and **246%** increase in low income).

As a result, more students, across the Commonwealth are exposed to and are realizing success in rigorous courses preparing them to meet the demands of college and/or a career. Students have greater access and opportunities to earn college credit while still in high school at little to no cost.

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

Since AdvanceKentucky began operation, from 2008 to 2012 Kentucky ranked first in the nation in the percent of increase in the number of AP qualifying scores *across all subjects* (86% increase for Kentucky vs. 40% for the nation). This suggests that focus on math, science and English (ranking second in the nation) is having a multiplier impact on students' interests and abilities to seek out and perform well on other AP exams in other subjects. Policy support

related to the implementation of this strategy can ensure more students graduate college and career ready, realizing the goals set forth by the KBE agenda.

**Contact Information:**

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**Commissioner of Education**

**Date:**

April 2013

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<sup>i</sup> Advanced Placement Program, AP, and Pre-AP are registered trademarks of the College Board