

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Action/Discussion Item:

704 KAR 3:305, Minimum requirements for high school graduation (Second Reading)

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 156.160(1) (a), (d), 156.070, 158.645, 158.6451

Action Question:

Should the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) approve the proposed changes to 704 KAR 3:305?

History/Background:

Existing Policy. In the 2013 legislative session, the Kentucky General Assembly passed SB 61. SB 61 recognizes that there are students who are on an accelerated path, and in order to best meet their needs, they need to earn their diploma early and move on into college. This opportunity will be available to students beginning in the 2014-15 school year.

Since the first reading of this regulation in August, the following changes have been made:

Page 1, Lines 14-17, Section 1: Definitions. (1) “Early graduation” means meeting the competency-based criteria outlined in this section and doing so **in three (3) academic years** or less. ~~than four years from the date of first enrolling in grade nine (9) and attending less than 140 days of the fourth year of enrollment in high school.~~

Page 7, line 20: “**or meets the requirements for early graduation as outlined in Section 9 of this administrative regulation**” has been added to include the early graduation option.

Page 8, line 19; “**but within the first thirty (30) school days of the academic year they wish to graduate**” has been added to ensure that there is a clear time in which the declaration must be made to allow time for the processes that must take place between agencies.

Page 9, line 3: “**the criteria students shall meet to graduate early and earn an Early Graduation Certificate**” has been added for clarity.

Staff Recommendation and Rationale:

Staff recommends that the Kentucky Board of Education approve the proposed changes to 704 KAR 3:305. The revisions incorporate the criteria for early graduation.

Groups Consulted and Brief Summary of their Feedback

Local superintendents who had the highest number of early graduates last year and contacts in *Excellence for All* districts were asked to provide feedback on the regulation. The feedback and responses are indicated in Attachment A. The Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority also provided input.

The Local Superintendents Advisory Council will provide feedback to the board in the form of a letter prior to the October meeting.

Impact on Getting to Proficiency:

Even though the impact on the total population of students will be small, an early graduation pathway helps meet college readiness goals by advancing the strategic priorities of every student graduating from high school and requiring each student to be proficient and prepared for success. Early graduation allows students who wish to graduate early and who demonstrate competency to “move when ready.”

Contact Person:

Felicia Smith
Office of Next Generation Learners
(502) 564-9850
Felicia.smith@education.ky.gov



Commissioner of Education

Date:

October 2013