

# **KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

## **STAFF NOTE**

### **Review Item:**

704 KAR 5:070, Common kindergarten entry screener (First Reading)

### **Applicable Statute or Regulation:**

KRS 156.070, 156.160

### **History/Background:**

**Existing Policy.** In December 2011, the KBE approved 704 KAR 5:070, Common kindergarten entry screener. The screener has now been administered several times. Currently, districts are able to view and plan instruction based on their readiness results as soon as student responses are entered into the student information system. Readiness data, along with other data sources, is used for planning instructional groups, beginning the response to intervention process and communicating with the public about the importance of quality early care environments, among others. However, the aggregate data on statewide readiness and prior settings has been lagging. This is a barrier to statewide improvement planning.

704 KAR 5:070 currently states:

*(2) Each school district shall administer the common kindergarten entry screener to each student entering kindergarten in the school district no earlier than fifteen (15) days prior to the start of the current academic year and no later than the thirtieth (30th) instructional day of the academic year.*

*Section 4. Data Collection and Reporting. (1) Each school containing kindergarten students shall enter the data from the common kindergarten entry screener in the student information system within thirty (30) days of the district's administration of the common kindergarten entry screener.*

KDE is proposing that the data collection and reporting timeline change to provide earlier access to statewide aggregate data. The proposed change is found below:

*Section 4. Data Collection and Reporting. (1) Each school containing kindergarten students shall enter the data from the common kindergarten entry screener in the student information system within **fifteen (15) days** of the district's administration of the common kindergarten entry screener but no later than October 15.*

The proposed timeline adjustment will expedite the process of statewide data collection, quality control, and release. Districts are able to enter data during the screening window, so the proposed change to the data entry window would not have an adverse impact on schools and districts but will allow for an earlier availability of statewide data. With this timeline change, the comprehensive readiness report will be available for public release by early December each year. Currently, the windows for screening and data entry result in a mid to late January public release of readiness data. As Kentucky focuses on school readiness, where each child enters school ready to engage in and benefit from early learning experiences that best promote the child's success, it would be beneficial for both policy makers and early childhood stakeholders to have statewide results as early as possible in order to assess and/or develop strategies to address needs sooner.

Also attached for the board's information is a summary of the most recent kindergarten readiness data from the screener.

**Impact on Getting to Proficiency:**

Being able to report aggregate kindergarten entry screener data earlier will allow districts, communities and state level stakeholders to focus improvement efforts sooner to have the greatest impact.

**Groups Consulted and Brief Summary of Responses:**

Local Superintendents Advisory Council

Input will be reported at the February meeting.

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**Commissioner of Education**

**Date:**

February 2015