

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Action/Discussion Item:

704 KAR 5:070, Common kindergarten entry screener (Second Reading) (Amendment to existing regulation)

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 156.070, 156.160

History/Background:

Existing Policy. At the February Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) meeting, a change to 704 KAR 5:050 was presented. The change is outlined below.

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 of each academic year.***

In a review of the data to determine the impact of this change in timeline, KDE found that 46,387 student results of the total 49,262 screened were entered on or before October 15, 2014. Of the 2,875 student results remaining, it was determined that several districts had simply failed to complete the final step of submitting data although it had been entered into the student information system.

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.

Staff Recommendation(s) and Rationale:

Staff recommends that the KBE approve the proposed change to 704 KAR 5:070. The 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.

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 so as to have the greatest impact.

Groups Consulted and Brief Summary of Responses:

Local Superintendents Advisory Council (LSAC)

A letter will come from LSAC as to their support prior to the April meeting.

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Commissioner of Education

Date:

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