

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Action/Discussion Item:

705 KAR 4:041, Work-Based Learning Program Standards (Second Reading)

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 156.802, KRS 156.029

Action Question:

Should the Kentucky Board of Education approve the proposed amendments to 705 KAR 4:041?

History/Background:

Existing Policy. 705 KAR 4:231 guides the general program standards for secondary career and technical education programs, which mandates that such programs shall provide opportunities for students to participate in high-quality work-based learning experiences related to the program in which they are enrolled. Work-based learning opportunities are a critical component of secondary career pathways. Examples include experiences such as cooperative education, internships, pre-apprenticeships, job shadowing, mentoring, and even school-based enterprises. Work-based learning engages students in real-life occupational experiences and provides students with the opportunity to engage and interact with employers, while learning to demonstrate essential employability and technical skills necessary for today’s workforce.

Historically, 705 KAR 4:041 solely guided the policy around the most prevalent form of work-based learning, cooperative education. As a resource to schools, the Office of Career and Technical Education created and continues to maintain a “Work-Based Learning Manual” to guide the development and implementation of other types of work-based learning programs. A task force of nearly twenty-five stakeholders was brought together this past fall to revise this important resource.

As these types of learning experiences continue to increase among secondary students, the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) feels a significant need for this regulation to extend beyond the boundaries of just cooperative education. The proposed changes are meant to be more inclusive of all forms of work-based learning and to incorporate the Kentucky Work-Based Learning Manual by reference. Additional changes also provide for greater inclusion of eligible students who may participate in cooperative education.

Groups Consulted and Brief Summary of Responses:

OCTE Work-Based Learning Task Force
Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA)
KY Tech System Principals
Local Superintendents Advisory Council (LSAC)

The first three groups have responded positively to the proposed changes and are supportive of the amendments to 705 KAR 4:041. LSAC will provide a letter with their feedback prior to the June meeting.

Impact on Getting to Proficiency:

Work-based learning opportunities enhance and support the ability for Career and Technical Education (CTE) students to demonstrate college and career readiness, which is aligned to the goals of SB 1 (2009) and SB 38 (2012).

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Commissioner of Education

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