

LOCAL SUPERINTENDENTS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Mr. Ed McNeel, Chair
Mr. Keith Davis
Mr. Jerry Green
Mr. D. Scott Hawkins

Dr. Terri Cox-Cruey
Mr. Trent Lovett
Dr. Henry Webb

June 1, 2015

Mr. Roger Marcum, Board Chair
Kentucky Board of Education
500 Mero Street
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Dear Chair Marcum,

The Local Superintendents Advisory Council (LSAC) met on May 26, 2015 to discuss 704 KAR 3:303, Kentucky Core Academic Standards (Arts). The following concerns were noted:

1. LSAC members voiced that the rigor of the Standards are such that meeting the Standards would be extremely difficult for schools that do not have specialty programs. The achievement of a distinguished rating on the Program Review would be limited to only arts magnet schools.
2. LSAC members expressed concerns that additional resources and supports are needed for interpretation and implementation of the Standards. KDE staff voiced that staffing allocations are a local decision and that the focus of the school or district remains locally.
3. LSAC members expressed concerns that there is limited teacher capacity with specialized skills to teach the Standards. The KDE presentation gave the impression that the Standards were more “best practices” that provided direction to teachers.
4. LSAC members believe that if the Standards are to be met by only those students who take related elective classes then the regulation needs to be stated that way.
5. LSAC member concern goes to the regulation itself, which says:
“...incorporates by reference the Kentucky Academic Standards, which contain the general course of study and academic content standards for use in Kentucky’s common schools.” “Before graduating from ...high school, a student shall meet the minimum content requirements established in the Kentucky Academic Standards.” This language appears to indicate that a student shall meet ALL the Standards. If so, there is no way any school can

make sure that ALL students are meeting or even exposed to ALL the proposed Standards, especially in high school!

As a result of these concerns, two LSAC members, Mr. Scott Hawkins and Mr. Jerry Green, opposed the recommendation of KDE staff. With the remaining membership in attendance in favor to move the regulation on to the State Board.

It was noted at the meeting that the agenda and supporting documents for the LSAC meeting were not received until the afternoon on May 21st. The end-of-year school and district events, along with a Monday holiday, provided limited time to gather review information from local staff prior to the Tuesday, May 26th LSAC meeting.

The members of LSAC appreciate the opportunity to participate in the discussion and provide a local perspective on issues of concern to the Kentucky Board of Education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ed McNeel', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ed McNeel
LSAC Chair

cc: Kentucky Board of Education Members
LSAC Members