

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Review Item:

Kentucky Core Academic Standards (KCAS) Challenge Update

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

SB 1 (2009), 704 KAR 3:303

History/Background:

Existing Policy. In 2010, Kentucky adopted new standards for English/language arts (ELA) and mathematics as part of the requirements of Senate Bill 1(2009). Work began immediately to support educators' learning about the standards and for developing capacity to design local curricula to support the implementation of new standards. All schools began formal implementation of the new English/language arts and mathematics standards in the 2011-12 school year. Best practice suggests that standards should be reviewed and considered for revisions approximately every 5 to 7 years.

Between August 2014 and April 2015, the KCAS Challenge offered interested parties the opportunity to review current academic standards in English/language arts and mathematics and propose changes to the standards. The KCAS Challenge had two goals:

1. Increase awareness and understanding of KCAS in ELA and mathematics;
2. Solicit actionable feedback as part of the Kentucky Department of Education's regular review process of academic standards that have been implemented.

The results of the KCAS Challenge will be shared at the October KBE meeting.

Next Steps:

Teams of ELA and mathematics educators (K-16) have been formed to consider all feedback received. These teams are working to analyze comments that merit consideration for revisions. They will be considering the rationales provided for the changes along with other current literature and research related to student learning around the particular concepts associated with the standards under review. Reviews of revisions done by other states also will be a part of the process.

The teams will begin drafting revised standards, writing rationales for changes made, and writing rationales for any changes the team feels are not warranted based on the KCAS Challenge feedback and further study/review in September 2015.

Once a first draft of proposed revisions is available, additional feedback will be sought from more educators and stakeholders in Kentucky, along with other experts from outside our state. Feedback will be used to make additional revisions to the draft.

It is anticipated that a final set of proposed (revised) standards for English/language arts and mathematics will be presented to the Kentucky Board of Education for consideration in spring 2016.

All Kentucky schools are required to use the Kentucky Academic Standards for English/language arts and mathematics. Current standards will continue to be implemented until any revisions are finalized and incorporated into the Kentucky Academic Standards. Implementation of revisions will require support from KDE.

Impact on Getting to Proficiency:

Proficiency that leads to College and Career Readiness is dependent on assuring that students have the opportunity to develop and deepen key knowledge, skills, and thinking capacities. The Kentucky Academic Standards serve as the framework for those key capacities.

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Interim Commissioner of Education

Date:

October 2015