

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Review Item:

Common Kindergarten Entry Screener Data Update (Attachment being finalized)

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 156.070, 156.160, 704 KAR 5:070, KRS 157.3175

History/Background:

Existing Policy: In December 2011, the KBE approved 704 KAR 5:070, Common kindergarten entry screener. The KBE approved amendments to this policy (regulation) in June 2015 to shorten the window for data entry.

During the 2014 session, the Kentucky General Assembly passed KRS 157.3175, changing the age eligibility of state-funded preschool from age four (4) by October 1 to age four (4) by August 1. The population served decreased, resulting in a lower number of state-funded preschoolers screened in 2015-16.

Summary: This is the third year of the screener administration. Currently, districts are able to view and plan instruction based on their readiness results as soon as the screener is administered. The screener is administered during a window which starts fifteen (15) days before the first instructional day and extends through the thirtieth (30th) instructional day. 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.

Resources have been provided to support school readiness across Kentucky, such as the Superintendent School Readiness Toolbox, a web resource created in collaboration with the Governor's Office of Early Childhood, and Early Learning Leadership Networks that targets early childhood educators for professional learning focused on high quality teaching and learning. Additional professional learning is provided by the Regional Training Centers. The Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant, housed with the Governor's Office of Early Childhood, will result in a quality rating being assigned to every public preschool site, Head Start center, and licensed child care facility.

Attached for the board's information is a summary of the most recent kindergarten entry screener data.

Budget Impact: The Kentucky Department of Education provides the common kindergarten entry screener to all districts at a cost of approximately \$240,000. Funding comes from assessment dollars, sixty percent of which are federal funds and forty percent are state funds.

Contact Person:

Amanda Ellis, Associate Commissioner
Office of Next Generation Learners
502-564-9850
Amanda.Ellis@education.ky.gov

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stephen L. Pruitt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line above the name.

Commissioner of Education

Date:

December 2015