

# **KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

## **STAFF NOTE**

### **Review Item:**

Update on Kentucky's Economic Competitiveness Agenda

### **Applicable Statute or Regulation:**

National Governors Association (NGA) Talent Pipeline Policy Academy  
Proposed Kentucky Rising Initiative  
KDE Budget Priorities for the 2016 Legislative Session

### **History/Background:**

***Existing Policy:*** Kentucky is currently one of 14 states engaged with the National Governors Association (NGA) Talent Pipeline Policy Academy. This initiative is focused on aligning the education and training pipeline to the needs of the economy and is aligned to Kentucky's WORKSmart Kentucky plan.

***Summary:*** This update will provide an overview of two current initiatives in which Kentucky's secondary Career and Technical Education (CTE) system is engaged that support the work of the NGA Talent Pipeline Policy Academy. Specifically, these efforts are designed to advance the mission of the five themes of Kentucky's Economic Competitiveness Agenda. Those five themes center on the following:

- Career Pathways and Sector Strategies
- Work-Based Learning Infrastructure
- Workforce Services Infrastructure Realignment
- Data and Performance-Informed Decision Making
- Communication Efforts

The first initiative is the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) Career Readiness Initiative. Seventeen (17) states are committed to this initiative, which involves building strategic plans around the three areas of emphasis noted within CCSSO's recent report entitled "Opportunities and Options: Making Career Preparation Work for Students".

The second initiative is hosted by the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB). Similar to the CCSSO work, this initiative aligns to a recent report released by the SREB entitled "Credentials for All". States that are involved receive coaching and external support through the creation of strategic action plans that align to their report recommendations.

***Budget Impact:*** There are multiple grant funding sources that are being utilized to complete the work associated with the NGA Talent Pipeline Policy Academy. Kentucky also has learned that additional grant funding may become available to support the work of the CCSSO Career Readiness Initiative, although detailed information is pending at this time. None of this work currently has a fiscal impact on schools and/or districts; however, the themes of the Economic Competitiveness Agenda do align with and support the need for many of the approved 2016 biennial budget requests related to CTE. As a reminder, those budget requests are focused on assistance with industry certification exams, increased professional learning, regional technical center planning grants, increased funding for locally-operated CTE centers, and a one-time equipment bond.

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A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stephen L. Pruitt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Stephen" and last name "Pruitt" clearly legible.

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**Commissioner of Education**

**Date:**

December 2015