

## SB 1 – Phase II (2016): Summary

### OVERARCHING PURPOSE:

- Revives SB 1 of 2009 to its original design and intent of aligning K-12 academic standards, state assessments, and school accountability to significantly increase postsecondary readiness of Kentucky graduates and reduce bureaucratic burdens on educators.

### ACADEMIC STANDARDS:

- **Common Core**
  - Keeps good stuff: does NOT toss out all standards costing districts time and money to re-align all their curricular materials and teacher training.
  - Creates KY Standards: KY practitioners and public will thoroughly review and only selectively revise, replace, or remove standards.
  - Tests must align: committees simultaneously examine whether state assessments accurately align with those standards.
- **Arts**
  - No reduction: still requires elementary, middle, and high school to embed arts and humanities core content in curricula.
  - New High School options: like most other states, bill expands definition to include the “Practical Arts” of design and creativity. Allows required high school arts and humanities course credit to be satisfied by optional electives from foreign language, voc-tech, or computer tech to ensure students’ flexibility in their tight schedules and personalize a pathway through more postsecondary-aligned electives.

### STATE ASSESSMENTS:

- **Testing**: Reading, Writing, Math, & Science will continue to be tested
- **Social Studies**: No more state test: standards will be improved, required social studies courses will continue, BUT the increasingly misaligned and expensive tests from vendors will no longer derail our teachers from traditional core social studies content and reduce civic-minded, critical thinking to multiple choice test items about irrelevant factoids.
- **Test Reports**: No more mystery tests: testing reports in the fall will include a copy of each administered test with results for schools and districts by test item.

### SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY: holds schools accountable for “productivity” rather than “activity”

- **Academic Growth** – primarily compares progress in literacy, math, and science only against the average growth of those schools that have similar clientele.
- **College & Career Ready** – renamed “postsecondary readiness” to match new federal law.
  - Measurable by credentials: in addition to academic growth in literacy, math, and science, high schools will be held accountable to increase students graduating with higher college entrance exam scores, college or articulated credit hours, industry certifications or credentials, and student matriculation into accredited postsecondary schools or programs.
- **Program Reviews**: eliminated - removes costly, time-consuming, and ineffective KDE program reviews of arts/humanities, practical living/career education, and writing.
- **KDE Overreach**:
  - Reduces bureaucratic burden: Other than for state grants, strips KDE’s authority to require schools to submit unnecessary documentation of ongoing instructional plans, student interventions, formative assessment results, or staff effectiveness processes that subtract from a school’s investment of time and resources on local instructional innovation and student intervention.
- **Priority Schools**: Local districts initially pursue cutting-edge Turnaround diagnosis, training, and support from an organization **external to KDE**.
- **Teacher Growth and Effectiveness**: Local control of logistics: the state continues to establish a statewide evaluation framework for certified staff, BUT school districts develop and implement the evaluation system aligned with that common framework