

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Action/Consent Item:

704 KAR 3:342, Repeal of 704 KAR 3:340, Commonwealth Diploma Program (Second Reading)

Commissioner's Recommendation:

The Commissioner recommends that 704 KAR 3:340, Commonwealth Diploma Program be repealed.

Rationale:

To repeal this regulation because it is no longer needed, due to the fact the Commonwealth Diploma Program already sunset. Additionally, the Commissioner directed staff to repeal those regulations that are unnecessary. The first reading took place during the April 2016 Kentucky Board of Education meeting; it is now back for a second reading and final approval.

Action Question

Should the Kentucky Board of Education approve 704 KAR 3:342?

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 156.070, KRS 156.160, 704 KAR 3:340

History/Background:

Existing Policy: The Commonwealth Diploma Program outlined in 704 KAR 3:340 was established in the 1980s by the Kentucky Board of Education as a strategy to increase student access to Advanced Placement (AP) courses and exams. With the increase in AP course participation and the successful implementation of AdvanceKentucky, the Commonwealth Diploma Program was no longer necessary. Therefore, a sunset provision was added to the regulation in 2012 to end the program after the 2012-2013 academic year. As a result, no students are proceeding toward a Commonwealth Diploma.

Summary: 704 KAR 3:340 describes guidelines for a program which no longer exists. Thus, it is no longer necessary and needs to be repealed.

Budget Impact: Ending the Commonwealth Diploma Program resulted in a cost savings of approximately \$300,000. Because the program has already sunset, there will be no additional cost savings gained or any expenses incurred by repealing 704 KAR 3:340.

Groups Consulted and Brief Summary of Responses

The Local Superintendents Advisory Council was consulted and no concerns were raised about repealing the regulation. A letter from this group expressing its recommendation should be received prior to the June meeting.

Contact Person:

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A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Stephen L. Pruitt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Commissioner of Education

Date:

June 2016

1 EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT CABINET

2 Kentucky Board of Education

3 Department of Education

4 (Repealer)

5 704 KAR 3:342. Repeal of 704 KAR 3:340, Commonwealth Diploma Program.

6 RELATES TO: KRS 156.070, 156.160

7 STATUTORY AUTHORITY: KRS 156.070, 156.160

8 NECESSITY, FUNCTION, AND CONFORMITY: This is to repeal administrative regulation 704

9 KAR 3:340, Commonwealth Diploma Program. The regulation contained a sunset provision,

10 ending the Commonwealth Diploma Program in the 2012-2013 academic year. The regulation

11 describes guidelines for a program which no longer exists and is, therefore, no longer necessary.

12 Section 1. 704 KAR 3:340 is hereby repealed.

This is to certify that the chief state school officer has reviewed and recommended this administrative regulation prior to its adoption by the Kentucky Board of Education, as required by KRS 156.070(5).

(Date)

Stephen L. Pruitt, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Education

(Date)

Roger L. Marcum, Chairperson
Kentucky Board of Education

704 KAR 3:340. Commonwealth Diploma Program.

RELATES TO: KRS 156.070, 156.160

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: KRS 156.070, 156.160

NECESSITY, FUNCTION, AND CONFORMITY: KRS 156.070 authorizes the Kentucky Board of Education to prescribe courses of study, curriculums, and programs as it deems necessary for the common schools. KRS 156.160 requires the Kentucky Board of Education to promulgate administrative regulations determining the courses of study for the different grades and the requirements for graduation from offered courses. This administrative regulation implements a Commonwealth Diploma Program and sets forth the conditions and criteria under which a Commonwealth Diploma shall be issued.

Section 1. (1) The Kentucky Board of Education shall award to each student in the public schools of this state completing a Commonwealth Diploma Program a Commonwealth Diploma.

(2) The diploma shall be printed by the Kentucky Department of Education and sent to the appropriate district upon verification of program completion to the Department of Education by the local district. The diploma shall be issued in the name of the student.

(3) A student receiving a Commonwealth Diploma shall be cited as a recipient at graduation ceremonies.

Section 2. The requirements for obtaining a Commonwealth Diploma shall include:

(1) Successful completion of at least twenty-two (22) approved units of credit, including all the minimum unit requirements for high school graduation established in 704 KAR 3:305 and any additional units specified by the applicable local board of education;

(2) Successful completion of all minimum requirements of the Precollege Curriculum established by the Council on Postsecondary Education in 13 KAR 2:020;

(3)(a) Successful completion (i.e., receiving a grade or the equivalent of "C" or better) of at least four (4) courses, which contain essential content as described in the Advanced Placement (AP) Program Course Description booklets of the College Entrance Examination Board and which include:

1. English - one (1) course;

2. Science or mathematics - one (1) course (selected from biology, chemistry, or physics, or mathematics);

3. World language - one (1) course (selected from French, German, Latin, or Spanish); and

4. One (1) additional AP course (selected from English, science, foreign language, history, computer science, political science, music, or art);

(b) Successful completion (i.e., receiving a grade or the equivalent of "C" or better) of at least four (4) courses, which contain essential content as described in the International Baccalaureate (IB) program course description booklets and which include:

1. English - one (1) course;

2. Natural or experimental science or mathematics - one (1) course (selected from biology, chemistry, physics, or mathematics);

3. World language - one (1) course (selected from French or Spanish); and

4. One (1) additional IB or AP course; or

(c) A combination of AP and IB courses that address the content areas specified in this section; and

(4) Completion of one (1) AP Examination in at least three (3) of the AP or IB areas specified in subsection (3) of this section, without regard to score.

Section 3. (1) The Commonwealth Diploma shall not be awarded by the Kentucky Board of Education after the 2012-2013 academic year.

(2) Local districts may develop policies and procedures to award local recognitions. (11 Ky.R. 1105; Am. 1267; eff. 3-12-1985; 14 Ky.R. 1965; eff. 5-9-1988; 17 Ky.R. 2243; eff. 3-13-1991; 35 Ky.R. 639; 1462; eff. 1-5-2009; 38 Ky.R. 1909; 39 Ky.R. 34; eff. 7-13-2012.)