

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Review Item:

Common Kindergarten Entry Screener Data Update

Rationale:

To update the board on the results of the statewide administration of the Kindergarten Entry Screener.

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, the Common Kindergarten Entry Screener. The KBE approved the amending of this policy in June 2015 to shorten the window for data entry.

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

Summary: This is the fourth year of kindergarten 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 15 days before the first instructional day and extends through the 30th instructional day. Readiness data, along with other data sources, is used for planning instruction, initiating 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 (2011-16) that targeted early childhood educators for professional learning focused on high-quality teaching and learning. Additional professional learning is provided by the five Early Childhood Regional Training Centers. As a result of the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant, housed with the Governor's Office of Early Childhood, every state-funded preschool site, Head Start center and licensed child care facility is in the

process of receiving a rating on the Tiered Quality Rating and Improvement System, Kentucky All STARS.

Attached for the board's information is a summary of the most recent kindergarten entry screener data. Highlights include the continuous growth of African American students, those from state funded preschools and those from Head Start.

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 and forty percent of which are state.

Contact Persons:

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

Karen Kidwell, Director
Division of Program Standards
(502) 564-2106
Karen.Kidwell@education.ky.gov



Commissioner of Education

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