

## Kentucky Civics Assessment

Kentucky Senate Bill 159, signed into law on March 27, 2017 states the following:

*(1) Beginning on July 1, 2018, to graduate from a Kentucky public high school with a regular diploma, a student shall pass a civics test composed of one hundred (100) questions drawn from those that are set forth within the civics test administered by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services to persons seeking to become naturalized citizens. (2) A local board of education shall prepare or approve a test composed of the questions described in subsection (1) of this section and shall disseminate the test to all public high schools of the district. The test shall be administered by the public high schools in each district. (3) A public high school shall provide each student with the opportunity to take the test as many times as necessary for the student to pass the test. A student shall not receive a regular high school diploma until the student passes the test. (4) A student passes the test if at least sixty percent (60%) of the questions are answered correctly. (5) A student who has passed a similar test within the previous five (5) years shall not be required to take the test under this section. (6) Provisions of this section shall be subject to the requirements and accommodations of a student's individualized education program as defined in KRS 158.281 or a Section 504 Plan as defined in KRS 156.027*

- All freshmen and juniors will be required to take this assessment in the spring of 2018. Any junior that fails will have the opportunity to retake the assessment during their senior year.
- Going forward, the assessment will be mandatory for all freshmen. We feel that it is during this year that the content most closely aligns to the questions provided by the USCIS naturalization test. Additionally, the assessment will be mandatory for any junior who has not previously passed it.
- The assessment will be administered twice each school year during the spring semester. However, the bill states that we must provide each student the opportunity to take the test as many times as necessary. Thus, any senior who has not previously passed the assessment will be able to schedule a time with a staff member to take the exam.
- The assessment will be administered digitally in an environment akin to standardized testing. Students will be given 120 minutes to complete the exam. Students will also receive any accommodations granted to them by IEP or 504 plans.
- In accordance with the bill, the test will consist of 100 multiple choice and short answer questions.
- The assessment will only be used as a prerequisite for graduation and will not influence the grade of any course.