

## **KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

### **STAFF NOTE**

#### **Action/Consent Item:**

Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB) and Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD) Civics Test Adoption

#### **Commissioner's Recommendation:**

The Commissioner recommends that the locally-prepared civics test be approved and distributed to all high school students attending the KSB and KSD.

#### **Rationale:**

To approve a civics test, as required by Senate Bill 159 (2017), composed of questions from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services test.

#### **Action Question:**

Should the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) approve the adoption of the proposed civics test for KSB and KSD?

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

KRS 156.070, KRS 167.015, KRS 167.150, KRS 167.240, KRS 158.141

#### **History/Background:**

**Existing Policy:** KRS 156.070 gives the KBE oversight of KSB and KSD. In 2017, the Kentucky General Assembly passed Senate Bill 159 (2017). This law set forth the requirement beginning in July 2018, a student must pass a civics test composed of 100 questions in order to graduate from a public high school with a regular diploma. As a result, each local board of education will be expected to prepare or approve an exam which must be composed of questions from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services test. Students are required to score 60% or higher and may retake the exam as many times as deemed necessary to pass the test.

**Summary:** A civics test for the KSB and KSD is proposed for adoption. The KSB and KSD will be expected to disseminate the test to all high school students attending these schools. When administering the test, the schools must be in accordance with the requirements and accommodations of a student's individualized education program (IEP) as defined in KRS 158.281 or a Section 504 Plan as defined in KRS 156.027. Additionally, the schools will be required to score and document each student's performance on the test.

***Budget Impact:*** No impact occurs to state funds due to the adoption of this test.

**Groups Consulted and Brief Summary of Responses:**

Staff has consulted the following groups:

- Kentucky School Boards Association (KSBA)
- KSB Advisory Committee
- KSD Advisory Committee

All parties listed above are in support of the proposed test.

**Contact Persons:**

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**Commissioner of Education**

**Date:**

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