

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Action/Discussion Item:

704 KAR 3:540, Uniform Academic Course Codes (Second Reading)

Commissioner's Recommendation:

The Commissioner recommends that the board approve the amendments to 704 KAR 3:540.

Rationale:

The proposed amendments will allow for improved alignment between academic experiences, quality of courses and uniform academic course codes.

Action Question:

Should the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) approve the amendments to 704 KAR 3:540?

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 156.160, 156.070

History/Background:

Existing Policy: In 2010 the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) promulgated 704 KAR 3:540 requiring all districts to link their local course codes to state course code lists. The purpose for this linking was to:

- Assist districts in compliance with KRS 161.1221 and 16 KAR 1:050, which require the Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) to classify and certify teachers.
- Allow districts to have a better understanding of the kinds of courses students have previously encountered when transferring from other districts. Tracking courses in the student information system assists schools and districts in providing the best learning opportunities to meet students' needs.
- Assist the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) in providing accurate data to the Kentucky General Assembly (KGA) for future funding decisions and the KBE as they make policy decisions.
- Assist with reporting at the federal and state levels.

Since 2010, staff from the KDE and EPSB have annually reviewed course code data and consulted with schools and districts to update the uniform academic course codes.

Summary: In late February 2017, as part of a joint partnership between the OTL and the OCTE, the Course Code Standards Mapping Project was initiated as a mechanism to ensure all Kentucky students receive the same educational opportunities and access to rigorous coursework. The scope of the project included the alignment of OTL and OCTE course codes to specific academic standards where appropriate; revision of the process for requesting and approving course codes; and updating both the KDE and EPSB systems of course codes. Furthermore, the proposed changes aid in the collection of information used to guide decision-making, while focusing future education efforts on equity and access to quality programs for all students.

Additionally, the project was intended to provide linkage to accountability and assessment where appropriate. The project had direct impact on Advanced Placement, dual credit, English language arts, English Learners, health/physical education, intervention, mathematics, science, social studies and special education. An additional benefit from the project will be an initial version of a searchable course code database for use by schools and districts, as well as KDE.

The sections of the regulation have been restructured and are now as follows:

1. Maintenance of Uniform Academic Course Codes
 - a. Added entire section
 - b. Added KDE annual review for revision, addition and deletion with Commissioner approval and publication deadline
2. Uniform Academic Course Code Requirements
 - a. Removed title of Academic Course Code List
3. District and School Course Descriptions
 - a. Added annual linking of codes by districts and schools
4. Annual District and School Audits

Budget Impact: The proposed changes to this administrative regulation have no fiscal impact on state funds.

Groups Consulted and Brief Summary of Responses

Staff has consulted the following groups:

- Counselor Course Code Review Team
- School Curriculum, Assessment and Accountability Council
- Teacher Advisory Council
- Principal Advisory Council
- Local Superintendent Advisory Council (LSAC)

All parties listed above are in support of the proposed policy changes. Comments from the Local Superintendents Advisory Council should be received by the December meeting.

Contact Person:

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A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stephen L. Pruitt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line extending from the end.

Commissioner of Education

Date:

December 2017