

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Review Item:

Update on the Revision of Minimum High School Graduation Requirements Process

Rationale:

Kentucky must make stronger connections of what students are learning with more application of the learning. High school graduation in Kentucky should ensure that students transition to postsecondary or career ready for the next step. In order to update the minimum high school graduation requirements, KDE is collecting feedback from shareholders to inform the framework to support transition readiness.

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 156.070, 156.160(1)(a), (d), 158.142, 158.645, 158.6451

History/Background:

Existing Policy: KRS 156.160 requires the Kentucky Board of Education to promulgate administrative regulations relating to the courses of study for the different grades and the minimum requirements for high school graduation. KRS 158.142(3)(b) requires the board to promulgate administrative regulations establishing requirements for early graduation from high school. The content standards for the courses of study are established in the Kentucky academic standards incorporated by reference in 704 KAR 3:303. 704 KAR 3:305 establishes the minimum requirements for high school graduation.

At the December KBE meeting, Amanda Ellis, Associate Commissioner for the KDE Office of Teaching and Learning, and Laura Arnold, Associate Commissioner for the KDE Office of Career and Technical Education, provided the board with information regarding the state's current high school graduation requirements. The department has begun the process of revising the state requirements, In April, the Education Commission of the States (ECS) presented to the KBE on the landscape of graduation requirements from across the country.

The first step in the process of revising the minimum graduation requirements is the development of a graduate profile to guide. This profile will guide the infrastructure of the new minimum graduation requirements. The profile will identify the dispositions, skills, and experiences needed of a high school graduate to make a successful transition to postsecondary education, workplace, and/or military. KDE contracted with the Southern Regional Education Board to facilitate a workshop with 85 business

representatives, secondary educators, and postsecondary partners representing the 16 national career clusters.

The workshop was held on March 22, 2018. The participants sat at tables by career cluster. Each table had a facilitator that guided the discussion and recorded the responses to the questions. Each table had an opportunity to present a brief report to the entire group about their discussion. The workshop facilitator identified common themes among the cluster groups.

- **Skillsets**
 - Communicate
 - Think critically
 - Collaborate
 - Adapt to changes
- **Academic Skills**
 - Technical Texts
 - Communication
 - Mathematics
 - Scientific Principles
- **Occupational skills (specific skills were identified for each cluster)**

KDE is in the process of meeting with all of the Commissioner's Advisory groups and asked the same three questions for each.

- Describe the experiences high school students should have.
- What trends and issues are having an impact on the future workforce?
- Based on the current requirements, what would you change?

The feedback collected thus far has informed the proposed infrastructure for the revised minimum graduation requirements being shared with the KBE at its June meeting.

As the minimum graduation requirements and content standards are developed, the KBE will want to discuss future changes to the high school assessment program. Kentucky statute establishes key parameters including content areas at high school are tested once using Kentucky standards and a test created with Kentucky teachers. The KBE may wish to consider a broader summative/end of span test design given at a particular grade versus a more narrow-focused end of course given at the completion of a course of study.

Summary: Revisions to 704 KAR 3:305 will come to the KBE for first read in August 2018 with the desire for new minimum graduation requirements to be in place for the incoming freshmen class of Fall 2019.

Budget Impact: The cost of the focus group facilitator, travel and report was \$5000.

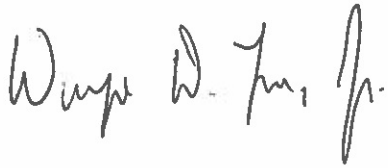
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wayne D. Frazier".

Interim Commissioner of Education

Date:

June 2018