

## **KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

### **STAFF NOTE**

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

Status Update on Opportunity and Access

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

The Commissioner recommends that the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) support a timeline and process that provides additional time to research and review Opportunity and Access data before the KBE confirms specific metrics to use in the accountability system.

#### **Rationale:**

To inform the KBE on the current status of Opportunity and Access metrics, including current challenges in creating new data collection processes. Because of the newness of the data elements, KDE staff wants to ensure that data are of high quality and differentiate school performance.

While Kentucky may be able to extract data from Infinite Campus on hours of instruction per content area, do the hours of instruction ensure quality, particularly in the rich curricula measure? Operationally, the challenge is how to translate the hours of instruction appropriately into credit within the accountability system. For accountability, the system needs multiple levels of credit to identify how schools are performing on the measures.

#### **Action Question:**

Should the KBE approve a new timeline and process for Opportunity and Access data?

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

KRS 158.6453 and KRS 703 KAR 5:270 (Kentucky's Accountability System)

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

**Existing Policy:** Over the course of the past two years, the Kentucky Department of Education has collaborated with multiple shareholders to develop a new accountability system. As a result of the collaboration, 703 KAR 5:270 (Kentucky's Accountability System) has been approved by the Kentucky Board of Education and the Education Assessment and Accountability Review Subcommittee.

Within 703 KAR 5:270, an Opportunity and Access indicator is included at the elementary, middle and high school levels. Opportunity and Access highlights the educational experiences schools are providing students beyond the content areas and grades measured by the state-required assessments. The measures are organized in terms of providing a rich curriculum, equitable access and school quality.

Measures of Opportunity and Access include content areas (i.e., science, social studies, arts and humanities, etc.), equitable access to programs (i.e. gifted and talented and advanced coursework) and school safety (i.e. restraint and seclusion, behavior events and chronic absenteeism). The metrics that the KBE will approve are how schools will earn points in the accountability system. Draft measures and metrics were created for dialogue last fall. At the August 23, 2017 KBE meeting, the draft measures and metrics were shared with the board. The board must review, discuss and approve final metrics prior to inclusion in the accountability system.

**Summary:** Since August, much attention has been given to the measures and metrics. First, the course code project has been completed. A list of approved course codes was developed that schools can use to demonstrate students are experiencing rich curriculum in specific content areas. Second, the KDE is continuing to enhance the existing state student information system to reflect a student's schedule to report the rich curriculum measures. Third, multiple ad hoc reports have been created for school and district utilization. Finally, areas have been identified for further research and analysis.

Research into the measure and metrics of Opportunity and Access will expand the understanding and knowledge of how schools are scheduling and assigning students into courses and programs. Analysis of the data included in the student information system will provide insight for the development of the metrics.

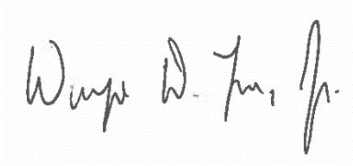
The plan for development of the measures and metrics of rich curriculum, equitable access and school quality is to continue research and analysis through the 2018 calendar year. In spring 2019, KDE staff will bring final recommendations to the board for discussion and approval. Beginning in the 2019-20 school year, Opportunity and Access could be included in the 5-star rating.

Kentucky's state consolidated plan is approved for 2017-18. KDE expects to submit to the United States Department of Education updates to the plan for the 2018-19 school year. This new timeline and process will need to be reflected in the updated plan. Allowing time for research and review will delay the use of Opportunity and Access in accountability until at least 2019-20.

**Budget Impact:** While the development of the measures and metrics of Opportunity and Access do not require identifying a specific funding source, the work will require significant staff time. This work will need to be managed with a smaller agency workforce.

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**Interim Commissioner of Education**

**Date:**

June 2018