

## **KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

### **STAFF NOTE**

#### **Review Item:**

Discussion of Standard Setting for the Accountability System

#### **Rationale:**

To inform the Kentucky Board of Education about the standard setting process to be used with Kentucky's new accountability system. Based on the negotiation of Kentucky's consolidated state plan with the United States Department of Education (USED), the standard setting process, slated for August 2018, concentrates on identifying the lowest performing schools and student groups in fall 2018.

Schools identified in fall 2018 will receive Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) and Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) during the 2018-19 school year. Schools not identified as CSI and TSI will be labeled as "Other" in fall 2018. The more expansive 5-star rating of schools will be implemented next year in fall 2019.

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

KRS 158.6455 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. The implementation plan for the new accountability system for fall 2018 reporting has been approved by the USED in Kentucky's consolidated state plan.

Both state and federal law provided parameters for the new system. Kentucky Revised Statute (KRS) 158.6455 requires that the annual overall summative performance evaluation for each school and district not consist of a single summative numerical score that ranks schools against each other. It does require the evaluation be based on a combination of academic and school quality indicators and measures, with greater weight assigned to the academic measures.

The federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires states to include data from four areas or ESSA indicators as it determines annually schools for comprehensive and targeted support and improvement. At elementary and middle level, the four indicators are academic achievement (reading and mathematics), other academic, English language proficiency, and school quality or student success. At high school, the other academic indicator is replaced by graduation rate. This year, Kentucky will use available data aligned to the four ESSA areas to place all schools in one of three classifications—CSI, TSI and Other.

**Summary:** Since the early 1990s, Kentucky’s accountability system has generated a single overall score for each school, district and the state. With state law limiting the use of a single numerical score, Kentucky will use a profile of performance approach in the new accountability system.

In the profile approach, there is no single “weight” for any specific Kentucky accountability indicator; rather, the influence of each indicator varies by level in non-linear ways. This profile approach allows very clear depiction of what is valued (what “counts” or is weighted), and those weights can vary in ways that would be impossible to do with the typical index (weighted average) system used in the past.

Kentucky has provided in its accountability regulation a range of weights to express the lower and upper limits of emphasis that specific accountability indicators contribute to a school’s final rating. A formal accountability standard-setting process will set the exact profiles and values for CSI, TSI and Other in fall 2018 and for the five-star rating in fall 2019.

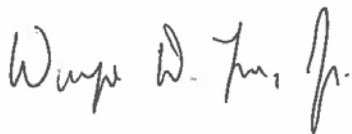
In August 2018, standard setting panelists with education and policy backgrounds will work through a systematic process that references available state data to set the cutscores or levels where accountability classifications are made. While this approach to standard-setting is the professional best practice for setting assessment proficiency level cutscores, it is still rare for setting accountability system cutscores.

Kentucky is working with the nationally-respected Center for Assessment on the design and facilitation of the standard setting process. Chris Domaleski and Brian Gong of the Center will lead the KBE through an information session and discussion regarding this upcoming work.

**Budget Impact:** The standard setting process is supported through Kentucky’s contract with the Center for Assessment. Operational costs for the activity will be paid through the Office of Assessment and Accountability’s budget.

**Contact Person:**

Rhonda L. Sims  
Associate Commissioner  
Office of Assessment and Accountability  
(502) 564-2256  
[Rhonda.Sims@education.ky.gov](mailto:Rhonda.Sims@education.ky.gov)



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**Commissioner of Education**

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