

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Review Item:

704 KAR 8:020, Required Academic Standards for Reading and Writing (First Reading)

Rationale:

To meet the requirements of Senate Bill 1 (2017) which calls for the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) to implement a process for reviewing and revising all academic standards and aligned assessments beginning in the 2017-18 school year. Educators have taught the state's current English/language arts standards in Kentucky classrooms since 2010.

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 156.070, 156.160, 158.645, 158.6451, 158.6453, 160.290

History/Background:

Existing Policy: KRS 156.160 requires the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) to establish courses of study for the different grades and kinds of common schools, with the courses of study to comply with the expected goals, outcomes, and assessment strategies developed under KRS 158.645, 158.6451 and 158.6453. KRS 156.070(1) requires the KBE to manage and control the common schools and all programs operated in the schools. KRS 160.290 authorizes local boards of education to provide for courses and other services for students consistent with the administrative regulations. This administrative regulation incorporates by reference the required academic standards for reading and writing, which contain the general courses of study and academic content standards for use in Kentucky's common schools.

The KDE began the review and revision process for current academic standards in reading and writing in October 2017. Standards outline what students are expected to know and do in each grade to successfully transition to the next level of learning, not how they are taught. The curriculum or methods and materials used to teach the standards is decided at the local level.

In addition to requiring the KDE to implement a process for reviewing all academic standards and aligned assessments beginning in the 2017-18 school year, SB 1 (2017) also required:

The revisions to the content standards shall:

- 1. Focus on critical knowledge, skills, and capacities needed for success in the global economy;*
- 2. Result in fewer but more in-depth standards to facilitate mastery learning;*
- 3. Communicate expectations more clearly and concisely to teachers, parents, students, and citizens;*
- 4. Be based on evidence-based research;*

5. *Consider international benchmarks; and*
6. *Ensure that the standards are aligned from elementary to high school to postsecondary education so that students can be successful at each education level.*

The current schedule calls for one or two content areas to be reviewed each year and every six years after that on a rotating basis. A process for reviewing and revising language arts and writing academic standards and assessments, mathematics academic standards and assessments, science academic standards and assessments, social studies academic standards and assessments was prescribed in SB 1 (2017). Therefore, this process was used to review and revise the English/language arts standards.

Previously, reading and writing standards were referred to as English/language arts standards; since the passage of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) in 2015, states were given the discretion to implement discrete standards or more comprehensive standards. Within Kentucky, Senate Bill 1 (2017) mandates reading and writing be assessed at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. Senate Bill 1 does not require assessments on speaking and listening, even though comprehensive language arts standards include not only reading and writing, but also speaking and listening. With the flexibility that ESSA provides, it is the Department's recommendation to meet the requirements set forth by Senate Bill 1 by separating reading and writing standards from speaking and listening standards.

Summary: The *Kentucky Academic Standards for Reading and Writing* help ensure all students throughout Kentucky are provided with common content and have opportunities to learn at high levels. The standards, coupled with high quality curriculum and instruction, complement the diversity of students and how they learn, construct knowledge and acquire skills and concepts of the disciplines.

As other content standards are revised, they will be incorporated by reference into their own regulation to increase the efficiency of the process for reviewing and revising.

Budget Impact: State funds were used to develop these standards. The cost to review and revise the reading and writing standards has been \$39,976.12 thus far. Staff time will continue to be impacted after final approval as a result of the development of resources to support the implementation of these standards.

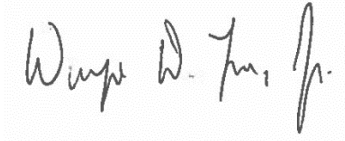
Groups Consulted and Brief Summary of Responses:

- Advisory Panel consisting of teachers, higher education representatives and community members
- Review and Develop Committees consisting of teachers, higher education representatives and community members
- Reading and writing focus groups
- The standards were informed by feedback from the public and English/language arts community. There were 456 respondents, about seventy-seven percent of which were teachers. In total, there were 656 comments throughout the survey.

- The Local Superintendents Advisory Council (LSAC) will review this regulation at its July 24, 2018 meeting.

Contact Person:

Amanda Ellis, Associate Commissioner
Office of Teaching and Learning
502-564-9850
amanda.ellis@education.ky.gov

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Wayne W. Tur, Jr." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'W' and a distinct 'Jr.' at the end.

Interim Commissioner of Education

Date:

August 2018