

## **KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

### **STAFF NOTE**

#### **Review Item:**

704 KAR 3:305, Minimum requirements for high school graduation (First Reading)

#### **Rationale:**

The proposed revisions for Kentucky's minimum high school graduation requirements outlines a flexible program that allows students to pursue educational experiences aligned to their career interests. This approach also supports the need for all students to be transition- ready upon earning a Kentucky high school diploma.

#### **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 June meeting, the KBE was provided a framework to begin discussion of the proposed amendments to 704 KAR 3:305.

The proposed minimum high school graduation requirements are aligned to the profile of a graduate described by post-secondary educators and business and industry leaders. According to these groups, a high school graduate should be able to communicate, achieve academically, think critically, adapt to change, and collaborate. In order to develop these skills, under the new requirements graduates shall complete a minimum of 22 credits and demonstrate proficiency in reading and mathematics. Additionally, a graduate must pass the Civics exam, receive instruction in financial literacy, and demonstrate essential skills and technology. The requirements are divided into three components: foundation, performance, and transition-ready.

**Foundation-**The foundational requirements, including proficiency in English/Language Arts and Mathematics assessments, requires all students to complete the following credits:

- 2 English Credits-English I and English II
- 2 Mathematics Credits-Algebra I and Geometry
- 2 Science Credits
- 2 Social Studies Credits
- 1 Visual and Performing Arts Credit
- ½ Physical Education Credit and ½ Health Credit

**Performance**-The performance layer allows students to complete credits and experiences aligned to the skills and knowledge necessary for the career interests identified through the Individual Learning Plan (ILP). All juniors will take the college entrance exam.

- 2 English Credits
- 2 Mathematics Credits
- 1 Science Credits
- 1 Social Studies Credits
- Work-based Learning Experiences
- Career Pathways

**Transition Ready**-All graduates must also demonstrate academic or career transition readiness as it is defined in 703 KAR 5:270:

*A student demonstrating academic readiness by:*

- *Scoring at or above the benchmark score as determined by the Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) on the college admissions examination; or*
- *Completing six (6) or more hours of Kentucky Department of Education approved dual credit and receiving a grade of B or higher in each course; or*
- *Completing two (2) or more advanced placement (AP) courses and receiving a score of three (3) or higher on each AP assessment; or*
- *Receiving a score of five (5) or higher on two (2) examinations for international baccalaureate courses; or*
- *Scoring at or above the benchmark on two (2) or more Cambridge Advanced International examinations; or*
- *Completing a combination of academic readiness indicators listed above.*

*Demonstration of academic readiness listed shall include one (1) quantitative reasoning or natural sciences and one (1) written or oral communication, or arts and humanities, or social and behavioral sciences learning outcomes.*

*A student demonstrating career readiness by:*

- *Scoring at or above the benchmark on industry certifications as approved by the Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board on an annual basis; or*
- *Scoring at or above the benchmark on the career and technical education end-of-program assessment for articulated credit; or*
- *Completing six (6) or more hours of Kentucky Department of Education approved CTE dual credit, and receiving a grade of B or higher in each course; or*

- *Completing a Kentucky Department of Education approved or labor cabinet-approved apprenticeship; or*
- *Completing a Kentucky Department of Education approved alternate process to verify exceptional work experience.*

*For students who qualify as English learners in high school: Meeting criteria for English language proficiency to be English language ready. Students participating in the alternate assessment program shall meet criteria based on academic or career alternate assessment requirements.*

At the August meeting, the KBE reviewed 704 KAR 3:305, Minimum requirements for high school graduation and requested the following:

- A consideration of how career exploration could be addressed; and
- Foundational assessment considerations.

The September 5<sup>th</sup> discussion will be to further review 704 KAR 3:305 and provide feedback to the draft.

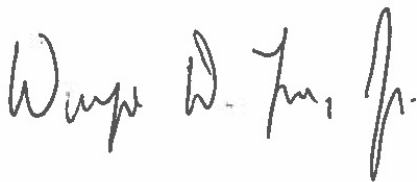
**Summary:** Proposed revisions to 704 KAR 3:305 are being shared with the KBE for further discussion and feedback with the hope that new graduation requirements could be in place by the incoming Freshmen class of 2019.

**Budget Impact:** The cost of the focus group facilitator, travel and report was \$5000 thus far. At the October meeting, a final budget impact will be shared.

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**Interim Commissioner of Education**

**Date:**

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