

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STAFF NOTE

Topic: 704 KAR 8:020, Kentucky Academic Standards for Reading and Writing (Second Reading)

Date: October 2018

Action Requested: ☐ Review ☐ Action/Consent ☒ Action/Discussion

SUMMARY OF ISSUE BEFORE THE BOARD:

To take action on the adoption of the *Kentucky Academic Standards for Reading and Writing* 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. As the content standards are revised, they will be incorporated by reference into their own regulation.

COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATION:

The Commissioner recommends the adoption of the *Kentucky Academic Standards for Reading and Writing* as incorporated by reference in 704 KAR 8:020.

APPLICABLE STATUTE OR REGULATION:

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

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 of the KBE. 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 Kentucky Department of Education (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 of Issue: 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 standards review and revision process.

Since the first reading of this board item, several changes were made to the standards document. First, the standards document was revised to include grade level overviews. The addition was the result of feedback that suggested a one page introduction would be useful for all stakeholders as they connect the strands together and highlight key concepts. Second, the document was made accessible by adding ADA compliant colors to the breakdown view and alternative text where needed. Third, bookmarks were added to the standard grade level and breakdown views. Additionally, language in the "Education Goals" listed on page one of the front matter was updated to reflect the revision of KRS 158.6451 through the passage of SB 1 (2009).

Budget Impact: State funds were used to develop these standards. The cost to review and revise the reading and writing standards has been \$45,444 thus far. The cost of staff time related to the

facilitation of development and compilation/preparation of these standards has been \$13,350 thus far. Additional staff time will be impacted through implementation of the standards.

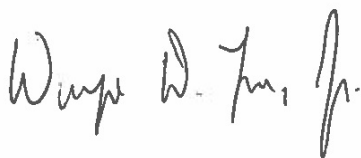
GROUPS CONSULTED AND BRIEF SUMMARY OF RESPONSES:

- Advisory Panels 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
- Feedback from the public and the English/language arts community: 456 respondents (roughly 77 percent were teachers) for a total of 656 comments
- Focus groups including representatives from Kentucky education organizations and stakeholders

The Standards and Assessments Process Review Committee, as directed by SB 1 (2017), reviewed the development process of the standards and found that stakeholders had adequate opportunity to provide feedback. A findings summary is provided. The Local Superintendents Advisory Council (LSAC) will review this regulation at its September 25, 2018 meeting. Feedback will be received prior to the October board meeting.

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Interim Commissioner of Education

Category: <input type="checkbox"/> District Innovation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strengthening Educators	<input type="checkbox"/> Family/Community Involvement
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<input type="checkbox"/> Accountability Reporting		