

## KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STAFF NOTE

**Topic: 704 KAR 3:305, Minimum requirements for high school graduation (Second Reading)**

**Date: October 2018**

**Action Requested:**  Review       Action/Consent       Action/Discussion

### **SUMMARY OF ISSUE BEFORE THE BOARD:**

To take action on the proposed changes to 704 KAR 3:305, minimum requirements for high school graduation.

### **COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATION:**

The Interim Commissioner recommends approval of 703 KAR 3:305.

### **APPLICABLE STATUTE OR REGULATION:**

KRS 156.070, 156.160(1)(a), (d), 158.142, 158.645, 158.6451

### **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 set forth at 704 KAR 3:303 and 704 KAR Chapter 8. This administrative regulation establishes the minimum requirements necessary for entitlement to a high school diploma.

*Summary of Issue:* The proposed changes to 704 KAR 3:305 are the result of feedback from shareholders across the state and provide greater flexibility to districts to support students being transition-ready.

The Local Superintendents Advisory Council was consulted and a letter from this group expressing its recommendation should be received prior to the board meeting.

*Budget Impact:* The cost of the focus group facilitator, travel and report was \$5000 at the beginning of this feedback gathering process. Every attempt was made to collect feedback through avenues that already existed, therefore, additional costs to the Department was limited to the staff time involved in collecting feedback from shareholders. Additional staff time will be required as the new minimum high school graduation requirements are implemented through preparing guidance and answering questions from shareholders.

### **GROUPS CONSULTED AND BRIEF SUMMARY OF RESPONSES:**

Guiding Coalition

Educational Cooperative Executive Directors

South East/South Central Educational Cooperative Board  
Commissioner's Parent Advisory Committee  
Committee for Math Achievement  
School Curriculum and Assessment and Accountability Council  
State Advisory Council for Exceptional Children  
Continuous Improvement Summit (2 Sessions)  
OTL Webcast-September 11<sup>th</sup>  
Survey: (4000 + comments)

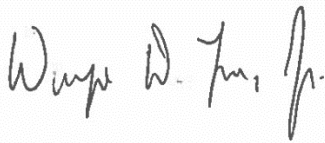
Overall, shareholders greatly supported the flexibility proposed in the changes to the regulation and meaningful emphasis and use of the Individual Learning Plan. Districts were encouraged by the opportunity to provide a more personalized approach to the credits earned and experiences students would provide. Shareholders appreciated the intentional focus of multiple pathways for students and avoiding the one size fits all approach.

Concerns regarding the proposed changes included equitable access to multiple pathways or job experiences in rural areas including limited opportunities for apprenticeships, allowing all students fair opportunities to achieve academic or transition readiness. Although most were supportive of the removal of the Algebra II requirement, many fear students interested in entering a post-secondary institution will not be equipped with the skills necessary for college level mathematics courses. Guidance will be provided to support the implementation of 704 KAR 3:305 and the ILP process.

**CONTACT PERSON(S):**

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**Interim Commissioner of Education**

<b>Category:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> District Innovation <input type="checkbox"/> Strengthening Educators <input type="checkbox"/> Family/ Community Involvement <input type="checkbox"/> Student/Family Supports <input type="checkbox"/> Student Interventions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coursework Completion <input type="checkbox"/> Accountability Reporting
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