

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STAFF NOTE

Topic: 704 KAR 8:060, Kentucky Academic Standards for Social Studies (First Reading)

Date: December 2018

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

SUMMARY OF ISSUE BEFORE THE BOARD:

To review for consideration of adoption of the *Kentucky Academic Standards for Social Studies* 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 social studies standards in Kentucky classrooms since 2006. 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 Social Studies* as incorporated by reference in 704 KAR 8:060.

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 social studies, 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 social studies in January 2018. 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 social studies standards.

Summary of Issue: The Social Studies Advisory Panels (APs) and Review and Development Committees (RDCs) envisioned standards that would afford students an opportunity to provide social studies learning experiences that will prepare all K-12 students in Kentucky to be effective and involved members of society. Under this framework, Kentucky students actively will engage with the social studies concepts, ideas and practices needed to participate in and navigate the community, state, nation and world in which they live using multidimensional, complex reasoning. 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.

Budget Impact: State funds were used to develop these standards. The cost to review and revise the social studies standards has been \$56,641.04 thus far. The cost of staff time related to the facilitation of development and compilation/preparation of these standards has been \$9,800 thus far. Additional staff time will be impacted through implementation of the standards.

GROUPS CONSULTED AND BRIEF SUMMARY OF RESPONSES:

- APs consisting of teachers, higher education representatives and community members
- RDCs consisting of teachers, higher education representatives and community members
- Social studies focus groups
- Feedback from the public and the social studies community: 1,227 respondents (roughly 77.59 percent were teachers) for a total of 5,306 comments
- Focus groups including representatives from Kentucky education organizations and stakeholders

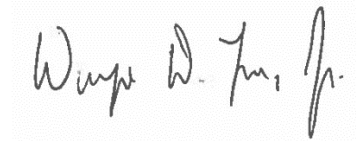
Focus groups conducted during November indicated the need for additional overview pages, guidance to include curricular considerations and more guidance around how to read and interact with the standards architecture. Focus groups will continue in December to inform future

revision by the APs and RDCs in order to provide more clarity throughout the standards document, especially in grades K-5. Additionally, the Local Superintendents Advisory Council (LSAC) will review this regulation at its November 27, 2018 meeting. Feedback will be received prior to the December board meeting.

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Commissioner of Education

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