

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS



On Wednesday, Dec. 5, Kentucky Department of Education Commissioner Wayne Lewis will recommend changes to the proposed minimum high school graduation requirements, 704 KAR 3:305, to the Kentucky Board of Education. The revisions, based upon feedback by education stakeholders and the public comments received, eliminate the transition readiness portion of the requirement and add “graduation prerequisites” and “graduation qualifiers,” to ensure students have basic competency in math and reading as well as experiences intended to equip them for success in postsecondary education and the workforce.

READING AND MATHEMATICS ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENT (PREVIOUS PROPOSAL)

Meet minimum criteria on the reading and mathematics assessments, which will approximate basic competence in reading and mathematics;

The minimum criteria shall include earning a scale score in the apprentice student performance level of the state-required assessments approved by the Kentucky Board of Education as passing.

Students who do not meet the minimum criteria on one or both assessments may retake the reading and/or mathematics assessments twice annually in the third and fourth years of high school enrollment.

Districts shall develop an appeals process for students who are on track to meet all graduation requirements except the minimum criteria on the reading and mathematics assessments.

The appeals process shall be available to students who have at least one unsuccessful attempt to meet the minimum criteria on the reading and/or mathematics assessments. The appeals process shall consist of two options.

1. A student portfolio to include evidence of the following:
 - a. The student's ILP that includes student transcript;
 - b. If applicable, the student's IEP, that includes evidence that the student has received specially designed instruction and related services in reading and mathematics;
 - c. Performance on the required state assessments;
 - d. Appropriate interventions, targeted to the student's needs, provided to the student to ensure support was provided toward meeting the requirements outlined in this administrative regulation;
 - e. Student work demonstrating the students' competency in reading and mathematics; and
 - f. The student's college or career plans; or

2. The student's eighth grade assessment rating of proficient or higher for reading or mathematics or both reading and mathematics, if applicable.

Results of the appeals process will not impact the school or district's accountability rating.

The appeals process shall require the principal to submit the appeal and evidence to the superintendent or designee for review and approval.

GRADUATION PREREQUISITES (REVISED PROPOSAL)

Under the revised statute, students entering high school in the 2021-22 school year must demonstrate basic competency in reading and math in one of three ways.

1. The student's tenth grade state-required assessments meeting the minimum criteria in reading and mathematics;
2. The minimum criteria shall include earning a KDE-approved scale score in the apprentice student performance level of the state-required assessments approved by the Kentucky Board of Education as passing.
3. Students who do not meet the minimum criteria on one or both assessments may retake the reading and/or mathematics assessments twice annually in the eleventh and twelfth grades of high school enrollment.
4. The student's first completion of the assessments in grade ten shall contribute to the school's accountability rating; or
5. The student's eighth grade state-required assessment rating of proficient or higher for reading or mathematics or both reading and mathematics, if applicable; or
6. A student collection of evidence to include the following:
 - a. The student's ILP that includes student transcript;
 - b. If applicable, the student's IEP, that includes evidence that the student has received specially designed instruction and related services in reading and mathematics;
 - c. Performance on the required state assessments;
 - d. Appropriate interventions, targeted to the student's needs, provided to the student to ensure support was provided toward meeting the requirements outlined in this administrative regulation;
 - e. Student work demonstrating the students' competency in reading and/or mathematics, as applicable; and
 - f. The student's postsecondary plans.

The process shall require the principal to submit the collection of student evidence to the superintendent or designee for review and approval, or for public charter schools principals to submit the collection of student evidence to the Commissioner of Education or designee.

TRANSITION READINESS (PREVIOUS PROPOSAL)

Academic Transition Readiness

Scoring at or above the benchmark score as determined by the Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) on the college admissions examination; or

Completing six or more hours of Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) approved dual credit courses and receiving a grade of B or higher in each course; or

Completing two 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 examinations for International Baccalaureate courses; or

Scoring at or above the benchmark on two or more Cambridge Advanced International Baccalaureate examinations; or

Completing a combination of academic readiness indicators listed above.

Career Readiness

Scoring at or above the benchmark on industry certifications as approved by the Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board (KWIB) on an annual basis; or

Scoring at or above the benchmark on the Career and Technical Education (CTE) end-of-program assessment for articulated credit; or

Completing six or more hours of KDE approved CTE dual credit courses, and receiving a grade of B or higher in each course; or

Completing a KDE Education approved or Labor Cabinet-approved apprenticeship; or

Completing a KDE approved alternate process

GRADUATION QUALIFIERS (REVISED PROPOSAL)

Under the revised proposal, students entering high school in the 2020-21 school year must choose one of eight Graduation Qualifiers:

1. Precollege curriculum as established by the Council on Postsecondary Education in 13 KAR 2:020; or
2. Benchmark score in one section of a college admissions or placement examination as established by the Council on Postsecondary Education in 13 KAR 2:020; or
3. Three postsecondary credit hours or more of a Kentucky Department of Education approved dual credit course with a grade of C or higher; or
4. One course and corresponding assessment meeting the following criteria:
 - Advanced placement (AP) with a score of three or higher; or
 - Cambridge Advanced International (CAI) with a score at or above benchmark; or
 - International baccalaureate (IB) with a score of five or higher; or
5. Industry certification as approved by the Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board; or
6. Four credits from valid courses within a single KDE-approved career pathway; or
7. Complete two years of a Kentucky Department of Education approved or Kentucky Labor Cabinet approved pre-apprenticeship or apprenticeship
8. A Kentucky Department of Education approved process to verify 500 hours of exceptional work experience,
 - or alternative requirements as prescribed in a student's IEP.

Districts shall report individual student data regarding the completion of each graduation qualifier to the Kentucky Department of Education which may be included in public reporting.

