KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STAFF NOTE

Topic: KBE Retreat Follow Up / Confronting the "Opportunity Myth"/ Standards
    Implementation Update
Action Requested: ☒Review   ☐Action/Consent   ☐Action/Discussion
Held In: ☒Full Board   ☐Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment
                ☐Finance   ☐Operations Management

SUMMARY OF ISSUE BEFORE THE BOARD:

To review and discuss topics of interest identified as priorities during the KBE retreat, including the adoption and implementation of high quality, rigorous academic standards, and ensuring that each and every student has access to quality curriculum, effective instruction (at grade level) and educators who have high expectations for their learning.

APPLICABLE STATUTE OR REGULATION:

KRS 158.6453

BACKGROUND:

Existing Policy:

KRS 158.6453 (2) (j) directs that: The Department of Education shall provide or facilitate statewide training sessions for existing teachers and administrators on how to:
1. Integrate the revised content standards into classroom instruction;
2. Better integrate performance assessment of students within their instructional practices; and
3. Help all students use higher-order thinking and communication skills.

Kentucky school districts are in the process of implementing newly revised *Kentucky Academic Standards (KAS)* for Health Education, Physical Education, Mathematics, Reading and Writing, and Social Studies during the 2019-2020 school year.

In providing statewide professional learning opportunities for the newly adopted *KAS*, the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) is focused on four key commitments for student success as determined by the TNTP research findings. In order to confront the "Opportunity Myth," each and every student needs access to educators with high expectations for learning, grade-appropriate assignments, strong instruction and deep engagement in grade-level content. These commitments are the foundation for all professional learning opportunities and resources.

Summary of Issue:

In phase one of standards implementation, the KDE offered 31 sessions in 16 different regional locations throughout March in order to meet with district and school leaders. During these meetings, over 1,350 leaders from 156 districts received links to the newly revised *KAS*, virtual

professional learning modules, curriculum assessment toolkits and guidance on the development of district and school teams to facilitate the implementation of the new standards. Modules and other standards-based resources were made available on the KYstandards.org webpage. The content from these meetings can be viewed under the heading, "KAS Leadership March Meetings Resources."

In phase two, weekly webcasts occurred in April and May 2019 to provide continued support for school and district facilitators. The topic schedule and archived webcasts are available on the KYstandards.org Standards Webcasts webpage. The webcasts had nearly 5,300 hits, or viewers, as of August 2019.

Phase three commenced with regional conferences in Carter, Fayette, Jefferson and Christian Counties in June 2019 to support the roll-out and implementation of new standards for teachers, school/district leaders and post-secondary educators. National partners, content experts and subject area consultants provided professional learning to school and district leaders, teachers and post-secondary faculty to support the implementation of the new standards. Over 2,000 educators participated in these professional learning opportunities.

Beginning in September 2019, phase four provides a variety of professional learning opportunities, including bi-monthly webcasts and monthly virtual workshops around standards implementation and the four key commitments for student success. A topic schedule and archived webcasts are available on the KYstandards.org Standards Webcasts webpage. Each semester, the KDE also is facilitating a self-paced book study. This provides opportunities for educators to investigate evidence-based practices and discuss implementation strategies. Educators may participate as individuals, grade level teams, content departments or full school faculties.

By design, all professional learning opportunities link to the four key commitments for closing gaps and boosting achievement. Kentucky's school districts require leadership, support and services to enable them to effectively implement standards for student achievement in all academic areas and to organize their own improvement efforts around the *Opportunity Myth* research. Thus, staff from the KDE's Division of Program Standards will continue to provide necessary information, resources and guidance to assist districts as they design standards-based curricula that promotes highly effective teaching, learning and assessment practices.
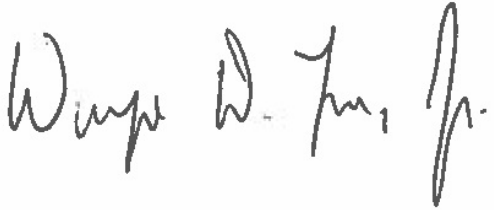
Budget Impact:

General funds have been used to pay for standards implementation-related efforts, including the cost of regional meetings. An attempt has been made to offset costs by providing virtual or online opportunities for professional learning. Public feedback also notes the benefits of online or virtual professional learning for educators and local education agency budgeting.

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