KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STAFF NOTE

Topic: 2019 Kindergarten Screener Results
Date: December 2019
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 the 2019 Kindergarten Entry Screener Data.

APPLICABLE STATUTE OR REGULATION:

KRS 156.070, 156.160, 704 KAR 5:070, KRS 157.3175

BACKGROUND:

Existing Policy:

In December 2011, the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) approved 704 KAR 5:070, Common kindergarten entry screener. The KBE approved the amending of this policy in June 2015 to shorten the window for data entry.

Summary of Issue:

This is the seventh year of the kindergarten entry screener administration. Currently, districts have access to view and plan instruction based on a student's readiness results as soon as the screener is administered. The screener is administered during a window which starts 15 days before the first instructional day and extends through the 30th instructional day. Readiness data, along with other data sources, is used for planning instruction, initiating the Response to Intervention (RtI) process and communicating with the public about the importance of quality early care and education environments.

While the screener is not an exam to determine entrance into school or rate a school's performance, it provides a snapshot of what each child knows and is able to do when starting school for the first time. The basic screener consists of a cumulative score of 100 points, indicating readiness in the areas of language/communication, physical well-being and cognitive/general knowledge. Screening reports show students' results compared to cutoff scores identified by performance levels, using psychometric measures. The chart below indicates the cutoff scores by age (i.e., years and months) associated with each performance level.

	Age 5.0 through 5.5	**Age 5.6 through 5.11**
Ready with Enrichments	>88	>91
Ready	61-88	70-91

Ready with Interventions	<61	<70

The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) is focused on strategic partnerships to improve the quality of early childhood services and increase the rate of school readiness across the state. The Preschool Development Grant (PDG), a federal planning grant designed to strengthen Kentucky's comprehensive early childhood system, is preparing the way to improve quality through system alignment and coordination activities. This initiative is being implemented by the Governor's Office of Early Childhood (GOEC) in partnership with the KDE, Education and Workforce Development Cabinet (EDWDC), Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS), and other early childhood stakeholders. Another partnership initiative is the preschool partnership grant program, a competitive state grant designed to incentivize public-private partnerships to develop full-day, high-quality early childhood programs for Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) eligible children. Effective collaboration and coordination is essential to building a foundation for school readiness. In addition, the KDE contracts with the Early Childhood Regional Training Centers (RTCs) to offer high quality, early childhood special education professional development to school districts.

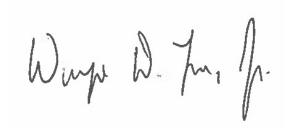K-Screener data will be shared at the December KBE meeting.

BUDGET IMPACT:

The KDE provides the screener to all districts at a cost of approximately $240,000 annually. Funding comes from resources set aside for assessment, 60% of which are federal and 40% are state.

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Commissioner of Education

Category: ☐ District Innovation ☐ Strengthening Educators ☐ Family/Community Involvement ☐ Student/Family Supports ☒ Student Interventions ☐ Coursework Completion ☒ Accountability Reporting