

## KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STAFF NOTE

**Topic:** Assessment Alignment Adjustment Process

**Date:** August 2020

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

**Held In:** ☒ Full Board ☐ Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment ☐ Operations

### SUMMARY OF ISSUE BEFORE THE BOARD:

To take action on the alignment of assessments to corresponding standards as required by KRS 158.6453.

### COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATION:

The Commissioner recommends that the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) approve the assessment alignment adjustment process and the assessment blueprints in reading and writing, mathematics and social studies.

### APPLICABLE STATUTE OR REGULATION:

KRS 158.6453

### BACKGROUND:

#### *Existing Policy:*

KRS 158.6453 requires that beginning in fiscal year 2017-2018, and every six years thereafter, the KDE shall implement a process for reviewing Kentucky's academic standards and the alignment of corresponding assessments for possible review or replacement to ensure alignment with postsecondary readiness standards necessary for global competitiveness and with state career and technical education standards.

#### *Summary of Issue:*

Alignment of corresponding assessments to the standards is achieved through the creation of assessment blueprints. The purpose of a blueprint is to outline the percentage of items that will be assessed within the domains of the *Kentucky Academic Standards (KAS)* in each content area.

Blueprints are created to guide the development of individual test items, serve as targets for assessment development, define how results from the assessment are reported and provide information to teachers as they make curricular decisions. The blueprint drives the construction of assessments.

The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) developed a process for aligning assessment blueprints to the *KAS*. A report that outlines the process will be shared with KBE members prior to the August board meeting.

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

General funds from the office were used to conduct the meetings to align assessments to the *KAS*. The total cost was \$28,320. The costs associated included hotel, travel and meals for the members of the Advisory Panels (APs) and Review Committees (RCs). In addition, each member was eligible for either a stipend or substitute teacher reimbursement.

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

As required by KRS 158.6453, multiple stakeholders were involved in the alignment of corresponding assessments to the *KAS*. Stakeholders provided public comment through advertised surveys, APs, RCs and the Interim Joint Committee on Education (IJCE).

The assessment blueprints received public comment over two time periods via a survey developed and posted by a third-party vendor, the Appalachia Regional Comprehensive Center (ARCC). Each public comment period was open for 30 days. During this time, the public had the opportunity to comment on the construction of the assessment blueprints and offer guidance and feedback to the content areas of reading and writing, mathematics and social studies.

APs and RCs for each content area had the opportunity to review the public feedback from the two public comment periods and make adjustments and revisions where needed to the blueprints. Both committees met in Frankfort on two separate occasions to review public comments and revise the blueprints as needed. Members of the APs and RCs included content area teachers, post-secondary representatives and members from business and industry.

After the RC for each content area made a final recommendation to the assessment blueprints, the process and blueprints were presented to the IJCE on November 20, 2019. A report from former Commissioner Wayne Lewis was presented to explain the process for the assessment alignment adjustment process. The IJCE then had the opportunity to ask questions regarding the process.

Then, on July 8, 2020, the Standards and Assessment Process Review Committee (SAPRC) met to review the process and determine whether the process was sufficient or deficient. KDE staff provided the committee with a report outlining the process, supporting materials and thoroughly explained the process during a virtual meeting. The SAPRC had an open discussion where they had an opportunity to ask questions and discuss the process. Unanimously, the SAPRC voted that the process was sufficient.

**CONTACT PERSON(S):**

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**Interim Commissioner of Education**

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