

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STAFF NOTE

Topic: Introduction and Discussion on Kentucky’s Assessment System

Date: December 2020

Action Requested: Review Action/Consent Action/Discussion

Held In: Full Board Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Operations

SUMMARY OF ISSUE BEFORE THE BOARD:

To review and discuss Kentucky’s assessment system.

APPLICABLE STATUTE OR REGULATION:

KRS 158.645, 158.6451, 158.6453, 158.6455, 703 KAR 5:270, *Kentucky’s accountability system*

BACKGROUND:

Existing Policy:

As stated in KRS 158.6455, it is the General Assembly’s intent that schools succeed when all students and receive the appropriate consequences in proportion to that success. The Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) shall create an accountability system to classify districts and schools in accordance with the academic standards and student assessment programs developed pursuant to KRS 158.6453.

In addition, KRS 158.6453 states that the KBE shall be responsible for creating and implementing a balanced statewide assessment program that measures the students', schools' and districts' achievement of the goals set forth in KRS 158.645 and 158.6451 to ensure compliance with the federal Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015, Pub. L. No. 114-95 or its successor, and to ensure school accountability.

Summary of Issue:

At the August KBE meeting, board members expressed interest in improving and rethinking the assessments reported in the state assessment results indicator of the accountability system.

In October, staff in the Office of Assessment and Accountability (OAA) introduced a “Triple Track” approach that would: a) allow for immediate changes to occur on the accountability regulation to align with Senate Bill (SB)158 (2020); b) build a foundational process for improved assessment design; and c) create a transformational assessment system that better supports instruction and grows Kentucky learners. The revised accountability regulation will allow the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) to meet federal and state law around accountability and to submit Kentucky’s State Consolidated Plan. Complying with the current requirements in SB 158 is the first step along a timeline to achieve more long-term goals of the KBE. The timeline may be envisioned as moving from the current accountability system decisions through

incremental processes and potential pilots for improved assessments to a transformational system that better supports instruction and grows Kentucky learners.

At the December board meeting, OAA staff will introduce and start the discussion on the assessment system. Federal and state assessment requirements will be highlighted, along with an open discussion around improving and rethinking the assessment system in Kentucky.

BUDGET IMPACT:

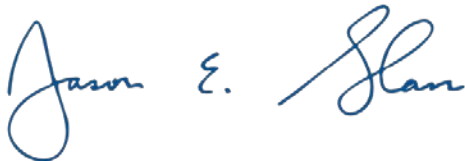
Without knowing an assessment design at this time, it is unknown on what additional expenses could occur. Activities to transition between old and new systems will change and potentially expand current or new vendor contracts that support the assessment system.

GROUPS CONSULTED AND BRIEF SUMMARY OF RESPONSES:

Multiple stakeholders will be consulted on any future changes to the assessment system. Future stakeholders could include, but are not limited to the School Curriculum, Assessment and Accountability Council (SCAAC); District Assessment Coordinators (DAC) Advisory Group; Commissioner Advisory Groups and the Local Superintendents Advisory Council (LSAC).

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Commissioner of Education

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