



# Introduction and Discussion on Kentucky's Assessment System

Kentucky Board of Education

December 2020

# Topics

- ▶ Federally Required Testing
- ▶ State Required Testing
- ▶ Kentucky's Current Testing Plan
- ▶ Additional District and School Testing
- ▶ Upcoming Assessment Topics and Work





# Federally Required Testing

# Every Student Succeeds Act (1 of 3)

- ▶ Requires schools and districts administer specific state assessments annually. These assessments must meet a variety of test quality expectations and periodically undergo a federal peer review.
- ▶ Results of state assessments and other measures must be included in a state accountability system that identifies schools for support and improvement.
- ▶ The indicators of the state's accountability system must align to several ESSA requirements:
  - Academic Achievement; Other Academic Indicator (Elementary/Middle); Graduation Rate (High); English Language Progress; and School Quality/Student Success.



# Every Student Succeeds Act (2 of 3)

- ▶ Kentucky submits for approval of the United States Department of Education a state consolidated plan demonstrating how the Commonwealth meets ESSA's requirements, including the accountability system.
- ▶ Non-compliance risks the loss or restriction of federal funds Kentucky receives to support schools and student learning.
- ▶ ESSA provides for assessment flexibility and innovative assessment demonstration with negotiation and approval by USED.



# Every Student Succeeds Act (3 of 3)

- ▶ The ESSA requires states and districts to administer to all students annual statewide assessments in reading or language arts and mathematics in grades 3-8 and once in high school, as well as assessments once in each grade span in science for all students.
- ▶ English language proficiency assessments in grades K-12 for all English learners. Kentucky administers the ACCESS assessment for English learners.





# State Required Testing



# Kentucky Statute – KRS 158.6453 (1 of 3)

## ▶ Elementary and Middle Schools

- Criterion-referenced assessments for reading and mathematics every year in grades 3 through 8;
- Criterion-referenced assessments administered one time in elementary grades and one time in middle grades for
  - ✓ Science
  - ✓ Social studies
  - ✓ On-demand writing
  - ✓ Editing and mechanics





# Kentucky Statute (2 of 3)

## ► High Schools

- Criterion-referenced assessments administered one time within the high school grades in
  - ✓ Reading
  - ✓ Mathematics
  - ✓ Science
  - ✓ Social studies
  - ✓ On-demand writing
  - ✓ Editing and mechanics
- A college admissions examination to assess English, reading, mathematics, and science in the spring of grade 10 and the spring of grade 11.



# Kentucky Statute (3 of 3)

- ▶ The criterion-referenced components shall be composed of constructed response items and multiple-choice items.
  - Summative assessments must be based on Kentucky standards and developed with Kentucky teachers.
- ▶ Each school district shall administer the statewide student assessment during the last 14 days of school in the district's instructional calendar.
  - “The Kentucky Board of Education may change the testing window to allow for innovative assessment systems or other online test administration and shall promulgate administrative regulations that minimize the number of days of testing and outline the procedures to be used during the testing process to ensure test security, including procedures for testing makeup days, and to comply with federal assessment requirements.” - KRS 158.6453





# Kentucky's Current Testing Plan

# Current Testing Plan



Content Areas	3	4	5	6	7	8	10	11
Reading*	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Mathematics*	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Science*		X			X			X
Social Studies**			X			X		X
On-Demand Writing**			X			X		X
Editing and Mechanics**			X			X		X
College Admissions Examination**							X	X

\*Required by ESSA

\*\* Required by KRS 158.6453

# Alternate Assessment

- ▶ The Kentucky Federally Required Alternate Assessment Program was developed for students with moderate to significant cognitive disabilities (less than 1% of the total student population) for whom traditional assessments would be an inappropriate measure of progress.
- ▶ The Alternate Assessment Program mirrors the other state assessments. Students taking the Alternate K-PREP will follow the same testing pattern as others.





# Additional District and School Testing

# Kentucky Statute – KRS 158.6453

States that a local school district may select and use commercial interim or formative assessments or develop and use its own formative assessments to provide data on how well its students are growing toward mastery of Kentucky academic standards, so long as the district's local school board develops a policy minimizing the reduction in instructional time related to the administration of the interim assessments.







# Upcoming Assessment Topics and Work

# Spring 2021 Assessments

- ▶ Current guidance from USED is for states to plan to assess students
- ▶ KDE is in communication with USED officials
- ▶ KDE is working with assessment vendors to prepare for possible administration of content assessments
  - Format, timeframe, and administration time
  - Participation in state assessments
    - ✓ USED requirement of 95% participation has not been waived
    - ✓ SDRR non-participations



# K-PREP Summative Assessment

- ▶ **Priorities for Spring 2021 test development include:**
  - develop a new shorter form,
  - populate the form with previously-used items,
  - code items to both new and old content standards, report student performance (Novice, Apprentice, Proficient and Distinguished) using the old scale and normative **2021** results (i.e. raw score, school, district and state percentiles), and
  - enhance survey questions to include instructional impact of COVID.
- ▶ **This plan will not meet all federal assessment requirements and will require interaction with USED.**



# Future Assessment Work Planning

- ▶ Explore innovative performance-based assessment
- ▶ Project planning begins formally mid-December
- ▶ Partners in the work include
  - The Center for Innovation in Education (University of Kentucky, Gene Wilhoit, Executive Director)
  - The Center for Assessment (Brian Gong, Scott Marion)
  - Division of Innovation (KDE Office of Continuous Improvement) and Districts of Innovation



# Pre-filed Legislation

**BR 176 is a JOINT RESOLUTION relating to school accountability. The resolution directs the commissioner of education to convene a strategic assessment and accountability committee; establish minimum requirements for the composition of the committee; establish the duties of the committee; require the commissioner to report the findings of the committee to the Interim Joint Committee on Education by December 1, 2021, and December 1, 2022.**



# Pre-filed Legislation (continued)

The committee shall conduct a thorough examination of assessment and accountability that may:

- a) Assign value within the school accountability system to equitable opportunity and access to rich and diverse learning opportunities;
- (b) Replace the single summative assessment required by KRS 158.6453 with a series of statewide interim assessments that provide educators prompt and detailed information on individual student achievement and growth throughout the school year;
- (c) Reduce the emphasis on high-stakes standardized testing;
- (d) Incorporate alternative performance measures in determining the single summative score required by the ESSA of 2015;
- (e) Utilize the universal designs of learning teaching approach to develop a statewide, criterion-referenced test that is accessible to all students, including students with learning disabilities;
- (f) Review federal testing requirements to determine whether a computer adaptive criterion-referenced test can be utilized to provide a more precise measure of an individual student's academic achievement and growth with fewer questions or items;
- (g) Restrict the number of classroom hours allocated to state- and district-required testing; and
- (h) Improve the ability of state-required assessments to drive meaningful and individualized student instruction.







*Kentucky Department of*

*Our Children,*

*Our Commonwealth*

*Education*