

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STAFF NOTE

Topic: Report on Equity-Related Initiatives

Date: February 2021

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

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

SUMMARY OF ISSUE BEFORE THE BOARD:

To review the progress of current equity-related initiatives and provide information on the status of future work.

APPLICABLE STATUTE OR REGULATION:

KRS 158.6451, 158.6453, 160.345, 704 KAR 3:303 and 704 KAR Chapter 8

BACKGROUND:

Existing Policy:

The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) is committed to its core values of equity, achievement, collaboration and integrity and believes that racism has no place in society. The Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) resolution affirming its commitment to racial equity in Kentucky's public schools states that the KBE also is "committed to delivering on its core promises to every member of our public-school system. Every child deserves a high-quality education. Every staff member deserves to be respected in the workplace. Every voice deserves to be heard." Additionally, the KBE affirms that "every student in the Commonwealth deserves equitable access to [effective] educators who have unique experiences and perspectives, quality preparation and are committed to the success of all learners."

Summary of Issue:

The following equity-related initiatives are ongoing and will be discussed with the KBE:

- **Kentucky Academic Standards Implementation**
 - Ensure equitable access to grade-level appropriate learning for all students.
- **Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) High-Quality Instructional Resources Professional Learning Project**
 - Equip and empower local schools in evaluating, selecting and providing access to high-quality instructional resources to support all students with engaging, relevant, standards-aligned, grade-level assignments.
- **Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) Cross-Agency KDE Project**
 - Establish guidance on a MTSS framework to help schools and districts provide equitable services, instruction and intervention practices, as well as resources

designed to meet the needs of the whole child (academic, behavioral, social and emotional learning).

- **Policy Scan of Equitable Practices**

- Seek feedback from local superintendents, principals, district staff, instructional staff, students, parents, school board members and community members on equitable practices already in place in school districts, such as an equity and inclusion action plan.

Budget Impact:

Costs incurred by the KDE will include expenses related to the development of internal or external professional learning and/or instructional guidance, the publication and/or promotion of the professional learning and/or guidance and staff time.

GROUPS CONSULTED AND BRIEF SUMMARY OF RESPONSES:

Teachers Advisory Council (December 2020)

Commissioner's Student Advisory Council (December 2020)

Both groups were receptive to the initiatives and provided useful feedback. Student Advisory Council members requested additional information regarding policy, research and existing resources for local schools and districts. This was shared with them in December 2020.

CONTACT PERSON(S):

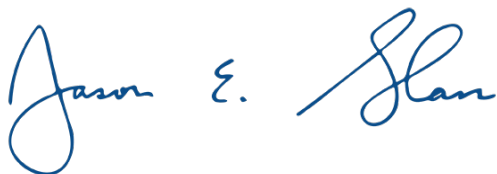
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Commissioner of Education

Category:	<input type="checkbox"/> Educator Workforce Diversity Commitment	<input type="checkbox"/> Portrait of a Graduate Partnerships	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Racial Equity
	<input type="checkbox"/> Student-Centered Accountability System	<input type="checkbox"/> Early Childhood	<input type="checkbox"/> District Support