

## KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STAFF NOTE

**Topic:** 2020-2021 Data Release Update

**Date:** October 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 and discuss data from the 2020-2021 school year.

### APPLICABLE STATUTE OR REGULATION:

KRS 158.6453 and KRS 158.6455

### BACKGROUND:

#### *Existing Policy:*

Each year in October, staff from the Office of Assessment and Accountability (OAA) present the previous year's assessment and accountability results to the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) right around the public release of data and identification of schools for Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI), Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) and Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI).

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. The statute also states that the results of statewide assessments be reported to the school districts and schools no later than 75 days following the last day the assessment can be administered.

KRS 158.6455 states that it is the intent of the General Assembly that schools succeed with all students and receive the appropriate consequences in proportion to that success. The 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.

#### *Summary of Issue:*

The unique circumstances brought on by the COVID-19 crisis affected state-required testing and state, district and school accountability. For the 2020-2021 school year, the United States Department of Education (USED) required states to administer federally required tests. In addition, the USED communicated that all data normally required on state and local School Report Cards, including the information and data on spring 2021 assessments, be reported.

Accountability and school identification, however, was waived after Kentucky applied for a waiver that was approved by the USED.

District and school staff made extraordinary efforts in administering 2020-2021 assessments. Instead of canceling the statewide assessment for the 2020-2021 school year, the USED advised states to pursue other assessment flexibilities, including administering a shortened version of the statewide assessment.

The Kentucky Department of Education's (KDEs) spring 2021 testing plan included a shortened test, flexible test windows, a reduction in the time for assessment administration, where possible, and the opportunity to bring in small groups of full-time virtual students for an in-person assessment.

This year, the following will be reported to meet federal requirements and to report what Kentucky can report. *Please note that no accountability indicators or ratings were reported.*

- Participation and performance results from 2021 assessments (based on assessed students and not the 100-day students previously used for inclusion in accountability);
- Graduation Rate; and
- Quality of School Climate and Safety survey (safety and opportunity to learn).

Secure assessment data was available for districts and schools in early August to focus on program improvements and to identify students who needed intervention and supports. In addition, districts and schools received aggregated data on tested students through spreadsheets on the KDE Secure Web Application. In September, KDE hosted a Quality Control Day to work with district personnel on data quality and to look for any systemic issues that may have been present prior to data being released to the public.

Results for assessed students that participated in the spring 2021 state summative assessment and other data will be presented at the October KBE meeting.

#### *Budget Impact:*

Schools previously classified as CSI, TSI or ATSI will continue to receive supports and services during the 2021-2022 school year. This assistance and support are managed by Associate Commissioner Kelly Foster and the Office of Continuous Improvement and Support.

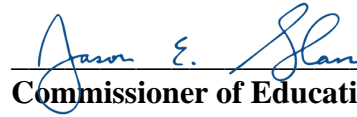
#### **GROUPS CONSULTED AND BRIEF SUMMARY OF RESPONSES:**

Staff from the OAA worked with district and school personnel on data quality and answered any questions that they had for this unique school year.

Districts and schools are now encouraged to share information and data with their boards and councils, faculty and staff, parents and students, and community members as this data is released to the public.

**CONTACT PERSON(S):**

Rhonda Sims, Associate Commissioner  
Office of Assessment and Accountability  
E-mail: [rhonda.sims@education.ky.gov](mailto:rhonda.sims@education.ky.gov)  
(502) 564-4394

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Commissioner of Education**

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