KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STAFF NOTE
REVIEW ITEM

Topic: Update on KDE Early Literacy Initiatives
Date: December 1, 2021
Held In: ☒Full Board   ☐Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment   ☐Operations

SUMMARY OF PRESENTATION:

In July 2020, the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) issued the following statement as part of its Resolution Affirming its Commitment to Racial Equity in Kentucky Public Schools:
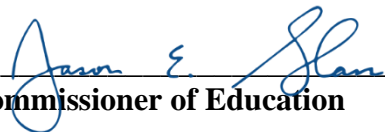
"*BE IT RESOLVED, the Kentucky Board of Education encourages education leaders across the Commonwealth to examine policies, procedures and funding decisions to ensure children of every race have equal access to educational opportunities. We urge district leaders to think unconventionally and innovatively to serve all students because conventional methods clearly have not yielded the results we need, dismantle racism in our schools and ensure that educational equity becomes reality for every Kentucky learner in every Kentucky classroom.*"

In response to this statement, the Office of Teaching and Learning (OTL) saw an opportunity to closely reexamine current early literacy policies, procedures and funding to better meet the needs of the rapidly growing number of Kentucky students who are not reading proficiently by the end of grade 3. The presentation discusses state and national reading data and a growing body of research that continues to reveal significant lifelong implications for students who are in need of accelerated learning in reading within the primary program.

Early literacy initiatives to be discussed include, statewide professional learning funded by the Kentucky Department of Education ESSER/ARP funds and federal and state grant programming aimed to meet the growing literacy needs of young readers in the Commonwealth.

CONTACT PERSON(S):

Micki L. Ray, Chief Academic Officer
Office of Teaching and Learning
Email: micki.ray@education.ky.gov
Phone: (502) 564-9850 Ext. 4128

_____
Commissioner of Education

Category: ☐ Educator Workforce Diversity   ☐ Portrait of a Graduate Partnerships   ☒ Racial Equity Commitment   ☐ Student-Centered Accountability System   ☒ Early Childhood   ☐ District Support