

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STAFF NOTE REVIEW ITEM

Topic: Portrait of a Learner – Performance Outcomes

Date: June 2023

Held In: Full Board

Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Operations

SUMMARY OF PRESENTATION:

At its October 2022 regular meeting, the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) approved a state level Portrait of a Learner (PoL). This PoL contains six competencies that describe the knowledge, skills and dispositions the KBE believes every learner in Kentucky should master before graduating from a Kentucky high school.

The portrait competencies that were approved in the PoL included the following:

- Critical Thinker
- Effective Communicator
- Empowered Learner (includes Kentucky Academic Standards)
- Productive Collaborator
- Engaged Citizen
- Creative Collaborator

The KBE developed the PoL by using the deliverables from a charge given by former Commissioner Steven Pruitt in 2017 to develop a competency-based education and assessment system. That initiative began with an application process to engage local school districts who were interested in a competency-based approach.

A districts that were approved to participate quickly made the decision to focus first on the “non-academic” competencies that are usually found in a PoL. So this group of districts developed five “Anchor Competencies” that correspond directly to the first five competencies listed above (with the exception of ‘creative contributor’).

After the development of these Anchor Competencies (which were designed using the individual districts PoLs) a group of teachers and school administrators were brought together to create a set of Performance Outcomes for the five competencies.

These Performance Outcomes, which were finalized in 2019, formed the basis of the KBE approved Portrait of a Learner.

During the discussion of the approval of KBE’s PoL it was determined that a sixth competency was needed to recognize the skill of creativity. Since this sixth competency had not been through the process of development of Performance Outcomes, the Division of Innovation was charged with designing a similar process using Kentucky teachers to create the performance outcomes for Creative Contributor.

Today, the staff in the Division of Innovation brings to the KBE a revised Portrait of a Learner Performance Outcomes document that reflects all six competencies of the Kentucky Portrait of a Learner.

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Commissioner of Education

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