

Curriculum Department Report to the Board of Education
Curriculum Department Highlights
May 28, 2025

To: Mr. Watts, Superintendent
Ms. Malone, Chairperson of the Board
Members of the Board of Education

Newport Curriculum Department Vision:

We envision a day when all Newport Independent Schools leaders exhibit high expectations and guarantee excellence of instruction, ensure equitable opportunities, and leverage all high-quality resources so that students, staff, and leaders maximize their fullest potential.

CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER

DIRECTOR DISTRICT WIDE SERVICES

KENTUCKY SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT ADMINISTRATION: KSA

The Kentucky Summative Assessment (KSA) is the state's annual standardized testing program designed to evaluate student proficiency and progress in alignment with the Kentucky Academic Standards (KAS).

Administered annually to students in grades 3 through 8, 10, and 11, the KSA includes reading, mathematics, science, social studies, and writing. The assessments incorporate various question types, such as multiple-choice, extended response, and technology-enhanced items, to assess critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

Assessment blueprints provided by the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) outline the structure of the KSA, detailing the content areas, item types, and the distribution of questions across different standards. These blueprints guide educators to align their instruction with assessment expectations, ensuring that teaching strategies effectively prepare students for the evaluations.

<https://www.education.ky.gov/AA/Acct/Pages/Blueprint.aspx>

The testing window for Newport Independent Schools opened on May 9th and will close on May 29, 2025. Students are assessed at Newport Intermediate, Newport High School, Newport School of Innovation, and Newport Regional School.

IMPORTANCE OF HIGH QUALITY INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES (HQIRs)

High-Quality Instructional Resources (HQIRs) are essential for delivering equitable, standards-aligned instruction across Kentucky schools. These resources are defined by the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) as materials that are:

- Aligned with the Kentucky Academic Standards (KAS);
- Research-based and/or externally validated;
- Comprehensive, including engaging texts, tasks, and assessments;
- Designed to foster vibrant student learning experiences;
- Culturally relevant and free from bias; and
- Accessible to all students.

Research indicates that consistent use of HQIRs can significantly enhance student achievement. For instance, students in classrooms utilizing a single HQIR for four consecutive years outperformed peers by a margin equivalent to four additional years of learning.

KDE Mandates on HQIRs by Content and Grade Level

The KDE mandates the adoption of HQIRs in specific content areas and grade levels to ensure consistency and quality in instruction:

Reading and Writing (Grades K–3)

- **Mandate:** Per KRS 158.305, superintendents must adopt a common comprehensive reading program for grades K–3 that is reliable, valid, and aligned to KAS.
- **Implementation Deadline:** July 1, 2024.

Mathematics (Grades K–3)

- **Mandate:** According to KRS 158.8402, districts are required to adopt evidence-based mathematics curricula and HQIRs for grades K–3 that are reliable, valid, and aligned to KAS.

Recommendations for the District:

- To continue to fund the current curriculum resources for K-12 students.

By prioritizing the effective implementation of HQIRs, the district can provide high-quality, equitable education that meets state mandates and supports student success.

NOTE: KDE does not provide curriculum resources for Tier I instruction. However, on KDE's website, some strategies and toolboxes to enhance instruction primarily for special education students.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Darla Payne

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