

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STAFF NOTE

Topic: Assessment Alignment Process for Reading and Writing

Date: October 2025

Action Requested: Review Action/Consent Action/Discussion

Held In: Full Board State Schools United We Learn

SUMMARY OF ISSUE BEFORE THE BOARD:

To take action on the alignment of assessments to corresponding standards as required by KRS 158.6453.

COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATION:

The Commissioner recommends that the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) approve the revisions and process used to align the revised Kentucky Academic Standards (KAS) for Reading and Writing to the assessment blueprint.

APPLICABLE STATUTE OR REGULATION:

KRS 158.6453

BACKGROUND:

Existing Policy:

KRS 158.6453(2) requires the KDE to implement a comprehensive process for reviewing Kentucky's academic standards and the alignment of corresponding assessments for possible revision or replacement every six years. The statute also charges the KBE to consider for approval the revisions to the Kentucky academic standards and the alignment of the corresponding state assessment once recommendations are received from the Standards and Assessments Process Review Committee (SAPRC).

Summary of Issue:

Assessment blueprints ensure alignment between assessments and the Kentucky Academic Standards (KAS). They define the percentage of items assessed within each domain, guiding test item development and shaping how results are reported. Blueprints also inform instructional planning by indicating the relative emphasis of each standard domain being assessed. In essence, the blueprint informs the construction of assessments aligned to the KAS. The Advisory Panel (AP) and Review Committee (RC) recommended minor changes that include a five percent adjustment in domains with the editing and mechanics test. Although the review and revision process for KAS and aligned assessments occurred concurrently, the KBE is requested to approve the process and revisions to the assessment blueprint separately.

Budget Impact:

The KDE hired a third-party vendor, the American Institutes for Research (AIR), to create a survey, gather public feedback and to facilitate the Advisory Panel (AP) and Review Committee (RC) meetings to align assessments to the newly revised KAS for Reading and Writing. The total cost of the work related to the standards review and revision and alignment of assessments process was \$244,186.64. The cost of the assessment blueprint component is incorporated in the total cost.

GROUPS CONSULTED AND BRIEF SUMMARY OF RESPONSES:

As required by KRS 158.6453, multiple stakeholders were involved in the alignment of the assessment blueprint to the KAS for Reading and Writing. Stakeholders included the public by providing comments through an advertised survey, APs, RCs, Interim Joint Committee on Education (IJCE) members, and the Standards and Assessment Process Review Committee (SAPRC).

The blueprint received numerous public comments over a 30-day period via an online survey developed and posted by AIR. During this time, the public had the opportunity to comment on the construction of the blueprint and offer guidance and feedback on the blueprint.


APs and RCs had the opportunity to review the public feedback from the comment period and recommend revisions to the blueprint. Members of the APs and RCs included content area teachers, postsecondary representatives and members from business and industry. The same members were also charged with reviewing and revising the KAS for Reading and Writing.

After the RC made a final recommendation to the blueprint, the process and blueprints were presented to the IJCE on August 19, 2025. KDE staff presented a summary of the standards and assessment blueprint revision process and IJCE members had the opportunity to ask questions. No concerns were addressed or shared by IJCE members.

On September 9, 2025, SAPRC met to review the process and determine whether the process was sufficient or deficient. KDE staff provided the committee with a report outlining the process, supporting materials, and a thorough explanation of the process during a virtual meeting. The SAPRC had an open discussion with an opportunity to ask questions and discuss the process. The committee found the process sufficient.

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