

**KDKENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (KDE)  
STAFF NOTE: REVIEW ITEM**

**Topic:** Standards and Assessment – A Focus on Science

**Date:** March 2026

**Action Requested:** Review   Action/Consent   Action/Discussion

**Held In:** Full Board   State Schools   United We Learn

**SUMMARY OF PRESENTATION:**

Micki Ray Marinelli, Chief Academic Officer, will present on the KDE’s efforts to support science instruction in Kentucky schools and districts. The presentation will begin with an overview of the *Kentucky Academic Standards (KAS) for Science* and the standards review process. The presentation will then detail nation-wide challenges in implementing science high-quality instructional resources (HQIRs), including Kentucky-specific data and agency-wide efforts to maximize the benefit of grade-level science instruction to accelerate progress toward proficiency. The Kentucky Board of Education will hear opportunities for advocacy and support in advancing these efforts. Representatives from Graves County Public Schools will also share local efforts to implement K-12 high-quality science instruction and its impact on student growth.

Jennifer Stafford, KDE Associate Commissioner, will continue the presentation with an overview of federal and state assessment requirements and how Kentucky meets those requirements. The presentation will include a focus on the alignment of the Kentucky Summative Assessment (KSA) and the Alternate Kentucky Assessment (AKSA) to the KAS and an overview of current assessment design and test item types.

Dr. Stafford will review highlights of student performance in science on the KSA and ACT and summarize the last Kentucky administration of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) in science. The presentation will also address the state’s transition to the SAT and an explanation of how the SAT reports science-related performance with the Analysis in Science score.

The learning session will include opportunities for KBE members to discuss their priorities and ask questions.

**CONTACT PERSON(S):**

Jennifer Stafford, Associate Commissioner  
Office of Assessment and Accountability  
Email: [Jennifer.Stafford@education.ky.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Stafford@education.ky.gov)  
(502) 564-2256, ext. 4714

Micki Ray Marinelli, Chief Academic Officer  
Office of Teaching and Learning  
Email: [Micki.ray@education.ky.gov](mailto:Micki.ray@education.ky.gov)  
(502) 564-9850



Commissioner of Education

**GOALS/PRIORITIES:** Indicate all applicable options.

- Foster Educational Innovation Through Vibrant Learning Experiences
- Advance Educational Excellence Through Continuous Professional Improvement
- Cultivate Collaborative Partnerships
- Legislation
- Commissioner's Management