

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (KDE)
STAFF NOTE: REVIEW ITEM

Topic: Competitive Grants for State Assessments (CGSA) Evaluation Update

Date: June 2026

Action Requested: Review Action/Consent Action/Discussion

Held In: Full Board State Schools United We Learn

SUMMARY OF PRESENTATION:

Human Resources Research Organization (HumRRO) Chief Scientist and program evaluator Art Thacker, Ph.D., will provide an update on the progress toward the objectives identified in KDE's 2022 Competitive Grant for State Assessment (CGSA).

Kentucky's 2022 CGSA is focused on building upon Kentucky's long-standing commitment to the success of all its learners and its legacy of leadership in Assessment and Accountability systems by seeking to innovate new systems of Assessment and Accountability (A&A) that both ensure consistency of high expectations for all learners while also valuing local context and innovations in competency-based education (CBE).

Kentucky's CGSA grant focused its grant on several strategies to support this shift in priorities for Assessment and Accountability:

Objective A: Bring local and state A&A systems into coherent alignment and facilitate local ownership of change efforts through the development of a sustainable structure.

- Strategy A1. Convene the inclusive KUWL Council to coherently support innovation, recommend policy, and guide strategies across local and state levels.

Objective B: Build capacity at the local level for inclusive co-creation of high-quality innovations in A&A systems for CBE, at increasing scale.

- Strategy B1. Conduct analysis of the technical quality and implementation design of local A&A solutions to identify promising models for CBE within a Bank of Local Systems.
- Strategy B2. Support scaling of promising CBE assessment and accountability systems aligned to local needs using a "Community of Practice" model to help districts with co-creation and CBE implementation.

Objective C: Create a path towards a new, federally-approved CBE-aligned A&A system for the state.

- Strategy C1. Develop a roadmap for design and implementation of a statewide "system of A&A systems" for CBE that can meet federal Title 1 requirements.
- Strategy C2. Develop state policy recommendations and legislative priorities for 2026 that will advance CBE implementation.

Objective D: Evaluate how co-creation impacts the nature, quality, and effectiveness of A&A systems and policies within CBE models:

- Strategy D1: Conduct ongoing formative and summative evaluations of how co-creation processes impact local ownership of CBE policy and practice and the technical quality of created A&A solutions.
- Strategy D2: Conduct a summative end-of-project evaluation of the effectiveness of the grant work and the quality of the local and state solutions to date.

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Commissioner of Education

GOALS/PRIORITIES: Indicate all applicable options.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Foster Educational Innovation Through Vibrant Learning Experiences
<input type="checkbox"/>	Advance Educational Excellence Through Continuous Professional Improvement
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cultivate Collaborative Partnerships
<input type="checkbox"/>	Legislation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Commissioner's Management