

## KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (KDE) STAFF NOTE

**Topic:** Assessment Alignment Process for Social Studies

**Date:** August 2026

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

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

### SYNOPSIS OF WHAT YOU WILL BE SHARING:

The Board is requested 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 process used to align the revised Kentucky Academic Standards (KAS) for Social Studies 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 no changes to the [social studies assessment blueprint](#). Although the review and revision process for KAS and aligned assessments occurred concurrently, the KBE is requested to approve the revision process separately from the assessment blueprint.

#### *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 Social Studies. The cost of the assessment blueprint component is incorporated in the total cost of the standards revision process.

*Groups Consulted and a 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 Social Studies. Stakeholders included APs, RCs, Interim Joint Committee on Education (IJCE) members, the public by providing comments through an advertised survey, and the Standards and Assessment Process Review Committee (SAPRC).

The blueprint received a few public comments over a 30-day period via an online survey developed and posted by AIR. 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, if applicable. Members of the APs and RCs included content area teachers, postsecondary representatives and members from business and industry.

After the RC made a final recommendation, the standards and aligned assessment blueprint revision process was presented to the IJCE on June 2, 2026. KDE staff presented a summary of the standards and aligned assessment blueprint revision process, and IJCE members had the opportunity to ask questions. No concerns related to the assessment blueprint were addressed or shared by IJCE members.

On July 21, SAPRC will meet to review the process and determine whether it is sufficient or deficient. KDE staff will provide the committee with a report outlining the process, supporting materials, and a thorough explanation of the process during a virtual meeting. SAPRC will engage in an open discussion with an opportunity to ask questions and discuss the process. Following its review, the committee will determine whether the process is sufficient.

**CONTACT PERSON(S):**

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**Commissioner of Education**

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

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislation                                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commissioner's Management                                                  |