

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (KDE) STAFF NOTE

Topic: Amendments to 704 KAR 8:090, Required academic standards for technology

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:

To act on the proposed amendments to 704 KAR 8:090, Required academic standards for technology. KRS 158.6453(2) requires the Kentucky Department of Education (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. This administrative regulation incorporates by reference the new Kentucky Academic Standards (KAS) for Technology.

COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATION:

The Commissioner recommends the adoption of the required academic standards for technology, as incorporated by reference in 704 KAR 8:090.

APPLICABLE STATUTE OR REGULATION:

KRS 156.070, 156.160, 158.645, 158.6451, 158.6453, 160.290, 704 KAR 3:305

BACKGROUND:

Existing Policy:

KRS 156.160(1) requires the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) to establish courses of study for the different grades and kinds of common schools, with the courses of study to comply with the expected goals, outcomes, and assessment strategies developed under KRS 158.645, 158.6451 and 158.6453.

The revised KAS for Technology address requirements listed in 704 KAR 3:305, Minimum High School Graduation Requirements, and the Individual Learning Plan (ILP). 704 KAR 3:305, Section 3 (1) establishes the minimum high school graduation requirements necessary for entitlement to a public high school diploma, which among other requirements, endorses a student's demonstrated performance-based competency in technology, that includes the KAS for this content area, as outlined specifically in Section 3 (6) (a).

Summary of Issue:

Per KRS 158.6453(2), the KDE is required to implement a process for reviewing and revising Kentucky's academic standards every six years. To conform to these statutory requirements, the KDE Office of Education Technology (OET) implemented the standards review process for technology which resulted in a new material incorporated by reference.

Upon approval by the KBE, amendments to 704 KAR 8:090 will adopt into law the new standards for technology as authorized in KRS 158.6453(2).

Budget Impact:

There were indirect staff costs spent to complete the review and revision required under KRS 158.6453 for the KAS for Technology; however, there were no direct expenditures. The writing

and review team were able to take advantage of other convenings and face-to-face opportunities to complete this work.

Groups Consulted and a Brief Summary of Responses:

- Public Comment Surveys - KRS 158.6453(2)(g)(1) requires the KDE to implement "an open and transparent process that allows all Kentuckians an opportunity to participate." The KDE issued two public comment surveys that resulted in responses from a broad range of stakeholder groups, including teachers, retired educators, administrators, parents/guardians, postsecondary educators, and business/community members.
- KY K-12 students and teachers
- KY K-12 District Chief Information Officers (CIOs) and education technology leaders (The CIO or edtech leader represents education technology at the district level, educating and receiving feedback from the superintendent and other district leadership)
- Kentucky's Digital Learning Coaches (DLCs)
- Kentucky Association for School Technology (KAST); formerly Kentucky Society of Technology in Education (KySTE)
- Education technology vendors and partners
- This item will be shared for feedback with the School Curriculum, Assessment and Accountability Council (SCAAC) at its July 2026 meeting. A summary of the feedback will be presented.
- This item will be presented for review by the Local Superintendents Advisory Council (LSAC) at its July meeting. A summary of the feedback received by the council will be provided to the KBE prior to its August 2026 meeting.

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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