

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (KDE) STAFF NOTE

Topic: Proposed Amendments to 703 KAR 5:270, Second Reading

Date: October 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 issue before the board is to take action on the proposed amendments to 703 KAR 5:270, Kentucky's accountability system. Based on discussion of the first reading of proposed amendments at the August KBE Regular Meeting and to align with new statute language in House Bill 257 (2026), staff in the KDE Office of Assessment and Accountability will bring forward amendments as a second reading for the Board's consideration and request for approval.

COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATION:

The Commissioner recommends approval of the proposed amendments to 703 KAR 5:270, Kentucky's accountability system, to align the regulation with legislation established in House Bill 257 (2026).

APPLICABLE STATUTE OR REGULATION:

KRS 158.6453, KRS 158.6455 and 703 KAR 5:270; 703 KAR 5:240

BACKGROUND:

Existing Policy:

KRS 158.6455 requires the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) to create an accountability system to classify districts and schools in accordance with the academic standards and student assessment program developed pursuant to KRS 158.6453.

After gathering input from the KBE at its June Regular Meeting and feedback from other stakeholders and advisory groups, proposed amendments were presented to the KBE for a first reading and discussion at its August Regular Meeting. Changes recommended by the KBE include updates to the growth value table for the Individual Student Growth in Reading and Mathematics indicator and the table for Overall Accountability Weights. Those recommendations have been applied and will be presented as a second reading for the KBE's consideration and approval.

Summary of Issue:

Statutory amendments made by House Bill 257 (2026) revised the state accountability system by removing writing assessments, the quality of school climate and safety state indicator, and language that requires the evaluation of state indicators on status and change. HB 257 added individual student growth in reading and mathematics and chronic absenteeism as new state indicators.

Proposed amendments to 703 KAR 5:270 were necessary to incorporate HB257 changes.

Budget Impact:

The KDE anticipates incurring additional expenses to cover the costs of implementing House Bill 257 (2026) and amendments to the accountability regulation. The legislation outlines

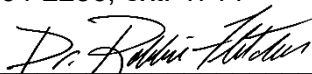
changes to the accountability system that will require extensive KDE staff time; psychometric services. validity and reliability studies; training of stakeholders on the accountability system and an updated School Report Card. Activities to transition between old and new systems will potentially expand current contracts that support the accountability system.

Groups Consulted and a Brief Summary of Responses:

The proposed amendments to 703 KAR 5:270 were presented to the Kentucky Technical Advisory Committee on Aug. 19 and will be presented to the Education Assessment and Accountability Review Subcommittee on Sept. 1; to the School Curriculum, Assessment and Accountability Council on Sept.15; and to the Local Superintendents Advisory Council on Sept. 29. Feedback received from these groups will be shared with the KBE.

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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