



## **KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SCHOOL CURRICULUM, ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY**

**SCAAC MEMBERS PRESENT:** Kelly Bradley, Scott Bruins, Taylor Bumgardner, Sarah Burnett, Stacie Earl, Casey Gesenhues, Paula Jolley, Justin Mitchell, Teresa Nicholas, Valerie O’Rear, Amy Smith, David Trimble

**SCAAC MEMBERS ABSENT:** Aaron Collins, William Owens

The July 21, 2020 first-ever virtual School Curriculum, Assessment and Accountability Council (SCAAC) was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chairman Scott Bruins. Members and guests were welcomed. A quorum of members was present. Paula Jolley made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. David Trimble seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Justin Mitchell made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as emailed and presented. Teresa Nicholas seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **Agenda Item: Welcome and Member Charge**

**Presenters:** Kevin C. Brown, Interim Education Commissioner, and John Landon, Staff Attorney, Office of Legal Services, KDE

**Summary of Discussion:** Interim Education Commissioner Kevin Board welcomed the members to this first-ever virtual SCAAC meeting. Staff Attorney John Landon provided an overview of the members’ responsibility as a SCAAC member. The School Curriculum, Assessment and Accountability Council (SCAAC) is required by statute (KRS 158.6452), and was created to, “study, review, and make recommendations concerning Kentucky’s system of setting academic standards, assessing learning, identifying academic competencies and deficiencies of individual students, holding schools accountable for learning, and assisting schools to improve their performance.”

During an open meeting, members may discuss various aspects of education in the Commonwealth, study data related to those aspects, and make recommendations. This shall include discussion of data that relates to:

- Academic expectations
- Core content for assessment
- Statewide assessment and accountability programs
- Recognition of high-performing schools
- Imposition of school or district sanctions
- Assistance for schools to improve their performance

**Action Taken:** Information Only

**Agenda Item: Amendment to 701 KAR 5:150, Nontraditional Instruction Program (First Reading)**

**Presenter:** David Cook, Director, District of Innovation, Office of Continuous Improvement and Support, KDE

**Summary of Discussion:** David Cook, KDE’s director of innovation and coordinator of the NTI Program, discussed an amendment to the Nontraditional Instruction Program (regulation 701 KAR 5:150) which has to do with NTI programming in the districts. In the past, districts had to apply to be able to use NTI during the academic year. With the amendment, it now allows districts to include NTI in their plans for the school year to allow for flexibility due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Along with the amendment, a memorandum submitted by Interim Commissioner of Education Kevin C. Brown and signed by Lt. Gov. Jacqueline Coleman on June 24 gives districts an unlimited number of NTI days. It also allows districts to use attendance data from the 2018-2019 school year to apply for funding for the 2020-2021 school year, rather than solely data from 2019-2020. The amendment to 701 KAR 5:150 will go to the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) for a first read at its August 6 meeting.

Scott Bruins asked how monitoring would look during the 2020-2021 school year. David Cook stated that as a part of a school/district review, if the district does not follow the approved plan, then a site visit could occur. Teresa Nicholas asked about the evidence collection as required through NTI. David Cook stated that evidence would not be submitted during 2020-2021 but did recommend that a copy of the required evidence be maintained at the district level in case of a possible site visit.

**Action Taken:** Information only

**Agenda Item: Impact of Senate Bill 158 (2020) on Accountability, Graduation Requirements and School Improvement**

**Presenters:** Rhonda Sims, Associate Commissioner, Office of Assessment and Accountability; Jennifer Stafford, Director, Division of Assessment and Accountability Support, Office of Assessment and Accountability; Micki Ray, Policy Advisor, Office of Teaching and Learning; and Whitney Crowe, Executive Advisor, Office of Continuous Improvement and Support, KDE

**Summary of Discussion:** Associate Commissioner Rhonda Sims of KDE’s Office of Assessment and Accountability said that Senate Bill 158 (2020) did not make many changes to school assessment, but rather to school accountability. SB 158 will require districts to be evaluated on “status” and “change” for state indicators, which exclusively include student assessment results, progress toward achieving English proficiency by English learners, quality of school climate and safety, high school graduation rates and postsecondary readiness.

For each indicator, there will be five status levels ranging from very high to very low and five change levels, ranging from increased significantly to decreased significantly. Jennifer Stafford, director of KDE’s Division of Assessment and Accountability Support, stated that with this, everything can be brought together to monitor overall school performance for each district. Some

SCAAC members voiced concerns about reporting this data during the COVID-19 pandemic and the reliability of the data.

Kelly Bradly stated that every district would be able to deal with this pandemic at different levels. She further stated that she was a little worried about any data that comes out of this year. She recommended giving some notice to stakeholders of various considerations. Rhonda Sims said they recognize that this legislation was passed before the pandemic, so concerns about reporting can be addressed by next year's General Assembly and legislative education committees.

Micki Ray, policy adviser for KDE's Office of Teaching and Learning, explained the impact of SB 158 on graduation requirements. The state minimum graduation requirements will stay the same for students who are juniors and seniors during the 2020-2021 school year. They will be amended for students who will be freshman and sophomores during 2020-2021 and all students after. All students will still complete 22 credits over four years in order to graduate, but statewide requirements can no longer include a "postsecondary readiness indicator."

Those indicators can include "dual credit classes, passing an Advanced Placement exam, apprenticeship time or working toward an industry recognized certification or credential. Local boards of education also will have to eliminate any graduation requirements that include students needing to achieve a minimum score on a statewide assessment. Schools will best be able to support students who entered high school in 2019-2020 by further aligning coursework with students' Individual Learning Plans (ILP) and their plans after graduation.

Whitney Crowe, executive advisor with KDE's Office of Continuous Improvement, updated the SCAAC members on how school improvement was affected by SB 158. She stated that it moves the identification of CSI schools to every three years beginning with the 2021-2022 school year. It requires KDE to act as an audit team in all CSI schools. SB 158 mandates turnaround efforts in CSI schools be led by an entity on the KBE's "approved turnaround vendor list," which is defined in the bill and may include teams staffed by KDE. Beginning in 2023, KDE must submit an annual report to the Interim Joint Committee on Education regarding the performance of turnaround vendors.

Expect more discussions on these school improvement changes as well as the bill's additional implications when the KBE reviews an amendment to 703 KAR 5:280 later this year.

**Action Taken:** Information only

**Agenda Item: COVID-19 Related Regulatory Waivers and Common Kindergarten Entry Screen (704 KAR 5:070)**

**Presenters:** Jennifer Stafford, Director, and Jenni Larkins, Program Consultant, Division of Assessment and Accountability Support, Office of Assessment and Accountability, KDE

Summary of Discussion: Jennifer Stafford updated the members about the department's efforts for providing resources and guidance to schools and districts during this COVID-19 pandemic. Regarding NTI, Jennifer Stafford briefly discussed one of KDE's guidance documents, "COVID-19 Considerations for Reopening Schools: Evaluating Students' Academic Readiness," which was shared electronically with members. Jennifer Stafford acknowledged concerns about students falling behind because of extensive school closures. When it comes to monitoring progress this year, the importance of reporting and examining student participation rates was stressed.

Scott Bruins stated that he believed many of the normal assessments that were usually relied on to assess and help schools would be unavailable this next school year. KDE needs to pay attention to the participation rates of students in districts and what exactly that participation entails.

Jenni Larkins, a program consultant in the Division of Assessment and Accountability Support, Office of Assessment and Accountability, KDE, provided an update to a waiver request pertaining to kindergarten readiness screening. The KBE will hear the waiver request to the Common kindergarten entry screener, (regulation 704 KAR 5:0070) at its August board meeting. With NTI, it will be difficult for teachers to screen their students, so the waiver will expand the screening window and allow for testing when in-person instruction can resume everywhere. The regulation states specific dates on when the K Screen must be administered. At this time, it is unknown if a face to face administration can be given during the time frame the regulation specifies.

**Action Taken:** Information Only

**Action Item: New Regulation 704 KAR 8:090 Kentucky Academic Standards for Technology (Second Reading)**

**Presenters:** Laura Raganas and Marty Park, Digital Learning, Office of Education Technology, KDE

**Summary of Discussion:** New academic standards for technology were shared and discussed with SCAAC members. The new proposed regulation 704 KAR 8:090 will be presented to the KBE at its August meeting for a second reading. The Office of Education Technology team envisioned standards that would afford students the opportunity to engage in critical thinking, computational thinking and problem-solving through computer science. The writing team wanted standards that would:

- Initiate cross-curricular connections to enhance the understanding of learning through digital technology skills and concepts;
- Establish a continuum of technology competencies K-12 to be demonstrated;
- Provide opportunities for all students to engage in learning through technology experiences and promote advanced demonstration of technology competencies (and digital skills) to prepare them for future success; and
- Prepare students to address a critical workforce need related to technology knowledge, skills and application.

**Action Taken:** Information Only

**Agenda Item: New Regulation 704 KAR 8:100 Kentucky Academic Standards (KAS) for Library Media Elective**

**Presenters:** James Allen and Marty Park, Digital Learning, Office of Education Technology, KDE

**Summary of Discussion:** New academic standards for library media electives were also shared and discussed. This new proposed regulation 704 KAR 8:100 will be presented to the KBE at its August meeting for a first reading. The Office of Education Technology library media standards writing team focused on creating relevant, timely, and authentic standards that are clearly scaffolded and measurable. The writing team envisioned standards that would afford students the opportunity to:

- Choose appropriate information tools and use them ethically
- Practice digital citizenship
- Develop an appreciation for knowledge and learning
- Become well-rounded readers who read for pleasure, learning, and for personal and emotional growth (literacy and fluency)
- Discover and explore inquiry-driven critical thinking research
- Evaluate information for credibility and usefulness
- Ask questions to guide decision-making
- Explore lifelong-learner skills and digital literacy
- Make cross-curricular connections

**Action Taken:** Information Only

**Adjournment:** Casey Gesenhues made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Teresa Nicholas seconded the motion. Motion carried. The next meeting is scheduled for September 15, 2020.