HB 257 AT A GLANCE

Kentucky Department of EDUCATION

LOCALLY DEVELOPED QUALITY INDICATORS

Districts may develop local indicators of quality aligned to *Kentucky Academic Standards* that provide students opportunities to apply knowledge and skills in real-world contexts and reflect local priorities such as student well-being, fiscal responsibility and school safety.

DISTRICT IMPLEMENTATION

Districts may develop and implement a local system that includes:

- Student participation in vibrant learning experiences
- Locally developed performance indicators

If implemented, districts must:

- Include student performance data (disaggregated by subgroup, where permissible)
- Provide a public, online display of school and district performance

VIBRANT LEARNING

- Emphasizes student agency and real-world application
- Developed with families, communities and workforce partners
- Demonstrated through personalized projects and experiences tied to student interests

KDE SUPPORT

- Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) will offer technical assistance to support districts
- KDE may offer a one-time payment (up to $15,000 per district) to offset cost of development an approved opt-out

STATE ACCOUNTABILITY THAT MEETS FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS

House Bill 257 updates Kentucky's assessment and accountability systems while keeping many familiar structures. Here's what stays and what changes.

WHAT STAYS THE SAME

- **State assessments** continue to include Reading, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies with the same content proficiency reporting (Novice, Apprentice, Proficient, Distinguished)
- **Tested grades** remain the same (3-8, 10 and 11)
- **Federal Comprehensive School Improvement (CSI) identification continues to rely on state accountability indicators** (not local indicators)
- **Color ratings remain** (Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue)

WHAT CHANGES

- **Chronic Absenteeism** is a new indicator measuring students who miss 10% or more of the school year, excused or unexcused
- **Individual Student Growth** will be a new indicator of a student's continuous improvement toward proficiency or above
- **Change for each indicator is removed**
- **Writing is removed** from the state testing program and assessment results indicator and integrated through a cross-disciplinary writing program selected by the superintendent
- **One Overall Score** used in the state accountability that meets federal requirements

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2026-2027 STATE ACCOUNTABILITY INDICATORS

Beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, the state accountability indicators include:

- State Assessment Results in Reading and Mathematics
- State Assessment Results in Science and Social Studies
- Individual Student Growth (Reading and Mathematics)
- English Learner Progress
- Chronic Absenteeism
- Postsecondary Readiness (High School Only Indicator)
- Graduation Rate (High School Only Indicator)

STATE COLOR RATINGS

Kentucky schools continue to earn color ratings for Accountability Indicators and Overall Accountability Performance, ranging from Red (lowest performance) to Blue (highest performance).

ADDITIONAL READINESS & QUALITY MEASURES

Reported on the Kentucky School Report Card until June 2030

- **For Educators:** Percentage of certified teachers who have achieved Rank II status or higher and Percentage of teachers who have earned National Board Certification
- **For Grade 8 Students:** Percentage of students earning at least one high school credit by the end of grade 8
- **For Grade 12 Students:** Percentage of graduates who complete the FAFSA by graduation, or whose parents submit an approved opt-out