

STATE ACCOUNTABILITY: Comparing Kentucky Summative Assessment (KSA), Model 4.0, and House Bill 257

The original Model Framework 4.0 and House Bill 257 (Jan. 7, 2026, version) designates two distinct categories for/within the state accountability model:

1. State accountability indicators that meet federal requirements for Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) designation. These indicators will be included in the color ratings calculation system (similar to what we see in the current KSA).
2. Local accountability indicators with required options and inclusion that are **NOT USED** in calculations for CSI designation.

****In the current bill version, the phrase “local indicators of quality” replaces the phrase “local accountability.”***

Category	Component	Current System (KSA)	Model Framework 4.0	House Bill 257 (1.7.26)
State	Assessment	Reading, mathematics, science, social studies, editing mechanics and on-demand writing are assessed and used in CSI calculation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adaptive tests are not used. • Provides N, A, P and D ratings in grade level content. 	Reading and mathematics are used in the calculation for CSI status. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adaptive test • Provides grade level equivalency (below, on or above grade level) AND grade level content proficiency (N, A, P, D) 	Reading, mathematics, science and social studies are used for CSI calculation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adaptive tests are not used. • Provides grade level content proficiency in the same manner as the current KSA (N, A, P, D)
State	Assessment	Science is one of the testing areas used in CSI calculation. (See above.)	Science is assessed and reportedly individually, but it is not used in the CSI calculation.	Reading, mathematics, science and social studies are used for CSI calculation.
State	Assessment	Reading, mathematics, science, social studies, editing mechanics and on-demand writing are assessed and used in CSI	Social Studies and Writing would be removed from the state assessment but required in the local accountability model.	Reading, mathematics, science and social studies are used for CSI calculation and continue to include constructed (written)



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		calculation. Constructed responses are also part of the content assessments.		responses. Bill language focuses on SBDM policy for writing across the curriculum. Text based writing and editing mechanics would be assessed locally, reducing the statewide testing time for the students. Districts may determine additional methods for assessing writing as part of the local indicators of quality. <i>Removing the On-Demand portion will save money and potentially shorten the time required to have accountability results publicly available.</i>
State	Change vs. Student Growth	Change is a major component of the CSI calculation	Individual student growth replaces change in the CSI calculation.	Individual student growth replaces change in the CSI calculation.
State	Other Required Indicators	Postsecondary readiness (20% of High School (HS) CSI calculation formula), graduation rate (6% of HS), English language progress (5% in each grade band of Elementary, Middle and High school) are included in the CSI calculation to meet federal requirements.	Postsecondary readiness, graduation rate, English language progress are included in the CSI calculation to meet federal requirements.	Postsecondary readiness, graduation rate, English language progress are included in the CSI calculation and meet federal requirements.
State	Other Required Indicators	Climate and Safety Survey Data is included in the CSI calculation to meet federal requirements. (4% of the CSI calculation formula at	Climate and Safety Survey Data is included in the CSI calculation to meet federal requirements.	Chronic Absenteeism replaces Climate and Safety Survey Data for the CSI calculation to meet federal requirements.



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		each grade band of Elementary, Middle and High school)		
State	Ratings	Color ratings (red, orange, yellow, green, blue) are provided based on state accountability performance for comparison among schools/districts.	Color ratings would be replaced by designations related to CSI status.	Color ratings (red, orange, yellow, green, blue) continue as the current KSA model.

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Local	Implementation	Local accountability is “allowed,” and some districts have engaged in this work. Local accountability is not specifically mentioned in statute as part of the accountability system. Less than 10 districts currently have implemented a local accountability model. 155 of 171 districts have engaged in Portrait of a Learner development, which serves as a foundation for local accountability.	Using piloting, sustaining and sustainability phases, all districts SHALL have a local accountability model within the next four years. No financial incentive for local accountability.	A financial incentive of \$10,000 per district with an additional \$3 per student would be allocated when a district has their local committee, identified local indicators, and provided a timeline for implementation. The financial incentive would be yearly to help maintain the system. This would help offset (initially in its entirety) the financial incentive for districts. Committee sub: one (1) time payment to offset costs incurred by local school districts in the development of locally developed indicators of quality. A financial payment provided under this paragraph shall not exceed fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) per district. (Feb 2)



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Local	Implementation	Local accountability is not mentioned in statute.	Using piloting, sustaining and sustainability phases, all districts SHALL have a local accountability model within the next four years.	If 60% of all school districts adopt local indicators of quality, then a “trigger” is initiated to require all districts to implement local indicators of quality.
Local	Requirements	Local accountability is not mentioned in statute.	Each local accountability model shall include vibrant learning experiences, writing, social studies and locally determined indicators of performance. KDE would supply Social Studies/Writing assessments or districts could develop their own method of assessing.	Each system of local indicators of quality shall include vibrant learning experiences and locally determined indicators of performance.
Local	Disaggregation of Data	Local accountability is not mentioned in statute.	Provide disaggregated data when applicable based on student demographics.	Provide disaggregated data when applicable based on student demographics.
Local	Display of Data	Local accountability is not mentioned in statute.	Develop and publicly available display of local indicators/data	Develop and publicly available display of local indicators/data.
Local	Assistance	Local accountability is not mentioned in statute. The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) currently has two office staff dedicated specifically to supporting districts for work in local accountability / Portrait of a Learner.	KDE shall provide technical assistance through the hiring of six regional specialists.	KDE shall provide technical assistance, through the hiring of six regional specialists (included in discussions, but not explicitly written in the bill language as six regional specialists)
Local	Other assessments	Districts select and utilize their own interim assessment systems for Multi-Tiered Systems of Support and formative assessment purposes, including	Inclusion of interim assessment in reading and mathematics that are aligned with the summative assessments to provide formative data for districts. This information MAY be included in local	Interim assessments are not included.



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		universal screeners and diagnostic assessments.	accountability models. Also, utilizing state-developed interim assessments would eliminate one testing window in the current practice on interim assessments/state testing.	
Local	Other assessments	Science is assessed at the 4th, 7th, and 11th grades as part of KSA.	Science off-grade assessments would be provided for formative data for districts and MAY be used in local accountability models. Science state assessments moved to 5th, 8th, 10th grades	Science assessments are administered (SEE ABOVE) in the grade band levels, but “off grade” assessment are not included. Accountability assessments remain in 4th, 7th, 11th grades.
Local	Other	Local accountability is not mentioned in statute.	An external evaluator would review all local accountability models on a three-year cycle to identify exemplary practices/models.	No external evaluator; regional specialists would be utilized to provide technical assistance.