

## Policy Objective 1: Increase the number of college-ready Kentuckians entering postsecondary education.

### Strategy 1.1: Align K-12, adult education, and postsecondary education standards, curriculum, and assessment processes as directed by Senate Bill 1 (2009).

- The Council staff has convened mathematics, literacy (reading and writing), science and social studies work teams to create an **understanding of the Kentucky Core Academic Standards** and the implications of the standards on content and college of education coursework. Free online modules, found at [www.kycorestandards.org](http://www.kycorestandards.org), have been created to provide faculty information about the standards and related assessments.
- A Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) report, *State Implementation of the Common Core Standards*, released in February 2014, recognized **Kentucky as a leading or very strong state in its implementation of the standards**. Specifically Kentucky was recognized as a lead state for its comprehensive and innovative approaches to implementation of the standards and creating a comprehensive professional development training program with the deepest levels of support and collaboration with local teachers, leaders, districts, and schools, and an accountability system with an extensive set of aligned measures to the standards. It was recognized as a very strong state in its creation of sets of aligned teaching resources and materials and in alignment of evaluation data for implementation improvement.
- The Unified Strategy for College and Career Readiness is being implemented collaboratively at K-12 schools and postsecondary institutions and showing results. Two recent reports indicate marked improvements in the college readiness of recent Kentucky high school graduates. According to the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE), 34% of the 2010 graduates were college ready while 54.1% of 2013 graduates were. In addition, the Council reported a 27% increase, from fall 2010 to fall 2012, in the number of students who were college ready.
- The Council has supported the development of KYOTE placement exams for mathematics (college readiness, college algebra, and calculus), writing, and reading. The exams were designed around the key learning outcomes for college and career readiness and act as one of the readiness indicators used by all Kentucky public postsecondary institutions. The KYOTE exams are available at no cost to any Kentucky K-12 school or postsecondary institution. In the last academic year, more than 20,000 mathematics exams, 1,800 college

algebra exams, 6,500 reading exams, and 1,700 writing exams were administered. And according to KDE, 6,289 students met readiness standards after participating in transitional coursework and/or intervention programming.

### **Strategy 1.2: Support effective intervention strategies for underprepared students prior to postsecondary admission.**

- Science and college readiness professional development modules will be created and made available to K-12, adult education instructors, and postsecondary faculty. They will include resources and data on progress in meeting college readiness and developmental education goals. This information will be available on the [www.kycorestandards.org](http://www.kycorestandards.org) website by June 2014.
- **CPE staff and postsecondary faculty supported the Kentucky Department of Education in designing and updating middle school and high school senior year curriculum frameworks for mathematics, writing, and reading.** Students not meeting benchmark scores for readiness are required to receive intervention programming based on 8th grade ACT EXPLORE scores and 11th grade ACT scores. High school students can demonstrate readiness for credit-bearing college courses in the senior year by completing transitional course or intervention programming and meeting benchmark scores on placement exams recognized by every public postsecondary institution. For May 2013 graduates, after intervention programming, more than 6,000 students demonstrated readiness in a basic skill content area.
- Because of Kentucky's work on **intervention programming**, we were a key player in working with the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) in developing senior year transitional courses with related curricula and assessments. These courses can be used in any state for intervention programming efforts.
- **Postsecondary faculty continues to support eight educational leadership networks** established to implement the Kentucky Academic Content Standards. Each network includes two full-time postsecondary faculty who work with KDE leadership and school leaders to provide professional development training on the standards and related assessments for teachers and school leaders. The focus in 2014 will be on the implementation of science standards.
- **GEAR UP Kentucky has developed a customized college readiness curriculum for middle school students** focused on developing learning skills needed to succeed in postsecondary education. **GEAR UP Kentucky has also developed and is currently implementing a comprehensive student advising model** in participating schools. The model utilizes an early warning system to monitor student performance.

### **Strategy 1.3: Strengthen the college-going and completion culture in Kentucky.**

- A **College and Career Readiness Advising Toolkit** for middle and high school teachers has been used extensively in the college readiness **Operation Preparation** initiative supported by K-12 and postsecondary education. The focus is on the skills and attitudes needed to enter college or the

21st century workplace prepared. This year more than 130 school districts participated in Operation Preparation.

- The Council staff and postsecondary representatives created a **statewide dual credit policy and a chart standardizing the awarding of AP and CLEP credit across public postsecondary institutions**. The statewide dual credit policy was fully implemented in fall 2013 and serves as a national policy development model.
- **GEAR UP Kentucky has released a four-year School Improvement Services Plan** that outlines the support and resources that will be provided to participating schools to build and sustain a college-going culture. School improvement services use four basic strategies of building a college-going culture, implementing Kentucky Core Academic Standards, using data to change policy and plan instruction, and implementing structures for sustainability. The process emphasizes using school data to inform instruction and connecting sustainability plans with the Comprehensive School Improvement Plans (CSIPs).
- **Council staff and representatives from KCTCS and public universities have reviewed promising practices for redesigning developmental education**. The Council is compiling information on institutional models to support underprepared students and study results will be distributed to campuses. Council staff released a Request for Proposals (RFP) in March 2014 with the goal of supporting the implementation of accelerated developmental education program models, such as co-requisite course designs.
- **Kentucky's Core to College grant** supports three Kentucky Partnership Academies at Morehead State University, Northern Kentucky University, and Western Kentucky University and one Early College program at St. Catharine College.
  1. **NKU's Center for Education Excellence** convenes networks works with 18 school districts and has provided professional development and learning opportunities for more than 780 educators. NKU sponsored the second annual Evidence-Based School Counseling Conference in January 2014. In addition to this work, NKU has planned literacy, mathematics, and science content workshops for instruction coaches from 10 local school districts involved in the Improving Educator Quality EQ grants.
  2. The **21st Century Education Enterprise at MoSU** provides professional development to teachers in its area of geographic responsibility. MoSU has created virtual high school senior year transitional courses, in partnership with KDE, in English, reading, and mathematics in a project called An Eagle Eye Vision for Education: Bridging the College Readiness Gap.
  3. The **A.S.K. Academy at WKU**, in cooperation with the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, has developed a professional development initiative as a massive open online course (MOOC). The program called Learn, Embed, Assess, Disseminate (L.E.A.D.) allows educators to target their professional development to address their needs. Teachers are supported by experts in the field to measure the impact of changes made in their classrooms. The teachers are encouraged to share the results of their classroom research with others in the field.