



# 2011-15 Strategic Agenda

## Focus on College Readiness

*Goal: Kentucky will be stronger by ensuring more high school graduates, GED graduates, and working-age adults enter college prepared for credit-bearing work.*

### **Policy Objective 3: Increase the effectiveness of Kentucky's K-12 teachers and school leaders.**

#### **Strategy 3.1: Ensure K-12 educator preparation programs attract, retain, and prepare highly effective teachers and school leaders.**

- Council staff members are working closely with the Educational Professional Standards Board (EPSB) to **design and review Teacher Leader Masters Degrees for rank change**. Among other things, programs must collaborate with districts in design of programs; focus on student achievement; provide job-embedded professional experiences; allow for multiple career pathways; easily transfer across institutions; emphasize differentiated learning and classroom management; and emphasize leadership development.
- The Council also is working with the EPSB to revise **Principal Preparation Programs**. Programs must focus on instructional leadership, student achievement, and gap closure; provide access to ongoing mentoring services from successful school leaders; include successful school and district practitioners as faculty members; provide ongoing professional development for program faculty; and provide a structure for continuous program review of graduates' success as school leaders.
- The Committee to Review Superintendent Programs made recommendations to EPSB concerning the current state of **superintendent preparation in Kentucky**, including the inclusion of high-quality clinical experiences; the alignment of superintendent preparation with teacher leader master's programs and principal programs; and the review of programs that prepare supervisors of instruction and directors of pupil personnel.
- Council staff were represented on the **Committee to Review Admissions and Clinical Experiences for Pre-Service Programs (CRACE)** which recommended several key changes to educator preparation programs, including requiring that all new teacher candidates pass rigorous basic skills tests; raising the required GPA for admission; requiring teacher candidates to demonstrate the essential teacher dispositions and 21st Century Skills, supporting the Kentucky Teacher Internship Program (KTIP); and ensuring a sufficient number of high-quality clinical experiences across the program.
- The Committee to Review Cut Scores for Assessments (CRCSA) is examining assessment performance data to recommend an updated cut score framework for teacher licensure to the EPSB.
- The Program and Accreditation Review Committee (PARC) is charged with reviewing current program approval and accreditation processes and then making recommendations for improving those processes.
- Council staff is working with EPSB to design an **evaluation process of teacher preparation programs** that will include, but not be limited to, redesigning the current seven-year cycle of accreditation; providing a continuous electronic program review and approval of all preparation programs; developing a Quality Performance Index (QPI) for teacher preparation programs; including a value-added measure of teacher preparation programs that uses K-12 student performance data; and evaluating the effectiveness of Teacher Leader and principal preparation programs.



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**Strategy 3.2:** Expand the role of higher education institutions in the delivery of professional development programs for teachers, school leaders, guidance counselors, adult education instructors, and faculty members.

- **Leadership networks have been established** to disseminate and implement the new common core standards. Networks are facilitated by teams representing local education cooperatives, the Kentucky Department of Education, and institutions of higher education. Council staff members were instrumental in the design of these networks and the discussions that ensured the inclusion of higher education faculty.
- Per a MOU with the Council, universities have committed at least the equivalent of two full-time faculty members to the work of P-12 professional development networks, using institutional resources and faculty expertise as appropriate and consistent with the missions and the faculty personnel practices of the individual institutions.
- Through an RFP process, **three academies are being established to promote college readiness and success** through the development and implementation of collaborative activities with public universities and KCTCS institutions, P-12 schools, adult education programs, and independent colleges and universities. The monies will encourage the development of sustainable plans for promoting college and career readiness using placement and diagnostic assessments.
- The Council has developed several online professional development modules for faculty. ***Introduction to Senate Bill 1 (2009) and the Kentucky Core Academic Standards*** describes the main components of Senate Bill 1 (2009) and explains the impact of Senate Bill 1 (2009) on postsecondary institutions. ***The Impact of Senate Bill 1 (2009) on Assessment and Accountability*** provides an introduction to assessment and accountability and includes examples of P-12 and postsecondary assessment being used in the classroom. Other online modules are in development for Mathematics, English/Language Arts, and Literacy.
- The Council is **hosting eight workshops (including two webinars) for postsecondary faculty**. These informational workshops reinforce the material found in the modules and include sessions on assessment, English/Language Arts and Literacy Standards, Mathematics Standards, and teacher education.
- The Council is represented on the KDE work group designing **a new statewide teacher evaluation rubric**. All aspects of teacher performance will be included, particularly growth in student achievement. The goal is to create an instrument that better allows administrators to work with teachers to improve overall performance. The rubric is in draft stage and will soon be released for pilot testing in several districts.