

COUNCIL ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION REPORT
9/28/08
FROM COMMISSIONER JON E. DRAUD

August 6-7, 2007, Kentucky Board of Education Meeting, Frankfort, KY

Highlights of the meeting were as follows:

➤ ***BOARD ACCEPTS REPORT FROM BLUE RIBBON PANEL ON INTERVENTIONS IN LOW-PERFORMING SCHOOLS***

At the August 6-7 Kentucky Board of Education meeting, the board accepted the report from the Blue Ribbon Panel on Interventions in Low-Performing Schools. The panel was composed of a diverse group of stakeholders from across the state with the charge to:

- determine the best possible strategies for intervention and make recommendations on findings.
- make recommendations for how the Kentucky Department of Education may intervene and provide assistance differently to dramatically improve student achievement in the lowest-performing schools and districts.
- make recommendations for a legislative package to deal with the lowest performing schools and districts.

The major recommendations that came forward were:

- Provide the document titled “Promising Practices from Kentucky High Performing Schools and Districts” and the Promising Practices Framework to low-performing schools and districts as a resource from which to choose those practices that best fit their situation.
- Implement Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) assistance using “A Systemic Model of Intervention and Support” that would consist of the following steps:
 - initial determination of level of assistance
 - assignment of schools and districts to the level of intervention model based on the intervention and level of assistance needed
 - determination of personnel/team needed to implement interventions/support
 - ongoing monitoring of intervention model for timely implementation and success
- Address governance as a crucial centerpiece of any legislative proposal, including a recommendation that low student academic performance be added to the existing statute as grounds for removal of a superintendent or school board

member. Other recommendations for legislative action consisted of more specificity in terms of the composition of the team that will be assisting the school and the establishment of a set of tools that would be available to the team, such as reduction of class size, compensation incentives to recruit and retain teachers and coaching and mentoring programs for teachers, administrators, schools and districts. Also addressed was the need for regulatory changes to provide additional clarification of the process and recommended areas for which additional appropriations will be required.

The board authorized KDE staff to move forward with immediate implementation of those recommendations that can be put in place this fall along with the drafting of a legislative package for those items requiring additional authority that would be considered by the General Assembly in the 2009 session.

For more information on the content of this report, contact Elaine Farris at (502) 564-5130 or via e-mail at Elaine.Farris@education.ky.gov.

➤ ***ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY REGULATIONS CONSIDERED***

The Kentucky Board of Education took action on two assessment and accountability regulations and reviewed one other regulation in this area. The board gave final approval to the following:

- 703 KAR 5:070, Procedures for the inclusion of special populations in the state-required assessment and accountability programs (Final) – Proposed changes reflect the current assessment and accountability system and new technologies, incorporate federal requirements for students with limited English proficiency and remove repetitive language or language found in other current regulations. Relative to LEP students, conditions and limits on the use of a scribe for LEP students that only have a Program Services Plan and no diagnosed special education needs were added. The use of a scribe is limited to students that have not reached proficiency in English and have not completed two full school years in a United States school. Also, a listing of accommodations for use on state assessments for students with language barriers, separate from students with disabilities appears in the regulation. Two new definitions, Simplified Language and Oral Native Language Support, were added to provide more guidance.
- 703 KAR 5:080, Administration Code for Kentucky's Educational Assessment Program (Final) – The new Commonwealth Accountability Testing System (CATS) required that appropriate testing practices be updated. The most substantive change requires that classroom materials with content or strategies for solving problems be covered or removed during test administration.

The final versions of these two regulations, as approved by the Kentucky Board of Education, will have a public hearing on September 23, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. in the State Board Room, First Floor, Capital Plaza Tower, Frankfort, Kentucky.

Department staff anticipates receiving additional feedback from the School, Curriculum, Assessment and Accountability Council and other stakeholders as part of the hearing process. Any substantive changes or information will be discussed with the board during the Hearing Officer's Report at its October meeting.

703 KAR 5:140, Requirements for school and district report cards was reviewed at the August meeting and will come back for final approval at the October 6-7, 2008 meeting. Amendments being considered include changing the primary means of publication of the report card to the Internet rather than printing and mailing, although printed copies shall be supplied upon request; eliminating requirements for the expanded school and district report cards and altering the data indicators of teacher quality to remove redundancy and include indicators required by No Child Left Behind.

For more information on these three regulations, contact Ken Draut at (502) 564-2256 or via e-mail at Ken.Draut@education.ky.gov or Rhonda Sims at Rhonda.sims@education.ky.gov.

➤ ***KENTUCKY ADOLESCENT LITERACY PLAN APPROVED BY BOARD***

Since adolescent literacy is a Kentucky Board of Education priority, a statewide adolescent literacy plan was developed and brought forward for approval by department staff. With support from a grant issued by the National Association of State Boards of Education, Kentucky has had the opportunity to engage key stakeholders in formulating the plan. The plan is organized into the following areas:

- Teacher Preparation/Certification
- Professional Development
- Instructional Resources
- Data Informed Decision Making
- Support Structure

The Kentucky Adolescent Literacy Task Force will be reconvening to review the work plan for implementing the state plan's recommendations and the result of that meeting will come back before the board in October.

For more information on the Adolescent Literacy Plan, contact Jamie Spugnardi at (502) 564-9850 or via e-mail at Jamie.Spugnardi@education.ky.gov or Cindy Parker at (502) 564-2106 or via e-mail at Cindy.Parker@education.ky.gov.

➤ ***BOARD OFFICERS ELECTED AND COMMITTEES FORMED FOR 2008-09***

As part of the August meeting, the Kentucky Board of Education re-elected Joe Brothers of Elizabethtown as its chair and elected C.B. Akins of Lexington as its vice-chair. Their terms are for one year, but they can be re-elected.

The following standing committees were also appointed in August:

Management Committee

Doug Hubbard, Chair

Austin Moss

Kaye Baird

Steve Neal

C.B. Akins

Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Committee

Judy Gibbons, Chair

Dorie Combs

Jeanne Ferguson

Brigitte Ramsey

Billy Harper

Next Meeting: October 6-7, 2008, Frankfort, KY