

The background of the slide is a composite image. The top left shows a line of yellow school buses with "SCHOOL BUS" written on their sides. The bottom left shows a classroom with blue walls, decorated with colorful balloons and framed pictures. Several desks and chairs are arranged in the room.

# **Education Assessment and Accountability Review Subcommittee**

**Robbie Fletcher, Ed.D  
Commissioner  
Department of Education**

**July 1, 2026**

# Senate Bill 197 Implementation

# Legislative Changes to Kentucky's College Entrance Exam

- Passed on the last day of the legislative session, [Senate Bill 197](#) (Section 15) requires KDE to conduct a new procurement for the state-provided college entrance exam to be implemented in the 2026–2027 school year.
- KDE is working with the Finance and Administration Cabinet to repeat the competitive procurement process following the requirements in the statute.
- The RFP was made public on May 21 with the earliest a contract can be in place is October.
- The 2026–2027 school year will begin without a selected exam, creating uncertainty for students, families and educators.

# Requirement to Repeat Competitive Bid Process for College Admissions Exam

Date	Activity
May 21	Release of RFP
May 28	Vendors' Written Questions Due
June 5	Commonwealth's Response to Vendors' Written Questions
June 22	Proposals Due
July-August	Finance Cabinet and Scorers Review Proposals Scoring Process
September-October	Determination of Award and Contract Negotiations
October (earliest possible)	Award Contract

# House Bill 257 Implementation

# Locally Developed Indicators of Quality

## Locally Developed Indicators of Quality

- Aligned to Kentucky academic standards
- Allow all students to apply knowledge and skills in real-world contexts
- May include local priorities (e.g., student well-being, fiscal responsibility, school safety)

## 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

## 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

## KDE Support

- KDE will offer technical assistance
- KDE may offer a one-time payment (up to \$15,000 per district) to offset cost of development.

# Local Indicators of Quality

- [How It's Working in Districts webpage](#) includes several district spotlights and videos that highlight stories of innovation within Kentucky school districts.
- The [Local Accountability Design Guide and Toolkit](#) provides practical tools, design steps and reflective questions to guide the development.
- KDE is applying for another Competitive Grant for State Assessments (CGSA) to propel and support districts in the development of the Local Indicators of Quality.

# HB 257 Changes to Kentucky's State Assessment and Accountability Systems

## Assessment

- Removal of On Demand Writing and Editing & Mechanics
- Districts must adopt writing policy. KDE is supporting districts with [writing program guidelines](#) and other resources.

## Accountability

- Removal of Status and Change language for evaluating state indicators
- Removal of Quality of School Climate and Safety indicator
- Addition of Individual Student Growth in Reading and Mathematics and Chronic Absenteeism as new state indicators
- Targeted Measures of Quality (*reported only* until 2030-2031 school year)
  - Teachers with advanced credentials
  - Grade 8 students earning high school credit
  - Graduates completing FAFSA

# New State Indicators

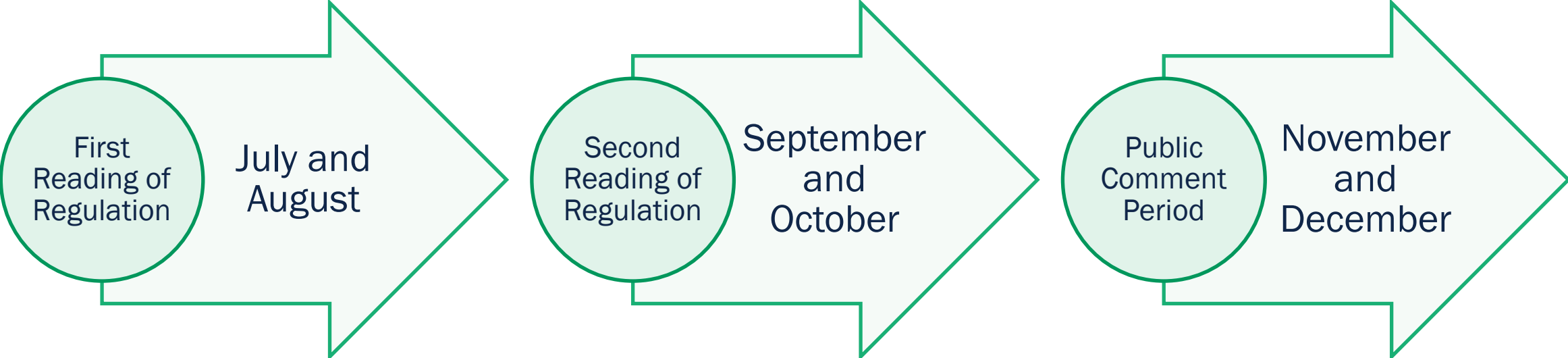
- Individual student growth in reading and mathematics
  - The approach should connect individual student performance across grades to measure academic progress.
  - Growth calculations should account for varying student starting points, recognizing and rewarding academic progress for all students, including those who have not yet reached proficiency and those students who maintain higher performance levels.
- Chronic absenteeism
  - Framed as student attendance success, the percentage of students who are not chronically absent.

# Advisory Groups Consulted

- Accountability Thought Partners (ad hoc)
- Directors of Pupil Personnel
- School Curriculum, Assessment and Accountability Council
- Local Superintendents Advisory Council
- Superintendents Advisory Council
- Principals Advisory Council
- Teachers Advisory Council

Additional groups will be consulted in August and September.

# Next Steps for 703 KAR 5:270, Kentucky's Accountability System



Date	Advisory Group
July 21	School Curriculum, Assessment and Accountability Council
July 28	Local Superintendents Advisory Council
Aug. 5-6	Kentucky Board of Education
Aug. 19	Kentucky Technical Advisory Committee

Date	Advisory Group
Sept. 15	School Curriculum, Assessment and Accountability Council
Sept. 29	Local Superintendents Advisory Council
Oct. 7-8	Kentucky Board of Education

*KRS 158.6455(1)(g): Prior to promulgating administrative regulations to revise the accountability system, the board shall seek advice from the School Curriculum, Assessment, and Accountability Council; the Office of Education Accountability; the Education Assessment and Accountability Review Subcommittee; and the department's technical advisory committee.*