

CHAPTER 213**(HB 621)**

AN ACT relating to school assessment and accountability.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

Section 1. KRS 158.6453 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) The Kentucky Board of Education shall be responsible for creating and implementing a statewide assessment program to be known as the Commonwealth Accountability Testing System to ensure school accountability for student achievement of the goals set forth in KRS 158.645 and 158.6451. The board shall seek the advice of the Office of Education Accountability; the School Curriculum, Assessment, and Accountability Council; and the National Technical Advisory Panel on Assessment and Accountability in the development of the program. The statewide assessment program shall not include measurement of a student's ability to become a self-sufficient individual or to become a responsible member of a family, work group, or community.
- (2) The assessment program shall include the following components:
 - (a) A customized or commercially available norm-referenced test that measures, to the extent possible, the core content for assessment. The test shall provide valid and reliable results for individual students;
 - (b) Open-response or multiple-choice items, or both, to assess student skills in reading, mathematics, science, social studies, the arts, the humanities, and practical living and vocational studies; and an on-demand assessment of student writing. These assessments shall measure, to the extent possible, the core content for assessment;
 - (c) Writing portfolios consisting of samples of student work. After receiving the advice of the Writing Advisory Committee, the Kentucky Board of Education shall, by September 1 following April 14, 1998, file a notice of intent to promulgate an administrative regulation which reduces the teacher and student time involved in preparing a writing portfolio. Time reduction strategies included in the administrative regulation may include, but are not limited to, limiting the time spent on a single portfolio entry, limiting the number of revisions, or collecting entries at different grade levels;
 - (d) Performance assessment events for schools that have students enrolled in performing arts organizations sponsoring sanctioned events with an established protocol for adjudication; and
 - (e) A technically sound longitudinal comparison of the assessment results for the same students.
- (3) Kentucky teachers shall have a significant role in the design of the assessments. The assessments shall be designed to:
 - (a) Measure grade appropriate core academic content, basic skills, and higher-order thinking skills and their application. The assessment shall measure the core content for assessment used by the Department of Education during the 1997-98 school year. Any revisions to the core content for assessment shall be developed through a public process involving parents; educators at the elementary, secondary, and postsecondary

education levels; professional education advocacy groups and organizations; and business and civic leaders and shall be distributed to all public schools;

- (b) Provide valid and reliable scores for schools. If scores are reported for students individually, they shall be valid and reliable; and
 - (c) Minimize the time spent by teachers and students on assessment.
- (4) Results from the state assessment under this section shall be reported to the school districts and schools no later than ***one hundred fifty (150) days following the first day the assessment can be administered***~~[September 15 of the following school year]~~.
- (5) The Department of Education shall gather information to establish the validity of the assessment and accountability program. It shall develop a biennial plan for validation studies that shall include, but not be limited to, the consistency of student results across multiple measures, the congruence of school scores with documented improvements in instructional practice and the school learning environment, and the potential for all scores to yield fair, consistent, and accurate student performance level and school accountability decisions. Validation activities shall take place in a timely manner and shall include a review of the accuracy of scores assigned to students and schools, as well as of the testing materials. The plan shall be submitted to the Commission by July 1 of the first year of each biennium. A summary of the findings shall be submitted to the Legislative Research Commission by September 1 of the second year of the biennium.
- (6) In addition to statewide testing for the purpose of determining school success, the board shall have the responsibility of assisting local school districts and schools in developing and using continuous assessment strategies needed to assure student progress. The continuous assessment shall provide diagnostic information to improve instruction to meet the needs of individual students.
- (7) The Kentucky Board of Education, after the Department of Education has received advice from the Office of Education Accountability; the School Curriculum, Assessment, and Accountability Council; and the National Technical Advisory Panel on Assessment and Accountability, shall promulgate an administrative regulation under KRS Chapter 13A to establish the components of a school report card that clearly communicates with parents and the public about school performance. The school report card shall be sent to the parents of the students of the districts, and a summary of the results for the district shall be published in the newspaper with the largest circulation in the county. It shall include, but not be limited to, the following components reported by race, gender, and disability when appropriate:
- (a) Student academic achievement, including the results from each of the assessments administered under this section;
 - (b) Nonacademic achievement, including the school's attendance, retention, dropout rates, and student transition to adult life; and
 - (c) School learning environment, including measures of parental involvement.

Approved April 5, 2002