

CHAPTER 196**(SJR 156)**

A JOINT RESOLUTION directing the Office of Education Accountability to conduct a study of the Commonwealth Accountability Testing System.

WHEREAS, Kentucky's education system requires that each school and school district be held accountable for student achievement; and

WHEREAS, Kentucky has made significant investment in a comprehensive accountability and assessment system; and

WHEREAS, teachers, principals, and other school personnel bear the major responsibility for implementing the assessment system; and

WHEREAS, the federal No Child Left Behind Act requires ongoing assessment of all students in key content areas in grades 3 through 8;

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

Section 1. Under the direction of the Education Assessment and Accountability Review Subcommittee, the Office of Education Accountability is directed to conduct an in-depth study of the Commonwealth Assessment Testing System (CATS).

Section 2. The study shall include but not be limited to an examination of:

- (1) The appropriateness of the CATS components used to measure achievement levels of the core content for all Kentucky students;
- (2) The validity and adequacy of CATS results as indicators of individual student achievement and to give parents the information they need to know about the individual progress of their children;
- (3) The alignment of CATS with the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act;
- (4) The validity of the writing portfolio as an assessment component within the CATS system and appropriateness of the writing portfolio to be included in the school accountability index;
- (5) The value of the CATS assessment in enhancing instructional practices and curriculum on a day to day basis;
- (6) The effects of the CATS assessment on teachers, staff, and administrators; and
- (7) The actual costs for the CATS system on a per pupil basis.

Section 3. The Kentucky Department of Education is directed to provide the data, information, and any staff analysis requested by the Office of Education Accountability to facilitate completion of the study.

Section 4. The Office of Education Accountability shall utilize information from the National Technical Advisory Panel for Assessment and Accountability and other agencies it deems necessary.

Section 5. The Office of Education Accountability shall provide a written draft copy of the report to the Education Assessment and Accountability Review Subcommittee by September 15,

2004. Upon approval of the subcommittee, the final report shall be submitted to the Interim Joint Committee on Education and the Legislative Research Commission.

Section 6. Upon request of the Education Assessment and Accountability Review Subcommittee and approval by the Legislative Research Commission, consultants may be employed to assist the Office of Education Accountability in the completion of the study.

Section 7. Provisions of this Resolution to the contrary notwithstanding, the Legislative Research Commission shall have the authority to alternatively assign the issues herein to an interim joint committee or subcommittee thereof, and to designate a study completion date.

Approved April 22, 2004