

**EDUCATION AND LABOR CABINET**  
**Kentucky Board of Education**  
**Department of Education**  
**(Amendment)**

**704 KAR 8:020. Required academic standards for reading and writing.**

RELATES TO: KRS 156.070, 156.160, ~~158.645~~, 158.6451, 158.6453, 160.290

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 156.070(1), 156.160(1), 158.6453

CERTIFICATION STATEMENT:

NECESSITY, FUNCTION, AND CONFORMITY: KRS 156.160(1)(a) [~~KRS 156.070~~] requires the Kentucky Board of Education to establish courses of study for the different grades and kinds of common schools, with the courses of study to comply with the expected goals, outcomes, and assessment strategies developed under KRS 158.645, 158.6451, and 158.6453. KRS 156.070(1) requires the Kentucky Board of Education to manage and control the common schools and all programs operated in the schools. KRS 160.290 authorizes local boards of education to provide for courses and other services for students consistent with the administrative regulations of the Kentucky Board of Education. KRS 158.6453(2) requires the Kentucky Department of Education to implement a comprehensive process for reviewing Kentucky's academic standards and the alignment of corresponding assessments for possible revision or replacement every six years [~~the review of academic standards and assessment with the advice of a standards and assessments review and development committee~~]. This administrative regulation incorporates by reference the Kentucky Academic Standards for Reading and Writing, which contain the general courses of study and academic content standards of reading and writing, for use in Kentucky's common schools.

Section 1. Before graduating from a Kentucky public high school, a student shall meet the minimum content requirements established in the Kentucky Academic Standards for Reading and Writing.

Section 2. Incorporation by Reference.

(1) The "Kentucky Academic Standards for Reading and Writing", October 2025 [~~October 2018~~], is incorporated by reference.

(2) This material may be inspected, copied, or obtained, subject to applicable copyright law, at the Department of Education, 5th floor, 300 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. This material may also be accessed on the Kentucky Department of Education website at: <https://www.education.ky.gov/districts/legal/Pages/Kentucky-Revised-Statutes.aspx>

COMPILER'S NOTE: 2025 RS HB 6, enacted by the General Assembly on March 27, 2025, altered the information to be provided at the time an administrative regulation is filed. Aside from formatting changes necessary to upload the regulation into the LRC's publication application, this regulation has been published as submitted by the agency.

*This is to certify that the chief state school officer has reviewed and recommended this administrative regulation prior to its adoption by the Kentucky Board of Education, as required by KRS 156.070(5).*

*DR. ROBBIE FLETCHER, Commissioner*

*SHARON PORTER ROBINSON, Chair*

APPROVED BY AGENCY: October 6, 2025

FILED WITH LRC: October 7, 2025 at 12:00 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMENT PERIOD:** A public hearing on this proposed administrative regulation shall be held December 23, 2025 at 10am, in Room 516, Fifth Floor, 300 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky. Individuals interested in being heard at this hearing shall notify this agency in writing by five workdays prior to the hearing, of their intent to attend. If no notification of intent to attend the hearing is received by that date, the hearing may be cancelled. This hearing is open to the public. Any person who wishes to be heard will be given an opportunity to comment on the proposed administrative regulation. A transcript of the public hearing will not be made unless a written request for a transcript is made. If you do not wish to be heard at the public hearing, you may submit written comments on the proposed administrative regulation. Written comments shall be accepted through December 31, 2025. Send written notification of intent to be heard at the public hearing or written comments on the proposed administrative regulation to the contact person.

**CONTACT PERSON:** Todd G. Allen, General Counsel, Kentucky Department of Education, 300 Sower Boulevard, 5th Floor, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601, phone 502-564-4474, fax 502-564-9321, email [regcomments@education.ky.gov](mailto:regcomments@education.ky.gov)

## REGULATORY IMPACT ANALYSIS AND TIERING STATEMENT

**Contact Person: Todd G. Allen**

**Subject Headings: Board of Education, Schools, Compliance**

**(1) Provide a brief summary of:**

**(a) What this administrative regulation does:**

704 KAR 8:020 incorporates by reference the Kentucky Academic Standards (KAS) for Reading and Writing, which contain the general courses of study and academic content standards of reading and writing education for use in Kentucky's common schools.

**(b) The necessity of this administrative regulation:**

KRS 156.160(1) requires the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) to establish courses of study for the different grades and kinds of common schools, with the courses of study to comply with the expected goals, outcomes, and assessment strategies developed under KRS 158.645, 158.6451 and 158.6453. This administrative regulation incorporates by reference the KAS for Reading and Writing, which contain the general courses of study and academic content standards of reading and writing education for use in Kentucky's common schools.

**(c) How this administrative regulation conforms to the content of the authorizing statutes:**

This regulation conforms to KRS 158.6453(2) which requires the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) to implement a comprehensive process for reviewing Kentucky's academic standards and the alignment of corresponding assessments for possible revision or replacement every six years. KRS 156.070(1) requires the KBE to manage and control the common schools and all programs operated in the schools. KRS 156.160(1)(a) requires the KBE to establish courses of study for the different grades and kinds of common schools, with the courses of study to comply with the expected goals, outcomes, and assessment strategies developed under KRS 158.645, 158.6451, and 158.6453. This administrative regulation incorporates by reference the KAS for Reading and Writing, which contain the general courses of study and academic content standards of reading and writing for use in Kentucky's common schools.

**(d) How this administrative regulation currently assists or will assist in the effective administration of the statutes:**

This administrative regulation incorporates by reference the KAS for Reading and Writing, which contain the general courses of study and academic content standards for reading and writing for use in Kentucky's common schools. KRS 156.160(1)(a) requires the KBE to establish courses of study for the different grades and kinds of common schools, with the courses of study to comply with the expected goals, outcomes, and assessment strategies developed under KRS 158.645, 158.6451, and 158.6453. This regulation also conforms to KRS 158.6453(2) which requires the KDE to implement a comprehensive process for reviewing Kentucky's academic standards and the alignment of corresponding assessments for possible revision or replacement every six years.

**(2) If this is an amendment to an existing administrative regulation, provide a brief summary of:**

**(a) How the amendment will change this existing administrative regulation:**

Regulatory amendments conform to current statutory language and provide a new version of the KAS for Reading and Writing as a material incorporated by reference based on the process provided in KRS 158.6453.

**(b) The necessity of the amendment to this administrative regulation:**

KRS 158.6453(2) requires the KDE to implement a comprehensive process for reviewing Kentucky's academic standards and the alignment of corresponding assessments for possible revision or replacement every six years. 704 KAR 8:020 was last approved by the KBE in October 2018. Therefore, in order to conform to statutory requirements, the KDE implemented the standards review process for reading and writing which resulted in a new material incorporated by reference.

**(c) How the amendment conforms to the content of the authorizing statutes:**

This regulation conforms to KRS 158.6453(2) which requires the KDE to implement a comprehensive process for reviewing and revising the academic standards in reading and writing and the alignment of corresponding assessments for possible revision or replacement every six years. KRS 156.070(1) requires the KBE to manage and control the common schools and all programs operated in the schools. KRS 156.160(1)(a) requires the KBE to establish courses of study for the different grades and kinds of common schools with the courses of study to comply with the expected goals, outcomes, and assessment strategies developed under KRS 158.645, 158.6451, and 158.6453. This administrative regulation incorporates by reference the KAS for Reading and Writing, which contain the general courses of study and academic content standards of reading and writing for use in Kentucky's common schools.

**(d) How the amendment will assist in the effective administration of the statutes:**

The amendments allow schools and districts to access and implement the most current KAS for Reading and Writing following the completion of the required standards review process provided in KRS 158.6453.

**(3) Does this administrative regulation or amendment implement legislation from the previous five years? Yes, this administrative regulation aligns to Senate Bill 9 (2022), the Read to Succeed Act**

**(4) List the type and number of individuals, businesses, organizations, or state and local governments affected by this administrative regulation:**

Schools and districts are affected by this administrative regulation.

**(5) Provide an analysis of how the entities identified in question (4) will be impacted by either the implementation of this administrative regulation, if new, or by the change, if it is an amendment, including:**

**(a) List the actions that each of the regulated entities identified in question (4) will have to take to comply with this administrative regulation or amendment:**

The standards outlined in 704 KAR 8:020 are the standards for reading and writing. The regulated entities must use these outlined standards when making local choices regarding curriculum and instruction.

**(b) In complying with this administrative regulation or amendment, how much will it cost each of the entities identified in question (4):**

The cost to local schools and districts during the first year is unknown and dependent upon the size, needs and materials available which varies among the 171 school districts.

**(c) As a result of compliance, what benefits will accrue to the entities identified in question (4):**

The compliance of local schools and school districts ensure that each student is qualified for graduation as they will have met the minimum content requirements for reading and writing as required in 704 KAR 3:305.

**(6) Provide an estimate of how much it will cost the administrative body to implement this administrative regulation:**

**(a) Initially:**

The KDE spent approximately \$244,187.00. There are no initial costs anticipated to the KDE in implementing the administrative regulation except in cases where technical assistance is requested by schools and districts.

**(b) On a continuing basis:**

KDE anticipates some ongoing staff costs to support schools and districts in the implementation of the KAS for Reading and Writing.

**(7) What is the source of the funding to be used for the implementation and enforcement of this administrative regulation or this amendment:**

State and district funds.

**(8) Provide an assessment of whether an increase in fees or funding will be necessary to implement this administrative regulation, if new, or by the change if it is an amendment:**

The KDE will not be able to use the research-based model of leadership networks to provide support to districts as they implement new standards without an increase in funding.

**(9) State whether or not this administrative regulation establishes any fees or directly or indirectly increases any fees:**

This regulation does not establish any fees or directly or indirectly increase fees.

**(10) TIERING: Is tiering applied?**

Tiering was not appropriate as the administrative regulation applies equally to all schools and districts.

## FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

**(1) Identify each state statute, federal statute, or federal regulation that requires or authorizes the action taken by the administrative regulation:**

KRS 156.160(1) requires the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) to establish courses of study for the different grades and kinds of common schools, with the courses of study to comply with the expected goals, outcomes, and assessment strategies developed under KRS 158.645, 158.6451 and 158.6453. KRS 156.070(1) requires the KBE to manage and control the common schools and all programs operated in the schools. KRS 158.6453(2) requires the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) to implement a comprehensive process for reviewing Kentucky's academic standards and the alignment of corresponding assessments for possible revision or replacement every six years.

**(2) State whether this administrative regulation is expressly authorized by an act of the General Assembly, and if so, identify the act:**

KRS 156.070(1) requires the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) to manage and control the common schools and all programs operated in the schools. KRS 156.160(1) requires the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) to establish courses of study for the different grades and kinds of common schools, with the courses of study to comply with the expected goals, outcomes, and assessment strategies developed under KRS 158.645, 158.6451 and 158.6453.

**(3)(a) Identify the promulgating agency and any other affected state units, parts, or divisions:**

The KBE and KDE.

**(b) Estimate the following for each affected state unit, part, or division identified in (3)(a):**

**1. Expenditures:**

**For the first year:**The KDE spent approximately \$244,187.00 in administrative costs for the development of the KAS for Reading and Writing that are incorporated by reference in 704 KAR 8:020. The KDE anticipates staff costs in the first year to support schools and districts in implementation.

**For subsequent years:**The KDE anticipates some staff administrative costs in subsequent years to support schools and districts in implementation.

**2. Revenues:**

**For the first year:**This regulation is not expected to generate revenue.

**For subsequent years:**This regulation is not expected to generate revenue.

**3. Cost Savings:**

**For the first year:**No cost savings are anticipated.

**For subsequent years:**No cost savings are anticipated.

**(4)(a) Identify affected local entities (for example: cities, counties, fire departments, school districts):**

Local schools and districts.

**(b) Estimate the following for each affected local entity identified in (4)(a):**

**1. Expenditures:**

**For the first year:**The total cost to local schools and districts is unknown and dependent upon the size, needs and resources available which varies among the 171 school districts.

**For subsequent years:**The KDE anticipates some staff administrative costs for local schools and districts in subsequent years to support ongoing implementation.

**2. Revenues:**

**For the first year:**This regulation is not expected to generate revenue.

**For subsequent years:**This regulation is not expected to generate revenue.

**3. Cost Savings:**

**For the first year:**No cost savings are anticipated.

**For subsequent years:**No cost savings are anticipated.

**(5)(a) Identify any affected regulated entities not listed in (3)(a) or (4)(a):**

There are no additional regulated entities.

**(b) Estimate the following for each regulated entity identified in (5)(a):**

**1. Expenditures:**

**For the first year:**Not applicable as no additional entities have been identified.

**For subsequent years:**Not applicable as no additional entities have been identified.

**2. Revenues:**

**For the first year:**Not applicable.

**For subsequent years:**Not applicable.

**3. Cost Savings:**

**For the first year:**Not applicable.

**For subsequent years:**Not applicable.

**(6) Provide a narrative to explain the following for each entity identified in (3)(a), (4)(a), and (5)(a)**

**(a) Fiscal impact of this administrative regulation:**

The fiscal impact to local schools and districts is unknown and depends on the size, needs and materials available to individual schools and districts. The KDE spent approximately \$244,187.00 in administrative costs for the development of the KAS for Reading and Writing which are incorporated by reference in 704 KAR 8:020 in addition to staff time to oversee its administration. The KDE anticipates some administrative staff costs in the first year and subsequent years to support schools and districts in the implementation of the KAS for Reading and Writing.

**(b) Methodology and resources used to reach this conclusion:**

The KDE has already spent approximately \$244,187.00 in administrative costs for the development of the reading and writing standards that are incorporated by reference in 704 KAR 8:020 in addition to staff time to oversee its administration. The KDE anticipates some staff costs in the first year and subsequent years to support schools and districts in the implementation of the KAS for Reading and Writing. For local schools and districts, the costs are dependent upon the size, needs, and materials of the

individual 171 school districts which varies thereby making the fiscal impact difficult to estimate.

**(7) Explain, as it relates to the entities identified in (3)(a), (4)(a), and (5)(a):**

**(a) Whether this administrative regulation will have a "major economic impact", as defined by KRS 13A.010(14):**

It is unknown whether this administrative regulation will have a major economic impact to the entities identified.

**(b) The methodology and resources used to reach this conclusion:**

The KDE spent approximately \$244,187.00 in administrative costs for the development of the reading and writing standards that are incorporated by reference in 704 KAR 8:020 in addition to staff time to oversee its administration. The KDE anticipates some staff costs in the first year and subsequent years to support schools and districts in the implementation of the KAS for Reading and Writing. For local schools and districts, the costs are dependent upon the size, needs, and materials of the individual 171 school districts which varies thereby making the fiscal impact difficult to estimate.