

INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND REVENUE

Budget Review Subcommittee on Education

Minutes of the 4th Meeting of the 2018 Interim

September 27, 2018

Call to Order and Roll Call

The 4th meeting of the Budget Review Subcommittee on Education of the Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations and Revenue was held on Thursday, September 27, 2018, at 10:00 AM, in Room 141 at the Paducah Campus of Murray State University. Representative Regina Huff, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Representatives James Tipton, Co-Chair, and Regina Huff, Co-Chair; Senators C.B. Embry Jr., and Mike Wilson; Representatives George Brown Jr., Matt Castlen, Tim Moore, Melinda Gibbons Prunty, Steve Riley, and Steven Rudy.

Guests: Dr. Wayne Lewis, Interim Commissioner of Education, Kentucky Department of Education; Rhonda Sims, Associate Commissioner, Office of Assessment and Accountability; Robin Kinney, Associate Commissioner, Office of Finance and Operations.

LRC Staff: Chuck Truesdell, Joe Lancaster, and Jonathan Eakin.

Approval of Minutes

Representative Riley made a motion, seconded by Representative Castlen, to approve the minutes of the August 30, 2018, meeting. The motion carried by voice vote.

School Accountability Performance Standards Under ESSA

Dr. Lewis, Ms. Kinney, and Ms. Sims provided an overview of Kentucky's new education accountability model. The overview included information on the standard setting process, software, and additional recommendations.

In response to a question from Representative Tipton, Dr. Lewis said that when a school is identified as a priority school the decision making power is taken away from the Site Based Decision Making Council and given to the district superintendent. Ms. Sims said that Title I schools are identified by the level of income. Dr. Lewis added that Title I designation provides the opportunity for additional federal funds.

In response to a question from Chair Huff, Dr. Lewis said the proposal from Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) would use a reading, mathematics, social studies, and science assessment that would be developed at the high school level. The new end of span assessment will be developed by Kentucky teachers and based on Kentucky academic standards. Students with special needs would have extra resources and modifications during the assessment.

In response to a question from Representative Prunty, Ms. Sims said that schools will still be responsible for identifying students who qualify for free and reduced lunch.

In response to a question from Representative Riley, Dr. Lewis said that the portfolio would include a student's transcripts, test scores, college and career plans, and evidence that a student can demonstrate competence in reading and mathematics. KDE will provide broad parameters and the local school board will develop a more specific plan for appeals that will go to the local superintendent.

In response to a question from Representative Brown, Dr. Lewis said that the push to make students transition ready, before the new assessment takes effect, would come from the current accountability system.

In response to a question from Senator Wilson, Dr. Lewis said that the reading and mathematics academic standards have had second readings and will go to the State Board of Education for approval on October 2, 2018. There are many ways for a student to demonstrate transition readiness, as required by the proposal. There are not enough state funds to administer a college entrance exam at the tenth-grade level.

In response to a question from Chair Huff, Dr. Lewis said that forty percent of students at the eighth-grade level scored novice or apprentice in reading and mathematics.

In response to a question from Representative Moore, Dr. Lewis said that KDE will continue to release individual school performance data along with the new designations. In the near future, Kentucky schools will start to use a more parent-friendly report card.

In response to a question from Representative Prunty, Dr. Lewis said that schools across the country are experimenting with competency-based assessments. However, a large-scale departure from traditional standardized assessments is a long way off for Kentucky schools.

In response to a question from Chair Huff, Dr. Lewis said that while the arts are critically important, not everything can be included or assessed in the accountability system.

In response to a question from Senator Wilson, Dr. Lewis said that a district can create and implement a turnaround plan without using a third-party. However, the audit cannot consist of any district staff.

In response to a question from Representative Tipton, Dr. Lewis said that providing the necessary support and intervention during early childhood education is imperative to improving literacy and numeracy.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 P.M.