

EDUCATION ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE

Minutes

April 15, 2019

Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting of the Education Assessment and Accountability Review Subcommittee was held on Monday, April 15, 2019, at 2:00 p.m., in Room 129 of the Capitol Annex. Senator Max Wise, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Senator Max Wise, Co-Chair; Senators Alice Forgy Kerr, and Mike Wilson; Representatives Tina Bojanowski, Brandon Reed, and Steve Riley.

LRC Staff: Joshua Collins, Lauren Busch, and Maurya Allen.

Chairman Wise called the meeting to order and welcomed new members as well as Commissioner Wayne Lewis. Representative Riley moved to adopt the minutes of the November 20, 2018 meeting. The motion was seconded by Senator Kerr, and it passed by voice vote.

Review of Administrative Regulations

Commissioner Wayne Lewis, Kentucky Department of Education, and Dr. Jennifer Stafford, Division Director, Assessment and Accountability Support, Kentucky Department of Education, gave an overview of the regulations. The first was an amendment to 703 KAR 5:270 regarding changes to Kentucky's education accountability system.

The regulation was effective in February of 2018, but was first implemented in schools in September of 2018. It was then reviewed to determine how well implementation had gone and to recommend any changes that were needed. Suggestions for changes were brought to the Board of Education in December 2018, with a public comment period in January 2019. Passage of Senate Bill 175 of the 2019 Regular Session prompted an agency amendment, presented to members today.

The proposed regulation language brings changes to the growth indicator in elementary/middle grades, transition readiness, achievement gaps, opportunity and access, and overall accountability weights. It also deletes star rating charts from the regulation as they are unnecessary. All of these changes seek to bring further clarity to the regulation. Following a very fruitful Growth Indicator Work Group meeting this past winter, there was

a recommendation to calculate growth based on observed change in student performance. Additionally, negative numbers have been removed from the growth tables included in the regulation. This makes it much easier for schools to calculate and easier for teachers, parents, and administrators to use.

Transition readiness at elementary and middle school levels was to be defined using a composite score combining all content areas and using the same student performance data as Proficiency and Separate Academic indicators. There was a recommendation to remove this indicator for elementary and middle schools because it was duplicative. At the high school level, there is a proposal to modify the regulation to consider a dual credit course grade of C as an indicator for transition readiness rather than only considering a B grade. Additionally, transition readiness can be demonstrated using a college placement examination rather than strictly a college admission examination. All of these suggestions are reflected in the proposed regulation under review.

Regarding the achievement gap, it was previously considered as a combination of “gap to proficiency” and “gap to group.” There was duplication within this indicator throughout the regulation and especially among Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) schools. In order to simplify the system, the “gap to proficiency” measure is eliminated as an indicator. Focus will remain on “gap to group” and significant differences between groups. The regulation also provides for an equity measure. Gaps in proficiency will be used in star rating calculations. If significant achievement gaps are found in schools, those earning a 4 or 5 star rating will be reduced by 1 star.

Quality of School Climate and Safety will replace the Opportunity and Access language in order to better align with current Kentucky statute. The Kentucky Board of Education is assessing the metrics to be used to assess this, but the board will likely use perception data from surveys that measure insight to the school environment. Additionally, the Kentucky Board of Education has proposed and approved a series of locked weights for all the measures in an effort to bring clarity. The weights are necessary and serve as a signifier of the intended policy value/emphasis for each indicator. While this will eliminate the star charts from the regulation, it will not eliminate star rankings of schools.

A new reporting requirement is a result of 2019 Senate Bill 175. Following the 2018-19 and 2019-20 academic years, the commissioner must convene a committee to analyze state assessment results and examine the expected impacts, unintended consequences, and potential for schools to reach the highest rankings. Findings will be reported to the Interim Joint Committee on Education by December 1, 2019 and December 1, 2020. To accommodate these changes, the agency proposed an amendment. Representative Reed made a motion to accept the amendment, seconded by Representative Riley. The motion passed by roll call vote. There were 6 Yes votes, 0 No votes, and 0 Pass votes.

No action or motion was necessary for administrative regulation 703 KAR 5:211, which repeals the administrative regulation being replaced by 703 KAR 5:270.

House Co-chair Election

As required by statute, it was necessary for the committee to elect a House Co-chair. Representative Riley nominated Representative Reed. Representative Reed seconded the nomination. A motion was made by Representative Riley that nominations cease and Representative Reed be elected by acclamation. The motion was seconded by Representative Reed. Chairman Wise congratulated and welcomed Representative Reed as the new House Co-chair.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.