

1 AN ACT relating to the education assessment and accountability system.

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

3 ➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 158 IS CREATED TO  
4 READ AS FOLLOWS:

5 (1) As used in this section:

6 (a) "Locally developed indicators of quality" means measures or indicators  
7 created or adopted by a local school district that:

8 1. Are aligned with the academic standards established in Section 2 of  
9 this Act;

10 2. Allow all students to demonstrate their ability to apply grade-  
11 appropriate, standards-driven knowledge, content, and skills in real-  
12 world applications; and

13 3. May include additional locally identified indicators related to priorities  
14 established by the local community that serve to complement the  
15 requirements in subparagraphs 1. and 2. of this paragraph. These  
16 indicators may include student well-being, fiscal responsibility, or  
17 school safety; and

18 (b) "Vibrant learning" means an educational experience that is:

19 1. Characterized by student agency and the application of knowledge  
20 and skills aligned with the academic standards established in Section 2  
21 of this Act;

22 2. Developed in partnership with students' families, local communities,  
23 and the local workforce; and

24 3. Demonstrated through personalized projects, outputs, experiences, or  
25 other produced results reflecting each individual student's academic  
26 and career interests.

27 (2) Each local school district may develop and implement a system of locally

1 developed indicators of quality in accordance with administrative regulations  
2 promulgated by the Kentucky Board of Education. The locally developed  
3 indicators of quality shall include:

4 (a) Student participation in vibrant learning experiences; and

5 (b) Locally developed indicators of performance.

6 (3) A local school district utilizing a system of locally developed indicators of quality  
7 shall:

8 (a) When an indicator involves student data, include student performance data  
9 for all students, disaggregated by individual subgroups, where permissible;  
10 and

11 (b) Develop a publicly available, online display that clearly communicates each  
12 applicable school and the district's performance on the locally developed  
13 indicators of quality, disaggregated by individual subgroups, where  
14 permissible.

15 (4) The Kentucky Department of Education:

16 (a) Shall offer technical assistance to local school districts in their development  
17 of locally developed indicators of quality; and

18 (b) May offer a one (1) time payment to offset costs incurred by local school  
19 districts in the development of locally developed indicators of quality. A  
20 financial payment provided under this paragraph shall not exceed fifteen  
21 thousand dollars (\$15,000) per district.

22 (5) (a) When the commissioner of education determines that more than sixty  
23 percent (60%) of local school districts have elected to develop and  
24 implement a system of locally developed indicators of quality in accordance  
25 with subsection (2) of this section, all local school districts shall be required  
26 to adopt a system of locally developed indicators of quality in accordance  
27 with the requirements of subsection (2) of this section.

(b) A local school district required to adopt a system of locally developed indicators of quality in accordance with paragraph (a) of this subsection shall comply with the requirement by the school year that occurs two (2) years after the commissioner's determination that the threshold has been met.

(6) The Kentucky Board of Education may promulgate administrative regulations in accordance with KRS Chapter 13A necessary to administer the provisions of this section.

➔Section 2. KRS 158.6453 (Effective July 1, 2026) is amended to read as follows:

(1) As used in this section:

- (a) "Accelerated learning" means an organized way of helping students meet individual academic goals by providing direct instruction to eliminate student performance deficiencies or enable students to move more quickly through course requirements and pursue higher level skill development;
- (b) "Advanced coursework" means educational programs or opportunities designed to challenge students with more rigorous content beyond the standard curriculum, including but not limited to advanced placement, International Baccalaureate, and honors courses;
- (c) "Constructed-response items" or "performance-based items" means individual test items that require the student to create an answer rather than select a response and may include fill-in-the-blank, short-answer, extended-answer, open-response, and writing-on-demand formats;
- (d) "Criterion-referenced test" means a test that is aligned with defined academic content standards and measures an individual student's level of performance against the standards;
- (e) "Formative assessment" means a process used by teachers and students during

1 instruction to adjust ongoing teaching and learning to improve students'  
2 achievement of intended instructional outcomes. Formative assessments may  
3 include the use of commercial assessments, curriculum-embedded  
4 assessments, classroom observations, teacher-designed ~~classroom tests and~~  
5 ~~assessments~~, and other processes and assignments to gain information about  
6 individual student learning that reflects developmentally appropriate grade-  
7 level performance;

8 (f) "Interim assessments" means assessments that are given periodically  
9 throughout the year to provide diagnostic information and to show individual  
10 student performance against content standards;

11 (g) "Summative assessment" means an assessment given at the end of the school  
12 year, semester, or other period of time to evaluate students' performance  
13 against academic~~content~~ standards within a unit of instruction or a course;  
14 and

15 (h) "Writing" means a purposeful act of thinking and expression that uses  
16 language to explore ideas and communicate meaning to others. Writing is a  
17 complex, multifaceted act of communication and is distinct from basic  
18 handwriting or penmanship.

19 (2) (a) Every six (6) years, the Kentucky Department of Education shall implement a  
20 process for reviewing Kentucky's academic standards and the alignment of  
21 corresponding assessments for possible revision or replacement to ensure  
22 alignment with transition readiness standards necessary for global  
23 competitiveness, state career and technical education standards, and KRS  
24 158.196.

25 (b) The revisions to the academic~~content~~ standards shall:

26 1. Focus on critical knowledge, skills, and capacities needed for success in  
27 the global economy;

- 1                   2.    Result in fewer but more in-depth standards to facilitate mastery
- 2                   learning;
- 3                   3.    Communicate expectations more clearly and concisely to teachers,
- 4                   parents, students, and citizens;
- 5                   4.    Be based on evidence-based research;
- 6                   5.    Consider international benchmarks; and
- 7                   6.    Ensure that the standards are aligned from elementary to high school to
- 8                   postsecondary education so that students can be successful at each
- 9                   education level.
- 10           (c)   1.    The department shall establish four (4) standards and assessments
- 11                   review committees, with each committee composed of a minimum of six
- 12                   (6) Kentucky public school teachers and a minimum of two (2)
- 13                   representatives from Kentucky institutions of higher education,
- 14                   including at least one (1) representative from a public institution of
- 15                   higher education. Each committee member shall teach in the subject
- 16                   area that his or her committee is assigned to review and have no prior or
- 17                   current affiliation with a curriculum or assessment resources vendor.
- 18                   2.    One (1) of the four (4) committees shall be assigned to focus on the
- 19                   review of reading~~[language arts]~~ and writing academic standards and
- 20                   corresponding assessments in reading, one (1) on the review of
- 21                   mathematics academic standards and assessments, one (1) on the review
- 22                   of science academic standards and assessments, and one (1) on the
- 23                   review of social studies academic standards and assessments.
- 24           (d)   1.    The department shall establish twelve (12) advisory panels to advise and
- 25                   assist each of the four (4) standards and assessments review committees.
- 26                   2.    Three (3) advisory panels shall be assigned to each standards and
- 27                   assessments review committee. One (1) panel shall review the standards

1 and assessments for kindergarten through grade five (5), one (1) shall  
2 review the standards and assessments for grades six (6) through eight  
3 (8), and one (1) shall review the standards and assessments for grades  
4 nine (9) through twelve (12).

5 3. Each advisory panel shall be composed of at least one (1) representative  
6 from a Kentucky institution of higher education and a minimum of six  
7 (6) Kentucky public school teachers who teach in the grade level and  
8 subject reviewed by the advisory panel to which they are assigned and  
9 have no prior or current affiliation with a curriculum or assessment  
10 resources vendor.

11 (e) The commissioner of education and the president of the Council on  
12 Postsecondary Education shall also provide consultants for the standards and  
13 assessments review committees and the advisory panels who are business and  
14 industry professionals actively engaged in career fields that depend on the  
15 various content areas.

16 (f) 1. The standards and assessments process review committee is hereby  
17 established and shall be composed of the commissioner of education or  
18 designee as a nonvoting member and nine (9) voting representatives of  
19 public schools, of whom at least two (2) shall be parents of public  
20 school students, appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate  
21 in accordance with KRS 11.160 as follows:

- 22 a. One (1) language arts teacher;
- 23 b. One (1) math teacher;
- 24 c. One (1) science teacher;
- 25 d. One (1) social studies teacher;
- 26 e. Two (2) school principals;
- 27 f. Two (2) school superintendents; and

- 1                   g.     One (1) school board member.
- 2                   2.     On making appointments to the committee, the Governor shall ensure
- 3                         broad geographical urban and rural representation and representation of
- 4                         elementary, middle, and high school levels; ensure equal representation
- 5                         of the two (2) sexes, inasmuch as possible; and ensure that appointments
- 6                         reflect the minority racial composition of the Commonwealth.
- 7                   3.     The review of the committee shall be limited to the procedural aspects
- 8                         of the review process undertaken prior to its consideration.
- 9                   4.     Notwithstanding KRS 12.028, the committee shall not be subject to
- 10                         reorganization by the Governor.
- 11           (g) 1.     The review process implemented under this subsection shall be an open,
- 12                         transparent process that allows all Kentuckians an opportunity to
- 13                         participate. The department shall ensure the public's assistance in
- 14                         reviewing and suggesting changes to the standards and alignment
- 15                         adjustments to corresponding state assessments by establishing a
- 16                         website dedicated to collecting comments by the public and educators.
- 17                         An independent third party, which has no prior or current affiliation with
- 18                         a curriculum or assessment resources vendor, shall be selected by the
- 19                         department to collect and transmit the comments to the department for
- 20                         dissemination to the appropriate advisory panel for review and
- 21                         consideration.
- 22                   2.     Each advisory panel shall review the standards and assessments for its
- 23                         assigned subject matter and grade level and the suggestions made by the
- 24                         public and educators. After completing its review, each advisory panel
- 25                         shall make recommendations for changes to the standards and alignment
- 26                         adjustments for assessments to the appropriate standards and
- 27                         assessments review committee.

- 1           3. Each standards and assessments review committee shall review the  
2           findings and make recommendations to revise or replace existing  
3           standards and to adjust alignment of assessments.
- 4           4. The recommendations shall be published on the website established in  
5           this subsection for the purpose of gathering additional feedback from the  
6           public. The commissioner shall subsequently present the  
7           recommendations and the public feedback to the Interim Joint  
8           Committee on Education.
- 9           5. The commissioner shall subsequently provide a report to the standards  
10          and assessments process review committee summarizing the process  
11          conducted under this subsection and the resulting recommendations. The  
12          report shall include but not be limited to the timeline of the review  
13          process, public feedback, and responses from the Interim Joint  
14          Committee on Education.
- 15          6. After receiving the commissioner's report, the standards and assessments  
16          process review committee shall either concur that stakeholders have had  
17          adequate opportunity to provide input on standards and the  
18          corresponding alignment of state assessments or find the input process  
19          deficient. If the process is found deficient, the recommendations may be  
20          returned to the appropriate standards and assessments review committee  
21          for review as described in subparagraph 3. of this paragraph. If the  
22          process is found sufficient, the recommendations shall be forwarded  
23          without amendment to the Kentucky Board of Education.
- 24          (h) The Kentucky Board of Education shall promulgate administrative regulations  
25          in accordance with KRS Chapter 13A as may be needed for the administration  
26          of the review process, including staggering the timing and sequence of the  
27          review process by subject area and remuneration of the review committees



1 and advisory panels described in paragraphs (c) and (d) of this subsection.

2 (i) 1. The Kentucky Board of Education shall consider for approval the  
3 revisions to academic standards for a content area and the alignment of  
4 the corresponding state assessment once recommendations are received  
5 from the standards and assessments process review committee. Existing  
6 state academic standards shall remain in place until the board approves  
7 new standards.

8 2. Any revision to, or replacement of, the academic standards and  
9 assessments as a result of the review process conducted under this  
10 subsection shall be implemented in Kentucky public schools no later  
11 than the second academic year following the review process. Existing  
12 academic standards shall be used until new standards are implemented.

13 3. The Department of Education shall disseminate the academic ~~content~~  
14 standards to the schools and teacher preparation programs.

15 (j) The Department of Education shall provide or facilitate statewide training  
16 sessions for existing teachers and administrators on how to:

17 1. Integrate the revised academic~~content~~ standards into classroom  
18 instruction;

19 2. Better integrate performance assessment of students within their  
20 instructional practices; and

21 3. Help all students use higher-order thinking and communication skills.

22 (k) The Education Professional Standards Board in cooperation with the  
23 Kentucky Board of Education and the Council on Postsecondary Education  
24 shall coordinate information and training sessions for faculty and staff in all of  
25 the teacher preparation programs in the use of the revised academic ~~content~~  
26 standards. The Education Professional Standards Board shall ensure that each  
27 teacher preparation program includes use of the academic standards in the

- 1 pre-service education programs and that all teacher interns will have  
2 experience planning classroom instruction based on the revised standards.
- 3 (l) The Council on Postsecondary Education in cooperation with the Kentucky  
4 Department of Education and the postsecondary education institutions in the  
5 state shall coordinate information sessions regarding the academic ~~content~~  
6 standards for faculty who teach in the various content areas.
- 7 (m) The Education Professional Standards Board shall, as a condition of program  
8 approval, require teacher preparation programs to align curriculum with the  
9 expectations set forth in the state's academic ~~content~~ standards.
- 10 (3) (a) The Kentucky Board of Education shall be responsible for creating and  
11 implementing a balanced statewide assessment program that measures the  
12 students', schools', and districts' achievement of the goals set forth in KRS  
13 158.645 and 158.6451, to ensure compliance with the federal Every Student  
14 Succeeds Act of 2015, Pub. L. No. 114-95, or its successor, and to ensure  
15 school accountability.
- 16 (b) The board shall revise the annual statewide assessment program as needed in  
17 accordance with revised academic standards and corresponding assessment  
18 alignment adjustments approved by the board under subsection (2) of this  
19 section.
- 20 (c) The statewide assessments shall not include any academic standards not  
21 approved by the board under subsection (2) of this section.
- 22 (d) The board shall seek the advice of the Office of Education Accountability; the  
23 School Curriculum, Assessment, and Accountability Council; the Education  
24 Assessment and Accountability Review Subcommittee, and the department's  
25 technical advisory committee in the development of the assessment program.  
26 The statewide assessment program shall not include measurement of a  
27 student's ability to become a self-sufficient individual or to become a

1 responsible member of a family, work group, or community.

2 (4) (a) The academic components of the statewide assessment program shall be  
3 composed of annual student summative tests, which may include a  
4 combination of multiple competency-based assessment and performance  
5 measures approved by the Kentucky Board of Education.

6 (b) The annual student summative tests shall:

- 7 1. Measure individual student achievement in ~~language,~~ reading,  
8 ~~English,~~ mathematics, science, and social studies at designated grades;
- 9 2. Provide teachers and parents a valid and reliable comprehensive analysis  
10 of skills mastered by individual students;
- 11 3. Provide diagnostic information that identifies strengths and academic  
12 deficiencies of individual students in the content areas;
- 13 4. Provide information to teachers that can enable them to improve  
14 instruction for current and future students;
- 15 5. Provide longitudinal profiles for students; and
- 16 6. Ensure school and district accountability for student achievement of the  
17 goals set forth in KRS 158.645 and 158.6451, except the statewide  
18 assessment program shall not include measurement of a student's ability  
19 to become a self-sufficient individual or to become a responsible  
20 member of a family, work group, or community.

21 (5) The state student assessments shall include the following components:

22 (a) Elementary and middle grades requirements are:

- 23 1. A criterion-referenced test each in mathematics and reading in grades  
24 three (3) through eight (8) that is valid and reliable for an individual  
25 student and that measures the depth and breadth of ~~the~~ Kentucky's  
26 academic ~~content~~ standards; and
- 27 2. A criterion-referenced test each in science and social studies that is valid

1 and reliable for an individual student as necessary to measure the depth  
2 and breadth of the~~[Kentucky's]~~ academic ~~{content}~~ standards to be  
3 administered one (1) time within the elementary and middle grades,  
4 respectively;

5 ~~3. An on-demand assessment of student writing to be administered one (1)~~  
6 ~~time within the elementary grades and one (1) time within the middle~~  
7 ~~grades; and~~

8 ~~4. An editing and mechanics test relating to writing, using multiple choice~~  
9 ~~and constructed response items, to be administered one (1) time within~~  
10 ~~the elementary and the middle grades, respectively;]~~

11 (b) High school requirements are:

12 1. A criterion-referenced test in mathematics, reading, and science that is  
13 valid and reliable for an individual student and that measures the depth  
14 and breadth of Kentucky's academic content standards to be  
15 administered one (1) time within the high school grades;

16 2. A criterion-referenced test in social studies that is valid and reliable for  
17 an individual student as necessary to measure the depth and breadth of  
18 the~~[Kentucky's]~~ academic ~~{content}~~ standards to be administered one (1)  
19 time within the high school grades; and

20 ~~3. [An on-demand assessment of student writing to be administered one (1)~~  
21 ~~time within the high school grades;~~

22 ~~4. An editing and mechanics test relating to writing, using multiple choice~~  
23 ~~and constructed response items, to be administered one (1) time within~~  
24 ~~the high school grades; and~~

25 ~~5.]~~A college admissions examination to assess English, reading,  
26 mathematics, and science in the spring of grade eleven (11);

27 (c) The Kentucky Board of Education shall add any other component necessary

- 1 to comply with the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015, Pub. L. No. 114-95,  
2 or its successor, as determined by the United States Department of Education;
- 3 (d) The criterion-referenced components required in this subsection shall be  
4 composed of constructed response items and multiple choice items; and
- 5 (e) The results of the assessment program developed under this subsection shall  
6 be used by schools and districts to determine appropriate instructional  
7 modifications for all students in order for students to make continuous  
8 progress, including that needed by advanced learners.
- 9 (6) Each school district shall administer the statewide student assessment during the  
10 last fourteen (14) days of school in the district's instructional calendar. The  
11 Kentucky Board of Education may change the testing window to allow for  
12 innovative assessment systems or other online test administration and shall  
13 promulgate administrative regulations that minimize the number of days of testing  
14 and outline the procedures to be used during the testing process to ensure test  
15 security, including procedures for testing makeup days, and to comply with federal  
16 assessment requirements.
- 17 (7) A student enrolled in a district-operated or district-contracted alternative program  
18 shall participate in the appropriate assessments required by this section.
- 19 (8) A local school district may select and use commercial interim or formative  
20 assessments or develop and use its own formative assessments to provide data on  
21 how well its students are growing toward mastery of Kentucky academic standards,  
22 so long as the district's local school board develops a policy minimizing the  
23 reduction in instructional time related to the administration of the interim  
24 assessments. Nothing in this section precludes teachers from using ongoing teacher-  
25 developed formative processes.
- 26 (9) Each school that enrolls primary students shall use diagnostic assessments and  
27 prompts that measure readiness in reading and mathematics for its primary students

1 as determined by the school to be developmentally appropriate. The schools may  
2 use commercial products, use products and procedures developed by the district, or  
3 develop their own diagnostic procedures. The results shall be used to inform the  
4 teachers and parents or guardians of each student's skill level.

5 (10) The state board shall ensure that a technically sound longitudinal comparison of the  
6 assessment results for the same students shall be made available.

7 (11) The following provisions shall apply to the college admissions examination  
8 described in subsection (5)(b)~~3.~~~~5.~~ of this section:

9 (a) The cost of the college admissions examination administered to students in  
10 high school shall be paid for by the Kentucky Department of Education. The  
11 costs of additional college admissions examinations shall be the responsibility  
12 of the student;

13 (b) If funds are available, the Kentucky Department of Education shall provide a  
14 college admissions examination preparation program to all public high school  
15 juniors. The department may contract for necessary services; and

16 (c) Accommodations provided to a student with a disability taking the college  
17 admissions assessment under this subsection shall consist of:

18 1. Accommodations provided in a manner allowed by the college  
19 admissions assessment provider when results in test scores are  
20 reportable to a postsecondary institution for admissions and placement  
21 purposes, except as provided in subparagraph 2. of this paragraph; or

22 2. Accommodations provided in a manner allowed by a student's  
23 individualized education program as defined in KRS 158.281 for a  
24 student whose disability precludes valid assessment of his or her  
25 academic abilities using the accommodations provided under  
26 subparagraph 1. of this paragraph when the student's scores are not  
27 reportable to a postsecondary institution for admissions and placement

1 purposes.

2 (12) Kentucky teachers shall have a significant role in providing feedback about the  
3 design of the assessments, except for the college admissions exam described in  
4 subsection (5)(b)~~3.15.1~~ of this section. The assessments shall be designed to:

5 (a) Measure developmentally appropriate grade-level performance aligned to  
6 the academic standards~~[grade-appropriate core academic content, basic skills,~~  
7 ~~and higher-order thinking skills and their application];~~

8 (b) Provide valid and reliable scores for schools. If scores are reported for  
9 students individually, they shall be valid and reliable; and

10 (c) Minimize the time spent by teachers and students on assessment~~;~~ and

11 ~~(d) Assess Kentucky academic standards only].~~

12 (13) The results from assessment under subsections (3) and (5) of this section shall be  
13 reported to the school districts and schools no later than seventy-five (75) days  
14 following the last day the assessment can be administered. Assessment reports  
15 provided to the school districts and schools shall include an electronic copy of an  
16 operational subset of test items from each assessment administered to their students  
17 and the results for each of those test items by student and by school.

18 (14) The Department of Education shall gather information to establish the validity of  
19 the assessment and accountability program. It shall develop a biennial plan for  
20 validation studies that shall include but not be limited to the consistency of student  
21 results across multiple measures, the congruence of school scores with documented  
22 improvements in instructional practice and the school learning environment, and the  
23 potential for all scores to yield fair, consistent, and accurate student performance  
24 level and school accountability decisions. Validation activities shall take place in a  
25 timely manner and shall include a review of the accuracy of scores assigned to  
26 students and schools, as well as of the testing materials. The plan shall be submitted  
27 to the Commission by July 1 of the first year of each biennium. A summary of the

1 findings shall be submitted to the Legislative Research Commission by September  
2 1 of the second year of the biennium.

3 (15) The Department of Education and the state board shall offer optional assistance to  
4 local school districts and schools in developing and using continuous assessment  
5 strategies needed to ensure student progress. The continuous assessment shall  
6 provide diagnostic information to improve instruction to meet the needs of  
7 individual students.

8 (16) The Administration Code for Kentucky's Assessment Program shall include  
9 prohibitions of inappropriate test preparation activities by school district employees  
10 charged with test administration and oversight, including but not limited to the issue  
11 of teachers being required to do test practice in lieu of regular classroom instruction  
12 and test practice outside the normal work day. The code shall include disciplinary  
13 sanctions that may be taken toward a school or individuals.

14 (17) The Kentucky Board of Education, after the Department of Education has received  
15 advice from the Office of Education Accountability; the School Curriculum,  
16 Assessment, and Accountability Council; and the department's technical advisory  
17 committee, shall promulgate an administrative regulation under KRS Chapter 13A  
18 to establish the components of a reporting structure for assessments administered  
19 under this section. The reporting structure shall include the following components:

20 (a) A school report card that clearly communicates with parents and the public  
21 about school performance. The school report card shall be sent to the parents  
22 of the students of the districts, and information on electronic access to a  
23 summary of the results for the district shall be published in the newspaper  
24 with the largest circulation in the county. It shall include but not be limited to  
25 the following components reported by race, gender, and disability when  
26 appropriate:

27 1. Student academic achievement, including the results from each of the



- 1 assessments administered under this section;
- 2 2. For Advanced Placement, Cambridge Advanced International, and  
3 International Baccalaureate, the courses offered, the number of students  
4 enrolled, completing, and taking the examination for each course, and  
5 the percentage of examinees receiving a score of three (3) or better on  
6 AP examinations, a score of "e" or better on Cambridge Advanced  
7 International examinations, or a score of four (4) or better on IB  
8 examinations. The data shall be disaggregated by gender, race, students  
9 with disabilities, and economic status;
- 10 3. Nonacademic achievement, including the school's attendance, retention,  
11 graduation rates, and student transition to postsecondary;
- 12 4. School learning environment, including measures of parental  
13 involvement; and
- 14 5. Any other school performance data required by the Every Student  
15 Succeeds Act of 2015, Pub. L. No. 114-95, or its successor;
- 16 (b) An individual student report to parents for each student in grades three (3)  
17 through eight (8) summarizing the student's skills in reading, science, social  
18 studies, and mathematics. The school's staff shall develop a plan for  
19 accelerated learning for any student with identified deficiencies or strengths;  
20 and
- 21 (c) A student's score on the college admissions assessment administered under  
22 subsection (5)(b)~~3, [5]~~ of this section.
- 23 (18) (a) Every six (6) years, the Kentucky Department of Education shall implement a  
24 comprehensive process for reviewing and revising the academic standards in  
25 visual and performing arts and practical living skills and career studies for all  
26 levels and in world~~foreign~~ language for middle and high schools. The  
27 department shall develop review committees for the standards for each of the

1 content areas that include representation from certified specialist public  
2 school teachers and postsecondary teachers in those subject areas.

3 (b) The academic standards in practical living skills for elementary, middle, and  
4 high school levels shall include a focus on drug abuse prevention, with an  
5 emphasis on the prescription drug epidemic and the connection between  
6 prescription opioid abuse and addiction to other drugs, such as heroin and  
7 synthetic drugs.

8 (c) The department shall provide to all schools guidelines for programs that  
9 incorporate the adopted academic standards in visual and performing arts and  
10 practical living and career studies. The department shall provide to middle and  
11 high schools guidelines for including a foreign language program. The  
12 guidelines shall address program length and time, courses offered, staffing,  
13 resources, and facilities.

14 (d) The Kentucky Department of Education, in consultation with certified public  
15 school teachers of visual and performing arts, may develop program standards  
16 for the visual and performing arts.

17 (19) (a) The Kentucky Department of Education shall develop and distribute~~[provide]~~  
18 to all school districts guidelines for including an effective writing program  
19 across the content areas aligned to the academic standards. The department  
20 shall provide professional learning opportunities to support authentic and  
21 disciplinary-specific writing across the curriculum for superintendents,  
22 school-based decision making councils, principals, teachers, and teacher  
23 preparation programs~~[within the curriculum]~~.

24 (b) Each superintendent of a local school district shall adopt policies that  
25 determine the writing program for the local school district and ensure the  
26 writing program policy is published on the district's website. The writing  
27 program shall include disciplinary-specific writing across the curriculum

1 and incorporate a variety of language resources, technological tools, and  
2 multiple opportunities for students to develop complex communication skills  
3 for a variety of purposes.

4 (20) (a) The Kentucky Department of Education, in consultation with the review  
5 committees described in subsection (18) of this section, shall develop a school  
6 profile report to be used by all schools to document how they will address the  
7 adopted academic standards in their implementation of the programs as  
8 described in subsection (18) of this section, which may include student  
9 opportunities and experiences in extracurricular activities. The department  
10 shall include the essential workplace ethics program on the school profile  
11 report.

12 (b) By October 1 of each year, each school principal shall complete the school  
13 profile report, which shall be signed by the members of the school council, or  
14 the principal if no school council exists, and the superintendent. The report  
15 shall be electronically transmitted to the Kentucky Department of Education,  
16 and the original shall be maintained on file at the local board office and made  
17 available to the public upon request. The department shall include a link to  
18 each school's profile report on its website.

19 (c) If a school staff member, student, or a student's parent has concerns regarding  
20 deficiencies in a school's implementation of the programs described in  
21 subsection (18) of this section, he or she may submit a written inquiry to the  
22 school council.

23 (21) (a) No later than December 1, 2025, each local board of education shall adopt a  
24 district plan establishing clear policies on the promotion of advanced  
25 coursework or accelerated learning in language arts, mathematics, social  
26 studies, and science by grade level for students in grades four (4) to twelve  
27 (12).

- 1 (b) The district plan required by paragraph (a) of this subsection shall:
- 2 1. Be published on a publicly accessible location on the district website;
- 3 2. Describe the strategies and approach to advanced coursework or
- 4 accelerated learning options by grade level for language arts,
- 5 mathematics, social studies, and science; and
- 6 3. Require that the service delivery options for students identified as gifted
- 7 and talented in language arts, mathematics, social studies, and science
- 8 include the following for each grade level and subject area:
- 9 a. i. Accelerated learning; or
- 10 ii. Advanced coursework; and
- 11 b. At least one (1) of the following service delivery options:
- 12 i. Collaborative teaching and consultation services;
- 13 ii. Special counseling services;
- 14 iii. Differentiated study experiences for individuals and cluster
- 15 groups in the regular classroom;
- 16 iv. Distance learning;
- 17 v. Enrichment services that are not extracurricular during the
- 18 school day;
- 19 vi. Independent study;
- 20 vii. Mentorships;
- 21 viii. Resource services delivered in a pull-out classroom or other
- 22 appropriate instructional setting;
- 23 ix. Seminars;
- 24 x. Travel study options; or
- 25 xi. Special schools or self-contained classrooms for students in
- 26 grades four (4) through twelve (12) only.
- 27 (c) The district plan required by paragraph (a) of this subsection may:

- 1           1. Automatically enroll a student who scores distinguished in any subject
- 2           area on the most recent statewide assessment for which scores are
- 3           available in available advanced coursework for that subject area and any
- 4           corresponding subject area designated by the local board of education;
- 5           2. Include eligibility criteria for qualification for available advanced
- 6           coursework for all other students;
- 7           3. Require written consent from a parent or guardian of a student to
- 8           withdraw or exclude a student that is eligible for advanced coursework
- 9           according to the district plan from that advanced coursework. If a
- 10          student requests to withdraw from advanced coursework to pursue
- 11          another educational opportunity, a principal may withdraw the student
- 12          without written consent from a parent or guardian only after a good-faith
- 13          attempt to contact the parent or guardian is unsuccessful; and
- 14          4. Permit a principal to withdraw a student from advanced coursework
- 15          without written consent from his or her parent or guardian if the
- 16          student's participation in advanced coursework would have an adverse
- 17          educational impact on a student, including interference with his or her
- 18          career pathway, access to career and technical education coursework, or
- 19          another educational opportunity.

20   (22) ~~{(a) }~~The Kentucky Board of Education may promulgate administrative  
21   regulations in accordance with KRS Chapter 13A to administer the provisions of  
22   subsection (21) of this section.~~{~~

23   ~~(b) By December 1, 2025, the Kentucky Department of Education, in~~  
24   ~~collaboration with local school districts, shall establish school district~~  
25   ~~recommendations for the consistent use of preliminary assessment data and~~  
26   ~~other criteria to identify students prepared for advanced coursework. }~~

27   ➔Section 3. KRS 158.6455 is amended to read as follows:

1 It is the intent of the General Assembly that schools succeed with all students and receive  
2 the appropriate consequences in proportion to that success.

3 (1) (a) The Kentucky Board of Education shall create an accountability system to  
4 classify districts and schools in accordance with the academic standards and  
5 student assessment program developed pursuant to KRS 158.6453.

6 (b) The state accountability system shall include an annual meaningful  
7 differentiation of all public schools in the state using multiple measures that  
8 describe the overall performance of each district, school, and student  
9 subgroup. Beginning with data from the 2026-2027 school year,  
10 performance shall be based on a combination of academic and school quality  
11 indicators and measures, hereinafter called "state indicators." The state  
12 indicators shall exclusively include:

13 1. Student assessment results;

14 2. Measures of individual student growth in reading and mathematics;

15 3. Progress toward achieving English proficiency by limited English  
16 proficiency students;

17 4.~~[3.]~~ Student engagement as measured by chronic absenteeism, which shall  
18 be defined as a student missing ten percent (10%) or more of yearly  
19 school time for excused or unexcused reasons throughout the school  
20 year.~~[Quality of school climate and safety];~~

21 5.~~[4.]~~ High school graduation rates;

22 6.~~[5.]~~ Postsecondary readiness for each high school student, which shall be  
23 included as an academic indicator, and shall be measured by one (1) of  
24 the following:

25 a. Meeting or exceeding a college readiness benchmark score on the  
26 college admissions examination used as the statewide assessment  
27 in KRS 158.6453(5)(b)3.~~[5.]~~ or a college placement examination

- 1 approved by the Council on Postsecondary Education. The college  
2 readiness benchmark score shall be established by the Council on  
3 Postsecondary Education;
- 4 b. Achieving a minimum of three (3) hours of dual credit by  
5 completing a course approved by the Kentucky Board of  
6 Education or qualifying for a minimum of three (3) hours of  
7 postsecondary articulated credit associated with a statewide  
8 articulation agreement;
- 9 c. Achieving a benchmark score on an Advanced Placement,  
10 International Baccalaureate, Cambridge Advanced International,  
11 or other nationally recognized exam approved by the Kentucky  
12 Board of Education that generally qualifies the student for three  
13 (3) or more hours of college credit;
- 14 d. Completing a required number of hours or achieving a benchmark  
15 within an apprenticeship, cooperative, or internship that is:
- 16 i. Not required to be offered as a high school course or during  
17 the regular school day, week, or year;
- 18 ii. Aligned with a credential or associate degree; and
- 19 iii. Approved by the Kentucky Board of Education after  
20 receiving input from the Local Superintendents Advisory  
21 Council; or
- 22 e. Achieving any industry-recognized certifications, licensures, or  
23 credentials, with more weight in accountability for industry-  
24 recognized certifications, licensures, or credentials identified as  
25 high demand in accordance with the process described in  
26 paragraph (e) of this subsection. Eligible industry-recognized  
27 certifications, licensures, or credentials shall not be limited to

1 those earned in conjunction with a minimum sequence of courses.

2 Each high school shall publicly report the credits, hours, and  
3 credentials on an annual basis; and

4 ~~Z.16.~~ Any other factor mandated by the federal Every Student Succeeds Act  
5 of 2015, Pub. L. No. 114-95, or its successor.

6 (c) 1. ~~{Beginning with data from the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years,~~  
7 ~~the accountability system performance for each district, school, and~~  
8 ~~student subgroup determined by the state indicators shall be based on a~~  
9 ~~combination of annual performance, hereinafter called "status," and~~  
10 ~~improvement over time, hereinafter called "change."~~

11 ~~2. Status and change shall receive equal weight in determining overall~~  
12 ~~performance. For all students as a group and separately for individual~~  
13 ~~subgroups, status shall be determined, beginning with the data from the~~  
14 ~~2020-2021 academic year, by using the current year performance and~~  
15 ~~change shall be determined, beginning with the data from the 2021-2022~~  
16 ~~academic year, by using the difference in performance from the prior to~~  
17 ~~current year, except change shall be based on the difference in~~  
18 ~~performance for the prior three (3) years for the purpose of determining~~  
19 ~~the lowest performing five percent (5%) of schools under KRS~~  
20 ~~160.346(2) and (3).~~

21 ~~3. For each state indicator, there shall be five (5) status levels ranging from~~  
22 ~~very high to very low and five (5) change levels ranging from increased~~  
23 ~~significantly to declined significantly.~~

24 ~~4. The percentile cut scores for status and change levels shall be based on~~  
25 ~~distribution and shall be approved by the Kentucky Department of~~  
26 ~~Education and the Local Superintendents Advisory Council. The cut~~  
27 ~~scores shall remain in place for at least six (6) years unless existing cut~~



1           ~~scores no longer support meaningful differentiation of schools as~~  
2           ~~required by the federal Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015, Pub. L. No.~~  
3           ~~114-95, or its successor.~~

4           ~~(d) Beginning in the fall of 2022, }~~The Kentucky Department of Education shall  
5           develop an online display of the state accountability system results  
6           hereinafter called a "dashboard." A color-coded performance level for  
7           each state indicator and overall performance shall be displayed in a  
8           straightforward manner on the dashboard ~~{for overall performance,~~  
9           ~~status, and change }~~by district, school, and individual subgroups. Overall  
10          performance shall aggregate all available data for the state indicators.

11          2. The percentile cut scores for the color-coded performance level for  
12          each state indicator and overall performance shall be based on  
13          distribution and shall be approved by the Kentucky Department of  
14          Education and the Local Superintendents Advisory Council. The cut  
15          scores shall remain in place for at least six (6) years unless existing  
16          cut scores no longer support a meaningful differentiation of schools  
17          as required by the federal Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015, Pub. L.  
18          No. 114-95, or its successor.

19          ~~(d)(e)}~~ Based on data from the Kentucky Center for Education and Workforce  
20          Statistics, each local workforce investment board, in conjunction with local  
21          economic development organizations from its state regional sector, shall  
22          annually compile a list of industry-recognized certifications, licensures, and  
23          credentials specific to the state and regional workforce area, rank them by  
24          demand for the state and regional area, and provide the list to the Kentucky  
25          Workforce Innovation Board. The Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board, in  
26          conjunction with the Kentucky Department of Education, may revise the lists  
27          before the Kentucky Department of Education disseminates the lists to all

1 school districts to be used as postsecondary readiness indicators.

2 ~~(e)(f)~~ 1. The Kentucky Department of Education shall pay for the cost of  
3 an assessment taken by a high school student for attaining an industry-  
4 recognized certification, credential, or licensure if the student  
5 consecutively completes at least two (2) related career pathway courses  
6 approved by the department prior to taking the assessment.

7 2. If a high school student has not completed the two (2) course  
8 requirement described in subparagraph 1. of this paragraph but meets  
9 performance-based experience eligibility and passes an assessment, the  
10 department shall provide a weighted reimbursement amount to the  
11 school district for the cost of the assessment based on the level of  
12 demand of the certificate, credential, or license earned. The Kentucky  
13 Board of Education shall promulgate regulations establishing the  
14 performance-based experience eligibility requirements and weighted  
15 reimbursement amounts.

16 ~~(f)(g)~~ Prior to promulgating administrative regulations to revise the  
17 accountability system, the board shall seek advice from the School  
18 Curriculum, Assessment, and Accountability Council; the Office of Education  
19 Accountability; the Education Assessment and Accountability Review  
20 Subcommittee; and the department's technical advisory committee.

21 (2) A student's test scores shall be counted in the accountability measure of:

22 (a) 1. The school in which the student is currently enrolled if the student has  
23 been enrolled in that school for at least a full academic year as defined  
24 by the Kentucky Board of Education; or

25 2. The school in which the student was previously enrolled if the student  
26 was enrolled in that school for at least a full academic year as defined by  
27 the Kentucky Board of Education; and

- 1 (b) The school district if the student is enrolled in the district for at least a full  
2 academic year as defined by the Kentucky Board of Education; and
- 3 (c) The state if the student is enrolled in a Kentucky public school prior to the  
4 beginning of the statewide testing period.
- 5 (3) After receiving the advice of the Office of Education Accountability; the School  
6 Curriculum, Assessment, and Accountability Council; and the department's  
7 technical advisory committee, the Kentucky Board of Education shall promulgate  
8 an administrative regulation in conformity with KRS 158.6471 and 158.6472 and  
9 KRS Chapter 13A to establish more rigorous action, intervention, and appropriate  
10 consequences for schools that fail to exit comprehensive support and improvement  
11 status described in KRS 160.346. The consequences shall be designed to improve  
12 the academic performance and learning environment of identified schools and may  
13 include but not be limited to:
- 14 (a) A review and audit process to determine the appropriateness of a school's or  
15 district's classification and to recommend needed assistance;
- 16 (b) School and district improvement plans;
- 17 (c) Eligibility to receive Commonwealth school improvement funds under KRS  
18 158.805;
- 19 (d) Education assistance from highly skilled certified staff; and
- 20 (e) Observation of school personnel.
- 21 (4) All students who drop out of school during a school year shall be included in a  
22 school's annual average school graduation rate calculation.
- 23 (5) After receiving the advice of the Education Assessment and Accountability Review  
24 Subcommittee, the Office of Education Accountability; the School Curriculum,  
25 Assessment, and Accountability Council; and the department's technical advisory  
26 committee, the Kentucky Board of Education may promulgate by administrative  
27 regulation, in conformity with KRS 158.6471 and 158.6472 and KRS Chapter 13A,

1 a system of district accountability that includes establishing a formula for  
2 accountability, goals for improvement over a three (3) year period, rewards for  
3 leadership in improving teaching and learning in the district, and consequences that  
4 address the problems and provide assistance when one (1) or more schools in the  
5 district fail to exit comprehensive support and improvement status after three (3)  
6 consecutive years of implementing the turnaround intervention process described in  
7 KRS 160.346.

8 (6) After receiving the advice of the Office of Education Accountability; the School  
9 Curriculum, Assessment, and Accountability Council; and the department's  
10 technical advisory committee, the Kentucky Board of Education shall promulgate  
11 administrative regulations in conformity with KRS 158.6471 and 158.6472 and  
12 KRS Chapter 13A to establish a process whereby a school or school district shall be  
13 allowed to appeal any performance judgment made by the department under this  
14 section or KRS 160.346 of a principal, superintendent, school, or school district  
15 which it considers grossly unfair. Upon appeal, an administrative hearing shall be  
16 conducted in accordance with KRS Chapter 13B. The state board may adjust a  
17 performance judgment on appeal when evidence of unusual circumstances warrants  
18 the conclusion that the performance judgment is based on fraud or a mistake in  
19 computations, is arbitrary, is lacking any reasonable basis, or when there are  
20 significant new circumstances occurring during the three (3) year assessment period  
21 which are beyond the control of the appellant school or school district.

22 (7) Advice and recommendations provided by the department's technical advisory  
23 committee shall be summarized and reported by the department by July 1 and  
24 December 1 of each year to the Office of Education Accountability. The report shall  
25 include:

26 (a) Advice and recommendations provided by panel members relating to:

27 1. Development and modification to the assessment and accountability

1 system;

2 2. The development of administrative regulations governing the  
3 assessment and accountability system;

4 3. The setting of standards used in the assessment and accountability  
5 system; and

6 4. KRS 158.6453, 158.6455, 158.782, or 158.860; and

7 (b) Any documentation used by the panel in support of the panel's advice and  
8 recommendations.

9 Upon receipt of the report, the Office of Education Accountability shall forward the  
10 report to the Education Assessment and Accountability Review Subcommittee and  
11 the co-chairs of the Interim Joint Committee on Education.

12 ➔Section 4. KRS 158.6459 is amended to read as follows:

13 (1) A high school student whose highest score on the college admissions examination  
14 under KRS 158.6453(5)(b)~~3.5~~ in English, reading, or mathematics is below the  
15 systemwide standard established by the Council on Postsecondary Education for  
16 entry into a credit-bearing course at a public postsecondary institution without  
17 placement in a remedial course or an entry-level course with supplementary  
18 academic support shall be provided the opportunity to participate in accelerated  
19 learning designed to address his or her identified academic deficiencies prior to  
20 high school graduation.

21 (2) A high school, in collaboration with its school district, shall develop and implement  
22 accelerated learning that:

23 (a) Allows a student's learning plan to be individualized to meet the student's  
24 academic needs based on an assessment of test results and consultation among  
25 parents, teachers, and the student; and

26 (b) May include changes in a student's class schedule.

27 (3) The Kentucky Department of Education, the Council on Postsecondary Education,

1 and public postsecondary institutions shall offer support and technical assistance to  
2 schools and school districts in the development of accelerated learning.

3 ➔Section 5. KRS 164.7874 is amended to read as follows:

4 As used in KRS 164.7871 to 164.7885:

- 5 (1) "Academic term" means a semester or other time period specified in an  
6 administrative regulation promulgated by the authority;
- 7 (2) "Academic year" means a period consisting of at least the minimum school term, as  
8 defined in KRS 158.070;
- 9 (3) "ACT score" means the composite score achieved on the American College Test at  
10 a national test site on a national test date or the college admissions examination  
11 administered statewide under KRS 158.6453(5)(b)~~3.45.1~~ if the exam is the ACT, or  
12 an equivalent score, as determined by the authority, on the SAT administered by the  
13 College Board, Inc.;
- 14 (4) "Authority" means the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority;
- 15 (5) "Award period" means the fall and spring consecutive academic terms within one  
16 (1) academic year;
- 17 (6) "Council" means the Council on Postsecondary Education created under KRS  
18 164.011;
- 19 (7) "Eligible high school student" means any person who:
- 20 (a) Is a citizen, national, or permanent resident of the United States and Kentucky  
21 resident;
- 22 (b) Was enrolled after July 1, 1998:
- 23 1. In a Kentucky high school for at least one hundred forty (140) days of  
24 the minimum school term unless exempted by the authority's executive  
25 director upon documentation of extreme hardship, while meeting the  
26 KEES curriculum requirements, and was enrolled in a Kentucky high  
27 school at the end of the academic year;

- 1                   2.    In a Kentucky high school for the fall academic term of the senior year  
2                   and who:  
3                   a.    Was enrolled during the entire academic term;  
4                   b.    Completed the high school's graduation requirements during the  
5                   fall academic term; and  
6                   c.    Was not enrolled in a secondary school during any other academic  
7                   term of that academic year; or  
8                   3.    In the Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science in Kentucky, the  
9                   Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics, or in high  
10                  school at a model and practice school under KRS 164.380 while meeting  
11                  the Kentucky educational excellence scholarship curriculum  
12                  requirements;  
13                  (c)   Has a grade point average of 2.5 or above at the end of any academic year  
14                  beginning after July 1, 1998, or at the end of the fall academic term for a  
15                  student eligible under paragraph (b) ~~1~~2. of this subsection; and  
16                  (d)   Is not a convicted felon;  
17                  (8)   "Eligible postsecondary student" means a citizen, national, or permanent resident of  
18                  the United States and Kentucky resident, as determined by the participating  
19                  institution in accordance with criteria established by the council for the purposes of  
20                  admission and tuition assessment, who:  
21                  (a)   Earned a KEES award;  
22                  (b)   Has the required postsecondary GPA and credit hours required under KRS  
23                  164.7881;  
24                  (c)   Has remaining semesters of eligibility under KRS 164.7881;  
25                  (d)   Is enrolled in a participating institution as a part-time or full-time student; and  
26                  (e)   Is not a convicted felon;  
27                  (9)   "Full-time student" means a student enrolled in a postsecondary program of study

- 1       that meets the full-time student requirements of the participating institution in  
2       which the student is enrolled;
- 3       (10) "Grade point average" or "GPA" means the grade point average earned by an  
4       eligible student and reported by the high school or participating institution in which  
5       the student was enrolled based on a scale of 4.0 or its equivalent if the high school  
6       or participating institution that the student attends does not use the 4.0 grade scale;
- 7       (11) "High school" means any Kentucky public high school, the Gatton Academy of  
8       Mathematics and Science in Kentucky, the Craft Academy for Excellence in  
9       Science and Mathematics, a high school of a model and practice school under KRS  
10      164.380, and any private, parochial, or church school located in Kentucky that has  
11      been certified by the Kentucky Board of Education as voluntarily complying with  
12      curriculum, certification, and textbook standards established by the Kentucky Board  
13      of Education under KRS 156.160;
- 14      (12) "KEES" or "Kentucky educational excellence scholarship" means a scholarship  
15      provided under KRS 164.7871 to 164.7885;
- 16      (13) "KEES award" means:
- 17          (a) For an eligible high school student, the sum of the KEES base amount for  
18              each academic year of high school plus any KEES supplemental amount, as  
19              adjusted pursuant to KRS 164.7881; and
- 20          (b) For a student eligible under KRS 164.7879(3)(e), the KEES supplemental  
21              amount as adjusted pursuant to KRS 164.7881;
- 22      (14) "KEES award maximum" means the sum of the KEES base amount earned in each  
23      academic year of high school plus any KEES supplemental amount earned;
- 24      (15) "KEES base amount" or "base amount" means the amount earned by an eligible  
25      high school student based on the student's GPA pursuant to KRS 164.7879;
- 26      (16) "KEES curriculum" means five (5) courses of study, except for students who meet  
27      the criteria of subsection (7)(b)2. of this section, in an academic year as determined



- 1 in accordance with an administrative regulation promulgated by the authority;
- 2 (17) "KEES supplemental amount" means the amount earned by an eligible student
- 3 based on the student's ACT score pursuant to KRS 164.7879;
- 4 (18) "KEES trust fund" means the Wallace G. Wilkinson Kentucky educational
- 5 excellence scholarship trust fund;
- 6 (19) "On track to graduate" means the number of cumulative credit hours earned as
- 7 compared to the number of hours determined by the postsecondary education
- 8 institution as necessary to complete a bachelor's degree by the end of eight (8)
- 9 academic terms or ten (10) academic terms if a student is enrolled in an
- 10 undergraduate program that requires five (5) years of study;
- 11 (20) "Participating institution" means an "institution" as defined in KRS 164.001 that is
- 12 eligible to participate in the federal Pell Grant program, executes a contract with the
- 13 authority on terms the authority deems necessary or appropriate for the
- 14 administration of its programs, and:
- 15 (a) 1. Is publicly operated;
- 16 2. Is licensed by the Commonwealth of Kentucky and has operated for at
- 17 least ten (10) years, offers an associate or baccalaureate degree program
- 18 of study not comprised solely of sectarian instruction, and admits as
- 19 regular students only high school graduates, recipients of a High School
- 20 Equivalency Diploma, or students transferring from another accredited
- 21 degree granting institution; or
- 22 3. Is designated by the authority as an approved out-of-state institution that
- 23 offers a degree program in a field of study that is not offered at any
- 24 institution in the Commonwealth; and
- 25 (b) Continues to commit financial resources to student financial assistance
- 26 programs; and
- 27 (21) "Part-time student" means a student enrolled in a postsecondary program of study

1 who does not meet the full-time student requirements of the participating institution  
2 in which the student is enrolled and who is enrolled for at least six (6) credit hours,  
3 or the equivalent for an institution that does not use credit hours.

4 ➔Section 6. KRS 157.069 is amended to read as follows:

5 (1) As used in this section:

6 (a) "Administrative operations costs" means costs associated with the operations  
7 and staffing of a state-operated area technology center, including but not  
8 limited to personnel, facility costs, building utilities and maintenance, and  
9 custodial and office supplies;

10 (b) "Approved career and technical education dual credit" means earning a grade  
11 of "C" or higher for a Kentucky Department of Education-approved career  
12 and technical education dual credit course equivalent to three (3) hours of  
13 college credit;

14 (c) "Approved career and technical education pathway" means a four (4) course  
15 career and technical education pathway approved by the Kentucky  
16 Department of Education that provides a coherent, articulated sequence of  
17 rigorous academic and career-related courses within a career and technical  
18 education program area, and leads to an associate degree, an industry-  
19 recognized certificate or license, or a baccalaureate or higher degree;

20 (d) "Concentrator" means a student who has earned at least two (2) credits for no  
21 less than two (2) courses in a single career and technical education pathway;

22 (e) "Converted career and technical education center" means a center providing  
23 locally operated career and technical education for which a local district  
24 assumed authority from the state for the management and control of the center  
25 during the 2020-2021, 2021-2022, or 2022-2023 academic years;

26 (f) "General-cost career and technical education program" means a career and  
27 technical education program or pathway in which high-cost technical

1 equipment, materials, or facilities are not required;

2 (g) "General-cost full-time equivalents" means the total number of secondary  
3 students enrolled in general-cost career and technical education programs,  
4 multiplied by the number of hours those students are enrolled, and divided by  
5 six (6) hours;

6 (h) "High-cost career and technical education program" means a career and  
7 technical education program or pathway in which high-cost equipment,  
8 materials, or facilities are required;

9 (i) "Locally operated career and technical education" means a district program  
10 that provides secondary students with one (1) or more approved career and  
11 technical education pathways;

12 (j) "State-operated area technology center" means a state-operated secondary  
13 school facility with the primary purpose of offering approved career and  
14 technical education pathways;

15 (k) "Supplemental funding" or "supplemental funds" means moneys appropriated  
16 by the General Assembly to support qualifying locally operated career and  
17 technical education centers and programs and state-operated area technology  
18 centers and programs based on enrollment and incentive criteria;

19 (l) "Technical skill attainment" means earning an industry-recognized  
20 certification, licensure, or credential as identified by the Kentucky Workforce  
21 Innovation Board pursuant to KRS 158.6455(1)(d)(~~e~~) or passing an end-of-  
22 program assessment for articulated postsecondary credit as designated by the  
23 Kentucky Department of Education Office of Career and Technical  
24 Education;

25 (m) "Weighted high-cost full-time equivalents" means the total number of  
26 secondary students enrolled in high-cost career and technical education  
27 programs, multiplied by the number of credit hours in which those students

1 are enrolled, divided by six (6) hours, and multiplied by one and one-half  
2 (1.5); and

3 (n) "Work-based learning program" means a cooperative education program,  
4 internship, or registered apprenticeship within the student's chosen approved  
5 career and technical education pathway.

6 (2) The Kentucky Department of Education shall provide funds from the department's  
7 annual general fund appropriation to support the administrative operations costs of  
8 state-operated area technology centers and converted career and technical education  
9 centers.

10 (3) For converted career and technical education centers, beginning with fiscal year  
11 2024-2025, the Kentucky Department of Education shall deduct from funds  
12 designated for the state-operated area technology centers an amount equal to the  
13 administrative operations costs of each converted career and technical education  
14 center in the amount received by the center in the most recent fiscal year that the  
15 center was under state management and control. The funds for each converted  
16 career and technical education center shall be divided as follows:

17 (a) Seventy-five percent (75%) of the funds shall be sent to the local district that  
18 has assumed management and control of the center; and

19 (b) Twenty-five percent (25%) of the funds shall be sent to the career and  
20 technical education innovation and support fund established in subsection (4)  
21 of this section.

22 (4) (a) There is hereby established in the State Treasury a restricted fund to be known  
23 as the career and technical education innovation and support fund to receive  
24 the funds allocated under subsection (3)(b) of this section. The fund shall  
25 consist of moneys received from state appropriations, gifts, grants, and federal  
26 funds. The fund shall be administered by the Office of Career and Technical  
27 Education. Amounts deposited in the fund shall be used for:

- 1           1.   Supporting innovation in new or emerging career fields;
  - 2           2.   Supporting state-operated area technology centers that may experience
  - 3                hardship or natural disasters;
  - 4           3.   Personnel costs to provide technical assistance to local districts
  - 5                providing locally operated career and technical education, including
  - 6                technical assistance relating to the monitoring and oversight on the use
  - 7                of supplemental career and technical education funding; and
  - 8           4.   Any other purposes reasonably related to improving student outcomes in
  - 9                career and technical education.
- 10           (b) Notwithstanding KRS 45.229, fund amounts not expended at the close of a
- 11                fiscal year shall not lapse but shall be carried forward into the next fiscal year.
- 12   (5) Beginning with the 2024-2025 fiscal year and for each fiscal year thereafter, the
- 13       Kentucky Department of Education shall distribute to local districts providing
- 14       locally operated career and technical education and to state-operated area
- 15       technology centers all general funds designated as supplemental funds to career and
- 16       technical education programs, subject to the following:
- 17           (a) A local district providing locally operated career and technical education or a
- 18                state-operated area technology center shall maintain eligibility for receipt of
- 19                federal funding pursuant to the Strengthening Career and Technical Education
- 20                for the 21st Century Act, Pub. L. No. 115-224, to be eligible to receive
- 21                supplemental funding pursuant to this subsection;
- 22           (b) All supplemental funds distributed pursuant to this subsection shall be used to
- 23                improve student outcomes in career and technical education pathways for
- 24                students in grades nine (9) through twelve (12), including but not limited to
- 25                student supplies, resources, materials, and equipment that is designed for
- 26                enhanced quality of instruction in a career and technical education pathway,
- 27                the purchase and maintenance of industry standard equipment, assisting

1 students with achieving technical skill attainment, and supporting career and  
2 technical student organization participation;

3 (c) 1. Supplemental funds for career and technical education shall be divided  
4 and allocated to each local district providing locally operated career and  
5 technical education and to each state-operated area technology center,  
6 with sixty percent (60%) dedicated for enrollment-based funding and  
7 forty percent (40%) for incentive-based funding.

8 2. The sixty percent (60%) enrollment-based funding shall be based on a  
9 statewide full-time equivalent calculation of the total weighted high-cost  
10 full-time equivalents and general-cost full-time equivalents during the  
11 prior school year, subject to the following:

12 a. The department shall then distribute the enrollment-based funds  
13 for each state-operated area technology center or local district  
14 providing locally operated career and technical education based on  
15 the center's or district's proportional share of the combined  
16 weighted high-cost full-time equivalents and general-cost full-time  
17 equivalents of the prior year;

18 b. The department shall distribute the state-operated area technology  
19 center fund portion to the respective state-operated area  
20 technology centers and the local district fund portion to the  
21 respective local districts; and

22 c. The department shall classify qualifying programs as either a high-  
23 cost career and technical education program or a general-cost  
24 career and technical education program.

25 3. The forty percent (40%) incentives-based funding shall be based on an  
26 annual statewide calculation of the total number of qualifying student  
27 incentives. The calculation shall only use students that are in grade

1           twelve (12) and use the total incentives earned by those students during  
2           secondary education at a state-operated area technology center or within  
3           a local district. Once a student has been included in a year's calculation,  
4           that student shall not be included in any subsequent year's calculation,  
5           subject to the following:

6           a.   Qualifying student incentives for students in their grade twelve  
7               (12) year shall include:

8               i.   Reaching the designation of a concentrator;

9               ii.  Technical skill attainment;

10              iii. Completing a required number of hours or achieving a  
11                 benchmark within a work-based learning program; and

12              iv.  Earning an approved career and technical education dual  
13                 credit;

14           b.  The incentives in subdivision a. of this subparagraph shall be  
15               allotted to the state-operated area technology center or local  
16               district in which it was earned. Each type of incentive shall only be  
17               counted once per student at state-operated area technology centers  
18               and once per student at local districts for a maximum of four (4)  
19               incentives per student at state-operated area technology centers  
20               and four (4) incentives at local districts throughout their secondary  
21               career and technical education. For incentive criteria that is  
22               achieved more than once at state-operated area technology centers,  
23               the incentive shall be counted for the state-operated area  
24               technology center where it was first achieved. For incentive  
25               criteria that is achieved more than once at local districts, the  
26               incentive shall be counted for the local district where it was first  
27               achieved;

- 1                   c.    The department shall distribute incentives-based funds for each  
2                         state-operated area technology center or local district based on the  
3                         center's or district's proportional share of the combined number of  
4                         qualifying student incentives achieved by students in grade twelve  
5                         (12) at a state-operated area technology center or within a local  
6                         district throughout their secondary career and technical education.  
7                         The incentives-based funds shall be distributed to the state-  
8                         operated area technology center or local district in which the  
9                         incentive was achieved; and
- 10                  d.    The department shall distribute the state-operated area technology  
11                         center fund portion to the respective state-operated area  
12                         technology centers and the local district fund portion to the  
13                         respective local districts;
- 14                  (d)   There shall be no mid-year adjustment to the allocation of career and technical  
15                         education supplemental funding for a center or local district; and
- 16                  (e)   Notwithstanding the restriction in paragraph (b) of this subsection, a district  
17                         may submit a waiver request to the Office of Career and Technical Education  
18                         to use a portion of its allocation of supplemental funds for career and  
19                         technical education programming for students in grades (5) through eight (8).  
20                         The district shall submit a request which details the district's plan for career  
21                         and technical education programming for students in grades five (5) through  
22                         eight (8). In reviewing the request, the Office of Career and Technical  
23                         Education shall consider whether:
- 24                         1.   The district details a plan for orientation and exploration of broad-based  
25                                 industries by giving students knowledge and experience regarding  
26                                 careers within these industries and exploratory or hands-on skills used in  
27                                 the industry;



- 1           2.    There is direct alignment between middle and secondary career and  
2               technical education pathways within the requesting district; and
- 3           3.    Such designation of supplemental funding for programming for students  
4               in grades five (5) through eight (8) does not have a significant  
5               detrimental impact on the programming available for students in  
6               secondary grades.
- 7   (6)   The Office of Career and Technical Education shall monitor and provide oversight  
8       of state funds distributed pursuant to this section to ensure that the use of funding  
9       by eligible recipients meets the approved criteria as described in this section.
- 10   (7)   The Kentucky Board of Education shall promulgate administrative regulations in  
11       accordance with KRS Chapter 13A as may be needed in the administration of this  
12       section and for disbursement of moneys.
- 13   (8)   The Kentucky Department of Education shall publish on the department's website:
- 14       (a)   The list of all career and technical education programs available to students  
15           and the program's designation as a high-cost career and technical education  
16           program or as a general-cost career and technical education program;
- 17       (b)   A report of the supplemental funding amounts provided to each local district  
18           and to each state-operated area technology center, including an explanation of  
19           the amount designated as enrollment-based funding and as incentives-based  
20           funding; and
- 21       (c)   A report of the administrative operations costs provided to each state-operated  
22           area technology center and to each converted career and technical education  
23           center, as well as the amount contributed toward the career and technical  
24           education innovation and support fund.