

February 10, 2010

Passage of Joint Resolution by KBE, CPE, and EPSB Boards

ACTION: The staffs of the Kentucky Board of Education, Council on Postsecondary Education, and Education Professional Standards Board recommend approval of the joint resolution directing their respective agencies to integrate the final Kentucky Core Academic Standards for English/language arts and mathematics into their work and processes to ensure that all Kentucky students experience a successful and productive future.

Kentucky's participation in the common core standards initiative for English/language arts and mathematics ensures that the tenets of Senate Bill 1 (passed in 2009 and codified as KRS 158:6451) are met. The Common Core State Standards Initiative is a state-led effort coordinated by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO).

Governors and state commissioners of education from 48 states and territories committed to developing a common core of state standards in English/language arts and mathematics for grades K-12. Kentucky convened a steering committee, consisting of members of the General Assembly and educational leaders, to provide oversight of the comprehensive process of aligning content from K-12 to college entry level courses, oversee the revision of standards and the professional development process, and provide guidance for the evaluation of processes and next steps. Mathematics and language arts content work groups, consisting of postsecondary faculty, K-12 educators, and representatives from business and industry, have reviewed drafts of the standards and provided feedback to CCSSO. From the outset, Kentucky has been a vital participant in the work, keeping CCSSO abreast of the importance that these standards meet the needs of the unanimously approved Kentucky legislation. These sets of standards define the knowledge and skills students should have to succeed in entry-level, credit-bearing, academic college courses and in workforce training programs.

The standards will be aligned with college and work expectations, include rigorous content and application of knowledge through high-order skills, build upon strengths and lessons of current state standards, be internationally-benchmarked so that all students are prepared to succeed in the global economy and society, and be evidence and/or research-based.

At the joint meeting of the Kentucky Board of Education, the Council on Postsecondary Education, and the Education Professional Standards Board, the three boards will recommend approval of the attached joint resolution. The common core standards will be known as the Kentucky Core Academic Standards for English/language arts and mathematics

and provide grade by grade level content standards linked to college and career readiness standards. The approval of the resolution will direct each agency to integrate the final standards into their work and processes to ensure that all Kentucky students experience a successful and productive future.

Additional information about the common core standards initiative is included in the agenda materials.