

**JOINT MEETING OF THE KENTUCKY BOARD  
OF EDUCATION AND THE KENTUCKY COUNCIL  
ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION**

**P-16 Council  
Agenda Item A  
March 22, 2004**

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**Information**

The Kentucky Board of Education and the Council on Postsecondary Education met jointly for the third time February 11, 2004. KBE Chair Helen Mountjoy and CPE Chair Steve Barger jointly chaired the meeting. Governor Fletcher and Education Cabinet Secretary Fox attended. They indicated that education is a high priority in the administration's agenda. They also pointed to the need for long-term data to establish sound education policy at both the P-12 and postsecondary levels and to define appropriate spending and cost-saving measures. Both the governor and the cabinet secretary emphasized early reading as fundamental to Kentucky's education progress. They emphasized the causal link between raising Kentuckians' level of educational attainment and the ability of the Commonwealth to meet its economic goals. They praised Kentucky's P-16 Council for bringing various policy-making bodies together to achieve this goal. Dr. Gail Henson, chair of the state P-16 Council, reported on the Council's recent work.

The benchmarks of college and workplace readiness in mathematics and English language arts developed by the American Diploma Project were released in Washington, D.C., the day before the joint meeting (Agenda Item B). Copies of the final ADP report, *Ready or Not: Creating a High-School Diploma That Counts*, were distributed to members of the KBE and the CPE at the joint meeting. Cabinet Secretary Fox suggested that Kentucky's participation in national projects like the ADP and the State Scholars Program, both of which focus on aligning high school, college, and the skilled workplace expectations and delivery systems, provide ideal frameworks to coordinate Kentucky's education, workforce, and economic development agenda.

