

Update

The P-16 Council is facilitating discussions related to the implementation of the American Diploma Project recommendations. The implications of the project broadly affect not only P-12 curriculum and assessment, but also the education of teachers, the education of adult learners and adult education providers, college placement policies, and the certification of high school graduates for employment.

During the March meeting of the P-16 Council, members reviewed the final report of the ADP recommendations and benchmarks in mathematics and English language arts. Staff from the Kentucky Department of Education presented work with postsecondary faculty in several disciplines to clarify the characteristics of analytical writing that may be included in the KDE writing portfolio. They also presented a comparison between the Kentucky Core Content for Assessment standards in mathematics and the ADP benchmarks in mathematics.

Immediately following the P-16 Council meeting, Northern Kentucky University Professor Steve Newman and University of Kentucky Professor Paul Eakin met with Education Cabinet Secretary Ginni Fox, CPE President Tom Layzell, Education Commissioner Gene Wilhoit, and staff from their agencies. They proposed a partnership with the KDE, the Council on Postsecondary Education, and the Education Cabinet to help implement the ADP recommendations in mathematics by aligning the P-12 standards with the ADP benchmarks and by providing online capacity through the University of Kentucky to assess student competencies for diagnostic, instructional, and accountability purposes. Beginning with high school mathematics, the proposal could expand to include other content areas and all grade levels. Several follow-up meetings have been held to define what the Cabinet, the KDE, the CPE, and postsecondary institutions would do respectively to create a system that would utilize UK's technology to provide a comprehensive assessment tool for Kentucky's P-12 system linked to postsecondary and workplace entry-level expectations.

At its March meeting, the CPE charged its staff with developing a statewide postsecondary placement policy in mathematics and English based on the ADP benchmarks. Working with the ACT, Inc., the CPE staff will meet with representatives of the public postsecondary institutions to agree on a standard of college-readiness in mathematics and language arts and to compare these competencies with ACT Standards for Transition, ACT scores, and the KDE Core Content for Assessment standards.

The CPE staff presented the ADP results to the Kentucky Workforce Investment Board as a first step to promote employer use of ADP standards in hiring decisions as outlined in the ADP state plan.