

A GLOSSARY FOR KENTUCKY SCHOOL COUNCILS

Academic Expectations: a statement of what Kentucky students should know and be able to do; more specific than the Learner Goals and less detailed than Kentucky's Academic Standards

accommodations: special testing arrangements made for some students with disabilities

achievement gap: persistent and significant difference in educational achievement for students in various groups

Annual Measurable Objective (AMO): an annual improvement goal given to each school based on state test results. By making a single goal each year (the AMO), the school has successfully achieved Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). AMO and AYP are synonymous terms in the Kentucky model

ad hoc committee: a committee that is formed to complete a specific task

Admission and Release Committee (ARC): the group that plans the education of a student found to have disabilities; includes the child's parent(s) and relevant staff in the work of writing the Individual Education Plan (IEP)

allocation: a share of available money; for school councils, the amount a local school district must give the council to spend for staff, materials, and other school needs

apprentice: a student performance level that is below Kentucky's standards for student performance; stronger than novice work but weaker than proficient level

audit: a careful check or review of something

Average Daily Attendance (ADA): just as the name suggests, the average number of students in attendance at a school; used to determine SEEK funding to districts and materials allocations to schools

block schedule: a secondary school schedule that creates longer blocks of time in each class

career studies: learning about finding and keeping jobs; included in the Kentucky Academic Standards

categorical program: activities and services paid for by money with legal limitation on its use, such as Extended School Services, Professional Development, and other programs

certified staff: school and district employees whose jobs require a state certificate, including teachers, principals, superintendents, and some other positions

class-size caps: a maximum number of students allowed in one class; each school council must receive

enough money in its allocation to allow the school to stay within the caps

classified staff: school and district employees whose jobs do not require a state certificate, including teaching aides, secretaries, custodians, and some other positions

College and Career Ready: description of the shared vision of Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) and the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) of having all students prepared for postsecondary and career success

Commissioner of Education: the head of the Kentucky Department of Education

Common Core Standards: sets of standards developed by a voluntary consortium of states; designed to align elementary and high school education with college readiness requirements. Kentucky formally adopted the standards, calling them *Kentucky Academic Standards*

Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP): a plan based on data from testing and needs assessments for improving teaching and learning in a school by setting goals, objectives and measures. The plan is made up of components that include the activities and strategies the school will use to reach its goals

consensus: a decision-making method that emphasizes considering many perspectives, looking for common ground, and avoiding votes in which one side wins and another loses; recommended but not required for school councils

constructed response questions: 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 response, and on-demand writing formats

Criterion-Referenced Test (CRT): a test that is aligned with defined academic content standards and measures an individual student's level of performance against the standards

diagnostic review: process examining the extent to which a school (or school system) has enacted effective policies, practices, conditions, and cultures that maximize learner success and support continuous improvement of student achievement

disaggregated data: information that is broken down to show separate data for boys, girls, students of varied ethnic groups, students living in poverty, students with disabilities, and students with limited English proficiency

distinguished: a student performance level that exceeds Kentucky's state standards; higher than the proficient level Kentucky seeks for all students

Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA): signed by President Lyndon Johnson in 1965; a civil rights law that provided education funding to states and attempted to ensure that every student had access to an education

English Language Learner (ELL or EL for English Learner): a student whose home language is not English and who has not yet acquired proficiency in English

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA): a 2015 law that replaces No Child Left Behind but preserves the spirit of high standards, accountability, and closing the achievement gap. ESSA gives states additional flexibility and provides more state and local control over the accountability process.

evidence-based: an activity, strategy, or intervention that demonstrates statistically significant effect on improving student outcomes or other relevant outcomes

extended-response questions: a type of constructed-response question on assessments

Extended School Services (ESS): additional learning time for students at risk of not meeting state standards, including but not limited to after school programs, weekend offerings, and summer sessions; required by state law and funded through special money earmarked for those programs

Family Resource Centers (FRYSCs): state-funded centers to help families address problems that may keep their children from learning; along with Youth Service Centers, often called FRYSCs or "friskies."

formative assessment: a process used by teachers and students during instruction to adjust ongoing teaching and learning to improve students' achievement of intended instructional outcomes

goal: a measurable end result

Individual Education Plan (IEP): a written plan to meet a student's unique learning needs; required for students with disabilities

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA): federal law requiring a free, appropriate education for children with disabilities. Part B of the law provides funds to support that education.

Infinite Campus: student data collection system used statewide to keep track of information on students. Parents and students can also track student grades through this system

interim (benchmark) assessments: assessments that are given periodically throughout the year to provide diagnostic information and to show individual student

performance against content standards

Kentucky Administrative Regulations (KAR): legally binding rules established by appointed government groups; the Kentucky Board of Education sets the regulations for elementary and secondary education. You can find copies of any KAR section by going to www.lrc.state.ky.us and looking under "Legislative Resources."

Kentucky Board of Education (KBE): a citizen body appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the General Assembly, responsible for selecting the Commissioner of Education, adopting regulations on education issues, and setting overall policy direction for the Kentucky Department of Education

Kentucky Academic Standards (KAS): the name Kentucky leaders gave to the Common Core Standards when Kentucky adopted them. It provides a list of the knowledge and skills that students need to know and be able to do. Schools and districts are responsible for translating standards into practice.

Kentucky Department of Education (KDE): a government agency led by the Commissioner of Education and responsible for implementing the assessment and accountability system, enforcing statutes and regulations, and helping schools and districts meet the statewide goals

Kentucky Education Reform Act (KERA): 1990 Kentucky legislation that reorganized all of Kentucky elementary and secondary education

Kentucky Education Technology System (KETS): an integrated system that allows students, school staff, district staff, and KDE to use up-to-date computers and other equipment, plus state funding, to keep the system current in all schools and districts

Kentucky Performance Rating for Educational Progress (K-PREP): the name of Kentucky's former state assessment

Kentucky Revised Statutes (KRS): Kentucky's laws, as voted by the General Assembly and signed by the Governor. You can find copies of any KRS section by going to www.lrc.state.ky.us and looking under "Legislative Resources."

learner goals: the short statement of goals for Kentucky students set by the General Assembly

mainstreaming: the practice of placing students with disabilities in regular classrooms whenever possible, as required by federal law

MUNIS: accounting software used to track and control school districts' money

No Child Left Behind (NCLB): the major 2002 federal legislation requiring each state to set standards in reading and mathematics, test student progress, and

hold schools and districts accountable for rapid progress toward the standards

norm-referenced: describes a test that scores students by comparing them to the performance of a “norm group” of students tested earlier

novice: a low student performance level, but consistent with a student having made an effort

Office of Education Accountability (OEA): an office that reports directly to the General Assembly on how Kentucky’s school system is working; independent of the Kentucky Department of Education and intended to allow the General Assembly to assess whether it has fulfilled its constitutional responsibility to create “an efficient system of common schools”

on-demand writing: the part of the Kentucky state assessment that asks students to show their writing skills by responding to writing prompts

Open Meetings Law: Kentucky law protecting rights of citizens and the press to attend meetings of school councils, committees created by councils, school boards, and many other government groups

Open Records Act: Kentucky law providing for rights of citizens to review records of school councils and many other government agencies

performance level: a description of the quality of a student’s work in relation to Kentucky standards: nonperformance, novice, apprentice, proficient, or distinguished

practical living: an umbrella term for topics like health, safety, consumer skills, and physical fitness; part of program review with career studies

primary program: the early part of elementary school, serving students from the time they enter school until they are ready for fourth grade

professional development/learning (PD): activities that allow school staff to improve their knowledge and skills; parents involved in school-based decision making may also participate. Kentucky requires all certified staff to receive at least 24 hours of professional development a year.

Professional Learning Community (PLC): an identified group of teachers and other school staff that meet regularly to assess student work and determine student interventions

proficient: the student performance level that meets Kentucky’s state standards

program audit: a form of program review that is a systematic method of analyzing components of an instructional program and areas for improvement. The audit is conducted as a result of a program review that indicates a more in-depth process of analysis and assistance is needed.

quorum: the number of members present at a school council meeting where business can be conducted or actions taken; this number is noted in school council bylaws

Response to Intervention (RTI): a school or district’s method of determining intervention strategies for students needing extra assistance mastering content

rigor: being academically challenging

rubric: scoring guide or a description of what kind of work qualifies for a particular score

school council: a group composed of elected parents, teachers, and the principal that makes key decisions on how their own school will work toward reaching Kentucky’s goals

school-based decision making (SBDM): the work done by school councils and their committees

scoring guide: a description of what kind of work qualifies for a particular score; sometimes called a rubric

Section 7: a section of the regulation on school council allocation that governs any additional money available beyond the required allocations for school staff and materials

site-based: a term sometimes used for school councils or school-based decision making but not the official term used in Kentucky law

summative assessment: an assessment given at the end of the school year, semester, or other period of time to evaluate students’ performance against content standards within a unit of instruction or a course

Support Education Excellence in Kentucky (SEEK): Kentucky’s main system for funding schools, combining local and state dollars to guarantee that each district will have needed basic funding for all pupils

Title 1: the largest federal funding program to strengthen schools with high concentrations of poverty

writing prompt: a brief question or statement that gives students a topic about which to write

Youth Service Centers: state-funded centers to help middle and high school students address problems that could keep them from learning