

## 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](http://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](http://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