

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 the Core Content.

accommodations special testing arrangements made for some students with disabilities.

Accountability Index a single number between 0 and 140 combining all a school's scores on the Kentucky Core Content Test, writing portfolio, CTBS and nonacademic indicators. A school's Accountability Index determines its classification in Kentucky's school accountability system.

ADA average daily attendance.

Adequate Yearly Progress the amount by which schools are required to improve student performance in reading and mathematics under No Child Left Behind.

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

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 proficiency.

ARC Admission and Release Committee.

assistance point the Accountability Index a school must exceed for a two-year period to be classified as "progressing." Schools at or below their assistance point are classified as "in need of assistance." Mathematically, each assistance point shows that a school is on track to reach an Index of 80 by 2014.

audit see scholastic audit.

average daily attendance 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.

AYP Adequate Yearly Progress.

block schedule a change in high school schedules that creates longer blocks of time in each class; an optional approach to helping students master needed knowledge and skills.

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.

CATS Commonwealth Accountability Testing System.

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.

classification how a school has performed in relation to its goal, used to assign consequences: Meets Goal, Progressing, In Need of Assistance.

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

Commissioner of Education the head of the Kentucky Department of Education.

Commonwealth Accountability Testing System the set of statewide assessments that measure progress toward Kentucky goals, including the Kentucky Core Content Test, the CTBS/5 and the writing portfolio.

Comprehensive School Improvement Plan 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 the another loses; recommended but not required for school councils.

Consolidated Plan an older name for the document now called Comprehensive School Improvement Plan.

Core Content for Assessment a list of the knowledge and skills that will be assessed by CATS. You can download a copy by going to www.kde.state.ky.us and searching for “Core Content.”

criterion-referenced describes a test that scores a student in comparison to a fixed standard (it is synonymous with “standards-based”). The Kentucky Core Content Test is criterion-referenced.

CSIP Comprehensive School Improvement Plan.

CTBS/5 the Comprehensive Test of Basic Skills; a test used nationwide that is also part of the CATS program.

disaggregated data information that is broken down to show separate data by for boys, girls, students of varied ethnic breakdowns, students living in poverty, students with disabilities, and some other groupings.

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

ESS Extended School Services.

Extended School Services additional learning time for students at risk of not meeting state standards, including after school programs, weekend offerings, and summer sessions; required by state law and funded through special money earmarked for those problems.

Family Resource Centers 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”.

FRYSCs Family Resource Centers and Youth Service Centers, often pronounced “friskies.”

goal an Accountability Index a school must meet or exceed for a two-year period to be on track to reach the state goal of 100. Each school has seven goals, one for each two-year period from 2000 to 2014.

Highly Skilled Educator a specially trained Kentucky educator who is brought in to work with schools in need of assistance.

HSE Highly Skilled Educator.

IDEA Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

IEP Individual Education Plan.

in need of assistance the classification for schools that score below their assistance points. Those schools receive a scholastic audit or review.

Individual Education Plan a written plan to meet a student’s unique learning needs; required for students with disabilities and for gifted and talented students.

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

KAR Kentucky Administrative Regulations.

KBE Kentucky Board of Education.

KCCT Kentucky Core Content Test.

KDE Kentucky Department of Education.

Kentucky Administrative Regulations 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 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 Core Content Test a criterion-referenced Kentucky assessment that includes open-response and multiple-choice items on the Core Content for assessment, plus on-demand writing prompts. Part of the larger CATS program. You can download samples of the test by going to www.kde.state.ky.us and searching for “released items.”

Kentucky Department of Education 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 1990 Kentucky legislation that reorganized all of Kentucky elementary and secondary education.

Kentucky Education Technology System an integrated system to allow 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 Report an annual report showing how a school's students performed on CATS, released each fall.

Kentucky Revised Statutes 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."

KERA Kentucky Education Reform Act.

KETS Kentucky Education Technology System.

KPR Kentucky Performance Report.

KRS Kentucky Revised Statutes.

Learner Goals the short statement of goals for Kentucky students set by the General Assembly.

Level 1 the highest scoring one-third of schools in need of assistance: subject to scholastic review and eligible for school improvement grants.

Level 2 the middle scoring one-third of schools in need of assistance: subject to scholastic review and eligible for school improvement grants.

Level 3 the lowest scoring one-third of schools in need of assistance: subject to scholastic audit and eligible for school improvement grants and highly skilled educator assistance.

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

meets goal classification for schools that achieve their two-year accountability goals; eligible for rewards if they meet requirements regarding dropout rates and reducing the percentage of students scoring novice.

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

NCLB No Child Left Behind is 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; also provides financial resources for schools and districts to use to meet the standards and requires consequences for those that fall short.

nonacademic indicator school's performance data that is not about student academic work: nonacademic indicators for attendance, retention in grade, dropouts and transition to adult life are included in Kentucky's accountability system.

nonperformance the lowest student performance level available, suggesting a lack of effort.

norm-referenced describes a test that scores students by comparing them to the performance of a "norm group" of students tested earlier. The CTBS/5 is a norm-referenced test.

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

OEA Office of Education Accountability.

Office of Education Accountability 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 Core Content Test that asks students to show their writing skills by responding to one of two 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.

open response item a test question that asks students to write their own answer rather than pick one from a list of possible answers.

PD professional development.

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

portfolio a collection of a student's best work in a content area. Kentucky requires only a writing portfolio.

practical living an umbrella term for topics like health, safety, consumer skills, and physical fitness that are included in the Core Content; often discussed along with vocational 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 activities that allow school staff to improve their knowledge and skills; parents involved in school-based decision making may also participate. Kentucky provides state dollars to fund professional development and requires all certified staff to receive at least 24 hours of professional development a year.

proficient the student performance level that meets Kentucky's state standards; the level Kentucky intends to achieve for all students by 2014.

Program of Studies a KDE publication stating required content to be taught in primary, grades 4-8, and required high school courses. Schools may vary from the Program of Studies if they substitute another approach that addresses the same topics. You can download a copy by going to www.kde.state.ky.us and searching for "Program of Studies."

progressing the classification for schools with two-year results between their goals and their assistance points, showing enough growth to avoid a scholastic audit or review, but not enough to qualify for rewards.

rubric scoring guide.

SBDM school-based decision making.

scholastic audit a systematic review of a school's work to determine what types of assistance it needs to achieve its goals, conducted by a specially trained team of educators, parents and university experts. Level 3 schools in need of assistance receive a scholastic audit.

scholastic review similar to an audit, but with less stringent possible consequences. For Level 1 schools in need of assistance, the review is done by a team of district and state experts with district-appointed leadership. For Level 2 schools in need of assistance, a similar team is led by state-appointed leadership.

school council a group composed of 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 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.

SEEK Support Education Excellence in Kentucky.

Senate Bill 168 major 2002 Kentucky legislation requiring councils to address substantive achievement gaps.

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

STI software used statewide to keep track of information on students, purchased from Software Technology, Inc.

Standards and Indicators for School

Improvement a research based document used in scholastic audits and reviews; lists the main research-based practices that are expected to move schools to proficiency.

SISI Standards and Indicators for School Improvement.

Support Education Excellence in Kentucky

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.

transition to adult life a nonacademic indicator showing whether students enrolled in post-secondary education, entered the military, or became gainfully employed after graduation from high school.

vocational studies learning about finding and keeping jobs; included in the Core Content and often discussed along with practical living.

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, along with Family Resource Centers, often called FRYSC or "friskies."