

# Kentucky's New Assessment System

Kentucky Department of Education  
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Committee on Education  
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# The Call for a New Assessment System

- Senate Bill 1 (SB 1), enacted in the 2009 Kentucky General Assembly, requires a new public school assessment program beginning in the 2011-12 school year.
- The legislation allowed, with approval by the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE), an end-of-course (EOC) assessment program at the high school level.



# The New Assessment in Grades 3-8

- Blended model built with criterion-referenced test (CRT) and norm-referenced test (NRT) items.
- The NRT is a purchased test with national norms and the CRT portion is customized for Kentucky.
- The new assessments will be called Kentucky Performance Rating for Educational Progress (K-PREP) tests.



# The New Assessment in Grades 9-12

- Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) approved an end-of-course program.
- On-demand writing is required twice and editing and mechanics is required once in high school.



# Who Will Provide the K-PREP Assessments?

- NCS Pearson has been awarded the contract to provide all assessments for grades 3-8 and writing on-demand at high school.
- NCS Pearson currently provides large-scale assessment services in more than 25 states and for the U.S. Department of Education.



# What K-PREP Assessments Are Required in Grades 3-8?

- Content Areas:
  - Reading
  - Writing
  - Mathematics
  - Science
  - Social Studies
- Norm-Referenced Test (NRT) portion is the Stanford Achievement Series (Stanford 10).



# What Is the K-PREP Test Format?

- The assessment will consist of both multiple-choice (MC) and constructed-response (CR) items.
- The CR items may be two-point (short-answer) or four-point (open response) items.
- On-demand writing assessments use passage-based and situational prompts.



# When and How Are K-PREP Assessments Administered?

- The districts will administer the K-PREP assessments within a five-day testing window during the last 14 days of the district's instructional calendar.
- The assessments will be administered in a paper and pencil format.



# What Feedback Will Students and Schools Receive in Grades 3-8?

- Schools will receive both individual student and school based reports.
- Reports will include national percentile scores from the NRT portion of the test as well as Novice, Apprentice, Proficient and Distinguished student performance levels from a combination of the NRT and CRT items.



# What Are the Advantages of EOC Assessments?

- EOC assessments establish an expected common rigor for core courses.
- EOC assessments, when purchased from national providers, can link performance of Kentucky students to national results.
- EOC assessments allow students to be assessed immediately after completing course work and to receive feedback quickly.



# How Are EOC Results Included in Student Grades?

- End-of-course test results may be used for a percentage of a student's final grade in the course, as outlined in local policy. If that percentage is less than 20%, school districts will submit reports to KDE providing justification.



# Who Will Provide the EOC Assessments?

- ACT, Inc. has been awarded the contract to provide EOC assessments for Kentucky.
- The ACT *QualityCore*® program is:
  - syllabus-driven with curriculum and instruction support materials
  - based on research in high-performing classrooms that focus on the essential standards for college and/or career readiness
  - connected to PLAN and ACT



# What EOC Assessments Are Required?

- ACT *QualityCore*®
  - English II
  - Algebra II
  - Biology
  - U.S. History
- These courses are graduation requirements.



# What Is the EOC Test Format?

- The EOC tests include both multiple-choice and constructed-response items.
- Each section has 35-38 multiple-choice items that can be administered in two 45-minute sessions or one 90-minute session.
- The constructed-response session will consist of one to three questions and can be administered in 45 minutes.



# How Do EOC Assessments Align?

- SBI National Alignment: *QualityCore*® provides national alignment to college readiness.
- Common Core Alignment: *QualityCore*® standards match Common Core. A single EOC test will not cover all standards.
- College Readiness Alignment: *QualityCore*® aligns extremely well to Kentucky's College Readiness definition.



# When and How Are EOC Assessments Administered?

- Multiple testing windows will be available during the school year.
- The EOC assessments can be administered throughout the year as students earn credit in each course.
- The multiple-choice items may be completed online or on paper.
- The constructed-response is paper only.



# What Feedback from EOC Assessments Will Students and Schools Receive?

- Online administration of the multiple-choice items provides feedback within a day.
- Paper administration requires 10 days from the time ACT receives answer documents to process and posts online reports.
- Electronic student and teacher reports will be available in the secure online system.



**Summary of Kentucky State-Required Assessments for 2011-2012 School Year**

<b>GRADE</b>	<b>Reading (KCAS)</b>	<b>Writing (KCAS)</b>	<b>Mathematics (KCAS)</b>	<b>Science (CC 4.1)</b>	<b>Social Studies (CC 4.1)</b>	<b>EPAS</b>
<b>3</b>	CRT/NRT*		CRT/NRT*			
<b>4</b>	CRT/NRT*	Editing/Mechanics*	CRT/NRT*	CRT/NRT*		
<b>5</b>	CRT/NRT*	On-demand Writing*	CRT/NRT*		CRT/NRT*	
<b>6</b>	CRT/NRT*	Editing/Mechanics and On-demand Writing*	CRT/NRT*			
<b>7</b>	CRT/NRT*		CRT/NRT*	CRT/NRT*		
<b>8</b>	CRT/NRT*	On-demand Writing*	CRT/NRT*		CRT/NRT*	EXPLORE
<b>9</b>						
<b>10</b>	End of Course  <b>English II</b>	On-demand Writing*	End of Course  <b>Algebra II</b>	End of Course  <b>Biology</b>	End of Course  <b>U.S. History</b>	PLAN <i>(Used to meet required testing of editing/mechanics.)</i>
<b>11</b>	ACT QualityCore®	On-demand Writing*	ACT QualityCore®	ACT QualityCore®	ACT QualityCore®	ACT
<b>12</b>						

KCAS=Kentucky Core Academic Standards    CC 4.1=Core Content for Assessment, 4.1

EPAS=Educational Planning and Assessment System by ACT, Inc.

\* Assessments provided by NCS Pearson.