



# **PRICHARD COMMITTEE FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE**

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**STUDY • INFORM • ENGAGE**

## **GLOSSARY OF KENTUCKY EDUCATION TERMS**

**MARCH 2015**



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## INTRODUCTION

This *Glossary of Kentucky Education Terms* provides definitions for words and ideas that are in widespread use in our schools, and it offers an additional Prichard Committee tool to help students, parents, and other Kentuckians learn about our public school system and join us in advocating for excellence in education for every Kentucky child.

The Prichard Committee provides an independent citizens' voice advocating for improved education for all Kentuckians. In doing so, we help set the agenda for education improvement. To deliver on our mission, we:

- **Study** key education issues from early childhood through postsecondary in order to formulate policy positions
- **Inform** the public and policymakers with clear, trusted, accessible explanations of education issues
- **Advocate** with public, parents, opinion leaders, and policymakers for improved education in Kentucky
- **Engage** parents and citizens in exploring challenges, identifying solutions, and **empowering** them to lead in their schools and communities on education issues, **mobilizing** them to press for important reforms to be made and sustained long enough to produce meaningful results and **convening** stakeholders
- **Sustain** relationships with advocates and state leaders to help develop solutions and improve understanding of issues.

Publications like this *Glossary* are an integral part of how we carry out that work.

Susan Perkins Weston, a Prichard consultant, has done the main research and writing for the 2015 edition, building on the previous *Glossary* developed by Cindy Heine, who recently retired from her long-time position as the Prichard Committee's Associate Executive Director. We thank Susan, Cindy and the many colleagues who provided information, clarification and feedback, including staff members at the Kentucky Department of Education and the Governor's Office of Early Childhood. Appreciation is also extended to Pam Shepherd for proofreading the entire document and Michelle Whitaker for preparing the final copy and making them accessible on-line, and Brigitte Blom Ramsey and Cindy Baumert for their important contributions to the development of the 2015 *Glossary*.

Informed and involved parents and citizens are critical to school success. The simple truth is that educators cannot help all students reach college and/or career readiness without the support of families and communities. Your interest and support are important. We hope the *Glossary of Kentucky Education Terms* will provide information that will help you become more involved in your local schools. We also hope you will share any questions, comments or suggestions by emailing [admin@prichardcommittee.org](mailto:admin@prichardcommittee.org).

Stu Silberman  
Executive Director  
March 2015

**30/60/90 plan:** Plan for improving school performance that specifies steps to be taken in 30, 60 and 90 days; required when a school is first identified as a priority school.

**504 plan:** A plan that specifies the accommodations and modifications necessary for a student with a disability to attend school with her or his peers; named for Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities and requires that children with disabilities have equal access to public education; required for some students who do not meet the eligibility requirements for special education under IDEA.

**accelerated learning:** Instructional supports designed to eliminate student performance deficiencies: must be offered to Kentucky students whose assessment scores fall below state benchmarks.

**accommodations:** Service or support related to a student's *disability* that allows her or him to fully access a given subject matter and to accurately demonstrate knowledge without requiring a fundamental alteration to the assignment's or test's standard or expectation; often specified in a student's *individual education plan (IEP)*.

**accountability system:** A system established to provide incentives and consequences for schools to improve student learning. Kentucky's current Unbridled Learning accountability system took effect in 2012 to implement changes required in 2009 by *Senate Bill 1*. Under Kentucky's *NCLB waiver*, the Unbridled Learning System also meets federal requirements.

**accreditation:** For schools, a process of reviewing programs and resources to determine whether minimum standards are met. Kentucky does not have a mandatory accreditation system in state law. Districts or schools may voluntarily choose to seek accreditation from other agencies such as the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). Accreditation of teachers means they have met standards for certification or licensure.

**achievement gaps:** Differences in achievement between groups of students; including gaps by gender, race, eligibility for *free or reduced-price meals*, *disability*, or *limited English proficiency*; must be examined annually by school councils and addressed in council plans to eliminate those differences in achievement.

**achievement:** For accountability, achievement is the name of one component of a school or district's score for *Next Generation Learners*; combines *K-PREP* results for all students in six tested subjects.

**ACT WorkKeys:** Workplace skills assessment; includes applied mathematics, locating information and reading for information.

**ACT:** College readiness assessment; includes English, mathematics, reading and science; taken by all Kentucky 11<sup>th</sup> grade students; included in high schools' scores for *Next Generation Learners*.

**ADA:** see *average daily attendance*.

**Adaptive System of School Improvement Support Tools (ASSIST):** Web-based program used to develop a *Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP)* or *Comprehensive District Improvement Plan (CDIP)*.

**adequate yearly progress (AYP):** Goal for schools set under the federal *No Child Left Behind* legislation; no longer used under Kentucky's *NCLB waiver*.

**ADM:** see *average daily membership*.

**Admissions and Release Committee (ARC):** Group that develops the *individual education plan (IEP)* for a student with *disabilities*; membership should include a regular education teacher, a special education teacher, a school district representative, the parent, individuals with specialized knowledge and perhaps some others who can help make plans for the student to be successful.

**Advanced Placement (AP):** Exams that can earn students college credit or placement in upper-level college courses based on proven learning during high school. AP courses are classes designed to qualify students to take AP exams.

**AdvanceEd:** Organization that accredits schools and colleges and provides support for school improvement in many states; developed the *ASSIST* program used for Kentucky *comprehensive school improvement plans (CSIPs)*; helps the Kentucky Department of Education conduct *diagnostic reviews*.

**AdvanceKentucky:** Program to increase the number of underrepresented students who take *Advanced Placement (AP)* courses and earn credit-bearing scores on AP exams in math, science and English.

**AFGR:** see *averaged freshman graduation rate*.

**alternate assessment:** Assessment approach for students with severe *disabilities* who cannot participate in the regular curriculum even with *accommodations*; serves the 1% of students who have the most significant cognitive disabilities.

**alternative certification:** Process for obtaining a teaching certificate based on qualifications other than a standard four-year teacher preparation degree.

**alternative diploma:** Diploma available to students with severe *disabilities* who complete a modified curriculum and individualized course of study.

**alternative programs:** Programs serving students whose needs cannot be met in traditional classrooms; offering varied approaches to remediate academic performance, improve behavior, or provide an enhanced learning experience. Districts receive state categorical funds for Safe Schools that partially cover the costs of alternative programs.

**AMO:** see *annual measurable objective*.

**annual measurable objective (AMO):** Customized goal given to each school and district, asking it to raise its *Overall Score* each year as part of Kentucky's accountability system.

**AP:** see *Advanced Placement*.

**apprentice:** For students, the performance level just below the proficient level on state *K-PREP* assessments.

**ARC:** see *Admissions and Release Committee*.

**area technical centers (ATC):** Technical centers serving students from multiple school systems and directed by the Kentucky Department of Education; separate from the 42 technical centers run by individual school districts.

**Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB):** Assessment to determine military eligibility; includes arithmetic reasoning, word knowledge, paragraph comprehension and mathematics knowledge; not required, but successful student results can be used for the readiness component of a high school's score for *Next Generation Learners*.

**assessment for learning:** See *formative*.

**assessment of learning:** See *summative*.

**assessment:** A test or evaluation of what a student knows and is able to do.

**ASSIST:** see *Adaptive System of School Improvement Support Tools*.

**assistive technology:** Any device or service that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities in the daily life of an individual with a disability.

**ASVAB:** see *Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery*.

**at-risk students:** Students who may be in danger of educational failure, based on family income or other challenges. Districts receive *SEEK* add-on funding based on their at-risk enrollment, identified by eligibility for free meals.

**ATC:** see *area technical centers*.

**authentic assessment:** Assessment that occurs as part of classroom learning and reflects student learning experiences that can be documented through observation, anecdotal records, student work samples, conferences and other methods: a *primary program critical attribute*.

**average daily attendance (ADA):** The average number of students in school each day; used to compute district eligibility for *SEEK* funding.

**average daily membership (ADM):** The average number of students enrolled in school each day, even if some of them are not in attendance.

**averaged freshman graduation rate (AFGR):** Estimate of the percent of students who graduate in four years, calculated by dividing number of graduates in a particular year by the average number of 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students three and four years earlier; used in Kentucky through 2012; replaced by *cohort graduation rate* in 2013.

**AYP:** see *adequate yearly progress*.

**benchmark:** Definition 1: The score needed on a readiness assessment (such as Explore, Plan or ACT) to show a strong likelihood of success at the next level of education. Definition 2. With regard to student work, an example that illustrates the qualities of a specific score on a rubric or scoring guide; sometimes used as a verb to describe the process of identifying benchmark examples.

**block schedule:** High school schedule that sets class periods longer than the traditional six-or seven-period day of 50 to 55 minutes each; example could be school day divided into four academic blocks ranging from 75 to 90 minutes.

**Brigance Early Childhood Screen:** Screening tool for identifying learning and developmental needs of young children: evaluates fine and gross motor skills, language, academic or cognitive skills and self-help/social emotional levels; required in Kentucky for students entering kindergarten.

**Buckley Amendment:** Another name for the *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)*.

**called meeting:** See *special meeting*.

**career and technical programs:** course sequences that focus on preparing students for careers in specific fields.

**Career Pathways Initiative:** Effort to create seamless transitions from high school to college and careers, using partnerships between high schools and *KCTCS*.

**Carnegie unit:** Unit used to define coursework completion in a subject, requiring at least 120 sixty-minute hours or classroom instruction; used in most Kentucky districts to determine eligibility for graduation, but some are moving to *competency-based graduation*.

**categorical funds:** Money that a school or district receives under rules saying that it must be used for specific programs, as defined by the agency that provides the funding; sometimes called "earmarked" funding. Kentucky state categorical funding includes money for *extended school services, family resource and youth services centers, gifted and talented programs, the Kentucky Education Technology System, professional development, Read to Achieve* and *textbooks/instructional resources*. Major federal categorical funding programs include *free and reduced-price meals, Individuals with Disabilities Act* and *Title 1*.

**CCLD:** see *Collaborative Center for Literacy Development*.

**CCR&Rs:** see *child care resource and referral agencies*.

**CCSS:** see *Common Core State Standards*.

**CDA:** see *Child Development Associate*.

**CDIP:** see *comprehensive district improvement plan*.

**certification:** process that issues certificates for professional positions in public education; shows that individuals are qualified to serve as teachers, principals, superintendents, counselors, librarians and other specific positions.

**certified personnel:** Teachers, principals, superintendents and other school and district employees whose positions require a certificate issued by the *Education Professional Standards Board*.

**charter school:** a publicly funded elementary or secondary school that has been freed from some rules, regulations and statutes that apply to other public schools in exchange for some type of accountability for producing certain results; some definitions include enrolling children whose parents choose to send them to that school. Charter schools are not authorized in Kentucky.

**Child Care Assistance Program:** State program offering subsidies that help low-income families obtain quality child care so that parents can work or participate in education and workforce training programs.

**Child Care Aware of Kentucky:** a statewide collaboration working to provide child care referrals for families, technical assistance to child care providers and information to community stakeholders and also working to coordinate professional development for child care providers; a joint effort of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, the Kentucky Partnership for Early Childhood Services and local organizations.

**child care resource and referral agencies (CCR&Rs):** Regional community-based agencies that help families find and evaluate care, provide professional development for child care providers, evaluate local child care data and advocate for policies that support children and families; many CCR&Rs are members of *Child Care Aware of Kentucky*.

**child care:** services that provide care for young children, often to enable parents to work or attend school; may include educational, recreational and developmental activities and meals as appropriate; generally provided for children ages 6 weeks to 12 years.

**Child Development Associate (CDA):** An individual who has successfully completed a CDA assessment and has been awarded the CDA credential showing ability to meet the specific needs of children and works with parents and other adults to nurture children’s physical, social, emotional and intellectual growth in a child development framework.

**CIITS:** see *Continuous Instructional Improvement Technology System*.

**CIPL:** see *Governor’s Commonwealth Institute for Parent Leadership*.

**class size caps:** Maximum number of students permitted to be enrolled in a classroom; schools that use *school-based decision making* are allowed to exceed those caps.

**classifications:** Accountability terms identifying schools and districts as *distinguished*, *proficient*, or *needs improvement* based on the percentile ranking of their *Overall Score*.

**classified personnel:** School employees whose jobs do not require them to be certified, such as bus drivers, cooks, secretaries, custodians and teacher aides.

**classroom management:** Strategies to organize and maintain a good learning environment for students; includes ways to handle discipline; a required topic for *school-based decision making* policy.

**closed session:** Portion of a *public agency* meeting that the public is not allowed to attend; permitted only to discuss issues specified in KRS 61.815, after which agency must return to open session to take any action.

**Code of acceptable behavior and discipline:** District rules for student behavior, consequences for failing to meet the standards and procedures for handling violations, keeping records and informing parents; must be shared annually with students, parents and teachers.

**cohort graduation rate:** From a high school entering class, the percent of students that earns a high school diploma, calculated by tracking individual students even if they transfer to other schools. Kentucky uses a five-year cohort rate as part of each high school’s score for *Next Generation Learners*.

**Collaborative Center for Literacy Development (CCLD):** A center that conducts research and trains teachers to improve the reading skills of primary

school students; housed at the University of Kentucky.

**commissioner of education:** Kentucky’s chief executive school officer; administrator and executive to the Kentucky Board of Education; chief administrator of the Department of Education; hired and evaluated by the Kentucky Board of Education.

**Common Core State Standards (CCSS):** Learning goals for students created by multiple states, the Council of Chief State School Officers and the National Governor’s Association; included in the *Kentucky Core Academic Standards*.

**Commonwealth Diploma Program:** Until 2013, a special diploma awarded for students who completed exceptional work in high school; no longer offered.

**Commonwealth Institute for Parent Leadership (CIPL):** See *Governor’s Commonwealth Institute for Parent Leadership*.

**Commonwealth School Improvement Fund (CSIF):** Fund providing grants to struggling schools for school improvement.

**Compass:** Computerized assessment used to determine placement in college courses; offered in reading, writing skills, math, writing essay and English as a Second Language (ESL); not required, but successful student results can be used for the readiness component of a school’s score for *Next Generation Learners*.

**competency–based graduation:** Earning a high school diploma based on demonstrated competencies rather than *Carnegie units*; students might pass certain assessments or complete portfolio work or projects to show they know and understand required concepts and knowledge.

**comprehensive district improvement plan (CDIP):** A school district’s plan to improve student achievement and reduce achievement gaps, created with input from parents, faculty, staff and school councils, based on relevant data and setting out targets, strategies, activities, schedules and budgets for major district efforts.

**comprehensive school improvement plan (CSIP):** A school’s plan to improve student achievement and reduce achievement gaps, created with input from parents, faculty and staff, based on relevant data and setting out targets, strategies, activities, schedules and budgets for major district efforts; a *school-based*

**decision making** responsibility; must be available on the school or district website.

**consultation:** Process in which school council advises the principal before the principal selects people to fill vacancies; governed by *school-based decision making* policy.

**continuing contract:** term used in Kentucky law for teacher *tenure*.

### **Continuous Instructional Improvement**

**Technology System (CIITS):** A Kentucky internet platform that shares educator resources for connecting standards, instructional resources, curriculum, formative assessments, instruction, professional development and implementation of the *Professional Growth and Effectiveness System (PGES)*.

**continuous progress:** Allowing students to progress at their own rate without being compared to others in the program and without links to age or number of years in school: a *primary program critical attribute*.

**Core Content for Assessment:** See *Kentucky Core Content for Assessment*.

**Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE):** State-level council that provides direction for Kentucky's public universities, community colleges and technical schools and adult education; council members are nominated by the governor and confirmed by the General Assembly; the Council's members hire and evaluate their president.

**CPE:** see *Council on Postsecondary Education*.

**Craft Academy:** a dual-credit residential high school for academically exceptional Kentucky students; scheduled to open in August 2015 on the campus of Morehead State University.

**critical attributes:** See *primary program critical attributes*.

**CSIF:** see *Commonwealth School Improvement Fund*.

**CSIP:** see *comprehensive school improvement plan*.

**curriculum:** knowledge and skills a school intends to teach students, often organized in an outline indicating the order in which topics are taught; a required topic for *school-based decision making* policy.

**DAC:** see *district assessment coordinator*.

**Danielson:** Charlotte Danielson, an expert on teaching quality and author of "A Framework for Teaching," describing four levels of teaching effectiveness; sometimes used as a short name to identify the modified version of the "Framework" that is used as a scoring guide in the *Professional Growth and Effectiveness System (PGES)*.

**delivery goal:** A goal for delivering improved government service. Each Kentucky school has five-year delivery goals for moving assessment scores half way to 100.

**delivery target:** One-year steps toward meeting delivery goals. Each school's delivery targets and success in meeting those targets can be found in its *school report card*.

**developmental course:** A course designed to prepare students for credit-bearing college work. At Kentucky public universities and KCTCS, students may be required to take developmental courses if they do not reach required readiness benchmarks.

**developmentally appropriate practices:** Teaching methods that respond to children's physical, aesthetic, cognitive, emotional and social needs: a *primary program critical attribute*.

**diagnostic review:** Process for reviewing the functioning of a *priority* school and its school district and recommending next steps; conducted by a team that includes a parent, teacher, principal, school administrator and chairperson chosen by the *commissioner of education*.

**Director of Pupil Personnel (DPP):** A school district employee responsible for ensuring that students attend school: the truant officer of the school district.

**disabilities:** Impairments that can mean a student needs special education and related services. Kentucky's legal definition includes hearing impairments including deafness; speech or language impairments; visual impairments including blindness; mental retardation; serious emotional disturbance; orthopedic impairments; autism; traumatic brain injury; other health impairments and specific learning disabilities. Districts receive some add-on *SEEK* funds based on their enrollments of students with disabilities.

**disaggregated data:** Data, including assessment results, broken out by student subgroups based on

factors like gender, race, family income, disability, or limited English proficiency.

**discipline code:** See *code of acceptable behavior and discipline*.

**distinction:** For accountability, a classification honoring a very high **Overall Score** compared to other schools and districts, plus success on some other indicators.

**distinguished:** Definition 1. For students, performance level on state **K-PREP** assessments that is above the proficient level. Definition 2. For a school or a district, a classification honoring an **Overall Score** that is at or above the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile compared to other schools and districts, plus success on some other indicators.

**District 180:** Unit at the Kentucky Department of Education providing support to low performing schools; responsible for **Educational Recovery**.

**district assessment coordinator (DAC):** District employee with leading responsibility for assessment and accountability in the district's schools.

**district of distinction:** See *distinction*.

**DPP:** see *director of pupil personnel*.

**driver's license law:** Law denying driving privileges to 16- or 17-year-old students who leave school before graduating or who fail four or more classes in a semester; applies only in school districts that provide alternative education programs.

**dual credit course:** A college-level course in which a high school student can earn both high school and college credit.

**dual enrollment course:** A college-level course in which a student is enrolled in high school and a postsecondary institution at the same time.

**due process:** An established set of actions taken to assure protection of legal rights. Can be used in many settings, but is often used in education to refer to parent appeals of decisions about the needs of students with *disabilities*.

**Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC):** Organization created to oversee standards and goals for Kentucky's early childhood system and advocate for quality early childhood services and improved

school readiness; members appointed by the governor; replaced the Early Childhood Development Authority.

**early college high school:** An alternative high school offering students strong academic courses and high school and college credit in a supportive program; often located on or near a college campus; designed so low-income youth, first-generation college goers, English language learners, students of color and other young people underrepresented in higher education can simultaneously earn a high school diploma and an associate's degree or up to two years of credit toward a bachelor's degree.

**Early Head Start:** A comprehensive early childhood program serving low-income children prenatal to age three, pregnant women and their families. See also *Head Start*.

**EARRS:** see *Education Assessment and Accountability Review Subcommittee*.

**ECAC:** see *Early Childhood Advisory Council*.

**EdGuides:** see *Kentucky EdGuides*.

**Education and Workforce Development Cabinet:** State cabinet with oversight of eleven state agencies, including the Department of Education, the Education Professional Standards Board, the Kentucky Center for School Safety and others; led by the Secretary of Education, who is appointed by the governor and confirmed by the General Assembly.

**Education Assessment and Accountability Review Subcommittee (EARRS):** Legislative panel that reviews administrative regulations and advises the Kentucky Board of Education on assessment and accountability issues; also advises and monitors the Office of Education Accountability; includes four Senators and four members of the House of Representatives; is organized as a subcommittee of the Legislative Research Committee.

**Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB):** State body that establishes requirements for obtaining and maintaining a teaching certificate, evaluates college and school district programs for preparing school personnel and issues and revokes teaching certificates; members are appointed by the governor and confirmed by the General Assembly and must include nine classroom teachers, a principal, a school administrator, a local board of education representative, two deans of public colleges of education and one chief academic officer from an

independent college or university; the board members hire and evaluate the executive director.

**Education Recovery:** Process used to strengthen low performing school, assigning expert educators to support needed changes.

**Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA):** Federal law initially passed in 1965 and revised dramatically in 2001 by the *No Child Left Behind* legislation.

**ELL:** see *English language learner*.

**end-of-course exam (EOC):** Assessment measuring student learning in a particular course; English II, Algebra II, Biology and U. S. History end-of-course exams are part of *K-PREP* and required for high school students; results of those four assessments can be part of students' final grades and are used as part of their school's score for *Next Generation Learners*..

**English language arts (ELA):** Academic field that includes reading, writing, language skills and the study of literature; defined further in the Kentucky Core Academic Standards.

**English language learner (ELL):** Another term for students with *limited English proficiency*.

**EOC:** see *end of course exam*.

**EPSB:** see *Education Professional Standards Board*.

**ESEA:** see *Elementary and Secondary Education Act*.

**ESS:** see *extended school services*.

**Even Start:** A program providing family literacy services to families at risk and children up to age seven whose parents are eligible for adult education; Supported by federal funding.

**exceptional children:** Students who need special educational programs or services to get the maximum benefit from school; in Kentucky this includes students with *disabilities* and *gifted and talented* students.

**exit exam:** An exam students must pass in order to be promoted to the next grade or to receive a high school diploma; not used in Kentucky.

**Explore (assessment):** Assessment of readiness for high school; includes English, mathematics, reading and science; taken by all eighth grade students; used

to identify students who may benefit from accelerated learning; also used as part of middle schools' score for *Next Generation Learners*..

**expulsion:** Action prohibiting a student from attending school, usually for the remainder of the school year; a decision that must be made by the local school board.

**extended school services (ESS):** Programs providing additional instructional services outside the regular school day for students at risk of not meeting academic expectations; used for after school, weekend, or summer programs; may be used during the regular school day with permission of the commissioner of education; Kentucky provides *categorical funds* to cover some of the costs of meeting ESS requirements.

**extracurricular programs:** Activities outside the regular curriculum and conducted outside normal school hours, like clubs and sports teams; a required topic for *school-based decision making* policy.

**Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA):** Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, a federal law protecting rights of parents and students regarding school records, limiting access to outsiders and establishing procedures to challenge or correct false information.

**Family Resource and Youth Services Centers (FRYSC):** Centers that provide preventive and referral services to address student needs that may interfere with their learning; established in or near schools where at least 20 percent of students qualify for free or reduced-price school meals. Family resource centers serve elementary students and their families, while youth services centers serve middle and high school students and their families. FRYSCs (often pronounced "friskies") are partially supported by state *categorical funds*.

**fee waivers:** Fees charged to most students must be waived for those who qualify for free meals and those reduced for those who qualify for reduced-price meals.

**FERPA:** see *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act*.

**First Steps:** Federal program that serves children and their families from birth through age three who have developmental delays or disabilities.

**Flex Funds:** Unofficial term for state *category funds* provided for *professional development, extended school services, instructional resources and safe schools*; Kentucky's state budget allows dollars for those programs to be used in other ways, provided that students continue to receive the required services for each program.

**focus:** An accountability designation for high schools with graduation rates below 60 for two years, schools with a subgroup scoring roughly in the bottom 1 percent of like schools; and schools with a gap group in the bottom 10 percent of like schools; leads to state supports and requirements to improve those results.

**formative:** Descriptive term for an assessment or process that is used diagnostically, to figure out what should happen next, to inform future work. For students, a formative assessment is one that mainly gives evidence about what they need to learn next. For teachers, formative reviews give them feedback about best areas to work on growing their skills. Compare to *summative*.

**free and reduced-price meals:** Breakfasts and lunches provided to students, free to students with the lowest family incomes and with a reduced charge to students whose families have slightly higher incomes; paid for with federal *category funds*. *See also at-risk, fee waivers*.

**FRYSC:** see *Family Resource and Youth Services Centers*.

**gap group:** For accountability, gap group is a component of a school or district's score for *Next Generation Learners*. The gap group component combines *K-PREP* results for students with *disabilities*, students who are eligible for *free or reduced-price meals*, students with limited English *proficiency and* students with African American, Hispanic, or American Indian/Native American backgrounds. Also called "non-duplicated gap group."

**Gatton Academy:** A residential early admissions college program for gifted Kentucky high school students with a career focus on mathematics and science; housed on the campus of Western Kentucky University.

**GCIPL:** see *Governor's Commonwealth Institute for Parent Leadership*.

**GEAR UP:** Coordinated effort between middle schools, high schools, colleges and universities to

support and encourage low-income middle and high school students to pursue postsecondary education; supported by federal grants; short for **Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Education Programs**.

**GED:** see *General Educational Development Diploma*.

**General Educational Development Diploma (GED):** Diploma or equivalency certificate awarded to adults after passing an exam certifying they have mastered certain skills and knowledge in reading, writing, social studies, science and mathematics; adult education programs offer GED classes to prepare students for taking the exam.

**gifted and talented:** Term identifying "children who possess demonstrated abilities or measured potential . . . in intellectual ability; specific academic aptitude; creative or productive thinking; leadership ability and/or in the visual and performing arts." Kentucky requires each district to identify and serve those students and provides *category funds* to cover some of those gifted and talented services.

**gifted student services plan (GSSP):** Required education plan for formally identified *gifted and talented* students in grades 4-12; must meet student interests, needs and abilities with differentiated service options; also serves as a means of communication between the parents and school.

**Governor's Office of Early Childhood:** state office coordinating work across Kentucky to ensure kindergarten readiness for all Kentucky children; focused on aligning programs offered by multiple state cabinets, state departments and community partners; works with the *Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC)*.

**Governor's Commonwealth Institute for Parent Leadership (GCIPL):** A Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence initiative to develop a network of skilled parents and community leaders who are engaged as partners in decision-making and grassroots efforts to support academic achievement for all students in Kentucky schools.

**graduation rate goal:** Commitment to a 98 graduation rate by 2022; annual goals for each school and district set by subtracting 2011 rate from 98 and dividing by eleven.

**graduation rate:** Calculation used to estimate the percent of students who graduate from high school. Kentucky now reports a cohort graduation rate for each school and district.

**growth:** For accountability, one component of the score for *Next Generation Learners*; uses student growth percentile results.

**GSSP:** see *gifted student services plan*.

**Head Start:** A federally funded comprehensive child development program that has served low-income children ages three and four and their families since 1965. See also *Early Head Start*.

**Health Access Nurturing Development Services (HANDS):** Voluntary, intensive home visiting program in Kentucky for families through a child's second birthday; nurses and other trained workers provide information and support as parents help their child grow to be physically, emotionally and socially healthy.

**high progress:** A classification for Kentucky schools and districts that show the strongest improvement in their *Overall Scores* from year to year and succeed on some other indicators.

**high school feedback report:** Report showing how graduates of each Kentucky high school's graduates perform in Kentucky colleges; available at <http://kentuckyp20.ky.gov/DataReports.aspx>.

**High Schools That Work (HSTW):** A program supporting challenging academic courses and modern vocational studies to raise the achievement levels of career-bound high school students; cooperative effort with the Southern Regional Education Board.

**highest performing:** Accountability classification for Kentucky schools and districts with *Overall Scores* in the top 10 percent for that year and success on some other indicators.

**highly skilled educator:** In past years, a successful Kentucky teacher or administrator assigned by the Kentucky Department of Education to help schools in need of assistance based on weak assessment scores; program has not been funded since 2012.

**highly-qualified teacher:** As defined by the Federal No Child Left Behind legislation, must hold a bachelor's degree or higher, be certified to teach and demonstrate competence in the subjects they teach; in middle school highly qualified teachers must also pass

a test to demonstrate subject matter competence; in high school they must also have an academic major, or enough course work to equal a major, an advanced degree or an advanced certificate in the subjects they teach.

**home and hospital services:** services for students whose medical conditions make them unable to attend school. Districts receive *SEEK* add-on funding for students who qualify for home and hospital services.

**home schooling:** Teaching a child at home. In Kentucky, parents who wish to home school must notify the local superintendent that their child will be attending a private school (in the home), teach the general subjects of study and include the same number of six-hour days of instruction per year required of the public schools; currently 177 days.

**HSTW:** see *High Schools That Work*.

**I3:** see *Investing in Innovation Grants*.

**IB:** see *International Baccalaureate*.

**IDEA:** see *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*.

**IECE certification:** see *Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education certification*.

**IEP:** see *individual education program*.

**IGP:** see *individual graduation plan*.

**IGP:** see *individual growth plan*.

**ILP:** see *individual learning plan*.

**individual education program (IEP):** A written plan for meeting the needs of a student with disabilities; developed by that student's *Admission and Release Committee*; required by the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*; documents the student's current level of development, establishes the student's learning goals and specifies accommodations, modifications and related services that a student will receive to maximize his or her learning.

**individual graduation plan (IGP):** Older name for *Individual Learning Plan*.

**individual growth plan (IGP):** A professional development plan for educators developed with the assistance of an evaluator, that is aligned with specific goals and objectives for improving knowledge and

teaching skills and with their school's teaching and learning needs.

**individual learning plan (ILP):** A plan for each student mapping out steps to graduation and success based on academic and career interests. Starting in sixth grade, all Kentucky public school students create and update ILPs with input from their parents and from educators. The ILP replaces earlier requirements for an individual graduation plan.

**Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA):** Federal law requiring that all children with *disabilities*, ages three through twenty-one, receive a free appropriate public education; the federal government also provides *categorical funds* to cover some of the costs of meeting IDEA's requirements.

**Industry Certificates for Career Pathways:** Certification of job skills for a variety of areas of work; may be used for the *readiness* component of a high school's score for *Next Generation Learners*.

**Infinite Campus:** A *student information system* that tracks student grades, attendance and other information, used in all Kentucky public schools.

**instructional materials:** Any print, non-print or electronic resource such as manipulatives, maps, microscopes, computers and supplementary books designed to assist student learning; selecting instructional materials is a *school-based decision making* responsibility.

**instructional practices:** Methods used by teachers to engage students in the learning process; a required topic for *school-based decision making* policy.

**Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education certification (IECE certification):** Teacher certification required of all newly hired teachers in the state preschool program; IECE teachers qualify to teach infants, toddlers, preschool students and kindergarten students.

**International Baccalaureate (IB):** Rigorous program of studies and examinations for pre-college students, recognized by 100 countries for university admission; includes study of languages, humanities, mathematics and science.

**internship:** See *Kentucky Teacher Internship Program (KTIP)*.

**Investing in Innovation Grants (I3):** Federal competitive grants supporting research-based

programs that close achievement gaps and improve outcomes for students; available to school districts; part of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

**KASA:** see *Kentucky Association of School Administrators*.

**KASC:** see *Kentucky Association of School Councils*.

**KASS:** see *Kentucky Association of School Superintendents*.

**KBE:** see *Kentucky Board of Education*.

**KCAS:** see *Kentucky Core Academic Standards*.

**KCEWS:** see *Kentucky Center for Education and Workforce Statistics*.

**KCM:** see *Kentucky Center for Mathematics*.

**KCSS:** see *Kentucky Center for School Safety*.

**KCTCS:** see *Kentucky Community and Technical College System*.

**KDE:** see *Kentucky Department of Education*.

**KEA:** see *Kentucky Education Association*.

**Kentucky Association of School Administrators (KASA):** Organization of state administrators, composed of affiliate organizations representing principals, superintendents and other groups of school and district leaders.

**Kentucky Association of School Councils (KASC):** Membership organization supporting school councils as they work to help students succeed.

**Kentucky Association of School Superintendents (KASS):** Statewide organization of local school district superintendents.

**Kentucky Board of Education (KBE):** Eleven-member state board responsible for P-12 education; sets policy, adopts regulations, grants waivers and hires and evaluates the commissioner; appointed by the governor and confirmed by the legislature.

**Kentucky Center for Education and Workforce Statistics (KCEWS):** State center issuing reports and sharing longitudinal data on key educational and career results; a collaboration of the Kentucky Department of Education, the Council on Postsecondary Education, the Education Professional Standards Board and the Kentucky Education and

Workforce Development Cabinet; link data from early childhood, elementary/secondary, postsecondary, teacher licensure and preparation and other sources; provides a broad array of data to better understand and administer Kentucky's education programs.

**Kentucky Center for Mathematics (KCM):** Center focusing on improving mathematics instruction by providing targeted professional development and coaching for educators; housed at Northern Kentucky University.

**Kentucky Center for School Safety (KCSS):** Center offering training, education, information and research to assist schools in providing a safe environment for Kentucky's elementary and secondary students; housed at Eastern Kentucky University.

**Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS):** Postsecondary institution that includes Kentucky's 16 community and technical colleges on 70 campuses; governed by a board of regents with members appointed by the governor and other members elected by teaching faculty, nonteaching staff and students.

**Kentucky Core Academic Standards (KCAS):** Document showing what Kentucky students should know and be able to do at each stage of their education from kindergarten to grade 12; includes English language arts, mathematics, science and social studies to be addressed by *K-PREP* assessments; also includes arts & humanities, practical living/career studies and technology; adopted by the Kentucky Board of Education.

**Kentucky Core Content for Assessment:** Until 2012, the name used for Kentucky's academic standards; obsolete and replaced by *Kentucky Core Academic Standards*.

**Kentucky Core Content Tests:** Until 2012, assessments used for Kentucky accountability; obsolete and replaced by *K-PREP*.

**Kentucky Department of Education (KDE):** The state agency responsible for enforcing and implementing state education laws for preschool through grade 12, including assessment and accountability; also responsible for providing technical assistance, professional development and other support services to schools and school districts.

**Kentucky Early Childhood Standards (KECS):** A framework of critical knowledge and skills learned in

the early years; intended to support parents and early care and education professionals in planning experiences to support a child's progress along the developmental continuum and promote consistency between varied early childhood settings.

**Kentucky EdGuides (EdGuides):** Prichard Committee publications designed to help students, parents and other Kentuckians learn about public education; each EdGuide explains a single major topic in two pages or less, sharing basics of Kentucky's education law, information on recent results and sources for additional information.

**Kentucky Education Association (KEA):** Professional organization of Kentucky educators, with local chapters in most school districts.

**Kentucky Education Reform Act (KERA):** 1990 legislation reorganizing all elements of Kentucky education from preschool through grade 12.

**Kentucky Education Technology System (KETS):** A statewide approach to school technology, based on standards for equipment, software and other expectations. KETS provides technical services, ensures high speed network access and funds technology strategies to support the learning environment. Annually, KETS also offers state matching *categorical funds* to help school districts make purchases to keep up with those rising standards.

**Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship Program (KEES):** Program providing college scholarships based on students' ACT scores and grade point averages, funded with Kentucky lottery revenue.

**Kentucky High School Athletic Association (KHSAA):** A state association; has authority to manage interscholastic athletics at the middle and high school level including safety requirements for coaches and athletes; has jurisdiction over public schools and over private schools that join voluntarily to compete with public schools.

**Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA):** State agency that administers financial aid programs for Kentucky higher education.

**Kentucky Invests in Developing Success (KIDS NOW):** Overall title for a set of state efforts to support healthy development of young children up to age eight; includes programs promoting health, quality early child care and education and support for

families; supported by dollars from the state's Tobacco Settlement.

### **Kentucky Occupational Skill Standards**

**Assessments (KOSSA):** Online assessment of workplace skills using multiple choice and a problem-based open-ended question; not required, but successful student results can be used for the *readiness* component of a high school's score for *Next Generation Learners*.

**Kentucky Online Testing (KYOTE):** An online mathematics assessment used by most Kentucky colleges and universities to determine course placement for entering students not meeting ACT benchmarks; not required, but successful student results can be used for the *readiness* component of a high school's score for *Next Generation Learners*.

**Kentucky Performance Rating for Educational Progress (K-PREP):** Required state assessments of reading, mathematics, science, social studies, writing and language mechanics; uses constructed response items and multiple choice questions, plus an on-demand writing prompt.; includes the multiple-choice portion of the required end-of-course assessments; a major factor in schools' scores for *Next Generation Learners*.

**Kentucky Teacher Internship Program (KTIP):** Year-long program for new teachers; involves consultation and observations from a trained resource teacher, the school principal and a teacher educator; required before the teacher can receive final certification.

**Kentucky Virtual Campus (KYVC):** Website offering on-line learning opportunities for K-12 and postsecondary students; operated by the *Council on Postsecondary Education*.

**KERA:** see *Kentucky Education Reform Act*.

**kindergarten readiness screen:** Assessment to determine children's individual learning and developmental need as they enter kindergarten. See also, *Brigance Early Childhood Screen*.

**kindergarten readiness:** In Kentucky, defined as meaning each child enters school ready to engage in and benefit from early learning experiences that best promote the child's success.

**least restrictive environment:** Requirement for placing students with *disabilities* in learning setting as close to that of typical students as possible,

considering the specifics of their disabilities; determined by each student's *Admission and Release Committee (ARC)*.

**limited English proficiency (LEP):** Descriptive term for students who speak another language and know little or no English. Districts receive a small allotment of *SEEK* add-on funding based on their enrollment of students with limited English proficiency.

**Literacy Design Collaborative (LDC):** Program for developing literacy by creating major assignments that require students to read and write about literature, science, social studies or another subject (LDC tasks), backed up by plans for teaching students the reading and writing skills they will need to complete the assignment (LDC modules). Used in many states: Kentucky teachers piloted the LDC approach starting in 2011 and many Kentucky districts have participated in expanding LDC use.

**mainstreaming:** Placing students with *disabilities* in a regular classroom to fulfill the requirement that they be placed in the *least restrictive environment*.

**Mathematics Design Collaborative (MDC):** Program for deepening mathematics skills using "assessment for learning" strategies and "formative assessment lessons." Used in many states: Kentucky teachers piloted the MDC approach starting in 2010 and many Kentucky districts have participated in expanding MDC use.

**Measure of Academic Progress (MAP):** Optional assessments used by some Kentucky schools to determine student progress throughout the academic year.

**middle college high school:** Same as *early college high school*.

**Missing Piece of the Proficiency Puzzle (MPPP):** Report setting standards for parent, family and community involvement in public schools; designed for use in evaluating meaningful family involvement; used in *diagnostic reviews* and development of *comprehensive school improvement plans (CSIPs)*.

**multiage and multiability classroom:** Flexible grouping and regrouping of children of differing ages and abilities to maximize learning; required to the extent needed to implement the other *primary program critical attributes*.

**National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP):** Assessments of reading, mathematics,

science and writing taken by a sample group of 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in each state; known as “The Nation’s Report Card” and used to identify how states compare to one another and whether their performance improves over time.

**National Board Certification (NBC):** A national credential for teachers, based on a rigorous portfolio and examination and requiring skills beyond what is required by states; offered by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

**National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT):** A teacher who has earned *National Board Certification*.

**National Technical Advisory Panel on Assessment and Accountability (NTAPAA):** Panel of national assessment experts on educational assessments; gives advice to the Legislative Research Commission, the *Kentucky Board of Education* and the *Kentucky Department of Education* on assessment issues.

**NCLB waiver:** Federal permission to use an alternate approach to meeting *No Child Left Behind* requirements for standards, assessment, accountability, teaching quality and other issues. Kentucky has received an NCLB waiver from the U.S. Department of Education.

**needs assessment:** An analysis of data used to identify areas that need particular attention; may consider student assessment results, surveys, focus groups and other sources. See also *comprehensive school improvement plan (CSIP)* and *comprehensive district improvement plan (CDIP)*.

**Needs Improvement:** Accountability classification for schools or districts with *Overall Scores* below the 70 percentile.

**Next Generation Instructional Programs and Support:** For accountability, the portion of a school or district’s *Overall Score* that reflects *program review* results for arts and humanities, practical living/career studies and writing.

**Next Generation Learners:** For accountability, the portion of a school or district’s *Overall Score* that reflects student performance by combining components for *achievement, gap group, growth, readiness* and *graduation*.

**Next Generation Professionals:** For accountability, the planned portion of a school or district’s *Overall Score* that will reflect results from the *Professional*

*Growth and Effectiveness System (PGES)* starting in 2015-16.

**No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB):** 2001 federal legislation, requiring states to implement assessment and accountability rules in order to receive continued federal funding. In 2012, Kentucky received an *NCLB waiver*.

**non-duplicated gap group:** See *gap group*.

**novice:** The lowest student performance level on state *K-PREP* assessments.

**Office of Education Accountability (OEA):** Office in the Legislative Research Commission that monitors school reform, conducts an annual review of the implementation of education initiatives and investigates reports of mismanagement or illegal activities in schools.

**on-demand prompt:** A short statement or question for students to write about, used to assess writing as part of *K-PREP*.

**Open Meetings Law:** State law specifying how public agencies will schedule and conduct their meetings, including the right of the public to be present.

**Open Records Law:** State law specifying when and how the public can see and copy public agency documents.

**open session:** Sections of a *public agency* meeting that are open to the public; nearly all of every meeting must be in open session, with only a few limited periods when *closed sessions* are legally permitted.

**open-response test items:** Assessment items or questions requiring students to write answers to questions using their knowledge and skills rather than respond in a single word or sentence; used to assess reading, science, mathematics and social studies; also referred to as open-ended items or constructed responses.

**Operation Preparation:** Annual effort to provide college and career advising to all 8th and 10th grade students; uses trained volunteers, parents and school staff during a one-week period each spring.

**out-of-field teachers:** Teachers who have not been certified or do not have a college major or minor in the field in which they are teaching; may hold temporary emergency certificates.

**Overall Score:** number that summarizes many different measures of performance for a school or district; combines *Next Generation Learners* and *Next Generation Instructional Programs and Support*; scheduled to include *Next Generation Professionals* starting in 2015-16; used to set *annual measurable objectives (AMOs)*.

**P-16 councils:** Committees of representatives from schools from elementary through college, along with community representatives that facilitate communication and coordinate activities to improve education at all levels.

**parent:** For school legal purposes, defined as a parent, stepparent, foster parent or person who has legal custody of the child and with whom the child resides.

**Parent Teacher Association (PTA):** an association with parent and teacher members established at a local school as a chapter of the Kentucky and national PTA; also used to refer to the state and national groups.

**Parent Teacher Organization (P.T.O.):** A group formed locally to bring parents and teachers together, not affiliated with the state and national PTA.

**Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA):** an association that includes student members as well as parents and teachers, affiliated with the state and national PTA.

**Parent Teacher Student Organization (PTSO):** an organization that includes student members as well as parents and teachers, but is not affiliated with the state and national PTA.

**Parents and Teachers as Arts Partners (PTAP):** A Prichard Committee program that trains teams of parents and teachers to focus on infusing the arts in the school curriculum.

**Parents and Teachers Talking Together (PT3):** A Prichard Committee program offering can facilitate a structured dialogue and promotes on-going conversations between parents and teachers; offered when school communities request it.

**participation rate:** Percent of students who participate in statewide testing. A 95 percent participation rate is one of the requirements for a school to be classified as meeting its *annual measurable objective (AMO)*.

**percentile:** A number between 0 and 100 that shows what percent of students or schools received lower scores; a student scoring at the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile scored above 75 percent of all other students taking the same test; Kentucky schools and districts receive reports on the percentile ranking of their *Overall Scores*.

**persistently low-achieving schools:** *See priority.*

**Plan (assessment):** Readiness assessment that gives an early indication of likely success on the ACT; taken by all Kentucky students in 10th grade.

**positive parent involvement:** Engaging parents in positive ways to promote student learning; a *primary program critical attribute*,

**practical living:** Academic field that includes health, physical education and consumer skills; defined further in the Kentucky Core Academic Standards.

**preschool program:** Program to prepare students to enter school. Four-year-olds with low family incomes and for three- and four-year-olds with disabilities are eligible for free preschool services, partially supported with state *category funds*.

**Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence:** An independent, volunteer organization of Kentucky parents and citizens dedicated to improved public education at all levels; originally formed in 1980 by the Council on Higher Education to study higher education in Kentucky; became independent in 1983.

**primary program critical attributes:** Seven legally required features of the primary school program; includes *developmentally appropriate practices, multiage and multiability grouping, continuous progress, authentic assessment, qualitative reporting methods, professional teamwork* and *positive parent involvement*.

**primary program:** The part of the elementary school program in which children are enrolled from the time they begin school until they enter the fourth grade. See also *primary program critical attributes*.

**primary talent pool:** Primary program students who have demonstrated or have potential ability to perform at exceptionally high levels; students are selected so they may receive early enrichment.

**priority:** An accountability term assigned to high schools with graduation rates below 60 for three or more years or any school with an *Overall Score* in the bottom 5 percent of schools that have missed their

**annual measurable objective (AMO)** for at least 3 years.

**professional development (PD):** Activities designed to help teachers expand their knowledge and ability to help students learn. Kentucky school calendars include four teacher work days designated for professional development and PD occurs then and at many other times throughout the school year. Kentucky provides state *categorical funds* to cover part of the cost of professional development.

**Professional Growth and Effectiveness System (PGES):** An approach to developing effective educators, replacing older evaluation systems. PGES will use multiple measures to determine skills and professional development needs of teachers and principals.

**professional growth plan:** Plan developed by teachers to meet their ongoing learning needs; part of the *Professional Growth and Effectiveness System (PGES)*.

**professional learning community (PLC):** Professional development approach organized around repeated cycles of analyzing student work and planning instructional changes; involves meeting in small groups throughout the school year.

**professional teamwork:** A process in which all professional staff communicate and plan on a regular basis and use varied instructional delivery systems such as team teaching and collaborative teaching: a *primary program critical attribute*.

**proficient:** Definition 1. For students, performance level on state *K-PREP* assessments that meets statewide expectations. Definition 2. For a school or a district, a classification honoring an *Overall Score* that is at or above the 70<sup>th</sup> percentile compared to other schools and districts, plus success on some other indicators.

**program reviews:** A process for determining the effectiveness of a learning program by analyzing curriculum, instruction, assessment, professional development and administrative support; results from arts and humanities, practical living/career studies and writing program reviews are used for school's scores for *Next Generation Instructional Programs and Supports*.

**progressing:** A designation for schools that meet their *annual measurable objectives* and succeed on some other indicators.

**Project Lead the Way:** A program supporting lab-based, pre-engineering curriculum in middle schools and high schools; designed to prepare more students for careers in engineering, technology and biomedical sciences.

**public agency:** State and local governmental bodies subject to the Open Meetings Law, the Open Records Law, or both; technical definitions can be found at <http://www.lrc.ky.gov/Statutes/index.aspx>, looking at Title 61, section 805 for meetings and section 870 for records.

**qualitative reporting:** Reports to parents describing how and what a child is learning; may be done through conferences, progress reports, portfolios, journals and anecdotal records; a *primary program critical attribute*.

**QualityCore®:** A system of *end-of-course* exams and supporting materials developed by ACT, Inc. Kentucky high school students take the English II, Algebra II, Biology and US History QualityCore exams as part of *K-PREP*.

**Race to the Top:** Federal competitive grants made available to states that commit to certain education policies and to teaching every child for college and career readiness. Kentucky received a \$17 million Race to the Top grant in 2011.

**Read to Achieve:** A reading diagnostic and intervention program for use with struggling primary school program students; uses *state categorical funds*.

**readiness:** For accountability, readiness is a component of a school or district's score for *Next Generation Learners*, reflecting middle schools' *Explore* results and high schools' results on *ACT* and multiple optional assessments. (Elementary schools do not have a readiness component.)

**Reading Recovery:** A reading intervention program for struggling first grade readers; offers one-to-one tutoring by trained teachers in addition to the regular classroom instruction.

**ReadyKentucky:** Public engagement campaign that focused on building public understanding of and support for the Kentucky Core Academic Standards and effective teaching; no longer operating as a

separate initiative, but related work is being done by the Prichard Committee.

**recognition:** Accountability terms that honor schools and districts as *high progress, highest performing, or distinction*.

**regular meeting:** A *public agency* meeting that is part of its regular meeting schedule. Kentucky public agencies are required to have regular meeting schedules that are available to the public.

**resource room:** Classroom in which students with exceptional learning needs receive individualized services for part of the school day.

**Response to Intervention (RTI):** An approach to students' individual learning needs that moves them through increasingly intense tiers of support when assessments and other evidence show that those additional supports are needed. Kentucky schools are required to use an RTI approach to reading, mathematics and behavior for use in kindergarten through grade 3.

**rubric:** A scoring guide showing the criteria that will be used to assign ratings. Rubrics are often used to score student work and can also be used for teacher evaluations and other purposes. See also *scoring guide*.

**school council allocation formula:** Rules provided in administrative regulations for school boards as they determine how much money is given to each school council; intended to be sure funds are distributed fairly to each school.

**school council:** A group of parents and educators that implements *school-based decision making* at a single school; includes parents elected by parents, teachers elected by teachers and the school's principal.

**School Curriculum, Assessment and Accountability Council (SCAAC):** Council that advises the Legislative Research Commission and the Kentucky Board of Education on issues related to academic standards, assessment and accountability. Members represent parents, teachers, superintendents, principals, local school board members, district assessment coordinators, business and industry, university professors and citizens and are appointed by the governor.

**school facilities construction program:** State program and funds that provide state matching monies

for school buildings; local boards can use these funds for new buildings or renovations.

**school facilities planning committee:** Local committee composed of school and community representatives that makes recommendations to local school boards for replacing and renovating school buildings.

**School Improvement Fund:** See *Commonwealth School Improvement Fund (CSIF)*.

**school improvement plan:** See *comprehensive school improvement plan (CSIP)*.

**school of distinction:** See *distinction*.

**school report card:** Annual report to the public that shows a school's accountability classification, test scores and other important information; available at <http://applications.education.ky.gov/src/>.

**school-based decision making (SBDM):** System of governance in which school councils composed of principals, teachers and parents make a set of important decisions for their school. In Kentucky, school councils responsibilities include principal selection, consultation on other vacancies, selection of textbooks and instructional materials, approval of the *comprehensive school improvement plan (CSIP)* and set policies on curriculum, instructional practices, discipline and classroom management, extracurricular programs, consultation and other topics specified in state law.

**scoring guide:** A document that shows the criteria that will be used to evaluate performance; a rubric.

**Senate Bill 1:** Major 2009 legislation that led to the development of Kentucky's current content standards, assessments and accountability system focused on preparing students to graduate from high school ready for college and careers.

**single salary schedule:** For educators, schedule specifying salaries to be paid on years of teaching experience and level of education.

**site-based decision making:** Alternate term for *school-based decision making*.

**special education:** instruction that is specially designed, at no cost to parents, to meet a child's unique needs; can include adapting the content, methodology, or delivery of instruction to address a child's unique needs that result from his or her

disability and to give the student access to the general education curriculum so that he or she can meet the educational standards that apply to all children in the school system.

**special meeting:** A *public agency* meeting that is not on its *regular meeting* schedule; can be called by an agency's chair or a majority of members; must be called with a written notice including the agenda sent to all members, posted at the meeting site and sent to any media organizations that have requested such notice.

**STARS for KIDS NOW:** Kentucky's voluntary rating system for licensed type I child care centers and type II and certified family child care homes; the number of STARS identifies increasing levels of quality; additional funding is awarded based on the STAR levels achieved; provides parents and the public an indicator of child care quality.

**State Advisory Council for Gifted and Talented Education:** Council that makes recommendations on educating gifted and talented students; advises the Kentucky Board of Education, the Kentucky Department of Education and the Education Professional Standards Board; has 19 members appointed by the governor.

**State Board:** See *Kentucky Board of Education*.

**STEM:** Abbreviation for science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

**Strong Start Kentucky:** A campaign of the Prichard Committee advocating for access to quality early care and pre-k programs for Kentucky children.

**student growth percentiles:** A method for comparing individual students' performance to the work of other students who started at a similar level; used to identify students as having made (or not made) expected growth in reading and mathematics and used for the *growth* component of the score for *Next Generation Learners*.

**student information system (SIS):** A record-keeping system that can track student attendance, grades, assessment scores and other important data. Kentucky uses *Infinite Campus* as its student information system.

**Student Technology Leadership program (STLP):** Program where students develop technology skills, set up and maintain technology systems and use technology for the benefit of the school.

**student voice survey:** A survey that asks students for their perceptions of the teaching and learning that occurs in their classrooms. Kentucky uses a version of the *Tripod* student voice survey as one source of evidence for the *Professional Growth and Effectiveness System (PGES)*.

**Student Voice Team:** A Prichard Committee initiative in which middle and high school students work to ensure that the voices of Kentucky youth are heard on issues that affect their learning.

**Success By 6:** A national early childhood initiative of United Way; a community-based, public-private partnership of individuals and organizations focused on children's readiness to succeed in school; the partners plan and organize together to provide services to children and families with a focus on prevention.

**summative:** Descriptive term for an assessment or process that is used to evaluate final results. For students, a summative assessment is one that mainly gives evidence about whether they have mastered content recently taught. For teachers, summative evaluations are decisions about how effective they have been in their recent work. Compare to *formative*.

**superintendent screening committee:** Local committee that make recommendations to the local board of education regarding hiring a new superintendent; committee includes representatives of the school board, teachers, parents, principals and classified staff.

**Support Education Excellence in Kentucky (SEEK):** Main funding for Kentucky schools, combining state and local dollars funding; provides base guarantee funding for each district's average daily attendance, plus add-on funding for *at-risk students*, students with *limited English proficiency*, students with *disabilities* and students who need *home and hospital services*; requires a local contribution equal to 30¢ per \$100 of taxable property; allows districts to qualify for additional *Tier 1* funding if they set taxes above the 30¢ level.

**supports and consequences categories:** Accountability terms that identify schools and districts for *focus* or *priority* status based on concerns about assessment results or graduation rates.

**suspension:** Punishment which prohibits a student from attending school for a set period of time.

**Teach for America (TFA):** Nationwide program that recruits recent college graduates of all academic majors who commit two years to teach in urban and rural public schools.

**Teach Kentucky:** Program that recruits and supports highly motivated recent college graduates to teach in Kentucky public schools.

**teacher aide:** A school employee who assists a teacher and helps students in the classroom; not required to have a teaching certificate; works under teacher supervision.

**Teaching, Empowering, Leading, Learning Survey (TELL):** Survey for teachers used to measure working conditions; administered in Kentucky for the first time in 2011.

**technical centers:** Facilities that offer high school students opportunities to prepare for skilled jobs, developing technical knowledge and skills while continuing their academic studies and working toward a high school diploma. 42 locally operated technical centers are run by Kentucky school districts and 53 *Area Technology Centers* are directed by the *Kentucky Department of Education*.

**technology:** Includes (but is not limited to) computers, telecommunications, cable television, interactive video, film, low-power television, satellite communications and microwave communications. *Also see Kentucky Education Technology System (KETS).*

**tenure:** In education, legal status for teachers or college professors that protects them from being fired without cause. In Kentucky, teachers receive tenure after four years of teaching.

**textbooks:** Print (or sometimes electronic) publications providing an overview of a field of study. Textbook selection is a *school-based decision making* responsibility. Kentucky *categorical funds* for instructional resources for elementary and middle school students are often used for textbook purchases.

**Tier 1:** Additional *SEEK* funding available to districts that set local taxes that raise more than the minimum 30¢ per \$100 of taxable property.

**Title I:** Federal program providing added services at schools with high percentages of children from low-income families; established in 1965 and reformed by the *No Child Left Behind Act*; costs are partly covered by federal *categorical funds*.

**Title IX:** Federal law requiring that female students have opportunities equal to those available for male students: applies to all aspects of school programming, including athletics.

**Top 20 by 2020:** Prichard Committee initiative reporting Kentucky’s education rankings on indicators from preschool through postsecondary education; connected to Prichard call for Kentucky to be in the top 20 among the 50 states by 2020; issues reports every two years.

**tribunal:** three-member panels that hear and decide on cases when teachers challenge allegations that could result in loss of their jobs; appointed by the commissioner of education.

**Tripod:** A *student voice survey* that asks questions such as “is your homework meaningful” and “does your teacher have high expectations for you and your classmates;” used in Kentucky as part of the *Professional Growth and Effectiveness System (PGES)*.

**truancy:** Absence from school without excuse; Kentucky law counts students truant after three days of unexcused absences or unexcused tardies.

**Unbridled Learning:** The formal name for the approach to school and district assessment and accountability used in Kentucky since 2012; focused on college and career readiness for all students; meets federal requirements under Kentucky’s *NCLB waiver*.

**United States Department of Education (USED):** Agency that directs federal education programs including Title 1 and other Title programs, IDEA, NCLB and Race to the Top.

**waiver:** See *NCLB waiver*.

**WorkKeys:** See *ACT WorkKeys*.