



The Prichard Committee

Building a Groundswell for a Big Bold Future

LOCAL INDICATORS OF QUALITY: A KENTUCKY INNOVATION

House Bill 257 launches a set of innovations to create learning that is relevant and exciting for Kentucky students today and build upward mobility and thriving communities for Kentucky's shared future.

Local indicators of quality, discussed here, are one of those innovations. Two others –vibrant learning and writing across the curriculum –are discussed in similar reports and supported by additional tools at prichardcommittee.org/vibrant.

WHAT ARE LOCALLY DEVELOPED INDICATORS?



They are measures (or combinations of measures) that “allow all students to demonstrate their ability to apply grade-appropriate, standards-driven knowledge, content, and skills in real- world applications.” Additional indicators can also include evidence of “student well-being, fiscal responsibility, or school safety.” Under House Bill 257, each district can choose whether to create locally developed indicators.

HOW CAN LOCAL INDICATORS WORK FOR STUDENTS TODAY?

A major option will be a local “defense of learning” where students in a few grades show their progress towards learning goals set by their own community. Some Kentucky districts are already doing this sort of defense, often based on expectations set in a local “portrait of a graduate.” That process can include events where students present their work to educators and community members.

That will not be the only option, of course. In an approach built on local decision-making, many other models may emerge.

Adding indicators that value important skills and support vibrant learning can change classroom life for every learner and teacher. They can support a much better balance between the knowledge that is easy to test and the richer, but harder to measure, strengths that students can learn best from relevant, sustained, personalized learning activities.

HOW CAN LOCAL INDICATORS WORK FOR KENTUCKY'S FUTURE?

The student strengths that will matter for local indicators are also the workforce skills Kentucky will need for future prosperity. Employers have indicated for years that they need more than reading and math and more than academic understanding of science and other subjects. Local indicators can value and expand the durable skills that contribute to upward mobility and economic growth.

Similar strengths matter for the other aspects of a thriving community, including lively participation in the arts, an active culture of volunteer service, robust participation in community life, and sustained involvement in civic decision-making and democratic practice.

ARE LOCAL INDICATORS LEGALLY REQUIRED?

No. Under House Bill 257, state law says, “Each local school district may develop and implement.” The word “may” means that school districts do not have to participate in this promising innovation.



PrichardCommittee.org



Admin@PrichardCommittee.org

HOW CAN COMMUNITY MEMBERS ENGAGE TO MAKE LOCAL INDICATORS WORK?

Early on, community members can encourage their school boards and administrators to decide their districts will develop local indicators, and then people from the community can be constructive participants in the initial design of a new system. Later, community members may well have important roles to play in supporting students' efforts and giving feedback on their products. House Bill 257 creates a tremendous opportunity for schools and communities to build together.

LAW IN A BOX: DEFINITION

House Bill 257 created a new section of KRS 158, which includes this definition:

(1) (a) "Locally developed indicators of quality" means measures or indicators created or adopted by a local school district that:

- 1. Are aligned with the academic standards established in Section 2 of this Act;*
- 2. Allow all students to demonstrate their ability to apply grade-appropriate, standards-driven knowledge, content, and skills in real- world applications; and*
- 3. May include additional locally identified indicators related to priorities established by the local community that serve to complement the requirements in subparagraphs 1. and 2. of this paragraph. These indicators may include student well-being, fiscal responsibility, or school safety.*

LAW IN A BOX: RULES

House Bill 257 created a new section of KRS 158, which includes these rules:

(2) Each local school district may develop and implement a system of locally developed indicators of quality in accordance with administrative regulations promulgated by the Kentucky Board of Education. The locally developed indicators of quality shall include: administrative regulations promulgated by the Kentucky Board of Education. The locally developed indicators of quality shall include:

- (a) Student participation in vibrant learning experiences; and*
- (b) Locally developed indicators of performance.*

(3) A local school district utilizing a system of locally developed indicators of quality shall:

- (a) When an indicator involves student data, include student performance data for all students, disaggregated by individual subgroups, where permissible; and*
- (b) Develop a publicly available, online display that clearly communicates each applicable school and the district's performance on the locally developed indicators of quality, disaggregated by individual subgroups, where permissible.*

(4) The Kentucky Department of Education:

- (a) Shall offer technical assistance to local school districts in their development of locally developed indicators of quality; and*
- (b) May offer a one (1) time payment to offset costs incurred by local school districts in the development of locally developed indicators of quality. A financial payment provided under this paragraph shall not exceed fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) per district.*

(5) The Kentucky Board of Education may promulgate administrative regulations in accordance with KRS Chapter 13A necessary to administer the provisions of this section.