

Glossary

Ability Grouping: the practice of assigning students to classes on the basis of their past achievement or presumed ability to learn

Academic Expectations: the centerpiece of Kentucky's education reform effort is its vision of what students should know and be able to do as a result of their school experience

Accelerated Learning: advanced courses or classes in which highly motivated students study subjects and topics that are beyond their grade level

ACCESS for ELL (Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State): an English language assessment tied to the state's language Proficiency standards with varying stages of second language acquisition

Accommodations: changes in the design or administration of tests in response to the special needs of students with disabilities or students who are learning English

Accountability: the concept that individuals (e.g., students, teachers, administrators) or organizations (e.g., schools, districts) should be held responsible for improving student achievement

Achievement Gap: persistent, pervasive, and significant disparity in educational achievement and attainment among groups of students as determined by a standardized measure

Ad Hoc Committee: a committee that is formed to complete a specific task

Admission and Release Committee (ARC): the required meeting during which all required members, including parents, a district representation, regular and special education teachers, and the child, when appropriate, participate in determining the child's IEP

Advanced Placement Courses (AP): college level courses offered by high schools to students who are above average in academic standing

Alignment: the degree to which curriculum, instruction, textbooks, and other instructional materials reflect and reinforce the state's academic standards and accountability process

Allocation: the amount of funds available for school and/or district use as determined by the parameters of the program or grant

Annual Measurable Objective: a measurement used to determine compliance with No Child Left Behind (NCLB)

Arts and Humanities: courses of study that include music, visual arts, dance and drama

Assessment: a test of abilities

ASSIST (Adaptive System of School Improvement Support Tools): a Web-based computer system that allows all Kentucky districts and schools to create district or school improvement plans that are visible to all and aligned with Kentucky Board of Education goals

Average Daily Attendance (ADA): the total number of days of student attendance divided by the total number of days in the regular school year

Average Freshman Graduation Rate (AFGR): the graduation rate formula Kentucky uses

ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery): used by the military to determine qualification for enlistment

Balanced Assessment: an assessment plan that includes classroom formative and summative assessments, benchmark or interim assessments and a statewide assessment system

Benchmark Assessments: test that are designed to measure progress during a course of instruction, usually administered on a regular schedule; also known as interim assessments

Best Practices: a phrase to describe what are thought to be the most effective methods to improve student achievement

Block Scheduling: a way of organizing the school day into blocks of time longer than typical class periods

Bylaws: a document that clarifies the operating procedures of a governing body

Categorical Programs: state or federal programs granting funds to school and/or districts for specific children (e.g., Title I, Title II, Extended School Services)

Certified Staff: a school employee that is required to hold a certificate for their position issued by the Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB)

Chief State School Officer: the state commissioner of education; currently Dr. Terry Holliday

CIITS (Continuous Instructional Improvement Technology System): a Web-based program that provides teachers with resources for planning curriculum, lessons, and assessments that are aligned with the Common Core Standards

Class Cap Size: the maximum number of students per class used only to determine the allocation of staff and not necessarily the number of students in the class or course at any one particular time

Classified Staff: a school employee who is not required to hold a teaching certificate (e.g., instructional assistants, paraeducators, secretaries)

Cognitive Data: data relating to student performance (e.g., assessments)

Cohort: a particular group of students educated together and graduates high school together

College and Career Ready: a term used to describe the overall goal for all Kentucky students (i.e., Every child proficient and prepared for success in college and/or careers.)

Commissioner of Education: the chief state school officer, currently Dr. Terry Holliday

COMPASS: an untimed, computer-adaptive college placement test given at Kentucky high schools to 12th-grade students who have not met the Council on Postsecondary Education's (CPE) benchmarks on the ACT

CDIP/CSIP (Comprehensive District/School Improvement Plan): the district or school's plan for improvement based on a need assessment; includes strategies and activities for teachers and administrators

Consensus: a process that requires participants to come to a common ground during decision making

Criterion Referenced Assessment: a test that measures a student's mastery of skills or concepts set forth in a list of criteria, typically a set of performance objectives or standards

Curriculum: a description of what is to be taught in schools and/or districts

Developmentally Appropriate Instruction: instruction that is suited to the student's age, physical ability and mental development

Disaggregated Data: data that is broken down into segments (e.g., by subgroups, by grade spans, by classes) in order to interpret it for improvement planning

Distinguished: the performance level that exceeds state expectations

Dropout Rate: a proportion of students who do not complete high school

Educational Planning and Assessment System (EPAS): college readiness assessments that include EXPLORE, for grade 8, PLAN, for grade 10, and ACT, for grade 11

Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB): the state agency that is responsible for the certification of teachers and administrators

Educational Recovery Director (ERD): the person who oversees the school improvement process in a particular region of the state

Education Recovery Leader (ERL): the person who assist principals and school leadership in a school identified as a Priority School

Educational Recovery Specialist (ERS): the person who oversees the school improvement process in an identified Priority School

Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA): the principal federal law affecting K-12 education, first enacted by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1965; later reauthorized by President George W. Bush in 2001 and entitled No Child Left Behind (NCLB)

English as a Second Language (ESL): classes or support programs for students whose native language is not English

English Language Arts (ELA): previously known as English; includes reading, writing, speaking, listening, and observing

English Language Learner (ELL): a student whose home language is not English and who has not yet acquired proficiency in English

Extended School Services (ESS): instructional and support services provided by school districts for students who need additional time to achieve academic expectations

Family Resource Youth Services Center (FYRSC): programs and/or services provided by center staff that assist families and students with identified needs to remove barriers to learning

Flexible Grouping: short-term grouping of students for various purposes (e.g., skill development)

Focus Schools: those schools identified as:

1. Schools that have a non-duplicated student gap group score in the bottom 10 percent of non-duplicated student gap group scores for all elementary, middle, and high schools;
2. Schools with an individual student subgroup within assessment grades by level with a score in the third standard deviation below the state average for all students; or 3. High schools that have a graduation rate that has been less than 60 percent for two consecutive years.

Formative Assessment: any assessment used by teachers to evaluate students' knowledge and understanding of particular content and then to adjust and plan further instructional practices

Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE): special education and related services provided to students with special needs at no cost to their families

Gifted and Talented (GT): a program to assist students who have been identified by testing or another measure as unusually intelligent or talented

Graduation Rate: a proportion of students who graduate high school within a four year period

Highly Qualified: teachers who have obtained full state certification for the class or courses they are assigned to teach

Inclusion: the practice of placing student with disabilities in regular classrooms; also known as mainstreaming

Individual Education Plan (IEP): a detailed education plan created for students with disabilities **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA):** a federal law that guarantees children with special needs a free appropriate public education (FAPE) and requires that each student's education be determined on an individual basis and designed to meet his or her needs in the least restrictive environment possible

Individual Learning Plan (ILP): a Web-based tool that allows students to explore, plan, and prepare for their future; a required activity for student in grades 6 to 12

Infinite Campus (IC): the state's student information system

Instruction: the way in which students are taught the school's curriculum

Interim Assessment: test that are designed to measure progress during a course of instruction, usually administered on a regular schedule; also known as benchmark assessments

Intervention: a program that does something different from what was done before in an attempt to improve achievement

Job-Embedded Professional Development: professional development activities that occur during the school day

Kentucky Administrative Regulations (KAR): regulations that support Kentucky's laws

Kentucky Board of Education (KBE): the group appointed by the Governor to oversee the actions of the state education agency

Kentucky Department of Education (KDE): the state education agency

Kentucky Education Technology System (KETS): the state's plan on how technology is integrated into the school's curriculum

Kentucky Performance Rating for Educational Progress (K-PREP): the system of assessments for Kentucky

Kentucky Revised Statutes (KRS): Kentucky's laws

KOSSA: Kentucky Occupational Skills Standards Assessment

KYOTE (Kentucky Online Testing): a mathematical examination management system that supports academic outreach by a consortium of Kentucky colleges, universities and school districts

Least Restrictive Environment: the setting where students with disabilities can be educated alongside their peers without disabilities to the maximum extent possible

Limited English Proficiency (LEP): label applied to a student from a non-English speaking background that has not yet learned English

Local Education Agency (LEA): a school district

Looping: the practice of having one teacher educate a student for more than one school year

Mainstreaming: the practice of placing students with disabilities in regular education classrooms; also known as inclusion

Manipulatives: physical objects used to represent concepts

Master Schedule: the complete schedule of classes or courses that each teacher teaches during a school day or week

Media Specialist: a librarian that has specific training in technology instruction

Migrant Education: academic and support services for students whose families migrate to find employment in agriculture

MUNIS: the software used to manage district and school financial records

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP): a national testing program funded by the U.S. Education Department (USED)

Needs Improvement: a school or district achievement classification; formerly known as apprentice level

No Child Left Behind (NCLB): the title given by President George W. Bush for the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)

Non-Cognitive Data: nonacademic data used to determine needs; can include attendance, retention, discipline referrals, graduation rate and dropout rate

Nonperformance: a term delegating a student's lack of effort or omission of an assessment item

Norm Referenced Test (NRT): a standardized assessment designed to compare the scores of individuals or groups of individuals with a representative sample of individuals with similar characteristics

On-Demand Writing: a writing sample that addresses a specific prompt during a predetermined timeframe

Open Response Item: a question in which the student is required to construct a written answer and one that may have more than one answer; an essay question

Paraprofessional/Paraeducator: a classified employee that assist teachers in a classroom setting

Parent Compact: a written agreement of shared responsibility that defines goals and expectations of schools and families as partners in improving student achievement

Parent Engagement: the active involvement of families in the daily lives and schooling of their children

Peer Review: the process where district administrators, school administrators, teachers, and/or parent come together to review and provide suggestions in regards toward district or school improvement plans

Policy: a written process adopted by a governing body that dictates the operation of the Organization

Portfolio: a collection of writing samples that follows students from one grade to another

Practical Living/Vocational Studies: a collection of subjects including health and safety, consumerism, and physical education

Primary School: a Kentucky statutory requirement for the early years of elementary school characterized by multi-age and multi-level groupings; primary school ends when a student enters grade 4

Priority Schools: the lowest five percent (5%) of both Title I and non-Title I school as identified by statewide assessments

Professional Development: activities and trainings intended to teach teachers and/or administrators the knowledge and skills needed to perform their job effectively

Professional Growth and Effectiveness System: a process which schools and districts can use to measure teacher and leadership effectiveness in a fair and equitable manner

Professional Learning Community (PLC): an identified group of teachers and other school staff that meet regularly to assess student work and determine student interventions

Proficient: the academic goal for all Kentucky's students

Rtl (Response to Intervention)

Restructuring: the redesigning of a school either voluntary or involuntary

Resource Room: a specialized room where students can go to receive individualized instruction

Rigor: being academically challenging

Rubric: a set of criteria for evaluating student work or for scoring assessments; a scoring guide

School Improvement Plan (CSIP): the school's plan for improvement based on a need assessment and includes strategies and activities for teachers and administrators

Schoolwide Program: an instructional supplemental program for Title I schools that have greater than forty percent (40%) low income population

Special Education: a program designed to meet the unique needs of students with identified disabilities

State Education Agency (SEA): the Kentucky Department of Education

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math)

Summative Assessment: an assessment at the end of a unit of study

Support Educational Excellence in Kentucky (SEEK): the funding base set by the General Assembly for Kentucky's schools and districts

Targeted Assistance Program: an instructional supplemental program for Title I schools that have less than forty percent (40%) low income population

Title I: a federally funded supplemental program that is designed to provide services for low income disadvantaged students and families

Title II: a supplemental program that provides funds to prepare, train and recruits high quality teachers

Title III: a supplemental program that provides funds to assist with student that do not speak English as their primary home language

Title VI: a supplemental program that provides funds to assist rural school districts.

Title X: a supplemental program that provides funds to assist with the education of identified homeless students

WorkKeys: a job skills assessment system produced by ACT, Inc.