



# Glossary of Kentucky Education Terms

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*September 2009*

**ability grouping.** Placing students in groups based on ability or presumed ability as determined by test results, teacher assessment, and information provided by parents and students. Groups may remain together for the entire day based on presumed ability which is also called tracking, or students may be grouped or regrouped for different subjects based on actual progress. See also tracking.

**academic expectations.** Expectations for students that further define the learning goals established by the Kentucky General Assembly; defines what students should know and be able to do as a result of their school experience; developed by the Council on School Performance Standards and adopted by the Kentucky Board of Education. Schools are held accountable for helping students meet the goals and expectations.

**academic index.** Summary of test results in reading, writing, social studies, mathematics, science, arts and humanities, and practical living/vocational studies that had been used under CATS.

**academic record.** Student transcript or record of academic achievement; usually includes courses taken, grades, and attendance.

**academies.** See *teacher academies*.

**Accelerated Reader.** A commercial self-paced, individualized computer-assisted reading program; children read books and then take computerized multiple-choice tests to measure their comprehension of the books.

**accommodate.** For instruction, changes made in the way materials are presented and in the setting, timing and scheduling for instruction, with the expectation that the student will reach expected standards.

**accommodations.** For testing, adjustments made in the way tests are administered for some students with disabilities. For example, a blind student might have a test administered in Braille or might have someone read the questions aloud.

**accountability index.** Scores that had been used to measure school progress in academic subjects and the non-cognitive measures including attendance, drop-out rates, retention and transition to adult life. Senate Bill 1 removed this measure.

**accountability system.** A system established to provide incentives and consequences for schools to improve student learning. Kentucky established the Kentucky Instructional Results Information System in 1992 and replaced it with the Commonwealth Accountability and Testing System in 1998. The Federal No Child Left Behind law was established and added in 2001. The 2009 Kentucky legislature called for revising the system again by the 2011-12 school year.

**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 gap.** Significant differences in achievement for different groups of students. Kentucky schools are required to monitor scores for gaps in gender, race, poverty, special needs, and English proficiency and develop plans to eliminate those differences in achievement. Title I schools are held responsible for closing these gaps by the federal No Child Left Behind law.

**achievement gap targets.** Goals set by schools to close achievements gaps; required by Senate Bill 168 passed in 2002.

**achievement test.** Measures how much students have learned about particular subjects; examples are the California Achievement Test and the Iowa Test of Basic Skills; usually multiple choice, norm-referenced assessments.

**ACT.** Usually taken in high school for college entrance; required for admission to Kentucky's public universities; tests English, mathematics, reading, and science reasoning with an optional writing component; score range 1-36; now used as a component of Kentucky's accountability system.

**action component.** See *component*.

**action plan.** Steps to be taken to accomplish the goals of a school plan.

**active learning.** Teaching method that uses hands-on activities and learning by doing such as putting on a play or conducting a science experiment; sitting at a desk filling out worksheets is the opposite of active learning.

**ADA.** See *average daily attendance*.

**ADD.** See *attention deficit disorder*.

**adequate yearly progress (AYP).** Under the federal No Child Left Behind law, required annual improvement in reading and mathematics for students in grades 3 through 8 and one grade in high school, to reach proficiency by 2014; also includes required participation rate.

**ADHD.** See *attention deficit hyperactivity disorder*.

**ADM.** See *average daily membership*.

**Admissions and Release Committee (ARC).** A committee responsible for developing the individual education plan for a student with special needs; composed of school personnel, the student's parents, and perhaps some others who can help make plans for the student to be successful.

**Advance KY.** A program focused on increasing the number of underrepresented students who have access to and participate successfully in taking Advanced Placement (AP) exams in math, science and English; also provides training for AP teachers, materials for AP classes and monetary awards for successful AP test scores.

**advisor/advisee program.** An advisory system that is organized so every student has an adult advisor and sees them on a regular basis; the school schedule usually includes time for advisors and students to meet to discuss things like career options, class selection, extracurricular activities; more common in middle schools and high schools.

**AFT.** See *American Federation of Teachers*.

**age appropriate.** For instruction, curriculum, environment and strategies suitable for students based on their developmental level.

**alignment.** See *curriculum alignment*.

**alternate assessment.** Means of assessing students for school accountability with the most severe disabilities who cannot participate even with accommodations in the regular curriculum; could include portfolios, attainment tasks and transition attainment record checklists that are specially designed for these students.

**alternate portfolio.** See *alternate assessment*.

**alternative calendar.** School calendar with the same number of classroom hours as other schools but a different schedule. For example a school might begin in early August, take several two- or three-week breaks during the year and end school in late June.

**alternative certification.** Process which allows persons with a college degree that did not lead to teacher certification to obtain a teaching certificate after completing certain requirements.

**alternative school programs.** Programs or schools that offer students a different approach to schooling; often used for students with behavior problems who are not able to function in a regular school setting.

**American Federation of Teachers.** National professional organization of teachers.

**American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).** 2009 federal economic stimulus legislation that temporarily provides added funding for education.

**anecdotal records.** Written record of student's progress as opposed to test score percentages or grades; most frequently used in the primary program to document what a student has accomplished.

**annual measurable objectives.** For No Child Left Behind, the percent of students needing to score at the proficient or distinguished level in reading and mathematics to meet adequate yearly progress.

**AP courses.** Advanced placement courses; college-level classes offered in high school. Students who successfully complete the course and the advanced placement exam (scoring 3 or above on a scale of 1-5), may be given college credit and/or may be allowed to take courses beyond the usual freshman level.

**apprentice.** See *performance standards*.

**aptitude test.** Test that attempts to predict how well students will do; examples are the IQ test which predicts student capacity to learn and the ACT which is used to predict how well students will perform in college.

**ARC.** See *Admissions and Release Committee*.

**ARRA.** See *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act*.

**articulation.** With regard to curriculum, aligning it across the grades and integrating it across disciplines and clearly communicating it to all stakeholders. **Vertical articulation** is sequenced curriculum from beginning learning to more advanced skills and knowledge – preschool through high school. **Horizontal articulation** assures that curriculum in each grade and subject is the same across the school or district.

**assessment.** A test or evaluation of what a student knows and is able to do; used to guide decisions and actions about teaching and learning. See formal and informal assessment.

**assessment portfolios.** Collections of a student's best pieces of work including some evidence that the student has evaluated the quality of his or her own work. Kentucky's students currently develop writing portfolios; students with special learning needs who cannot participate in Kentucky's regular assessment develop alternative portfolios. Mathematics portfolios were required in the past as part of school accountability but are now optional.

**assistive technology.** Equipment, technology, or other items used to increase, maintain or improve the function of individuals with disabilities and services that assist in selecting, acquiring and using this equipment.

**at-risk students.** In Kentucky, students whose family income qualifies them for the federal free school lunch program are defined as at-risk of educational failure; the number of at-risk students is used to calculate school funding and funding for other programs such as family resource and youth services centers.

**attention deficit disorder (ADD).** Problem that interferes with learning in which students are easily distracted, have difficulty focusing and staying on task; most students exhibit these behaviors at times but for students with ADD it is excessive.

**attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).** Problem that interferes with learning in which students are easily distracted, have difficulty focusing and staying on task and also have difficulty controlling motor skills; students with ADHD seem restless and have a hard time sitting still; most students exhibit these behaviors at times but for students with ADHD it is excessive.

**audit.** See *scholastic audit*.

**authentic assessment.** An evaluation of what students actually know and can do; may include portfolios, journals, observations, taped readings, videotaping, and teacher-student conferences, measures skills for real purposes rather than contrived or artificial situations.

**average daily attendance (ADA).** The average number of students in school each day; used to compute state payment to local school districts.

**average daily membership (ADM).** The average number of students enrolled in school each day, regardless of attendance.

**AYP.** See *adequate yearly progress*.

**basal readers.** An instructional textbook used to teach beginning readers based on step-by-step isolated skills and leveled reading material, such as the "Dick and Jane" series.

**basal textbook** The basic textbook for a subject that offers a foundation for instruction for a course or grade level with appropriate progression of the subject.

**baseline data.** Information collected to establish a reference point for comparison to the same data collected at a later date.

**baseline test score.** Initial score used for comparison to measure progress.

**basic skills.** Fundamental skills needed for success in school and life; usually thought of as reading, writing, and arithmetic; Kentucky's basic skills are expressed as learning goals, academic expectations, and core content for assessment.

**benchmark.** With regard to student work, an example that illustrates the qualities of a specific score on a rubric or scoring guide.

**benchmark writing.** A sample of student writing that sets standards for writing and can be used to score other writing.

**best guess spelling.** Also called invented spelling; allowing beginning writers to use the phonetic sound of letters to spell as they get their thoughts on paper and make corrections later; sometimes misunderstood to mean ignoring spelling.

**best practices.** Current, nationally recognized recommendations that include the latest knowledge, technology, research and procedures for teaching and learning.

**biennium.** In Kentucky, state accountability was calculated every two years; Senate Bill 1 may change that.

**block scheduling.** Rearranging time within the six-hour instructional day; most common example is rearranging a high school's traditional six-or seven-period day of 50 to 55 minutes per period into four academic blocks of time ranging from 75 to 90 minutes. Many modified versions of this system exist.

**Bloom's Taxonomy.** Benjamin Bloom's theory of the hierarchy of learning which includes (1) knowledge, the basic level of understanding; (2) comprehension, grasping the meaning of knowledge; (3) application, the ability to apply knowledge in actual situations; (4) analysis, the ability to break down information and study it as a whole and as pieces of a whole; (5) synthesis, the ability to rearrange things learned for useful purposes; (6) evaluation, the ability to make judgments about things learned.

**Brown v. Board.** U.S. Supreme Court case that led to the 1954 decision that ruled racial segregation in public schools unconstitutional. More formally, *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*.

**Buckley Amendment.** Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974. A federal law protecting rights of parents regarding their child's records, limiting access to outsiders, and establishing procedures to challenge or correct false enforcement.

**Building a Strong Foundation for School Success Series.** Documents and tools created by the Kentucky Department of Education for the purpose of improving the quality of early care and education in Kentucky. See also, the *Kentucky Early Childhood Parent Guides*, *Kentucky Early Childhood Standards*, *Kentucky Early Childhood Continuous Assessment Guide* and *Kentucky Early Childhood Quality Self Study*.

**Career Pathways Initiative.** Program that partners the community college system with high schools to create seamless transitions from high school to college; this initiative is focused on science, technology, engineering, math and health.

**Carnegie unit.** Unit used to define coursework completion in a subject; must be at least 120 sixty-minute hours; used in the U.S. to measure high school achievement and to qualify for graduation and college entrance.

**CAT5. California Achievement Test, Fifth Edition.** A norm-referenced test used by some school districts in Kentucky. This is not a state-required test in Kentucky.

**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.

**CATS.** See *Commonwealth Accountability Testing System*.

**CCR&R.** See *child care resource and referral agencies*.

**CDA.** See *Child Development Associate*.

**CDIP. Comprehensive district improvement plan.** See *comprehensive improvement planning*.

**CEEC.** See *Commissioner's Education Equity Council*.

**Center for Middle School Academic Achievement.** Center established by the 2000 General Assembly to focus on middle school teaching. It is housed jointly at Eastern Kentucky and Murray State universities.

**Center for Parent Leadership (CPL).** An initiative of the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence which utilizes the parent leadership model developed and implemented through the Commonwealth Institute for Parent Leadership to provide consultation and training to education organizations, school districts, cities and states throughout the country; helps others work to give parents the skills and information necessary to become effective leaders in their local schools.

**Center for School Safety.** A center to provide research, data analysis, and information sharing on school safety. This center was established by the 1998 General Assembly and is located at Eastern Kentucky University.

**certified personnel.** Teachers, principals, superintendents, and other school district employees who have been certified by the Education Professional Standards Board as having fulfilled all education and internship requirements for teaching, supervising, and administering programs.

**Chapter 1.** See *Title I*.

**charter schools.** Self-governing public schools that operate under a charter or contract with a local school district or state, agreeing to meet certain standards without having to follow all state or local regulations; allows educators flexibility to meet learning goals in new and creative ways. Kentucky does not have charter schools.

**chief state school officer.** In Kentucky, the commissioner of education.

**child care.** A range of services that educate and nurture young children and enable parents to work or attend school; may include recreational and developmental activities and meals as appropriate and are generally provided for children ages 6 weeks to 12 years.

**child care resource and referral agencies (CCR&Rs).** Agencies that work to coordinate the availability of quality child care and help parents find child care services; maintain data and provide information about local child care programs for parents, business and the community; provide information and training for child care providers.

**Child Care Resource and Referral Network.** Network of 14 regional agencies in Kentucky that can help parents find child care services.

**Child Development Associate (CDA).** An individual who has successfully completed a CDA assessment and has been awarded the CDA Credential. S/he is able 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. The Credential is awarded for three child care settings: 1) Center-based, for which candidates receive endorsements to work with infants and toddlers or preschool children; 2) Family Child Care; and 3) Home Visitor.

**children with disabilities.** Those children having one or more of the following impairments and who, because of those impairments, need special education and related services: 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; specific learning disabilities. See also *exceptional children*.

**CIPL.** See *Commonwealth Institute for Parent Leadership*.

**class caps.** Maximum number of students permitted to be enrolled in a classroom; in Kentucky, school-based decision making councils have the flexibility to exceed these limits.

**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 used by teachers to organize and maintain a good learning environment for students; includes ways to handle discipline.

**classroom working folder.** A collection of student work in different stages of development; may include such things as outlines, drafts, or completed papers.

**closed meeting.** Meeting of an agency which is held in private with no audience. Closed meetings of public agencies such as school boards and school councils are allowed only under special circumstances.

**co-curricular.** School activities outside of the regular curriculum, which have some educational connection to the curriculum such as band and orchestra.

**Code of Ethics for Appropriate Testing Practices for School and District Personnel.** Guidelines for educators about what are and are not acceptable procedures when giving the state accountability tests.

**cognitive.** Mental process for remembering, reasoning, understanding, and using judgment.

**cognitive skills test.** Test of knowledge and mental ability.

**collaboration.** Two or more classroom teachers, aides, special education or itinerant teachers, parents or other school volunteers who plan and work together to accomplish a goal such as improving student achievement.

**Collaborative Center for Literacy Development.** A center created by the 1998 General Assembly to conduct research and train teachers to improve the reading skills of primary school students; administered through the Council on Postsecondary Education and housed at the University of Kentucky.

**Combined Curriculum.** A document combining Academic Expectations, Core Content and Program of Studies in one easy-to-use document for teachers as they develop curriculum, and for parents and the public to know what is to be taught in Kentucky schools. It is available at [www.education.ky.gov](http://www.education.ky.gov). (Search for Combined Curriculum.)

**commissioner of education.** The chief executive school officer; administrator and executive to the Kentucky Board of Education; chief administrator of the Department of Education.

**Commissioner's Education Equity Council (CEEC).** Group of citizens appointed to advise the commissioner of education on education equity in Kentucky.

**Commissioner's Parent Advisory Council (CPAC).** Statewide group of parents created by the commissioner of education in 1999 to advise on policy issues and increase positive leadership of parents for improving public education.

**common academic core.** A course of study recommended for all students.

**common items.** Items on Kentucky's assessment that are taken by all students on which individual student scores are based. See also *matrix sample testing*.

**Commonwealth Accountability Testing System (CATS).** System of state assessment and accountability used between 1998 and 2009.

**Common Core Standards.** Reading and language arts and mathematics standards being developed by a voluntary consortium of states, designed to align elementary and high school education with college readiness requirements. Kentucky has committed to using the Common Core Standards as we implement Senate Bill 1's requirements for new assessments.

**Commonwealth Diploma Program.** Special diploma for exceptional work in high schools; requires a number of advanced placement classes and exams.

**Commonwealth Institute for Parent Leadership (CIPL).** A process sponsored by the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence that encourages and trains parents to become advocates for parent involvement and improved achievement for Kentucky students.

**Commonwealth Institute for Teachers (CIT).** Special training program for selected teachers held during the summer at a state university; conducted by the Kentucky Department of Education.

**Commonwealth Postsecondary Education Prepaid Tuition Trust Fund.** Fund established by the 2000 General Assembly that holds investments made by families to prepay tuition for their children to attend public universities, community colleges, and vocational programs in Kentucky.

**Commonwealth School Improvement Funds (CSIF).** Funds set aside for schools not meeting student achievement goals.

**component.** The section of a comprehensive improvement plan that spells out the steps a school or district will take to meet one of its goals, usually including activities, timelines, budgets, and a division of responsibilities.

**comprehensive improvement planning. (CSIP or CDIP)** The process of developing an improvement plan for schools or districts organized around priority needs along with financial resources, professional development, equity, technology and other resources; focused on improving student achievement; required for schools or districts not meeting NCLB goals; formerly called consolidated plan or transformation plan. The resulting school document is called the CSIP or comprehensive school improvement plan, while districts generate the CDIP or comprehensive district improvement plan.

**Comprehensive Test of Basic Skills/5 (CTBS/5)** An older name for the TerraNova test.

**computer assisted instruction.** Instruction used for learning through the use of interactive computer programs that allow students to work at their own pace.

**confidence intervals.** A margin of error or standard deviation that is added to the final score to assure fair judgments

are made.

**consolidated planning.** An older name for *comprehensive improvement planning*.

**consortium.** A partnership. School districts were required to form partnerships with other districts to provide professional development activities between 1990 and 1996. This is no longer required, but some districts continue to work together.

**content standards.** A description of what students need to know and be able to do.

**content validity.** In testing, answers the question: How well does the test cover the content?

**continuous assessment.** Tests and other measures teachers use on a regular basis to understand what students know and can do, what progress they are making, and where more work is needed.

**continuous progress.** An education system that allows 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; also called individualized instruction; required in Kentucky's primary program.

**cooperative learning.** An instructional method in which students work in small learning groups or teams, are assigned roles, and work together to accomplish a common goal or task. Students are held accountable individually but rely on each other for the success of the group.

**core concepts.** Main ideas; for example, core concepts for democracy might include equality, responsibility, choice, and freedom.

**Core Content for Assessment.** The subject matter and skills tested on Kentucky's assessment that hold schools accountable; developed by Kentucky teachers, parents, citizens, and business leaders; used by teachers and curriculum developers in designing curriculum and ongoing classroom assessment; previously called content guidelines. Senate Bill 1 calls for revising core standards for use beginning in 2011-12.

**corporal punishment.** Deliberate infliction of physical pain by any means on any part of the body as a penalty or punishment.

**Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE).** State-level council appointed by the governor that provides direction for Kentucky's public universities, community colleges and technical schools.

**course syllabus.** A summary outline of the curriculum for a single class.

**CPAC.** See *Commissioner's Parent Advisory Council*.

**CPE.** See *Council on Postsecondary Education*.

**CPL.** See *Center for Parent Leadership*.

**criminal records check.** Required check of criminal records for school personnel and school volunteers in an attempt to assure a safe environment for students.

**criteria.** A standard used in evaluating student work.

**criterion-referenced test.** Test that assesses how well students are mastering a specific set of knowledge and skills without comparison to other students; also called standards-based test.

**critical attributes for the primary school program.** Seven areas required by law to be addressed in Kentucky's primary school program; includes developmentally appropriate practices, multiage and multiability grouping, continuous progress, authentic assessment, qualitative reporting methods, professional teamwork, and positive parent involvement.

**critical shortage areas.** In Kentucky law, subject, grade level, or geographic location in which it is difficult to find qualified teachers.

**critical thinking.** A skill requiring thoughtful consideration of many aspects of a problem or issue in a discriminating way; involves analysis, evaluating all sides of a problem or issue, prediction, generalization, analogy, conditional reasoning and evaluation of reliability of information sources to determine the best of possible answers or solutions.

**CSIF.** See *Commonwealth School Improvement Funds*.

**CSIP.** Comprehensive school improvement plan. See *comprehensive improvement planning*.

**CTBS/5.** See *Comprehensive Test of Basic Skills/5*.

**culminating project.** Final project submitted by a student prior to graduation that includes a major written component supported by documentation, references, and research as well as an oral or visual presentation, demonstration, exhibition, or presentation to a panel. This is not a state requirement but may be required by local school districts.

**cultural responsiveness.** With regard to teaching, using the cultural knowledge, prior experiences, and performance styles of diverse students to making learning more appropriate, meaningful and effective; teaches to the strengths of these students.

**curriculum.** The knowledge and skills a school intends to teach students, often organized in an outline indicating the order in which topics are taught.

**curriculum alignment.** A process to ensure that an agreed-upon curriculum for an entire school is taught. In many Kentucky schools, teachers from all grade levels work together to be sure all of the content and skills in the *Core Content for Assessment* are taught. Some districts work to align the curriculum from preschool to grade 12.

**curriculum map.** An outline of curriculum that lays out what is taught and when it is taught.

**curriculum mapping.** A process that helps teachers keep track of what has been taught throughout the year; can be used in conjunction with assessment data to make revisions in instruction.

**DAC.** See *district assessment coordinator*.

**DEC.** See *Division for Early Childhood*.

**decoding skills.** Skills students use in reading to understand new words; includes phonics.

**depth of knowledge (DOK).** A way of explaining how demanding test questions may be. In Kentucky's Core Content for Assessment, items are marked with depth of knowledge numbers from DOK-1 to DOK-4 to indicate that increasingly demanding work may be required. For example, DOK 1 might ask students to recall facts while a DOK 4 requires extended application of content.

**developmentally appropriate practices.** Teaching methods that take into account students' developmental levels (physical, emotional, social, cognitive and aesthetic) and individual needs.

**diagnostic tests.** Tests used to learn what a student knows and can do to guide further instructions.

**Different Ways of Knowing (DWoK).** A philosophy of education and a model interdisciplinary curriculum with a design for learning and practicing new teaching strategies. In Kentucky DWoK is used most commonly in elementary schools at the primary level.

**differentiated instruction.** Varying teaching methods to meet different learning needs of students based on learning styles, learning levels and interests as opposed to using a textbook with all students on the same page at the same time.

**differentiated pay.** For teachers, pay schedule based on more than years of teaching experience and level of education; could include higher pay for hard-to-fill positions, increased skill levels or increased job duties.

**direct instruction.** Method used in teaching where the teacher lectures or "teaches" the information in a sequenced order to help students learn and understand; as opposed to discovery learning where teachers help students learn and discover for themselves.

**director of pupil personnel.** The truant officer of the school district.

**disaggregated data.** For test results, data broken out by subgroups such as gender, race, income level, and region of the state.

**discipline code.** Set of rules and guidelines for behavior; required by every school and school district; parents must be involved in establishing these codes.

**discretionary funds.** Sources of revenue whose expenditure is not specified in the guidelines of the funding source. The opposite of categorical funds.

**distinguished.** See *performance standards*.

**distributed leadership.** Giving other staff members some of the leader's responsibilities; also called shared leadership.

**district assessment coordinator (DAC).** Person at school district office who is the liaison to the state department of education for assessment and accountability.

**diverse/diversity.** Including differences based on race, gender, disability, age, national origin, color, economic status, religion, geographic region and other characteristics; includes valuing differences, supporting, encouraging and promoting differences.

**Division for Early Childhood (DEC).** A division of the Council for Exceptional Children, a professional organization especially for individuals who work with or on behalf of children with special needs, birth through age eight, and their families. Founded in 1973, the Division is dedicated to promoting policies and practices that support families and enhance the optimal development of children. Children with special needs include those who have disabilities, developmental delays, are gifted/talented, or are at risk of future developmental problems.

**DOK.** See *depth of knowledge*.

**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; this pertains only in school districts that provide alternative education programs.

**drop-out rate.** A percentage that divides the number of students who officially drop out of a school by the number enrolled at that school. Students who fail to return after the summer or otherwise just stop coming to school are not included.

**dual credit course.** College-level course in which a high school student receives high school and college credit.

**dual enrollment course.** 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 learning disabilities.

**DWoK.** See *Different Ways of Knowing*.

**dyslexia.** Learning disorder that affects reading; sometimes characterized by transposing letters or numbers, have trouble following along on a page and following sequences.

**EAARS.** See *Education Assessment and Accountability Review Subcommittee*.

**Early Childhood Development Authority.** Board established by the 2000 General Assembly to coordinate and distribute funds for an early childhood initiative.

**early childhood education (ECE).** Refers to educational programs for young children ages 3 to 7; some include infants and toddlers, birth through 2 years.

**Early Head Start.** A comprehensive early childhood program serving primarily low-income children prenatal to age three, pregnant women, and their families; established in 1994. See also *Head Start*.

**early mathematics testing program.** See *Kentucky Early Mathematics Testing Program*.

**Early Reading Incentive Grant Fund.** Grants available to schools to improve the reading skills of primary program students; created and funded by the 1998 General Assembly.

**ECE.** See *early childhood education*.

**Education and Workforce Development Cabinet.** Government department, overseen by the Governor, responsible for education and workforce training issues.

**Education Assessment and Accountability Review Subcommittee (EAARS).** Bipartisan legislative subcommittee of the Legislative Research Commission established to review regulations dealing with the school assessment and accountability system and to advise the Kentucky Board of Education as it implements this system. It also monitors and advises the Office of Education Accountability.

**Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB).** A 17-member board appointed by the governor, a majority of which are classroom teachers; created to establish requirements for obtaining and maintaining a teaching certificate, to evaluate college and school district programs for preparing school personnel, and to issue and revoke teaching certificates.

**Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).** Federal law initially passed in 1965 and revised dramatically in 2001. See No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

**elementary school.** Can mean primary or kindergarten through fifth, sixth, or eighth grades, depending on the structure of the schools in the local system; in the law, it means primary through grade eight.

**EncycloMedia.** An Internet-based service that provides teachers with instructional resources such as full-length videos on topics such as desert environments or the Civil War, brief video clips, digital photographs, clip art, that can be incorporated into lesson plans; free to Kentucky teachers; operated by KET.

**end of course exams (EOC).** A state test used to see how well students understand the content of a course they have just completed; may or may not count as part of a student's course grade or a school's state accountability results; differs from an exit exam in that there is no predetermined score required for students to graduate. Kentucky is pilot-testing mathematics end-of-course exams, but currently does not count them toward grades or accountability. See also *exit exams*.

**English as a second language.** Refers to programs for students who speak little or no English.

**EOC.** See *end of course exams*.

**EPAS. Educational Planning and Assessment System.** Developed by ACT as a longitudinal, systematic approach to educational and career planning, assessment, instructional support, and evaluation; connects the EXPLORE exam in middle school (grade 8 in Kentucky), PLAN in grade 10 and ACT in grade 11 or 12; also includes WorkKeys, a work skills readiness test for high school students.

**EPSB.** See *Education Professional Standards Board*.

**equity.** In education, a condition that occurs when access, opportunity and fairness are provided to all learners; absence of discrimination.

**ESEA.** See *Elementary and Secondary Education Act*.

ESL. See *English as a second language*.

ESS. See *extended school services*.

**Even Start.** A program funded by the federal government that focuses on family literacy services by serving families at risk and children up to age seven whose parents are eligible for adult education.

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

**exit exam.** A state test a student must pass in order to be promoted to the next grade or to receive a high school diploma. Kentucky does not use exit exams.

**expanded high school transcript.** High school transcript that includes additional information such as attendance, writing samples, and extracurricular activities.

**expanded school report card.** Supplement to the school report card that provides more detailed information; available at the school.

**EXPLORE.** Test for middle school students (grade 8 in Kentucky) providing an indication of readiness for high school; will be used as part of CATS accountability. See also *EPAS*.

**expulsion.** Punishment which prohibits a student from attending school, usually for the remainder of the school year.

**extended school services (ESS).** Programs providing additional instructional services outside the regular school day for students at risk of not meeting academic expectations; intended as after school, weekend, or summer programs; may be used during the regular school day with permission of the commissioner of education. Individual schools and districts decide how to offer these services.

**extracurricular.** Activities outside the regular curriculum and conducted outside normal school hours such as athletics.

**Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974.** See *Buckley Amendment*.

**family grouping.** A student assignment plan that keeps students and their teachers together for more than one year; usually found in the primary program. See *looping*.

**Family Resource and Youth Services Centers (FRYSC).** Centers established in or near schools where at least 20 percent of students qualify for free or reduced school lunches. Family resource centers serve elementary students and their families; youth services centers serve middle and high school students and their families. Centers offer preventive programs and make referrals to service agencies to assist students and families in need.

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

**flexible grouping.** Grouping and regrouping students based on particular learning tasks, student learning needs and student learning levels; students might work in several different groups throughout the school day.

**formative assessment.** Test or evaluation of student learning that is part of the instructional process and used to adjust teaching and learning.

**FRYSC.** (friskies) See *Family Resource and Youth Services Centers*.

**full academic year.** For school and district accountability, the time a student must be enrolled to be included in the accountability index. Defined in Kentucky as any 100 instructional days between the first day of school and the first day of testing.

**GEAR UP. Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Education Programs.** 1998 Federal grant program that requires a 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.

**GED. General Educational Development (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.** In Kentucky law, "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."

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

**GoHigher KY.** A web-based guide for students to assist in career and college planning; includes information about colleges including virtual campus tours, college applications, financial aid, adult education, career opportunities and scholarships.

**GPA. Grade point average.**

**growth model.** In assessment systems like CATS or NCLB, tests are designed to connect a student's score from one

year to the next to measure school progress.

**GSSP.** See *gifted and talented student services plan*.

**handicaps.** Physical or mental conditions which prevent or restrict usual learning or achievement, including physical, mental, hearing, or visual impairments, communication disorders, learning disabilities, emotional disturbances, or other health impairments such as attention deficit disorders.

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

**HB 940. House Bill 940.** See the *Kentucky Education Reform Act of 1990*.

**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*.

**heterogeneous grouping.** A grouping pattern in which students are put together for learning purposes based on their differences; may include students of different ages, abilities, gender, race, or achievement levels.

**high school.** Either grades 9-12 or 10-12; for purposes of credits for graduation or college admission, grades 9-12.

**high school feedback report.** A report prepared by ACT, Inc. for the Kentucky Department of Education and Council on Postsecondary Education that provides high schools with information on how their graduates perform in Kentucky colleges; available at [www.education.ky.gov](http://www.education.ky.gov).

**high school restructuring.** Changing the way high schools operate for the purpose of improving student achievement; could include integrated academic portfolios, student-initiated culminating projects, school-sponsored and school-approved activities, and exit reviews. These changes are not required but are ways schools can improve student learning.

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

**higher-order thinking skills.** Ability to use knowledge to evaluate and solve problems, make educated judgments, draw conclusions and be able to think creatively as compared to memorizing and recalling information.

**high-quality teacher.** As defined by the Federal No Child Left Behind laws, 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.

**high stakes accountability system.** In education, a system of setting learning goals, testing to see if goals are met, and establishing significant consequences for results; consequences for schools could include financial rewards for meeting goals or school takeover for failure to meet goals. Some states have high stakes for students including retention or denial of high school diploma if goals are not achieved.

**highly skilled educator.** A successful Kentucky teacher or administrator assigned by the Kentucky Department of Education to help schools identified as "in need of assistance" based on weak test scores.

**holistic scoring.** A method of scoring based on the thinking that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts; for example, written work would be read for the total impression it creates, rather than for individual aspects.

**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.

**homogenous grouping.** A grouping pattern in which students are put together for learning based on similarities such as age, ability, or achievement level.

**HSTW.** See *High Schools That Work*.

**I & I Check.** See *Implementation and Impact Check*.

**IB.** See *International Baccalaureate*.

**IDEA.** See *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*.

**IECE.** See *Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education (IECE) Teacher Performance Standards*.

**IEP.** See *individual education program*.

**IGP.** See *individual graduation plan or individual growth plan*.

**IHDI.** See *Interdisciplinary Human Development Institute*.

**illiteracy.** Lack of reading and writing skills.

**ILP.** See *Individual Learning Plan*.

**immersion.** When used in reference to learning a second language, students spend most of the day speaking, hearing and using the new language including the study of other subjects; can be used for non-English speaking students immersed in English speaking classes or English-speaking students learning another language.

**Implementation and Impact Check (I & I Check).** A process used by schools and districts to check on progress in carrying out their Comprehensive Improvement Plan.

**in need of improvement.** Classification for schools not meeting adequate yearly progress under No Child Left Behind. Used especially for the first year a school falls short, with later years designated as Tier 1, Tier 2, and so on.

**inclusion.** With regard to special education, a commitment to educating each child to the maximum extent possible in the school and classroom, bringing support to the child in the regular classroom.

**individual education program (IEP).** A program required by federal law for all students with identified disabilities; this program is developed by a committee of educators who know the student and the parents who determine what services and teaching methods will best meet the student's learning needs.

**individual graduation plan (IGP).** See *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 is aligned with their school's teaching and learning needs.

**individual learning plan (ILP).** An academic plan or program of study with a career focus, developed by the student, parents, and educators that demonstrates achievement of the six learning goals and 57 academic expectations and is based on curricular and career interests beginning in grade six; required for graduation beginning with the class of 2012; Its predecessor, the individual growth plan (IGP) is a graduation requirement until that time. The IGP is a paper-based document and the ILP is a Web-enabled program.

**individualized instruction.** See *differentiated instruction*.

**Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).** A federal law with the following purposes: To ensure that all children with disabilities, three through age twenty-one, have available to them a free appropriate public education that emphasizes early intervention, special education and related services designed to meet their unique needs and prepare them for employment and independent living; to ensure that the rights of children with disabilities and their parents are protected; to assist schools with the excess cost in providing education for all children with disabilities; and to assess and ensure the effectiveness of efforts to educate children with disabilities. IDEA also requires a full educational opportunity goal for those birth through age 21 for identification, evaluation, and referral to services.

**Infinite Campus.** A student information system now in use in all Kentucky schools, replacing the older Software Technology, Inc. (STI) program.

**informal assessment.** A written or oral test or observations conducted by teachers on an ongoing basis to learn what students know and are able to do; results interpreted and used by teachers to plan instruction.

**in-service education.** Older name for professional development.

**instruction.** Methods and techniques used to teach the curriculum.

**instructional grouping.** Temporary groups of students placed together for the purpose of learning specific skills, for working on topics of special interest to the students, or to address social or emotional needs. It can be used in primary through high school.

**instructional leader.** Principal or other school leader who focuses on instruction and learning.

**instructional materials.** Any print, non-print or electronic medium such as manipulatives, maps, microscopes, computers and supplementary books designed to assist student learning.

**instructional practice.** Methods used by teachers to engage students in the learning process.

**integrated curriculum.** Bringing two or more subject areas together in a teaching unit to connect content and provide additional meaning for students. For example, American history and American literature could be taught together in a unit on the Civil War.

**interdisciplinary.** As related to curriculum, drawing from or characterized by participation of two or more fields of study. See also *integrated curriculum*.

**Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education (IECE) Teacher Performance Standards.** Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education Birth to Primary reflect performances expected of educators within a variety of environments, including classrooms, childcare settings, the children's homes, hospitals, or any other natural environments. Within these environments, instruction will include individual child activities, parent-child activities, and instruction in small and large groups.

**Interdisciplinary Human Development Institute (IHDI).** A University Center for Excellence in Developmental

Disabilities Education, Research and Service, focuses its efforts on improving lifelong opportunities and services for individuals with disabilities, their families and the community; located at the University of Kentucky.

**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.** Period of time when a new teacher-education graduate works under the supervision of experienced staff. All new teachers in Kentucky must satisfy the requirements of the internship program before receiving final certification; this year-long program involves consultation and observations from a trained resource teacher, the school principal, and a teacher educator. An internship is also required for principal certification.

**interscholastic sports or athletics.** Sports played between teams from different schools or school districts.

**intramural sports or athletics.** Sports played between teams from the same school.

**IQ. Intelligence quotient.** Score of "mental age" on an intelligence test divided by the age of a child. A 10 year-old student testing at the mentality of a 10-year-old level would have an IQ of 100.

**ISS.** In school suspension.

**junior high school.** Usually grades 7-9; could also be grades 6-8. See also *middle school*.

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

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

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

**KBE.** See *Kentucky Board of Education*.

**KCCT.** See *Kentucky Core Content Tests*.

**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*.

**KECS.** See *Kentucky Early Childhood Standards*.

**KEES.** See *Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship Program*.

**KELP.** See *Kentucky Early Learning Profile*.

**Kentucky Academy of Mathematics and Science.** 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.

**Kentucky Board of Education (KBE).** Eleven-member state board responsible for managing and controlling common schools, establishing policy, adopting regulations, granting requests for waivers, managing interscholastic athletics, and leasing educational television facilities as an aid or supplement to classroom activities. Members are appointed by the governor and confirmed by the legislature.

**KentuckyCAN. Kentucky College Access Network.** A network of college access providers focused on improving the college going and college success rate in Kentucky; a nonprofit organization working in partnership with the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence and the Council on Postsecondary Education.

**Kentucky Center for Mathematics (KCM).** Center created in 2006 to focus on improving mathematics instruction by providing targeted professional development and coaching for educators.

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

**Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS).** Education system with a board that coordinates and directs Kentucky's 13 community colleges and 15 technical schools to improve services to students.

**Kentucky Core Content Tests (KCCT).** Standards-based assessments previously used to calculate school progress under CATS; testing in reading, mathematics, science, social studies, on-demand writing will continue to be required until the new standards and assessments are in place in 2012.

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

**Kentucky Early Childhood Continuous Assessment Guide.** Report and guide that supports early childhood program providers to revise and establish a continuous assessment system as they measure children's progress on the Kentucky Early Childhood Standards.

**Kentucky Early Childhood Parent Guides.** Two informational guides that help parents identify activities they can do with their preschool-aged children in their daily schedule that support children's achievement of the Early Childhood Standards.

**Kentucky Early Childhood Quality Self Study.** Tool designed to help care providers of children birth through 5 to assess their own programs and plan for continuous improvement in five key areas associated with quality.

**Kentucky Early Childhood Standards (KECS).** A list of what can be expected of children birth through age 4; includes a range of developmental abilities typical of young children along with what children ages 3 and 4 should know and be able to do in certain content areas; intended to support early care and education professionals as well as parents in planning experiences to support a child's progress along the developmental continuum; linked to Kentucky's Program of Studies for elementary and secondary schools to provide a guide for school readiness.

**Kentucky Early Learning Profile (KELP).** A guide for teachers designed to assess student progress in the primary program. It includes a long list of skills students should accomplish in the primary program. This is not a state-required process but is used in many elementary schools.

**Kentucky Early Mathematics Testing Program.** Voluntary online program that offers math testing for 10th and 11th grade students to determine readiness for college-level math or need for additional courses of study.

**Kentucky Education Association (KEA).** Professional organization of Kentucky teachers.

**Kentucky Education Reform Act of 1990 (KERA).** Law enacted by the 1990 General Assembly in response to a 1989 Supreme Court Decision declaring Kentucky's schools inequitable, inadequate, and unconstitutional.

**Kentucky Education Savings Plan Trust.** College savings plan for families that provides tax benefits; use of funds is not limited to Kentucky colleges.

**Kentucky Education Technology System (KETS).** An instructional/administrative technology network that links student work stations, teacher stations, school management systems, district administrative systems, higher education campuses, educational television, the state library system, and state agencies. See *technology*.

**Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship Program (KEES).** Scholarship program using state lottery funds that provides Kentucky students with scholarships based on ACT scores and grade point averages. These funds can only be used at Kentucky public colleges, universities, and other postsecondary education institutions.

**Kentucky Educational Television (KET).** A television network offering a wide range of educational programs including the arts, cultural affairs, documentaries, public affairs, adult education, college credit telecourses, instruction, professional development and distance learning; also offers Encyclomedia an on line resource for teaching in Kentucky.

**Kentucky Family Education Rights and Privacy Act.** Reiterates provisions of the federal Buckley Amendment.

**Kentucky Family Literacy Resource Center.** Center housed at the National Center for Family Literacy that provides materials and resources that support family literacy professionals in Kentucky. See also, *National Center for Family Literacy*.

**Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA).** An Agency that administers Kentucky's student aid programs (the Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship, College Access Program Grant, Kentucky Tuition Grant, Early Childhood Development Scholarship, Kentucky Education Savings Plan Trust, Kentucky National Guard Tuition Award Program, KHEAA Teacher Scholarship, Osteopathic Medicine Scholarship, Go Higher Grant, Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship, Kentucky's Affordable Prepayable Tuition program, and KHEAA Work-Study Program) in addition to guaranteeing student loans.

**Kentucky Instructional Data System (KIDS).** Statewide data system with longitudinal data including assessment, demographic and financial data; used for required reporting purposes and to support local, district and state-level decision making.

**Kentucky Instructional Results Information System (KIRIS).** The initial testing and accountability system used in Kentucky from 1991-92 through 1997-98; replaced by the Commonwealth Accountability Testing System.

**Kentucky Leadership Academy (KLA).** Training program for school principals and other school leaders focused on student learning.

**Kentucky Performance Report (KPR).** A report that offers detailed information about school, district and state performance with regard to student achievement.

**Kentucky Principal's Academy (KPA).** Summer institute providing specialized professional development for experienced principals in leading schools with a focus on teaching and learning.

**Kentucky Reading Project.** Training institutes for elementary school teachers with a focus on reading instruction; held in various locations across the state.

**Kentucky Teacher Internship Program (KTIP).** One-year required internship program for new teachers. See *internship*.

**Kentucky Teacher Standards (KTS).** Standards established by the Education Professional Standards Board used by Kentucky colleges of education in preparing teachers.

**Kentucky Virtual High School (KVHS).** High school instructional programs offered by the Kentucky Department of Education through the Internet and other on-line, computer-based methods.

**Kentucky Virtual Learning Network.** Electronic network offering Kentucky superintendents and principals access to quality professional development with a focus on whole systems improvement and creating a high-performance learning environment.

**Kentucky Virtual University.** College-level instructional program offered by the Council on Postsecondary Education through the Internet or other on-line, computer-based methods.

**Kentucky's Affordable Prepaid Tuition (KAPT).** College savings program for families to prepay tuition for their children to attend postsecondary education programs in Kentucky.

**Kentucky's Learning Goals.** Adopted as law by the 1990 Kentucky legislature and most recently revised in 2009; Schools shall develop their students' ability to: 1. Use basic communication and mathematics skills for purposes and situations they will encounter throughout their lives; 2. Apply core concepts and principles from mathematics, the sciences, the arts, the humanities, social studies, and practical living studies to situations they will encounter throughout their lives; 3. Become self-sufficient individuals of good character exhibiting the qualities of altruism, citizenship, courtesy, hard work, honesty, human worth, justice, knowledge, patriotism, respect, responsibility, and self-discipline; 4. Become responsible members of a family, work group, or community, including demonstrating effectiveness in community service; 5. Think and solve problems in school situations and in a variety of situations they will encounter in life; 6. Connect and integrate experiences and new knowledge from all subject matter fields with what they have previously learned and build on past learning experiences to acquire new information through various media sources; and 7. Express their creative talents and interests in visual arts, music, dance and dramatic arts. (KRS 158.6451)

**KERA.** See *Kentucky Education Reform Act of 1990*.

**KET.** See *Kentucky Educational Television*.

**KETS.** See *Kentucky Education Technology System*.

**KHEAA.** See *Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority*.

**KHSAA.** Kentucky High School Athletic Association.

**KIDS.** See *Kentucky Instructional Data System*.

**KIDS NOW.** Kentucky Invests in Developing Success. State program enacted in 2000 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.

**KIRIS.** See *Kentucky Instructional Results Information System*.

**KLA.** See *Kentucky Leadership Academy*.

**KMP.** Knowledge Management Portal. Web-based source of targeted instructional resources for educators.

**KPA.** See *Kentucky Principal's Academy*.

**KPR.** See *Kentucky Performance Report*.

**KSBA.** Kentucky School Boards Association.

**KTIP.** See *Kentucky Teacher Internship Program*.

**KVHS.** See *Kentucky Virtual High School*.

**KVLN.** See *Kentucky Virtual Learning Network*.

**language arts.** Reading, writing, spelling, oral and written English and literature, handwriting, listening skills, and creative writing.

**LEA.** See *local education agency*.

**learning community.** A curriculum design that coordinates two or more courses into a single program of instruction. It is an integrated approach to education in that experiences more closely parallel the way students learn and are more relevant to real world applications.

**learning disability.** Condition that interferes with the ability to learn such as dyslexia, attention deficit disorder and physical handicapping conditions. See *exceptional children*.

**learning environment.** Any setting or location inside or outside the school used to enhance the instruction of students.

**learning goals.** Seven goals for Kentucky schools which broadly define expected achievement for all students; established by the 1990 General Assembly and modified in 2000 and again in 2009.

**learning styles.** Different ways of learning. See also *multiple intelligences*.

**least restrictive environment.** Term used in federal law to describe desirable placement for students with handicapping conditions; identified students must be placed in an environment as close to that of typical students as possible, considering their handicaps.

**LEP.** See *limited English proficiency*.

**Level 1, 2, or 3 Assistance.** See *Schools in need of assistance*.

**Lexile.** An established measure of reading levels from 200L (first grade) to 1700L (graduate school); used to identify reading levels of books, textbooks, magazines and newspapers and to determine student reading levels.

**limited English proficiency (LEP).** Term used primarily by the federal government for students who speak another language and know little or no English.

**literary writing.** Poetry, plays, stories, and other creative writing; Kentucky writing portfolios require literary writing.

**local education agency (LEA).** Local school district.

**longitudinal testing.** A series of tests that compare results of the same students over time to determine if students are gaining knowledge and skills; tests different grade or age groups with similar but expanding content, parallel in nature with similar test items.

**looping.** Student assignment plan that allows students to stay with the same teacher for more than one year. See *family grouping*.

**magnet schools.** Schools that enroll students from areas outside their normal school boundaries because of a particular area of focus; examples include traditional programs or schools for the arts, languages or sciences.

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

**manipulatives.** Hands-on instructional materials, such as blocks, play money, or geometrically-shaped items, which enhance student learning.

**Math Recovery.** Intervention program to help elementary students who are struggling to learn mathematics.

**matrix sample testing.** Combining test results of students who take different test items to create a group report. For example, if it took 50 mathematics questions to determine that a class had mastered the required knowledge and skills, four tests with 20 of the 50 items could be created, giving each student a sample of test items. Some items would be the same on all tests, but other items would be different. All questions are answered by the group, but each student does not answer each question. This reduces testing time for students but provides information about whether the class as a whole has mastered the needed material.

**Max Enterprise Data System.** Former Web site housing a wide range of Kentucky education-related data.

**middle college/early college.** An alternative program for high school students provided through community collaborations between school districts and colleges and involving parent and business representatives with a focus on making college attainable for students who might not otherwise consider postsecondary education; reduces repetition in the curriculum, works to coordinate student services and eliminate the need for remediation.

**middle school.** Grades five through eight, six through nine, or any combination of these.

**Missing Piece of the Proficiency Puzzle, The (MPPP).** Report from the Kentucky Commissioner's Parent Advisory Council, developed for educators, school board and council members and parents as a guide to meaningful parent involvement; provides standards for parent, family and community involvement with descriptors for novice, apprentice, proficient and distinguished practice.

**mission statement.** A brief statement of purpose that describes a school's basic purpose including goals and direction.

**modality.** The sensory styles through which people receive and process information.

**modeling.** A teaching strategy in which the teacher demonstrates to student/s how to do a task, with the expectation that the student will copy the model. Modeling often involves talking about how to work through a task or "thinking aloud."

**MPPP.** See *The Missing Piece of the Proficiency Puzzle*.

**multiage/multiability grouping.** Flexible grouping and regrouping of children of differing ages and abilities to maximize learning.

**multicultural education.** Interdisciplinary, cross-curricular education that prepares students to live, learn, and work together to achieve common goals in a culturally-diverse world. It does this by enabling all students to be aware of and be affirmed in their own cultural roots; allowing all students to understand and value diversity; fostering appreciation, respect, and understanding for persons of different backgrounds; and preparing students to live fruitful lives in an increasingly global society.

**multiple intelligences.** A theory of intelligence or different ways people process and acquire knowledge and skills. Howard Gardner has identified them as: linguistic, logical-mathematical, musical, spatial, bodily-kinesthetic, interpersonal, intrapersonal, naturalist, spiritual, and existential.

**NAEP. National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP).** Tests of reading, mathematics, science, and writing that are given to samples 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.

**NAEYC. National Association for the Education of Young Children.** Not-for-profit organization dedicated to improving the well-being of all young children, with particular focus on the quality of educational and developmental services for all children from birth through age 8.

**National Board Certification (NBC).** Teacher certification offered by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards that provides a national credential for teachers; uses a rigorous portfolio and examination, requiring skills beyond what is required by states.

**National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.** National board that awards National Board Certification for teachers.

**National Career Readiness Certificate.** Certificate awarded based on certain levels of attainment on the WorkKeys assessment.

**National Center for Family Literacy (NCFL).** An organization that takes an intergenerational approach to literacy based on the knowledge that parents who are not literate tend to have children who struggle academically; programs help parents and children both develop literacy skills with the goal of ending the cycle of poverty and low literacy.

**National Technical Advisory Panel on Assessment and Accountability (NTAPAA).** Panel of no fewer than three national testing experts created by the 1998 General Assembly to advise the Legislative Research Commission, the Kentucky Board of Education, and the Kentucky Department of Education on school testing and measurement.

**NBC.** See *National Board Certification*.

**NCLB.** See *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*.

**needs assessment.** An analysis of data collected at a school, and used to identify areas that need particular attention. Information might be collected from student testing, teacher, parent or student surveys, focus groups or other means.

The needs assessment is usually the starting point for developing a school improvement plan. See also *comprehensive improvement planning*.

**No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.** Federal legislation making changes in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act; holds Title 1 schools accountable for helping all groups of students achieve; addresses qualifications of classroom teachers and aides; addresses preparation, training and recruitment of teachers; establishes a Reading First grant program; addresses school safety; addresses needs of students with limited English proficiency.

**non-academic data.** Factors such as attendance, drop-out rates, retention, and successful transition to adult life had been used together with academic test scores to calculate a school's accountability index. For school years 2008-09 through 2010-11, Senate Bill 1 removes non-academic data from school accountability except for graduation rates which is used in high school accountability under NCLB.

**nongraded school.** A school that is organized so that children develop academic and creative talents as rapidly or slowly as individual abilities permit; students are organized in classrooms or learning groups by learning needs rather than by age or grade level.

**non-performance.** See *performance standards*.

**normative assessment.** Test that gives grades based on a predetermined distribution; assumes a portion of those tested will excel, another portion will do well, another will do average, another will do poorly and another portion will fail; each student's performance is determined by how well other students perform; also called grading on the curve or bell curve marking.

**norm-referenced test.** Test that compares a student to other students; a group of students who took the same exam establishes the "norm;" usually a multiple choice test.

**novice.** See *performance standards*.

**NRT.** See *norm-referenced test*.

**NTAPAA.** See *National Technical Advisory Panel on Assessment and Accountability*.

**nurturing school environment.** An atmosphere/climate created within the school where everyone associated with the educational system is treated in a warm and inviting manner.

**Office of Education Accountability (OEA).** Office in the Legislative Research Commission established in 1990 to monitor school reform. The office conducts an annual review of the implementation of education initiatives and is authorized to investigate reports of mismanagement or illegal activities in schools.

**on-demand writing.** Timed, structured test items on Kentucky's assessment requiring a written response to a brief question to assess writing skills; also known as "timed writing," or "directed writing."

**open-response test items.** Test items or questions requiring students to write answers to questions using their knowledge and skills rather than to 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.

**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.

**P-16 councils.** Committees of representatives from elementary school (P for primary) through four years of college (16 years of schooling) along with community representatives that facilitate communication and coordinate activities to improve education at all levels; in Kentucky there is a state P-16 Council and there are regional councils.

**parent.** Defined in Kentucky law for school purposes as a parent, stepparent, foster parent or person who has legal custody of the child and with whom the child resides.

**Parent Advisory Council.** See *Commissioner's Parent Advisory Council*.

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

**Parents and Teachers Talking Together (PT3).** A structured dialogue created by the Prichard Committee to initiate on-going conversations between parents and teachers.

**participation rate.** Under NCLB, 95 percent of students must participate in testing to meet adequate yearly progress. There is flexibility in that schools may average the percent of students participating over three years.

**Partnership at New Cities.** A Kentucky nonprofit organization focused on giving local leaders a stronger voice on school performance as it relates to economic and job growth.

**Partnership for Successful Schools.** A nonpartisan coalition of businesspeople that merged into the Partnership at New Cities in 2009; originally the Partnership for Kentucky School Reform.

**PD.** See *professional development*.

**pedagogy.** The approach used in teaching; examples include discovery learning, direct instruction and active learning.

**peer tutoring.** Support for learning provided by same or different aged students.

**performance-based assessments.** Assessments or evaluations that focus on student ability to use skills and knowledge in simulated real-world situations; Kentucky's performance assessments could include portfolios of student work and written tests that include open-response or essay questions and fill-in-the-blank items.

**performance level descriptors.** Performance standards for student progress in the content areas that define "novice," "apprentice," "proficient," or "distinguished" learning levels; provides clarity for teachers, students and parents how student work is evaluated and explain for students what is expected.

**performance standards.** An established measure of accomplishment; a description of how well students have gained knowledge (content) and be able to use it (performance). The results of individual student assessments have been reported in one of four performance levels:

**distinguished.** At this highest level, the student has a deep understanding of the concept or process and can complete all important parts of the task. The student can communicate well, think concretely and abstractly, and analyze and interpret data.

**proficient.** The student understands the major concepts, can do almost all of the tasks, and can communicate concepts clearly. Kentucky's goal is to have students perform at this level or higher.

**apprentice.** The student has gained some understanding and can do some important parts of the task. For scoring purposes students are categorized as low, medium, and high apprentice.

**novice.** The student is beginning to show an understanding of new information or skills. For scoring purposes students are categorized as medium or high novice.

**non-performance.** The student has not answered the test question or left it blank. For scoring purposes, students get a zero for nonperformance.

**personal expressive writing.** Memoirs, personal narratives, and other pieces of writing that share personal experiences; Kentucky writing portfolios require personal expressive writing.

**phonemic awareness.** Understanding that words are made up of letters representing sounds that can be used to pronounce or decode them.

**phonics.** Relationship between sounds, the spoken language and letters that represent them on paper; used to teach reading by using sounds of letters to analyze or decode words.

**PLAN.** Assessment given at grade 10 that provides an indication of readiness for taking the ACT; used to guide students in course selection as they prepare for postsecondary school or the workforce; part of EPAS; will be used as part of state accountability.

**PLC.** See *professional learning community*.

**portfolio.** A collection of a student's best work throughout his or her school years to demonstrate and evaluate progress and achievement; writing portfolios were part of Kentucky's assessment program under CATS but have been removed from accountability by Senate Bill 1. Instead, program reviews will check school writing programs including use of the portfolio.

**positive parent involvement.** A required component of the primary school program; engaging parents in positive ways to promote student learning.

**postsecondary education.** Schooling beyond high school such as college, university, vocational, or technical education.

**practical living studies.** Studies in health, safety, consumer skills, and physical fitness; included in the core content; often mentioned with vocational studies; schools will be assessed on the quality of these studies by program reviews.

**PRAXIS.** Test for teacher candidates that determines eligibility for certification.

**pre-k/pre-kindergarten.** Used interchangeably for preschool; a structured program, usually for 3- and 4-year-old children with a qualified teacher who structures the classroom environment and age-appropriate activities with a focus on preparing children for success in school. See also *preschool program*.

**Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).** Standardized test of verbal, math and writing skills that provides practice for the SAT; usually taken in the junior year of high school; also used to qualify for National Merit Scholarships; scores range from 20 to 80 for each subject or a total of 60 to 240.

**prepaid tuition trust fund.** See *Commonwealth Postsecondary Education Prepaid Tuition Trust Fund*.

**preschool program.** A school program for children who are not old enough for kindergarten or the primary program that is intended to prepare them for elementary school. In Kentucky, preschool services are free of charge for children who are four years old by October 1 and whose family income qualifies them for the free school lunch program, and for children with disabilities ages three through five, regardless of income, who need extra help to learn or do what most children that age are learning and doing. See also *Pre-k*.

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

**primary school program.** Part of the elementary school program in which children are enrolled from the time they begin school until they enter the fourth grade; beginning with the 1992-93 school year, the primary program replaced grades kindergarten, one, two, and three.

**primary talent pool.** Group of students in kindergarten through grade three who have demonstrated or potential ability to perform at exceptionally high levels; students are selected so they may receive early enrichment; students may or may not be officially identified as 'gifted' once they reach grade 4.

**process writing.** A planned approach to writing; includes prewriting or outlining, drafting, revising, and editing before completing a final writing assignment.

**professional development (PD).** An integrated, ongoing and systematic process of activities designed to help teachers expand their knowledge and ability to help students learn; in-service days are used for professional development.

**professional development plan.** A document outlining how the school will meet identified learning needs of the school staff; usually developed as part of the school improvement plan.

**Professional Growth Fund.** Money available from the state of Kentucky to provide content-based professional development for teachers.

**professional growth plan.** Plan developed by teachers to evaluate and guide their ongoing learning needs.

**Professional learning community (PLC).** A group of teachers and administrators who work together with a shared vision to improve learning for the students in their schools; they learn from one another, work collaboratively, visit and review other classrooms and participate in decision making.

**professional teamwork.** Component of the primary school program that requires educators to work together to improve student achievement.

**Proficiency by 2014.** CATS goal for schools eliminated by Senate Bill 1, but still in place for reading and mathematics under NCLB.

**proficient.** See *performance standards*.

**Program of Studies for Kentucky Schools, Grades Primary-12.** Minimum required content for Kentucky students in primary, grades 4-8, and high school to meet required credits for high school graduation. Provides a basis for local schools and districts to establish curricula; Kentucky law requires the Kentucky Board of Education to establish the Program of Studies.

**program reviews.** Senate Bill 1 requires the Kentucky Department of Education to develop program reviews to evaluate schools' programs in writing, arts and humanities and practical living/vocational studies. The program review process must be in place for all schools by the 2012 school year but pilot versions will be used sooner in some districts.

**Project CLICK.** A professional development program designed for early care and education workers in Eastern Kentucky; supported by a 3-year federal grant.

**Project Lead the Way.** A program supporting middle and high schools to create a rigorous, lab-based, pre-engineering curriculum.

**prompt.** A short statement or question on a test that gives students a subject about which to respond in writing; used for Kentucky's on-demand writing test items.

**PSAT/NMSQT.** See *Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test*.

**PT3.** See *Parents and Teachers Talking Together*.

**PTA.** Parent Teacher Association, a national organization with local chapters.

**PTAP.** See *Parents and Teachers as Arts Partners*.

**PTO.** Parent Teacher Organization, a local organization.

**PTSA.** Parent Teacher Student Association, the national PTA includes PTSAs.

**PTSO.** Parent Teacher Student Organization, a local organization.

**pull out program.** Program that removes students from the regular classroom; often used to provide special services such as gifted education, speech therapy or remediation.

**qualitative reporting.** Reports to parents about a student describing how and what the child is learning, individual accomplishments, progress in terms of continuous growth and development; may be done through conferences, progress reports, portfolios, journals, and anecdotal records.

**Race to the Top.** Federal funds that will be distributed to states and school districts through competitive grants that must focus on standards and assessments, data systems to support instruction, teaching quality and school leadership and turning around struggling schools. One of the elements of the **ARRA**.

**Read to Achieve Grant.** A reading diagnostic and intervention grant program intended for use with struggling primary school program students.

**Reading Excellence Act.** Federal program that provides funds to states for programs intended to improve student reading.

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

**redshirting.** Holding students back in school; often done so students will be at a physical advantage when competing with students in the same grade in sports.

**Regional Service Centers (RSC).** Eight regional Department of Education offices that provided technical assistance and professional development opportunities to educators. The 2003 General Assembly abolished the centers.

**release time.** Time for teachers away from the classroom, usually for professional development, when a substitute is hired.

**released items.** Test questions that have been used in Kentucky's assessment, which will never be used again and are released to the public. Schools may use them to help students prepare for the state tests.

**reliability.** In testing, answers the questions: Is the test consistent over time? If the same students take the test a second time, will they score the same?

**remediation.** Instruction or tutoring that is intended to help students who have fallen behind in their school work.

**resource room.** Classroom usually for students with learning disorders or disabilities who need additional help or services.

**retention rate.** Percentage of students who fail or do not advance to the next grade.

**rewards.** Kentucky's assessment and accountability system included financial rewards for schools that met student achievement goals until 2003 when the legislature eliminated this funding item.

**rigor.** The goal of helping students develop the capacity to understand content that is complex, ambiguous, provocative, and personally or emotionally challenging.

**rigorous.** Demanding strict attention to rules and procedures; allowing no deviation from a standard.

**Rose v. Council for Better Education.** A court case that resulted in the 1989 Kentucky Supreme Court decision declaring Kentucky schools inequitable and unconstitutional; resulted in the passage of the Kentucky Education Reform Act of 1990.

**RSCs.** See *Regional Service Centers*.

**rubric.** A scoring guide used to evaluate student work. See also *scoring guide*.

**SACS.** See *Southern Association of Colleges and Schools*.

**sanctions.** A general term for the consequences that apply to schools failing to meet the goals of an accountability system. For details on sanctions for No Child Left Behind, see *Tier 1*. Sanctions for the state accountability system will be revised under Senate Bill 1.

**SAT I.** A test of reading, mathematics, and writing that students usually take in high school for use when they apply to college; testing time, 3 hours and 45 minutes; students earn scores from 200 to 800 on each section, with a maximum score of 2400; SAT I was formerly known as the Scholastic Aptitude Test and later as the Scholastic Achievement Test.

**SAT II.** Subject Tests; one-hour exams in specific subjects; used by many colleges for entrance and placement; scores range from 200 to 800; formerly known as the College Board Achievement Tests.

**SB1.** See *Senate Bill 1*

**SB 168.** See *Senate Bill 168*.

**SBDM.** See *school-based decision making*.

**SCAAC.** See *School Curriculum, Assessment and Accountability Council*.

**scale score.** Underlying score from which all other scores are calculated; on the CTBS the scale score is a range of 100-999 representing a continuum from kindergarten through grade 12; as a child gets older, the scale score should be going up to represent growth in learning.

**scholastic audit.** A systematic analysis of school practices in the state's weakest schools conducted by an outside team of trained consultants; identifies areas where the school needs to change in order to improve performance, based on the Standards and Indicators for School Improvement (SISIs); a sample of successful schools has been audited to evaluate what works.

**scholastic review.** A process similar to a scholastic audit, used for schools needing assistance to determine areas where they need to change; also used with a sample of schools that meet their accountability goals, in order to provide data on what they do differently than schools in assistance.

**school-based decision making (SBDM).** A system of governance that gives legal authority to school councils composed of principals, teachers, elected by teachers and parents elected by parents at the school level to make important decisions for the school. In Kentucky, school councils adopt policies relating to curriculum, instructional materials, personnel, extracurricular programs, and other aspects of school management; also called site-based management, school-based management, building-based management, or shared governance.

**school choice.** Under No Child Left Behind, parents may transfer their child to another successful public school if their school does not make adequate yearly progress.

**school classification.** School status or category in Kentucky's accountability system including meeting goal, progressing, and assistance. Schools in need of assistance are further divided into Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3 schools. Under No Child Left Behind includes making adequate yearly progress or school improvement status.

**school council.** See *school-based decision making*.

**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 culture.** The sum of the values, safety practices, and organizational structures within a school that cause it to function and react in particular ways; teaching practices, diversity, and the relationships among administrators, teachers, parents, and students contribute to the school environment.

**School Curriculum, Assessment and Accountability Council (SCAAC).** Seventeen-member council created by the 1998 General Assembly to advise the Legislative Research Commission and the Kentucky Board of Education on all issues related to setting academic standards and school assessment and accountability. Members are appointed by the governor and represent parents, teachers, superintendents, principals, local school board members, district assessment coordinators, business and industry, university professors, and citizens.

**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/or renovating school buildings; required by state board regulations.

**school growth chart.** Chart developed for each school and school district used under CATS to show progress toward student achievement goals; the provisions of Senate Bill 1 eliminate the need for this chart.

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

**school improvement plan.** A general term for a document laying out the steps a school plans to take to improve student performance. For more information on how such plans are developed in Kentucky, see *comprehensive improvement planning*.

**school improvement status.** Title I schools needing improvement under the federal No Child Left Behind laws that have not made adequate yearly progress.

**school report card.** Report required by law to communicate school performance to parents and the public. It must include the following: student academic achievement, attendance, retention rates, drop-out rates, student transition to adult life, and school learning environment such as measures of parent involvement. It may include other measures of performance. No Child Left Behind requires student achievement to be reported by subgroups based on race, poverty, English as a second language, and disability; percent of students not tested; graduation rate and teacher qualifications.

**school safety act.** Legislation passed in 1998 requiring schools and districts to evaluate and develop plans for school safety; created the Center for School Safety located at Eastern Kentucky University.

**School to Careers System.** Overall system created by the 1998 General Assembly for career-related programs such as school-to-work and tech prep that focuses on improving math, science, communication, social studies, and technical skills of all students and increases student awareness of job, career, and postsecondary-education opportunities. It also focuses on decreasing drop-out rates and improving school attendance.

**school-to-work.** A system of school-based learning, work-based learning, internships or other connecting activities; created by partnerships among educators, employers, government, and economic development agencies for students to explore career options in meaningful real-world settings.

**scoring guide.** A guide that provides students with what is expected and teachers with criteria for judging performance.

**secondary education.** High school programming; grades 9-12.

**SEEK.** See *Support Education Excellence in Kentucky*.

**Senate Bill 1 (SB1).** Legislation passed in the 2009 General Assembly that calls for revising Kentucky's learning standards and assessment and accountability system beginning in 2012; requires the Kentucky Department of Education and the Council on Postsecondary Education to work together to align standards; requires training for teachers on the new standards during the interim; removes writing portfolios, social studies, arts and humanities and practical living/vocational studies from the accountability index but uses program reviews to assess school work in these subjects; and removes state accountability for the years 2009, 2010 and 2011.

**Senate Bill 168.** A bill passed during the 2002 General Assembly that requires schools to review gaps in student achievement based on disability, English proficiency, race, gender and poverty; establishes required steps for planning to close substantial gaps.

**service learning.** A teaching methodology that allows students to learn and apply academic, social and personal skills to improve the community, continue individual growth, and become better citizens usually while providing a service in a community-based setting.

**single salary schedule.** For teachers, pay schedule based solely on years of teaching experience and level of education.

**SIS.** See *student information system*.

**SISI.** See *Standards and Indicators for School Improvement*.

**site-based decision making.** Same as school-based decision making.

**social promotion.** Promoting students to the next grade when they are not ready academically; intended to keep students with peers their same age.

**Software Technology, Inc. (STI).** The student information system that Kentucky used for many years, recently replaced by Infinite Campus.

**Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).** Regional association that accredits schools and colleges.

**special education.** Educational services for students with disabilities.

**staff development.** See *professional development*.

**stakeholder.** Any person or group of people (students, staff members, families, community, partners, etc.) associated with the school community that have an interest in the success of the school and its programs.

**standard.** An accepted or agreed-upon measure of comparison to assess quantity or quality. See *content standards and performance standards*.

**Standards and Indicators for School Improvement (SISI).** Document that guides scholastic audits and scholastic reviews that includes actions that are expected in schools as they work to improve student achievement.

**STARS for KIDS NOW.** Kentucky's voluntary environmental quality rating system for licensed type I child care centers and type II and certified family child care homes; uses a scale of one through four STARS to identify levels of quality

based on staff/child ratios, group size, curriculum, parent involvement, training/education of staff, regulatory compliance and personnel practices; each STAR level exceeds minimum certification and/or licensing requirements; additional funding is awarded based on the STAR levels achieved; provides parents and the public an indicator of child care quality.

**Starting Strong Institute.** An institute for early care and education providers and parents offering information on Kentucky's Early Childhood Standards and program evaluation tools; focused on developing partnerships between families and early childhood programs that will increase family involvement, improve child outcomes and improve program quality; sponsored by the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence in partnership with the University of Kentucky Human Development Institute.

**State Advisory Council for Gifted and Talented Education.** Council appointed by the governor to make recommendations to the board of education, department of education, and Education Professional Standards Board about education programs for gifted and talented students.

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

**STEM Task Force.** Task force of representatives of elementary and secondary education, postsecondary education and the business community focused on improving the number of students who successfully complete college in the fields of science, technology, engineering and/or mathematics.

**STI.** See *Software Technology, Inc.*

**stimulus funds.** See *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act*.

**STLP.** See *student technology leadership program*.

**Strong Start Kentucky: Quality Pre-K for Every Child.** A campaign of the Prichard Committee advocating for access to quality pre-k programs for every child in Kentucky.

**student accountability.** Consequences for students based on how well they do on certain tests; for example ACT test results are used for admission to colleges and also determine scholarship awards for the KEES program and others.

**student achievement levels.** Scoring levels for student performance. See also *performance standards*.

**student information system (SIS).** A system that identifies each student with a unique number, allowing schools, districts and the state to collect information about the education system in Kentucky and allows students to be tracked throughout their school career.

**student-led conference.** Parent/teacher conference led by students who discuss their own progress and learning goals with their teachers and parents.

**Student Loan People.** Organization in Kentucky that manages certain scholarships and loans for students in postsecondary education. See also *Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority*.

**student technology leadership program (STLP).** School programs that enlist students with technology skills to teach others, set up and maintain technology systems, and use technology for the benefit of the school; students often maintain a school Web site and help classroom teachers with computer problems.

**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 assessments.** Tests used to evaluate or make judgments about the effectiveness of instructional programs; generally given one time at the end of an instructional period; not used for diagnostic purposes. See also *formative assessment*.

**superintendent screening committee.** Local committee appointed when there is or will be a superintendent vacancy to 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.

**supplemental education services.** Tutoring and other instructional help for students; required in schools failing to make adequate yearly progress for three or more years in a row under the federal No Child Left Behind law.

**Support Education Excellence in Kentucky (SEEK).** School funding formula established by the 1990 General Assembly to provide more equitable school funding for all students in Kentucky; includes state and local funding.

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

**teacher academies.** Extensive professional development opportunities for teachers in core subject areas.

**teacher aide.** A person hired to assist a teacher and help students in the classroom; not required to have a teaching certificate; works under teacher supervision; same as a paraprofessional.

**Teachers' National Certification Trust Fund.** Funds that will be used to pay stipends and provide other support for teachers seeking National Board Certification.

**tech prep.** A planned program of studies that defines a pre-approved agreement between secondary and postsecondary schools that leads to a technical or associate degree, diploma, or certificate in an occupational area.

**technology.** Includes (but is not limited to) computers, telecommunications, cable television, interactive video, film, low-power television, satellite communications, and microwave communications. A Master Plan for Education Technology for the equitable and efficient use of instructional and administrative technology in Kentucky schools has been adopted.

**technology resource teachers (TRT).** Teachers hired to work with other teachers, often in the classroom, one-on-one, on using technology in the curriculum.

**tenure.** In education, legal status for teachers or college professors who have taught a set number of years and been approved as a qualified teacher, which protects them from being fired without cause.

**TerraNova.** A national norm-referenced test used to evaluate individual student achievement by comparing performance to that of a group of students who set the "norm". From 1999 to 2006, TerraNova was required in Kentucky, with scores being used as a part of each school's Accountability Index. TerraNova is now optional in Kentucky.

**thematic teaching.** An instructional approach that includes teaching many subject areas around a central theme; may be used for one class or for an entire school and may last for a few days or several weeks.

**Tier 1, Tier 2, etc.** Terms for the status of schools that failed more than once to make the required adequate yearly progress (AYP) required under No Child Left Behind. The first year a school fails to make AYP, the school must develop a school improvement plan, but is not yet in a "tier." The second year a school misses AYP, it is counted in Tier 1, the third year in Tier 2, and so on. As a school moves to a higher tier, consequences increase. In Tier 1 schools must allow parents to transfer their children to another school, and use some Title I funds for staff professional development. In Tier 2, the school must also offer "supplemental services" to help students catch up. Tier 3, adds corrective action from the district level, while Tier 4 requires the district to develop a plan for changing who is in charge of the school and Tier 5 requires the district to implement that plan. In each tier, all the sanctions from the previous tiers continue to apply.

**Title I.** Federal program that provides additional funding for schools with high percentages of children on the free school lunch program; part of the Improving America's Schools Act; formerly called Chapter 1. See also *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*.

**Title II.** Part C. Federal law also called the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technology Education Act that provides for vocational and technical education.

**Title IX.** Federal law that requires that female students have athletic opportunities equal to what is available for male students.

**tracking.** Putting students into classes based on perceived ability to learn; students may be tracked as college-bound, general vocational, or remedial; in elementary schools this is often called grouping. See *ability grouping*.

**trade books.** Any book used for teaching other than a textbook.

**transactive writing.** Editorials, letters to the editor, and other writing done with a purpose such as informing or persuading an audience; Kentucky writing portfolios require transactive writing.

**transcripts.** A summary report of student work, which usually includes courses taken, grades, and attendance.

**transformation planning.** An old name for comprehensive improvement planning.

**Transformations: Kentucky's Curriculum Framework.** Two-volume document offering further explanation of the academic expectations, suggested teaching strategies, sample instructional and assessment activities, multiple resources, and alternative uses of school time; provides guidance and assistance in the development of local curriculum and instructional units. This framework has been replaced by the Combined Curriculum.

**transition index.** Summary of test results in a single number that combines reading, mathematics, science, social studies, and on-demand writing scores. The transition index is a voluntary, unofficial effort by the Kentucky Association of School Councils, the Council for Better Education, and the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence to give educators and other citizens a snapshot of schools' progress during the Senate Bill 1 transition. Senate Bill 1 abolished the official accountability index.

**transition planning (for students).** A process that prepares students for moving from one setting or school to another—pre-k to elementary, elementary to middle school, middle school to high school.

**transition to adult life.** One of the non-academic indicators used for school accountability that includes whether high school graduates move on to postsecondary education, jobs, or the military.

**transitions.** As related to education, the passage from one stage or school to another.

**tribunal.** In Kentucky, three-member panel appointed by the commissioner of education to hear and decide on cases when teachers want to challenge allegations that could result in loss of their jobs.

**TRT.** See *technology resource teachers*.

**truancy.** Absence from school without excuse; legally students are truant after three days of unexcused absences or unexcused tardies.

**ungraded primary program.** See *primary school program*.

**USDOE,** sometimes used in place of USED; officially used for the United States Department of Energy.

**USED. United States Department of Education.** Agency that directs federal education programs including the Title programs and NCLB.

**validity.** In testing, answers the question: Does the test measure what it is supposed to measure?

**vocational education.** Training directly related to work and job skills. Program areas include agribusiness, business and office, marketing education, health and personal services, family and consumer sciences, industrial education, and public service.

**vocational studies.** Learning about career opportunities and planning; included on the Kentucky Core Content Tests with practical living until 2008. Senate Bill 1, calls for instruction in "career studies" to be checked by program reviews rather than state testing.

**vouchers.** A plan that allows families state funds to pay tuition for private or parochial schools. Kentucky does not have a voucher system.

**whole language.** Philosophy for teaching language suggesting it be taught as a whole, not through fragmented or isolated skills; characterized by reading real story and chapter books, storytelling, reading aloud by the teacher, student writing, student choice and self-direction, and emphasis on meaning and comprehension; teaching is based on individual learning needs.

**work-based learning.** Learning that integrates theoretical instruction with structured on-the-job training; includes work experiences, planned program of job training and work experience, workplace mentoring, instruction in general workplace competencies, and broad instruction in a variety of elements of an industry.

**working portfolio or folder.** An ongoing folder of work, in process or completed. See *portfolios*.

**WorkKeys.** An optional work skills assessment available for students in high school to measure their readiness for the workplace; tests applied mathematics, reading for information and locating information; part of the EPAS system developed by ACT.

**writing portfolio.** See *portfolios*.

**year-round school calendar.** An alternative to the traditional nine-month school calendar that includes the same number of instructional days on a different schedule. The most common year-round calendar breaks the year into instructional blocks that are staggered throughout the year. The days usually devoted to the typical summer vacation are divided into several "mini-vacations" called intercessions. Such calendars might call for nine weeks of school and two or three weeks off throughout the year with a shorter summer break.

**Youth Services Centers (YSC).** See *Family Resource and Youth Services Centers*.

Appreciation is extended to Susan Perkins Weston for her careful review and suggestions and to Cindy Baumert, Carol Edelen and Sande Shepherd for allowing use of terms and definitions from their Kentucky Family & Community Involvement Guide to Student Achievement.