HB 257 State Accountability by Commissioner Fletcher

Summary of KDE email on January 15 2026
House Bill (HB) 257 State Accountability & Indicators of Quality

The bill includes locally developed indicators of quality (formerly known as local accountability) and state accountability that meets federal requirements. Local indicators of quality would include flexible options for districts to set their own indicators in collaboration with their communities.

The changes proposed in HB 257 include:

- There will be less time on state testing.
- The state indicators would continue to include math, reading, science and social studies.
- On-demand writing and editing mechanics would no longer be included in state assessments, which reduces testing time.
- The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) would provide all school districts with guidelines and professional learning to support effective, standards-aligned writing programs across all content areas.
- Each school must adopt and publish a writing program policy that promotes subject-specific writing and offers students various opportunities to develop complex communication skills using diverse tools and resources.
- "Change" is replaced by "student growth."
- In the current accountability system, schools are evaluated by the change in accountability indicators from year to year.
- In the new system, schools will be evaluated by the academic progress each individual student makes over the course of a year in reading and mathematics.
- Local measures of quality encourage more collaboration between school districts and their communities.
- School districts will be encouraged to create their own local measures of quality.

Local measures of quality must include:

- Vibrant learning experiences for students.
- Local measures of performance identified by community members.
- A method of displaying data that includes breaking down data by demographic groups.
- Establishing local measures of quality remains optional until more than 60% of districts (or 103 districts currently) have established their own measures. Once that level is reached, it will become mandatory for all districts.
- The bill includes a financial incentive of $10,000 per district with $3 added per student to help districts develop and maintain local measures of quality in collaboration with local community members.

- Local measures of quality will not be used in federal Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) calculations.
- The school climate and safety survey would remain as an option for districts to include in local measures of quality, but the survey will not be included in the state accountability model. Chronic absenteeism would replace the school climate and safety survey in the state accountability model.