Concept: As part of the Kentucky Department of Education's (KDE) regular review process of academic standards that have been implemented, the department is seeking specific input on the English/language arts and mathematics standards adopted in 2010 (the Common Core State Standards adopted without addition as the Kentucky Core Academic Standards) and implemented in the 2011-12 school year.

The Kentucky Core Academic Standards Challenge is designed to challenge stakeholders to read the standards and then provide specific, actionable feedback on any particular standards with which they have an issue.

This is <u>not</u> intended to be a referendum on the standards. ONLY comments and actionable recommendations tied to specific standards will be considered.

The challenge kicked off in August 2014 with a news conference and an ongoing campaign encouraging stakeholders to "Take the Kentucky Core Academic Standards Challenge." The challenge will remain open until April 30, 2015 to give those who are interested ample opportunity to provide thoughtful response.

Online tool: The KCAS Challenge takes place online through a tool customized for Kentucky. (http://kentucky.statestandards.org)

The challenge starts with an introductory page with a short explanation of what the challenge is and how it works (including how the standards are organized), what the challenge isn't, and what will happen with the feedback provided.

Next, users provide some basic demographic information such as whether they live in Kentucky, their role and if they are involved in education, at what level. They also are given the opportunity to provide their e-mail address should any follow-up on their comments be necessary.

If they wish to provide input, users must agree that they will relinquish their intellectual property rights to any feedback or changes provided and that consideration of their input will be made in the best interest and for the benefit of all Kentucky students.

Users interested in providing feedback are taken to a page where they may select a standard. The English/language arts and mathematics standards are searchable by coding and keyword or displayed by grade level. Anchor standards and Standards of Mathematical Practice are included but feedback on these is not being solicited since they primarily serve as the framework for the grade level standards on which KDE is seeking input. Links to pertinent introductory and appendix information are provided.

After reading the grade level standard, the stakeholder is provided several options for input such as the standard needs to be realigned with another grade level (stakeholder provides grade level). If the stakeholder wishes to change the actual wording of the standard, they also have that option in an editable textbox prepopulated with the standard as it is currently written or they may clear the standard and write the standard from scratch.

Vendor: KDE is working with Academic Benchmarks (AB), the state's authoritative source for a digital format of the standards. KDE had worked with AB on providing the initial digital file of the standards for use in CIITS – Kentucky's Continuous Instructional Improvement Technology System.

AB developed and is hosting an application interface – a Kentucky customized online tool that is used to search and display the standards and gather feedback.

Next Steps: Once the challenge ends, comments will be evaluated by a team that includes postsecondary educators, content experts, business/industry representatives and teachers. The team will then make recommendations on any changes to the standards to the Kentucky Board of Education for its consideration, most likely in fall of 2015.

Any changes in the standards will be documented with Academic Benchmarks which will provide revised standards files that will be available to teachers and educator preparation programs online, and through Kentucky's Continuous Instructional Improvement Technology System (CIITS). Any instructional resources tied to the changed standard in CIITS will be realigned.

Conclusion: While stakeholders had opportunity to provide feedback during the standards development and adoption process, the Kentucky Core Academic Standards Challenge will give teachers, parents and others who are interested, the chance to perfect the standards based on experience over the past 4-5 years and a process by which to do so. It will also provide naysayers with the opportunity to provide actionable feedback to quell their concerns about the standards and their perceived lack of input.

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