Senate Bill 25 (2023) requires that postsecondary readiness for each high school student, be measured by ***one*** of the following indicators that are intended to signal a student's readiness for the next step in their postsecondary plans whether that be the pursuit of college coursework and/or entry into the workforce:

- Meeting or exceeding a college readiness benchmark score on the college admissions examination or a college placement examination approved by the CPE;
- Achieving a minimum of three (3) hours of dual credit by completing a course approved by the KBE or qualifying for a minimum of three (3) hours of postsecondary articulated credit associated with a statewide articulation agreement;
- Achieving a benchmark score on an AP, IB, CAI, or other nationally recognized exam approved by the KBE that generally qualifies the student for three (3) or more hours of college credit;
- Completing a required number of hours or achieving a benchmark within an apprenticeship, cooperative, or internship that is aligned with a credential or associate degree and approved by the KBE after receiving input from the LSAC; or
- Achieving any industry-recognized certifications, licensures, or credentials, with more weight in accountability for industry-recognized certifications, licensures or credentials identified as high demand.

Academic Readiness

Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) Benchmarks on College Admissions or College Placement Exams

Assessments approved by the CPE and their corresponding benchmarks can be found here.

Approved Dual Credit

Pursuant to KRS 164.002, dual credit is defined as "a college-level course of study developed in accordance with KRS 164.098 in which a high school student receives credit from both the high school and postsecondary institution in which the student is enrolled upon completion of a single class or designated program of study". Eligible dual credit courses for "academic readiness" are approved annually by the KDE. To meet this indicator, students must complete one (1) of the approved dual credit courses with a "C" or higher letter grade.

Advanced Placement (AP)

Advanced Placement or "AP" means a college-level course that incorporates all topics and instructional strategies specified by the College Board on its standard syllabus for a given subject area and is licensed by the College Board. Students enrolled in Advanced Placement (AP) coursework may take the corresponding AP assessments. Those who earn a score of "3" or higher on one (1) approved AP exam are considered "academic ready".

International Baccalaureate (IB)

International Baccalaureate or "IB" means the International Baccalaureate Organization's Diploma Programme, a comprehensive two (2) year program designed for highly motivated students. Students must earn a score of "4+" on one (1) approved IB exam.

Cambridge Advanced International (CAI)

The Cambridge Advanced International Certificate of Education Diploma program is an international pre-university curriculum and examination system offered by Cambridge International Examinations at the University of Cambridge. Students must earn an "e" or higher score on one (1) approved Cambridge exam.

Career Readiness

Industry Certification

KRS 158.6455 establishes a process by which valid industry certifications, licensures and credentials shall be approved and utilized for statewide accountability pertaining to postsecondary readiness. Each year, the valid list is reviewed and approved by the Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board (KWIB), in collaboration with local Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs) and the KDE.

Career and Technical Education (CTE) End-of-Program Assessments (for articulated credit)

The CTE End-of-Program Assessments have been state-developed since 1999 and are based upon standards identified by Kentucky employers, aligned with CTE career pathways, and associated with statewide articulation agreements with a variety of postsecondary institutions. These assessments measure foundational academic, technical, and employability skills and are taken by eligible students to measure the knowledge, skills, and competencies attained through their career pathway coursework.

Approved Dual Credit

Pursuant to KRS 164.002, dual credit is defined as "a college-level course of study developed in accordance with KRS 164.098 in which a high school student receives credit from both the high school and postsecondary institution in which the student is enrolled upon completion of a single class or designated program of study". Eligible dual credit courses aligned to CTE career pathways for "career readiness" are approved annually by KDE. To meet this indicator, students must complete one (1) of the approved CTE dual credit courses with a "C" or higher letter grade.

Registered Apprenticeship

The KDE's Tech Ready Apprentices for Careers in Kentucky (TRACK) youth/pre-apprenticeship program, regulated by the United States Department of Labor (USDOL) and the Kentucky Cabinet for Education and Workforce Development, is nationally recognized as a best practice youth apprenticeship model. The program affords CTE students career pathway opportunities aligned with Registered Apprenticeship programs.

Cooperative Education (Co-op)

Co-op education is a paid, long-term educational program consisting of in-school instruction combined with program-related on-the-job work experience in a business or industrial establishment.

Internship

Internships give students the opportunity to have on-the-job training with one employer. This type of experience can be classified as short or long-term, as well as paid or non-paid.

*For more information, please contact the following KDE staff directly:

- *Academic Readiness and General Questions, Shara Savage, Office of Assessment and Accountability*
- *Career Readiness, Holly Tracy, Office of Career and Technical Education*