

Kentucky's Accountability System

Kentucky's Accountability System is regulated by [703 KAR 5:270](#), by state legislation and by federal law required by the [Every Student Succeeds Act \(ESSA\)](#) of 2015. The current system, as described in this document, reflects the most recent updates from the 2023 legislative session of the Kentucky General Assembly.

Postsecondary Readiness Indicators in Kentucky's Accountability System

To demonstrate postsecondary readiness, high school students must earn a high school diploma or be classified as a grade 12 nongraduate and meet an indicator of **ONE (1)** type of readiness, either "Academic Readiness" or "Career Readiness."

The indicators for **Academic Readiness** are:

- 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 *academic* dual credit by completing a course approved by the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE); or
- Achieving a benchmark score on an AP, IB, CAI or other nationally recognized exam approved by the KBE which generally qualifies the student for three (3) or more hours of college credit.

Career Readiness

The indicators for **Career Readiness** are:

- Achieving a minimum of three (3) hours of Career and Technical Education (CTE) 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 (end-of-program assessment);
- 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.

Industry Certification

A [Valid Industry Certification list](#) shall be approved and utilized for statewide accountability pertaining to postsecondary readiness pursuant to [KRS 158.6455](#). Recommendations to the list are reviewed quarterly by the [Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board \(KWIB\)](#) in collaboration with local Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs) and the KDE Office of Career and Technical Education. Certifications that align with high-demand fields receive an additional 0.25 points in the accountability system.

CTE End-of-Program (EOP) Assessments for Articulated Credit

The [CTE EOP Assessments](#) are state-developed assessments designed to indicate that a student has retained knowledge related to their chosen career pathway. The EOPs are based upon clear and concise standards identified by Kentucky employers and are aligned with statewide articulation agreements with postsecondary partners.

Approved CTE Dual Credit

[Eligible dual credit courses](#) aligned to CTE career pathways for "career readiness" are approved annually by the KDE. To meet this indicator, students must complete one (1) of the approved CTE dual credit courses with a "C" or higher letter grade. 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".

Registered Apprenticeship (TRACK)

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) or Internship

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. 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. Students can meet this indicator by completing a minimum of 300 hours of on-the-job work experience in a co-op or internship.

***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