



Media Contact:
Jessica Fletcher
Communications Manager
jfletcher@kychamber.com
502-848-8731 (office)
859-539-0511 (cell)

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Chamber urges school leaders to keep public informed about school, student progress

FRANKFORT, Ky. – The Kentucky Chamber of Commerce is urging school leaders across the Commonwealth to keep the public informed about students’ academic progress as the state develops a new testing system.

Legislation enacted by the 2009 General Assembly (Senate Bill 1) mandated the new test, which is to take effect in 2012, and made a number of needed improvements to strengthen Kentucky’s education system. Although students will continue to be tested in most subjects between now and 2012, the state will not be required during the interim to produce a so-called “accountability index” that includes student test scores and other information designed to let the public know how well the schools are performing.

The Chamber, which has designated public education as its top policy priority, is encouraging school districts to keep reporting student test scores to the public during the bridge period.

“The interim is not a time to relax expectations, but offers Kentucky’s school districts a chance to choose high standards and self-accountability,” Chamber President and CEO Dave Adkisson said in a memorandum to Kentucky superintendents and school board leaders. Continuing to share test results with the public is important “to sustain our progress until the new system is implemented,” he added.

The Chamber also noted that the recent announcement that a group of advocacy and support organizations – the Council for Better Education, the Kentucky Association of School Councils and the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence – plans to develop a “transition index” tracking student test scores will better enable schools to provide the information to the public.

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