CALL TO ACTION!

Regulation [703 KAR 5:270](http://education.ky.gov) governing the new education accountability system has passed two readings by the Kentucky Board of Education. It is in a public comment until October 31, 2017, and the Kentucky Coalition for Arts Education (KCAE) is urging educators, parents, advocates, and other educational stakeholders to familiarize themselves with the key components of the plan and and voice their opinions right away. To be included in a report to the Kentucky Board of Education, comments must be sent to kevin.brown@education.ky.gov.

**Things to know:**
- The regulation calls for seven indicators of school accountability.
- The fifth indicator is Opportunity and Access, which includes four measures. Two of which, **Rich Curriculum** and **Whole Child Supports**, contain measures of a school’s provision of the visual and performing arts.
- A detailed comment paper from the KCAE may be found here [http://bit.ly/2yHr1kv](http://bit.ly/2yHr1kv)

**The KCAE has two concerns with the regulation as it stands:**
1. Accountability for the visual and performing arts are being buried among several non-academic measures that deal primarily with students or developing school climates rather than being placed with academic measures, which diminishes their value in accountability. If it is decided that all measures are to be considered equally then visual and performing art instruction will count in the overall accountability structure about one percent.
2. The KCAE is also concerned that in the **Whole Child Supports** section the certification of visual and performing arts teachers is included in one of six selected measures and schools will receive MAXIMUM CREDIT for selecting ONLY two.

We ask that you take advantage of the public comment period by writing the Kentucky Department of Education TODAY by way of kevin.brown@education.ky.gov and asking for:
- Reconsideration of the placement of the visual and performing arts in the accountability system in a manner that recognizes and rewards their importance in the curriculum and overall rating of school programs.
- Removal of any specific number of required “selected measures” under **Whole Child Supports** in the regulation. Removing this will provide flexibility within the regulation as data is discovered through schools reporting.
- Clarification of the language used in the regulation for the selected measure regarding arts teaching certification, including the word “specialist,” such that it reads, “Teachers with specialist certifications in the content areas of visual arts, music, dance, theatre, and media arts.”