

1 AN ACT relating to school curriculum.

2 WHEREAS, the General Assembly finds that it is imperative that Kentucky's
3 children be equipped with information geared toward improving the likelihood of
4 successful outcomes throughout their lives; and

5 WHEREAS, an analysis of longitudinal survey data from the National Longitudinal
6 Survey of Youth by Wendy Wang and Brad Wilcox of the American Enterprise Institute
7 and the Institute for Family Studies showed that 97 percent of the studied individuals that
8 followed the "Success Sequence" and 86 percent of those "on track" but not having
9 completed the sequence were not living in poverty by the time they reached young
10 adulthood, while 53 percent of young adults who did not follow this sequence at all were
11 living in poverty; and

12 WHEREAS, Wang and Wilcox also found that the odds of reaching middle-income
13 status were 9.4 times higher for people who followed the "Success Sequence" compared
14 to those who did not meet any of the milestones, when controlling for race, ethnicity,
15 gender, and other background factors; and

16 WHEREAS, in their 2013 research paper on the "Five Strong Starts for Social
17 Mobility," Richard Reeves and Kerry Searle Grannis at the Brookings Institute showed a
18 strong, positive correlation between the percentage of individuals at different income
19 levels who achieved the strong starts, which include sequentially achieving a strong
20 educational foundation, entry into the labor market, lack of criminal conviction, and
21 getting married before having your first child;

22 NOW, THEREFORE,

23 ***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

24 ➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 158 IS CREATED TO
25 READ AS FOLLOWS:

26 **(1) As used in this section, "Success Sequence" means the following series of**
27 **evidence-based sequential milestones shown to help young adults achieve**

1 economic prosperity:

2 (a) Obtaining at least a high school diploma and acquiring additional training
3 in preparation for entering the workforce;

4 (b) Securing full-time employment; and

5 (c) Waiting until marriage to begin having children.

6 (2) Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year and each year thereafter, all school
7 districts shall provide:

8 (a) Instruction in the Success Sequence to all students in grade seven (7) and
9 grade ten (10); and

10 (b) Access to instruction in the Success Sequence for students who may not
11 have received such instruction during grade ten (10) due to enrollment
12 within the school after grade ten (10) or otherwise.

13 (3) The superintendent of each school district containing students in grade seven (7)
14 or grade ten (10) shall determine curricula for course offerings, programs, or a
15 combination of course offerings and programs that are aligned with the Success
16 Sequence academic standards promulgated by the board.

17 (4) The department shall develop guidelines that provide direction to local schools in
18 implementing curriculum aligned with the Success Sequence academic
19 standards. Such guidelines shall:

20 (a) Include grade-level appropriate instruction describing the positive personal
21 and societal outcomes associated with the Success Sequence; and

22 (b) Incorporate evidence drawn from seminal academic studies on the Success
23 Sequence, including but not limited to:

24 1. Assessing the Benefits of the Success Sequence for Economic Self-
25 Sufficiency and Family Stability by Hande Inanc, Ariella Spitzer, and
26 Brian Goesling for the United States Department of Health and
27 Human Services;

- 1 2. *Creating an Opportunity Society by Ron Haskins and Isabel Sawhill*
2 *of The Brookings Institution; and*
3 3. *The Millennial Success Sequence by Wendy Wang and Brad Wilcox*
4 *of the American Enterprise Institute and the Institute for Family*
5 *Studies.*
6 (5) *The department or a superintendent may partner with Kentucky-based nonprofit*
7 *organizations with an established track record of providing instruction on the*
8 *Success Sequence in the development of the curriculum required by this section.*
9 (6) *The board shall promulgate administrative regulations in accordance with KRS*
10 *Chapter 13A and KRS 156.160 to establish academic standards for courses and*
11 *programs in the Success Sequence.*