

Advanced Coursework Policy in Kentucky

Transforming Access Through Systematic Policy Change

August 23, 2025



The Prichard Committee

Building a Groundswell for a Big Bold Future

Why This Matters to Gifted Educators



A. Equity and excellence aren't competing priorities

B. Traditional identification misses talent

C. Early identification creates pathways

D. Systematic change needed

Kentucky's Current Reality



Graduation vs. Readiness Disconnect:

Graduation Rate: 93.3%
(4th nationally)

English Benchmarks: 48%
(below national average)

Math Benchmarks: 23%
(below national average)

AP Enrollment Decline:

Overall:
35.6% (2017-18) →
16.1% (2022-23)

Black students:
20.2% → 10.3%

Latino students:
28.5% → 12.0%

Persistent Equity Gaps



Elementary Gifted Programs:

- **Black students:** *Only 31 per 100 needed for fair representation*
- **Economically disadvantaged:** *62.6% of 4th graders but only 37.5% of gifted participants*

8th Grade Algebra I:

- *Only 56 Black students enrolled per 100 needed*
- *Gateway course critical for advanced math pathway*

If We Do Nothing (2026-27):

- Black student AP enrollment: **3.68%**
- Latino student AP enrollment: **1.81%**
- High-poverty districts: **Near-zero**

House Bill 190 (2025): Foundation & Limitations



Required by December 1,
2025: Every district SHALL
adopt advanced
coursework plan

Must address grades 4-12 in
core subjects

KDE SHALL establish
assessment
recommendations

The "MAY" Problem:

"MAY" vs "SHALL" allows
minimal compliance
without meaningful access
expansion

What We Know Works: Research Evidence



AdvanceKentucky A2A Results:

- 35-point average PSAT increase
- 43-point gain for economically disadvantaged
- 47-point gain for underrepresented minorities
- 14,119 additional AP students with 45% pass rate maintained

Additional Evidence:

- Universal Screening: 180% increase in underrepresented student identification
- Three times more students prepared than currently enrolled


Learning from North Carolina



Automatic Enrollment Policy: • Mandatory automatic enrollment (not optional) • Students scoring proficient+ automatically enrolled • Strong accountability measures



Impressive Results: • 70-85% success rate for auto-enrolled students • 8,000+ increase in first year • Maintained course quality and rigor



Key Success Factors Across States: • Automatic enrollment (opt-out vs opt-in) • Multiple identification measures • Comprehensive support systems • Strong accountability with data transparency

Advanced Coursework Policy Working Group

Partners

- ☐ Prichard Committee (convener)
- ☐ Kentucky Department of Education CTE
- ☐ Kentucky Association of School Superintendents
- ☐ AdvanceKentucky
- ☐ Western Kentucky University/Center for Gifted Studies
- ☐ Governor's Scholars Program
- ☐ Kentucky PTA
- ☐ Kentucky School Boards Association



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Current Implementation Challenges



Awareness & Resources:

- *Many educators unaware of HB190 requirements*
- *Funding barriers for smaller/rural districts*
- *Teacher capacity as major limiting factor*

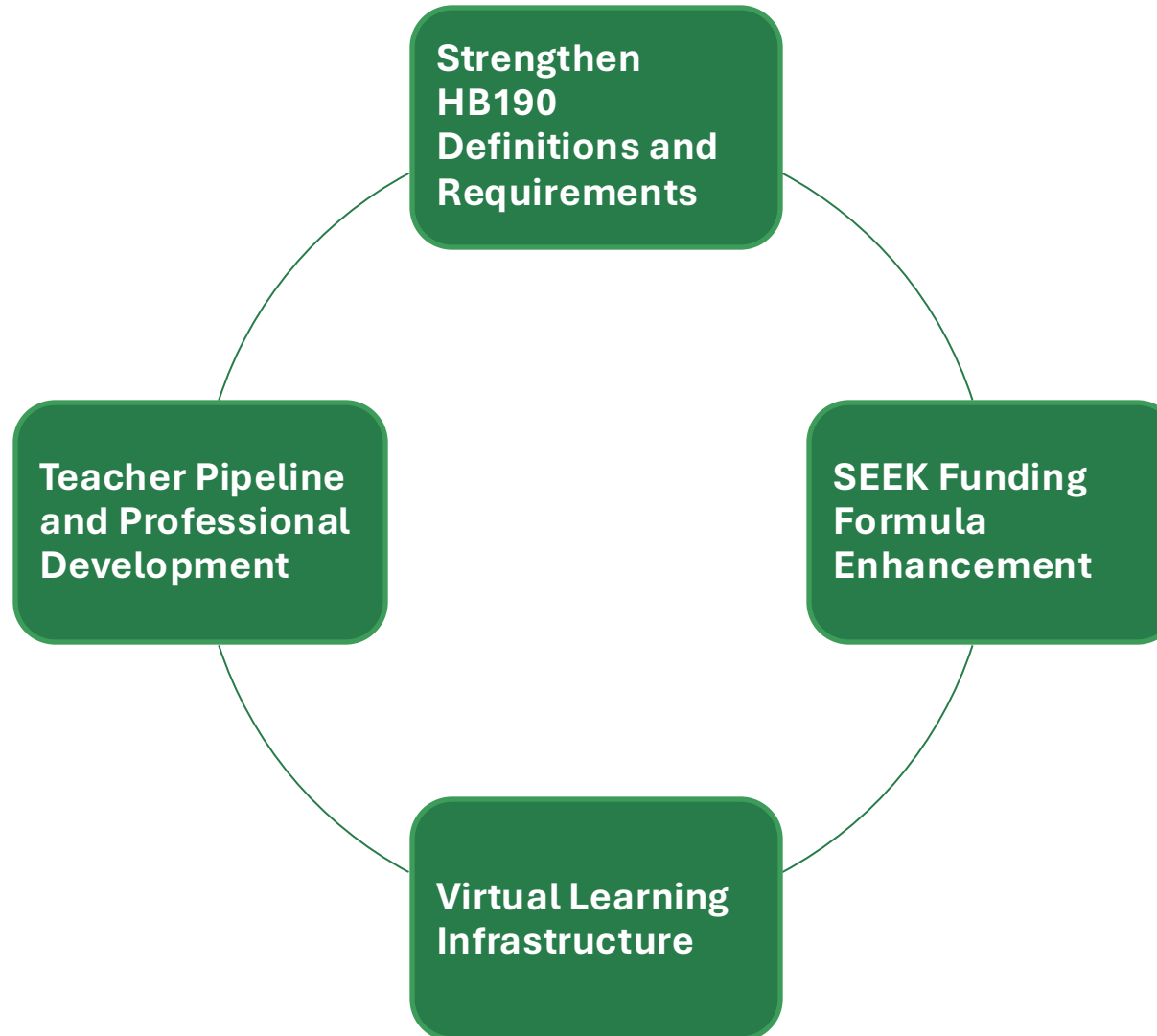
System Issues:

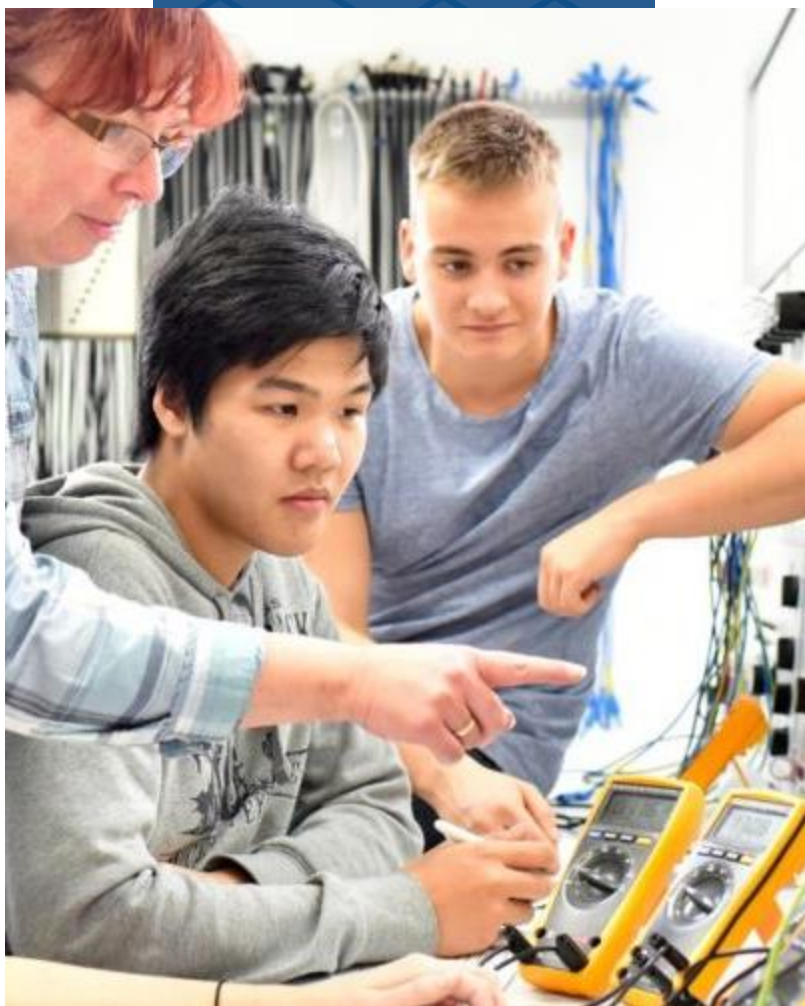
- *Assessment timing misalignment*
- *Need for definition clarity*
- *Local control balance*

Critical Timing:

Budget conversations for 2026 beginning in August-September

Potential Policy Solutions





Prichard Committee Groundswell Toolbox

Core Strategy Documents:

- Theory of Change for systematic implementation
- Comprehensive Case Statement
- Leading and Lagging Indicators for measuring impact
- Five Strategic Approaches
- Ten Practical Policies & Practices



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Call to Action for KAGE Members



Individual Level:

- Use Prichard's Toolbox for district advocacy
- Share research and best practices
- Mentor colleagues on bias-free identification

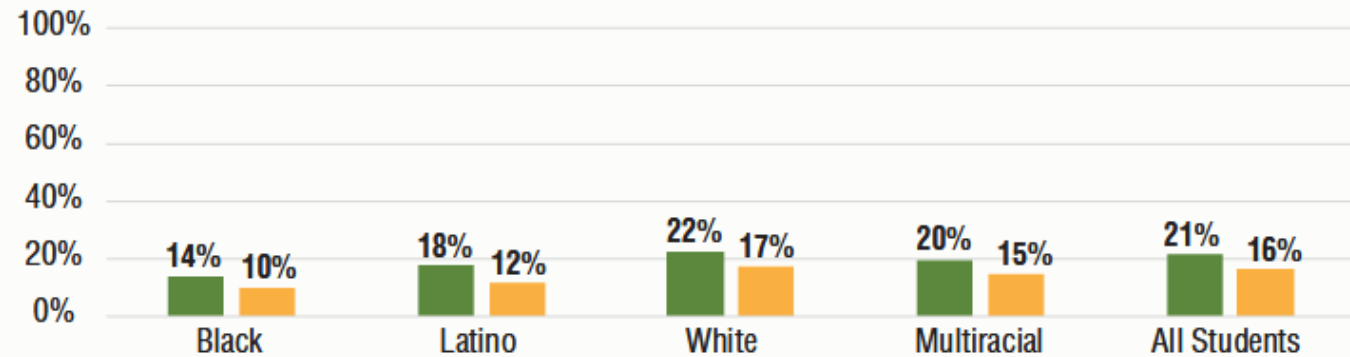
System Level:

- Advocate during 2026 legislative session
- Collaborate with parent and business communities
- Support data collection and research efforts

Call to Action for KAGE Members



HS AP Enrollment, by Race/Ethnicity: SY 2018-19 & 2021-22



"We have a window of opportunity with HB190's foundation and growing political attention to education reform. KAGE members are uniquely positioned to ensure policy changes maintain quality while dramatically expanding access."

Thank you!



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Building a GROUNDSWELL

in partnership with the Prichard Committee