

# AACR 1

Office of the President  
May 10, 2005

Members, Board of Trustees:

## ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INSTITUTE FOR EDUCATIONAL ASSESSMENT

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve the establishment of the Institute for Educational Assessment in the College of Education, effective July 1, 2005.

Background: The university has a long tradition of engagement with educational issues facing the commonwealth. Most recently, since the passage of the Kentucky Education Reform Act (KERA) in 1990, the university has assisted education reform in myriad ways through its programs of research, instruction, and service. The new Institute for Educational Assessment will extend the university's commitment to a critical facet of P-16 education reform, student assessment. Assessment of student progress has been a central component of KERA and of the national reform movement in K-12 education. Heavy reliance on student testing as a reform strategy has created many challenges and criticisms in Kentucky and other states. Testing is costly, raising questions about optimal expenditure of state resources. Kentucky now spends approximately \$13 million in state and federal revenues. Currently, the state student assessment system is managed by contracts with external vendors. In an effort to improve the cost-effectiveness of the student assessment system and to make it more flexible and responsive to the emerging needs of the commonwealth, state, and university officials plan to move significant portions of the assessment system's management to the University of Kentucky. The university will build its capacity in a transition period, until July 2006, when it will begin managing a number of system components. Over time, it is anticipated that additional functions associated with the management of the state assessment, now handled via vendor contracts, will become the university's responsibility. Other public universities in the commonwealth will assist the University of Kentucky in implementing aspects of this system.

Because of the critical nature of expertise required and the working relationships with state and local education officials, the institute will be located in the College of Education. The Dean of the College of Education will provide administrative oversight for the institute. At the same time, the institute will, as needed, draw on faculty and staff expertise in other colleges and units across the campus.

The proposal has been recommended by the appropriate chairs and dean of the College of Education. The Provost of the university supports this recommendation.

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Action taken:     Approved     Disapproved     Other \_\_\_\_\_