

# Early Mathematics Placement Testing

This Act creates a program and process to enable high school students to compare their level of knowledge in mathematics to state postsecondary standards. The program will be Web-based and available to all state residents. Under the Act, the program must:

- Develop and adopt appropriate tests;
- Permit testing at school or home;
- Transmit electronically test scores and diagnostic information to participating schools; and
- Provide specified information to students about colleges.

Submitted as:

Kentucky

Enrolled Substitute HB 178

Status: enacted into law in 2000.

## Suggested Legislation

(Title, enacting clause, etc.)

1           Section 1. [*Short Title.*] This Act may be cited as “An Act Relating to Early Mathematics  
2 Placement Testing.”

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          Section 2. [*Definitions.*] As used in this Act:

(1) “Program” means the Early Mathematics Testing Program; and

(2) “Participating Colleges or Universities” means all public postsecondary education institutions in this state and any private college or university in this state that chooses to participate in the Early Mathematics Testing Program.

          Section 3. [*Purpose.*]

(1) The Early Mathematics Testing Program is created to lower the number of high school graduates in this state who require remediation in mathematics upon enrollment in postsecondary education institutions by providing information to primarily high school sophomores and juniors statewide regarding their level of mathematics knowledge in relation to standards required for community and technical colleges and university level mathematics courses early enough for students to address deficiencies while still in high school.

(2) The testing program shall be a computer Web-site-based program that incorporates a variety of diagnostic mathematics tests to identify knowledge and skills needed for postsecondary education courses.

(3) The testing program shall be developed and conducted by a public university. The [council on postsecondary education], with the advice of the [department of education], shall develop a process to solicit, review, and select a proposal for the development and implementation of the computer Web-site-based testing program. The [council] shall approve the location of the program at a public university no later than [insert date]. The university shall be the fiscal agent for the testing program and shall receive the funds appropriated by the [general assembly].

(4) The program shall be available to all interested public and private high school students in this state in grades [ten (10)] and [eleven (11)]. Student participation in the program shall be voluntary, and program test scores shall not be:

(a) Placed on a student’s high school transcript; or

(b) Used by postsecondary education institutions in the admissions process.

(5) The computer Web site testing program shall be available to all residents of this state for evaluation of an individual’s mathematics knowledge and skills.

32 (6) The program shall encourage the active participation of all public and private high schools in  
33 this state.

34 (7) The computer Web site testing program shall:

35 (a) Develop or adopt appropriate tests to determine the level of mathematics knowledge of  
36 high school students in relation to the standards of placement tests given at the community and technical  
37 colleges and undergraduate public universities. In the development or adoption of the tests, consideration  
38 shall be given to the program of studies and the minimum requirements for high school graduation  
39 established in [insert citation] and the alignment of these standards with postsecondary course standards;

40 (b) Develop a structure to permit each participating student the opportunity to take the  
41 computer-based test at school in the presence of school personnel or at the student's home in the presence  
42 of his or her parents or guardian;

43 (c) Score the completed tests and provide the test scores and diagnostic information on a  
44 student's knowledge and skills electronically to the student and the high school upon completion of the  
45 test in the form of electronic mail or printable files or screens.

46 (d) Provide the following information for up to [three (3)] participating postsecondary  
47 education institutions specified by the student as a possible college choice:

- 48 1. The student's test score;
- 49 2. A list of mathematics courses required for the student's intended major at a  
50 postsecondary education institution;
- 51 3. A list of any remedial courses the student might be required to take based on  
52 the student's current level of mathematics knowledge as demonstrated on the test;
- 53 4. The estimated cost of the remedial courses the student might be required to  
54 take; and
- 55 5. The high school courses and the specific mathematical concepts or functions a  
56 student should consider studying in order to address any deficiencies;

57 (e) Encourage the chair of the mathematics department or the academic dean at each of the  
58 participating postsecondary education institutions specified by the student as a possible college choice to  
59 send a personalized letter to the student that:

- 60 1. Encourages the student to take additional high school mathematics courses to  
61 address deficiencies in mathematics knowledge; or
- 62 2. Congratulates the student who does well on the test for his or her achievement  
63 and encourages continued study in mathematics; and

64 (f) Develop and implement a strategy to raise awareness and encourage participation in  
65 the program, targeting high school students, parents, high school faculty and administrators, mathematics  
66 departments or faculty at postsecondary education institutions, and the general public.

67 (8) The state [department of education] shall provide assistance as necessary to the Early  
68 Mathematics Testing Program to implement the provisions of this Act.

69 (9) The public university that conducts the testing program shall submit an annual report to the  
70 [state board of education] and the [state council on postsecondary education] regarding its activities, and  
71 the effects of the program on levels of remediation required by participating students.

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73 Section 4. [*Severability.*] [Insert severability clause.]

74  
75 Section 5. [*Repealer.*] [Insert repealer clause.]

76  
77 Section 6. [*Effective Date.*] [Insert effective date.]