The Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) held day two of its regular meeting on August 7, 2025. The KBE met both virtually and in-person at the Paul Sawyier Public Library, 319 Wapping Street, Frankfort KY. Members of the public were permitted to attend the meeting in person although encouraged to view the meeting on the Kentucky Department of Education's (KDE) Media Portal. The board conducted the following business:

I. Call to Order

Chair Sharon Robinson welcomed all board members and guests to the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 10:30 A.M. ET.

II. Roll Call

Chair Robinson asked for a roll call of members. The following members were present: Holly Bloodworth, Harold McKinney, Juston Pate, Julie Pile, Randy Poe, Sharon Robinson, Lee Todd, Steve Trimble, Diane Woods, Lu Young, and Harper Blake. Alfonson De Torres Núñez, Secretary Jamie Link, and President Aaron Thompson were absent.

III. Good News

A. **Madison North Hopkins students build container clinic for rural village in Liberia** (Julie Pile)
B. **Educators Rising Kentucky names state officers for 2025-2026 academic year** (Lee Todd)
C. **Recent graduates share their perspectives on education at Persistence to Graduation summit** (Diane Woods)
D. **KDE's Read to Succeed Conference draws 1,500 attendees from across the state** (Holly Bloodworth)
E. **First cycle of Kentucky LEADS Academy completed** (Lu Young)

IV. Board Member Sharing

Chair Sharon Robinson said that the next item on the agenda is board sharing. It is an opportunity for board members to raise issues, pose questions, share concerns, and suggest topics to include on future board meeting agendas. Julie Pile began by giving an update on the KBE Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child Subcommittee. Pile said that they recently held a meeting which discussed the issue of chronic absenteeism. Juston Pate gave an update on the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) High School Transformation Network. He said that Kentucky's team hopes to have their first meeting in September. Diane Woods shared that she was able to visit the new Hub for Innovative Learning and Leadership (HILL) technical school in Lexington, KY. Lu Young shared that she was able to attend the SREB (Southern Regional

Education Board) Making Schools Work conference in New Orleans, Louisiana to discuss the work of the Kentucky United We Learn initiative. Vice Chair Young also said she attended the annual Education Commission of the States National Forum on Education Policy in Salt Lake City, Utah. Chair Robinson closed board sharing by emphasizing the importance of preparing graduates for the workforce.

V. Consent Agenda

A. **Appointment of KBE Members to Serve on the State Evaluation Appeals Panel for the 25-26 Fiscal Year**

B. **Hearing Officer's Report-** KDE Deputy Commissioner and General Counsel Todd G. Allen

C. **Litigation Report-** KDE Deputy Commissioner and General Counsel Todd G. Allen

D. **Certification of 780 KAR 3:110, Disciplinary actions-** KDE Associate Commissioner Beth Hargis, Ed.D., and KDE Policy Advisor Lauren Graves, Ph.D.

E. **Certification of 780 KAR 3:150, Staff development and in-service-** KDE Associate Commissioner Beth Hargis, Ed.D., and KDE Policy Advisor Lauren Graves, Ph.D.

F. **Certification of 780 KAR 3:160, Local school district service credit-** KDE Associate Commissioner Beth Hargis, Ed.D., and KDE Policy Advisor Lauren Graves, Ph.D.

G. **Certification of 780 KAR 6:005, Unclassified service administrative regulation-** KDE Associate Commissioner Beth Hargis, Ed.D., and KDE Policy Advisor Lauren Graves, Ph.D.

H. **Certification of 780 KAR 6:030, Appointments-** KDE Associate Commissioner Beth Hargis, Ed.D., and KDE Policy Advisor Lauren Graves, Ph.D.

I. **Certification of 780 KAR 6:040, Special appointments-** KDE Associate Commissioner Beth Hargis, Ed.D., and KDE Policy Advisor Lauren Graves, Ph.D.

J. **Certification of 780 KAR 6:050, Probationary periods-** KDE Associate Commissioner Beth Hargis, Ed.D., and KDE Policy Advisor Lauren Graves, Ph.D.

K. **Certification of 780 KAR 6:062, Attendance, compensatory time and leave for unclassified service-** KDE Associate Commissioner Beth Hargis, Ed.D., and KDE Policy Advisor Lauren Graves, Ph.D.

L. **Certification of 780 KAR 6:065, Sick leave sharing procedures for unclassified service-** KDE Associate Commissioner Beth Hargis, Ed.D., and KDE Policy Advisor Lauren Graves, Ph.D.

M. **Certification of 780 KAR 6:070, Records and reports-** KDE Associate Commissioner Beth Hargis, Ed.D., and KDE Policy Advisor Lauren Graves, Ph.D.
N. **Certification of 704 KAR 3:455, Instructional resource adoption process-** KDE Deputy Commissioner Thomas Tucker, Ph.D., KDE Chief Academic Officer Micki Marinelli, and KDE Policy Advisor Sarah Medley

Chair Robinson said that "KDE staff identified items in the consent agenda as those that are non-controversial in nature. Consent Agenda Items D through N are requests for certification of the noted administrative regulations to avoid expiration. All of these regulations are currently in effect and nearing their 7-year expiration date. Staff have reviewed these regulations and determined they should be certified to remain in effect. If the regulations are not certified, they will expire and become ineffective."

Chair Robinson remarked that the consent agenda items were distributed to members in advance of the meeting for review, however, if an item is moved, the chair may decide to take up the matter immediately or move it to a discussion item later in the agenda. None of the items were moved and Chair Robinson asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was made by Lee Todd and seconded by Harold McKinney. The motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.

Next, Chair Robinson dismissed the members of the board to committees.

The United We Learn Committee met in the Community Room. The State Schools Committee met in the River Room. Chair Robinson noted that agendas and committee information is accessible through the KBE portal.

VI. United We Learn/Teaching and Learning Committee

A. Read to Succeed Update

VII. State Schools Committee

A. Annual Policy Adoptions and Amendments for the Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB) and Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD)
B. KSB Advisory Board Member Appointment
C. KSB and KSD Traceable Communication Systems
D. Annual Amendments to Area Technology Center (ATC) Policies and Procedures
E. Annual Amendments to the KY Tech Student Handbook
F. Office of Career and Technical Education Traceable Communication System

Return from the KBE committees to the River Room.

Chair Robinson called the board to order.

VIII. Action/Discussion Items

A. Report on State Schools Committee on Action/Discussion Items

State Schools Committee Chair Randy Poe provided an update on the committee's meeting. Poe shared that the committee took action on several annual regulatory items for the Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB), Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD) and the Area Technology Centers (ATCs). Chair Robinson called for a motion to adopt the committee's recommendations and approve the Annual Policy Adoptions and Amendments for the Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB) and Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD), KSB Advisory Board Member Appointment, KSB and KSD Traceable Communication Systems, Annual Amendments to Area Technology Center (ATC) Policies and Procedures, Annual Amendments to the KY Tech Student Handbook, and Office of Career and Technical Education Traceable Communication System. The motion did not require a second as it came from the committee. The motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.

B. Report on United We Learn/Teaching and Learning Committee on Action/Discussion Items

United We Learn Committee Chair Holly Bloodworth provided an update on the committee's meeting. Bloodworth shared that the committee heard from KDE Chief Academic Officer Micki Ray Marinelli and KDE Director of Early Literacy Christie Biggerstaff regarding the implementation of Senate Bill (SB) 9 (2022), the Read to Succeed Act.

IX. Review Items

A. KDE Strategic Plan Update

KDE Chief Performance Officer Karen Dodd and KDE Strategic Data Analyst Leslie McKinney presented the results of the most recent employee survey administered by the department in June and an update on the KDE Strategic Plan. Dodd and McKinney said that report summarizes findings from qualitative, open-ended survey responses associated with the 2025 Frankfort-based Employee Satisfaction Survey, which was used to gather insights on key issues and experiences. The presenters shared that detailed, actionable reports were shared with each Kentucky Department of

Education (KDE) office and included more granular insights, while maintaining confidentiality.

B. Presentation of the 2025 Grissom Award for Innovation in Special Education

Commissioner Robbie Fletcher and KBE Chair Sharon Robinson facilitated the award presentation. Each year, the KBE grants this award to a Kentuckian or a Kentucky organization to honor outstanding dedication to improving achievement for students with disabilities. The winners of the award were announced to be Kimberly Chevalier from Jefferson County Schools and the Bridges Program at Mary G. Hogsett Primary School. Commissioner Fletcher offered his congratulations to the recipients and thanked them for their commitment to the students of Kentucky.

X. Lunch (No Business to be Conducted)

XI. Action/Discussion Items (Cont.)

A. Approval of 701 KAR 5:170 and 701 KAR 5:170E, Waiver Requests

KDE Deputy Commissioner and General Counsel Todd G. Allen and KDE Deputy General Counsel Corey Nichols presented the item. Allen and Nichols explained that through June 26, 2025, Kentucky Revised Statute (KRS) 156.160(2) provided that local boards of education and school councils may request the KBE waive any administrative regulation promulgated by the KBE. This waiver process was set forth in KRS 156.120(2) and no administrative regulation was necessary related to the waiver process. Through June 26, 2025, when KDE received a waiver request pursuant to KRS 156.160(2), it was reviewed by the program area with authority over the subject matter to be waived, and a recommendation was made to the KBE regarding approval. However, the waiver authority in KRS 156.160(2) has been removed from statute and replaced with updated waiver authority. During its 2025 ordinary session, the Kentucky General Assembly passed Senate Bill (SB) 207, which, among other things, removed the waiver process previously set forth in KRS 156.120(2) and created a new statute related to KBE waivers. SB 207 (2025) is contained at KRS 156.161. Allen and Nichols proposed to establish procedures for processing requests to the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) to waive statutes and administrative regulations. Chair Robinson called for a motion to approve 701 KAR 5:170 and 701 KAR 5:170E, Waiver Requests. The motion was made by Steve Trimble and seconded by Randy Poe. The motion passed with a voice vote.

B. Amendments to 703 KAR 5:280, School Improvement Procedures

KDE Associate Commissioner Kelly Foster, Ed.D., and KDE Policy Advisor Matthew Courtney, Ed.D., presented the proposed amendments. Following a discussion with the full board, Chair Robinson called for a motion to approve the amendments to 703 KAR 5:280, School Improvement Procedures. The motion was made by Harold McKinney and seconded by Holly Bloodworth. The motion passed with a voice vote.

C. Amendment to 704 KAR 3:440, Primary school program guidelines

Deputy Commissioner Thomas Tucker, Ph.D., KDE Chief Academic Officer Micki Ray Marinelli, and KDE Policy Advisor Sarah Medley presented the proposed amendments. Following a discussion with the full board, Chair Robinson called for a motion to approve the amendments to 704 KAR 3:440, Primary school program guidelines. The motion was made by Diane Woods and seconded by Julie Pile. The motion passed with a voice vote.

D. Kentucky Minimum Specifications for School Buses

KDE Associate Commissioner Matt Ross, KDE Division Director Chay Ritter, and KDE Branch Manager Roger Banks presented the Kentucky Minimum Specifications for School Buses. Following a discussion with the full board, Chair Robinson called for a motion to approve the 2026 Kentucky Minimum Specifications for School Buses. The motion was made by Lu Young and seconded by Lee Todd. The motion passed with a voice vote.

E. Kentucky Education Technology Systems (KETS) Operational Plan for School Year 2025-2026

KDE Associate Commissioner David Couch, KDE Division Director Mike Leadingham, and KDE Chief Digital Officer Marty Park presented the operational plan. The presenters explained that this item is to approve the use of Kentucky Education Technology System (KETS) funds in the amount of $15.4 million for the 2025-2026 school year. Couch noted that the KBE had already approved the annual KY K-12 education technology priorities and needs as part of the KETS Master Plan for Education Technology for School Year (SY) 2024-2030 in March 2024 as a document incorporated by reference to 701 KAR 5:110. Since 1992, the KBE has been required, by statute, to approve KETS funds as one of the annual funding sources to help address the annual KY K-12 education technology (EdTech) needs. Chair Robinson called for a motion to approve the KETS operational management resources of $15.4 million for the 2025-2026 school year. The

motion was made by Lee Todd and seconded by Julie Pile. The motion passed with a voice vote.

XII. Adjournment

Chair Robinson thanked everyone for their time and asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by Steve Trimble and seconded by Harold McKinney. The motion passed with a voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 2:21 P.M. E.T.

The Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) held the State Schools Committee meeting on August 7, 2025. The committee met both virtually and in-person at the Paul Sawyier Public Library, 319 Wapping Street, Frankfort KY. Members of the public were permitted to attend the meeting in person although encouraged to view the meeting on the Kentucky Department of Education's (KDE) Media Portal. The following business was conducted:

I. Call to Order

Chair Randy Poe welcomed the committee members and guests to the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 11:15 A.M. E.T.

II. Roll Call

Chair Poe asked for a roll call of members. The following members were present: Randy Poe, Sharon Robinson, Steve Trimble, and Diane Woods. Alfonso De Torres Núñez and Harold McKinney were absent.

III. Action/Discussion Items

A. Annual Policy Adoptions and Amendments for the Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB) and Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD)

Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) Division Director Shannon Sparkman and KDE Policy Advisor Melody Cooper presented the item. The presenters explained that the board annually approves updates to policies for the KSB and KSD. The Kentucky School Boards Association (KSBA) provides a model policy service to local school districts, the KSB and the KSD. Policies for the KSB and KSD are updated annually to reflect laws passed during the legislative session, as well as changes to applicable regulations during the past year. Following a discussion with the committee, Chair Poe called for a motion to approve the annual policy adoptions and amendments for the Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB) and the Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD). The motion was made by Steve Trimble and seconded by Diane Woods. The motion passed with a voice vote.

B. KSB Advisory Board Appointment

KDE Division Director Shannon Sparkman and KDE Policy Advisor Melody Cooper presented the item. The presenters explained that the board would need to act on the proposed candidate to maintain current membership on the Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB) Advisory Board. The presenters stated that Commissioner Robbie Fletcher recommended Carla Ruschival be appointed to the Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB) Advisory Board. Ruschival meets the necessary criteria for appointment. Chair Poe called

for a motion to approve the appointment of Carla Ruschival to the Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB) Advisory Board. The motion was made by Sharon Robinson and seconded by Steve Trimble. The motion passed with a voice vote.

C. KSB and KSD Traceable Communications Systems

KDE Division Director Shannon Sparkman and KDE Policy Advisor Melody Cooper presented the item. The presenters explained that the board was required to act on traceable communication systems for Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB) and Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD), which meet the requirements of 2025 Acts Chapter 149 (Senate Bill 181). Sparkman and Cooper outlined the components included in the traceable communication system. Chair Poe called for a motion to approve the traceable communication systems for the Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB) and Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD). The motion was made by Diane Woods and seconded by Sharon Robinson. The motion passed with a voice vote.

D. Annual Amendments to Area Technology Center (ATC) Policies and Procedures

KDE Associate Commissioner Beth Hargis, Ed.D., KDE Division Director Beth Engle, and KDE Policy Advisor Lauren Graves, Ph.D., presented the item. The presenters explained that the board annually approves updates to policies for Area Technology Centers. The KDE contracts with the KSBA for annual maintenance, revision and upkeep of the Kentucky Tech policies and procedures. The annual changes are intended to amend outdated and/or inapplicable language and align and update the policies and procedures with pertinent new legislation and best practices recommended by the KSBA. Following a discussion with the committee, Chair Poe called for a motion to approve the annual amendments to the Area Technology Center (ATC) Policies and Procedures. The motion was made by Steve Trimble and seconded by Diane Woods. The motion passed with a voice vote.

E. Annual Amendments to the KY Tech Student Handbook

KDE Associate Commissioner Beth Hargis, Ed.D., KDE Division Director Beth Engle, and KDE Policy Advisor Lauren Graves, Ph.D., presented the item. The presenters explained that the KY Tech Student Handbook has been updated to reflect alignment with current KY Tech policies and procedures. Other modifications made to the handbook included

improvements to grammar and formatting. Following a discussion with the committee, Chair Poe called for a motion to approve the annual amendments to the KY Tech Student Handbook. The motion was made by Sharon Robinson and seconded by Diane Woods. The motion passed with a voice vote.

F. Office of Career and Technical Education Traceable Communication System

KDE Associate Commissioner Beth Hargis, Ed.D., KDE Division Director Beth Engle, and KDE Policy Advisor Lauren Graves, Ph.D., presented the item. The presenters explained that the board was required to act on traceable communication systems for Area Technology Centers (ATCs), which meet the requirements of 2025 Acts Chapter 149 (Senate Bill 181). Hargis, Engle and Graves outlined the components included in the traceable communication system. Chair Poe called for a motion to approve the Office of Career and Technical Education Traceable Communication System. The motion was made by Sharon Robinson and seconded by Steve Trimble. The motion passed with a voice vote.

G. Updates from the Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB), Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD), and Area Technology Centers (ATCs)

Chair Poe requested that the committee hear general updates regarding the state schools and ATCs. Beth Hargis said they are interviewing for a permanent marketing position to help distribute information about the ATCs. Hargis also responded to questions about FFA (Future Farmers of America) programs. Shannon Sparkman said that a new assistant principal was hired at the Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD). She also mentioned that multiple KSD students had the opportunity to travel to Vermont and present about their educational experiences.

IV. Adjournment

Chair Poe requested a motion to adjourn the committee. The motion was made by Steve Trimble and seconded by Sharon Robinson. The motion passed with a voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 11:46 A.M. E.T.

The Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) held the United We Learn/Teaching and Learning Committee meeting on August 7, 2025. The committee met in-person at the Paul Sawyier Public Library, 319 Wapping Street, Frankfort KY. Members of the public were permitted to attend the meeting in person. The following business was conducted:

I. Call to Order

Chair Holly Bloodworth welcomed the committee members and guests to the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 11:12 P.M. E.T.

II. Roll Call

Chair Bloodworth asked for a roll call of members. The following members were present: Holly Bloodworth, Juston Pate, Julie Pile, Lee Todd, Lu Young, and Harper Blake.

III. Review Item

A. Read to Succeed Update

Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) Chief Academic Officer Micki Ray Marinelli and KDE Director of Early Literacy Christie Biggerstaff presented the update on the implementation of Senate Bill (SB) 9 (2022), the Read to Succeed Act. The presenters explained how, as part of this legislation, the KDE is required to establish teacher academies or coaching models focused on evidence-based reading instruction, instructional materials, and assessments for teachers of students in prekindergarten through grade 3, (KRS 158.305(10)). These efforts are supported through the Read to Succeed Fund established in KRS 158.806 and are being led by KDE's Division of Early Literacy in the Office of Teaching and Learning.

IV. Adjournment

Chair Bloodworth requested a motion to adjourn the committee. The motion was made by Juston Pate and seconded by Lu Young. The motion passed unanimously by a voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 11:47 A.M. E.T.