The Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) held its regular meeting on September 2, 2026. The KBE met virtually via Microsoft Teams. Members of the public were 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 Lu Young welcomed all board members and guests to the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 1:00 P.M. ET. Chair Young welcomed recently appointed KBE member Joe Bricking, of Independence, to the meeting and stated that he had taken the oath of office prior to the meeting.

II. Roll Call

Chair Young asked for a roll call of members. The following members were present: Holly Bloodworth, Joe Bricking, Harold McKinney, Patti Minter, Julie Pile, Randy Poe, Sharon Porter Robinson, Steve Trimble, Lu Young, Trace Brooking, Stephanie Phillips, and Secretary Jamie Link. Felicia Nu'Man, Juston Pate, and President Aaron Thompson were absent. KDE Director of Education Policy GlyptusAnn Grider Jones, Ph.D., stated that a quorum was present.

III. Action/Discussion Item

A. 2026-2028 Legislative Priorities

Chair Young stated that the board provided input on the draft 2026-2028 Legislative Priorities presented during the August retreat meeting, and that those suggested revisions were incorporated into the draft presented to board members in advance of the meeting.

Chair Young explained that the priorities document is intended for use with community officials, education partners, members of the General Assembly, and organizations such as the Kentucky School Boards Association, the Kentucky Association of School Superintendents, the Kentucky Association of School Administrators, and more. KDE Director of Government Relations Brian Perry, Ph.D., added that the document will guide the board's later review of additional budget requests and help KDE connect potential legislation and bill drafts to board priorities. Patti Minter offered feedback, saying the document was appropriately concise and recommended reducing future budget-session advocacy materials to a one-page bullet format where possible. Sharon Robinson said the revisions reflected the board's August discussion, including attention to marginalized student populations, and provided a useful advocacy tool.

Following the discussion, Chair Young asked the board to entertain a motion to approve the 2026-2028 Legislative Priorities. The motion was made by Patti Minter and seconded by Harold McKinney. The motion passed with a roll call vote, 9-0 (Bloodworth-yes, Bricking-yes, McKinney-yes, Minter-yes, Pile-yes, Poe-yes, Robinson-yes, Trimble-yes, Young-yes).

IV. Review Items

A. Additional Budget Requests (ABR) Process

KDE Associate Commissioner Matt Ross and KDE Division Director Karen Wirth led the conversation. Ross and Wirth explained how the biennial budget is developed and how the board will prioritize additional budget requests for the 2028 legislative session.

Commissioner Robbie Fletcher noted that the prioritization ranking of an additional budget request does not always predict whether the request will be funded. Ross explained that the prioritization of additional budget requests is to inform the governor's budget request and is also used by KDE for direct advocacy with the General Assembly. Steve Trimble asked whether the board could narrow the most-recently approved 27 ABRs to a smaller group, such as ten, to improve the likelihood of funding. Lu Young and Karen Wirth explained that KDE has historically submitted all ABRs, but the strategic process moving forward can group related requests, allow multiple items to share a priority level, and cluster cross-office initiatives

B. Public Release of Assessment and Accountability Data Process

KDE Associate Commissioner Jennifer Stafford, Ed.D., led the conversation. Stafford presented Kentucky's year-long process for validating assessment and accountability data before and after public release of the data, with the 2025-2026 public reporting target set for October 15. Stafford said the accountability system combines millions of data elements from Infinite Campus, KDE's School Data Review and Rostering application, testing systems, graduation records, postsecondary-readiness sources, other vendors and KDE offices. Indicators include reading and mathematics, science, social studies and writing, English-language proficiency, school climate and safety, postsecondary readiness, and graduation rate; the combined data support overall ratings and federal classifications.

After KDE verifies the data with its school-report-card vendor and publishes the results, districts receive a ten-day regulatory review period to request additional individual-student corrections. Stafford said Kentucky's multiple review stages are more extensive than approaches used in some other states. The 2026 timeline includes district release of assessment data in early August, fall data review from August 12–21, quality control day on September 23, district embargo access on October 13–14, public reporting on October 15, and the ten-day regulatory review immediately afterward. Chair Young asked when board members would receive access and what responsibilities they would have. Stafford said board members would receive data around the embargo period, along with a briefing packet and talking points. Lu Young added that the KDE Communications team would help members respond to localized media questions, while participation in media inquiries would remain optional.

V. KBE Member Sharing

Chair Young said the next item on the agenda was board member comments and sharing. It is an opportunity for board members to raise issues not included on the agenda for the purposes of clarification, referral to a committee, or scheduling for future board review and/or action if such is the consensus of the board. Chair Young announced that Kentucky was selected for a second phase of the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) High School Transformation Network, including a $10,000 two-year grant to support the work of Kentucky's team chaired by Juston Pate. Patti Minter, Randy Poe, and Julie Pile reported on local outreach through Kentucky School Boards Association events.

VI. Adjournment

Chair Young 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 roll call vote, 9-0 (Bloodworth-yes, Bricking-yes, McKinney-yes, Minter-yes, Pile-yes, Poe-yes, Robinson-yes, Trimble-yes, Young-yes). The meeting was adjourned at 2:33 P.M. E.T.