

The Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) held day two of its regular meeting on February 6, 2025. The KBE met both virtually and in-person at the Kentucky Department of Education, 300 Sower Boulevard, 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 9:00 A.M. ET.

II. Roll Call

Chair Robinson asked for a roll call of members. The following members were present: Holly Bloodworth, Juston Pate, Julie Pile, Randy Poe, Sharon Robinson, Lee Todd, Steve Trimble, Diane Woods, Lu Young, Lawrence McCrobie, Preston Graham, Mike Borchers, and Secretary Jamie Link. KDE Director of Education Policy GlyptusAnn Grider Jones stated a quorum was present.

III. Good News

- A. Boone County's Jenna Stewart receives \$25,000 Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award** (Julie Pile)
- B. Taylor County bus driver Sam Graham earns 2024-2025 KESSP Award** (Steve Trimble)
- C. Kentucky students selected for 2025 U.S. Senate Youth Program** (Mike Borchers)
- D. Robin Hyden Presented at Exchange24** (Lu Young)
- E. 2024 national computer science report highlights Kentucky's achievements** (Randy Poe)

IV. Board Member Sharing

Chair 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. Chair Robinson began by saying she believes in the importance of Kentucky's School Based Decision Making Councils. Juston Pate stated that it may be of interest to the board to share statewide workforce data, specifically that of employment needs.

V. Report from the President of the Council on Postsecondary Education

President Aaron Thompson was unable to attend, however, a written copy of his report was provided to board members in advance of the meeting.

VI. Report from the Secretary of the Education and Labor Cabinet

Secretary Jamie Link attended in-person to give his report. He began by sharing that the cabinet is working to replace a 40-year-old unemployment insurance system. He also said he's been in many meetings recently to discuss child care issues. Link said that the Statewide Workforce and Talent Team (SWAT) celebrated its 2-year anniversary recently and held a convening in Lexington, where over 300 people from across the Commonwealth attended.

VII. Report from the Commissioner of Education

Commissioner of Education Dr. Robbie Fletcher began by discussing the recent Assessment and Accountability Town Halls hosted by KDE at educational cooperatives. He shared two videos from Kentucky school districts that highlighted district innovation and community engagement in action. He also gave an update on the department's "SEEK Roadshow" focused on discussing the Support Educational Excellence in Kentucky (SEEK) funding program. Finally, Commissioner Fletcher shared updates from the Area Technology Centers (ATCs), the Kentucky School for the Blind, and the Kentucky School for the Deaf.

VIII. Review Items

A. 2026-2028 Biennial Budget Request Presentation

KDE Associate Commissioner Matt Ross and KDE Division Director Karen Wirth provided the presentation. Ross began by describing essential information regarding the budget request process. Wirth discussed a list of projects proposed in KDE's 6-Year Capital Plan.

Next, Associate Commissioner David Couch presented additional budget requests from the KDE Office of Education Technology. Couch said that if additional funding is not received, many services provided by OET to school districts may cease to exist or costs would be shifted to another KDE office or school districts. He mentioned examples of impacted services including Infinite Campus accumulation, school report cards, IT certifications, and eTranscripts.

Chief Academic Officer Micki Ray Marinelli presented additional budget requests related to the KDE Office of Teaching and Learning. Marinelli outlined the office's requests, which included funding related to professional development, textbooks and instructional resources, Read to Succeed, and Numeracy Counts.

Finally, Associate Commissioner Meredith Brewer presented additional budget requests from the KDE Office of Educator Licensure and Effectiveness. Brewer outlined the office's requests, which included funding related to Educators Rising KY, stipends for teachers supporting Educators Rising, GoTeachKY, support for educators new to the profession, Praxis assessment reimbursement and mentoring program, and stipend increases for educators supporting student teachers.

Wirth then outlined next steps for board members related to the budget review process, which will include an overview of baseline budget and defined calculations and further discussions related to offices' additional budget requests at the March KBE regular meeting.

B. Support Education Excellence in Kentucky (SEEK) Funding Formula Update

KDE Associate Commissioner Matt Ross and Division Director Chay Ritter provided the update. Ross said that there will be a SEEK program funding shortfall for the 2024-2025 school year. Ritter explained factors contributing to the shortfall and the importance of accurate data in the budgeting process. Ross and Ritter stated ongoing communication with the Kentucky General Assembly is needed to address funding gaps.

IX. Presentation of the 2024 Kevin C. Brown Strategic Priority Award

Commissioner Robbie Fletcher and KBE Chair Sharon Robinson, Ph.D., facilitated the award presentation. The 2024 award seeks to recognize a public school or district that has demonstrated a strong commitment to enhancing early literacy through the effective adoption and implementation of evidence-based practices, as outlined in Senate Bill 9 (2022), the Read to Succeed Act. The winner of the award was announced to be Rowan County Schools. Commissioner Fletcher offered his congratulations to the recipients and thanked them for their commitment to the students of Kentucky.

X. Review Items (Cont.)

A. Kentucky United We Learn Assessment and Accountability Framework 2.0

KDE Commissioner Robbie Fletcher, Ed.D., KDE Division Director Jennifer Stafford, Ed.D., and KDE Chief Performance Officer Karen Dodd presented the update. The presenters reviewed progress and steps since October 2024, when the Kentucky United We Learn (KUWL) Council

convened to discuss feedback received on Framework 1.0. Staff gathered feedback on the initial framework from the Local Superintendent Advisory Council (LSAC) at its November 2024 meeting and from the Kentucky Board of Education at its December 2024 regular meeting. In January, the department planned multiple town hall meetings to collect input from educators, students, families, legislators and community members on Framework 2.0 and how new assessment and accountability systems could work locally. Alongside the town halls, educational cooperatives hosted discussions about Framework 2.0 with their boards of directors and KDE staff. The presentation covered status, participation, and information gathered from the town halls so far. Presenters responded to board member feedback and questions regarding Framework 2.0.

B. Recognition of National Career and Technical Education Month

KDE Associate Commissioner Beth Hargis, Ed.D., KDE Policy Advisor Lauren Graves, Ph.D., and KDE Agricultural Education Program Consultant Kristan Wright presented the update. Wright said the first ever “All in for Ag” week will occur in March. Ag Education Week delivers an all-encompassing learning experience for students, equips educators with ready-to-use resources and lessons, and fosters community involvement to create dynamic, hands-on learning focused on the diverse world of Kentucky agriculture. Graves stated that career and technical education (CTE) students are having regional competitions in the upcoming months and invited KBE members to attend as judges. She then invited KBE members to attend lunch prepared by students in the Jessamine Career and Technology Center’s culinary program.

XI. Adjournment

Chair Robinson thanked everyone for their time and asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by Holly Bloodworth and seconded by Steve Trimble. The motion passed unanimously with a voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 P.M. E.T.

XII. Career and Technical Education Showcase in Recognition of CTE Month (No Business to be Conducted)