



September 2025 Board Report - Superintendent

General

- We have placed a high priority on climate/culture initiatives with the introduction of victory laps in the school. These laps are meant to celebrate achievements and accomplishments of the students and staff in which they walk around the school while being cheered on and congratulated by the school community. So far we have recognized the boys and girls high school soccer teams for defeating Model.
- High attendance day was 9/9/2025 and both principals planned activities to encourage attendance each and every day. In addition, we were visited by Carla Kersey from the KEDC to film an episode of On the Road with Carla.
- I spent the day with several different components of the district to better understand their roles and responsibilities and how we can support them. So far, I have worked with food service, maintenance, transportation, and facilities. I plan to work with all departments over the course of the year.
- I am reviewing applications to the Superintendent's Advisory Council and plan to have the first meeting in October.
- Scott Hawkins with KASA conducted a site visit at Berea on 9/3/2025 and spent the day with me reviewing progress as well as goals and objectives for the year.
- I visited all JAG classes to speak about the role of the superintendent as well as my personal journey into this position. They asked great questions during a Q&A at the end of the class and demonstrated their GNAF method for introductions.
- I have worked with the ACCESS team to conduct planning meetings for our upcoming PD day in October that will have an emphasis on Compassion Resilience.
- I attended the Chamber of Commerce meeting on August 28th and took part in planning the upcoming Spoonbread Festival.
- I met with RSA advisors to receive an update on our bonding potential and debt servicing so that we can have a more cohesive look at the financial forecast of the district.
- We had an administrative meeting in which we discussed:
 - Department Reports - Updates & Immediate Priorities/Needs
 - Systems/Updates
 - Custodians/Maintenance
 - Emergency Management Plan
 - SRO/Safe Schools/Data Entry
 - Infinite Campus
 - Professional Development/Leave of Absence
 - Confidentiality
 - Other

Staff Recognition:

- Aaron Stepp for transitioning custodians over to his supervision successfully.
- Mrs. Marilyn Benton is starting her 4th year with FRYSC. She is absolutely incredible. Her patience and calm mannerisms are welcoming and help to make every student feel comfortable. She jumps in wherever she can help and is needed throughout the school building.

Student Recognition:

- Wyatt Phillips- He is a senior that has been filling in and working after school to clean. He also worked this summer and has been a very reliable student worker.
- We are so excited to have service learning students back in FRYSC this year! Cerra Miller is with us 2nd period and Samone Burgess is with us 4th period. They have both been such a wonderful help. They exude school spirit and jump in to help with all the daily tasks that we have. Cerra has organized the first senior trip fundraiser of students painting their parking spots. This is a new tradition that students have asked to bring to Berea for a few years. Cerra is excited to bring this new tradition to our school and help raise money for her class trip. Samone is running for Senior Vice President and is a leader that rallies school spirit and senior participation.

Volunteer Recognition:

- We have so many amazing volunteers! I want to shout out our Green Dot guys! They are always willing to lend a hand with whatever need arises like feeding our middle schoolers at their testing pep-rally, feeding staff a wonderful Chick-fil-A meal for back to school night and jumping in to help any student that needs something extra. Brian Hill has partnered with Berea's FRYSC for 11 years and Keith Stewart jumped right in four years ago. They are rockstars!
- I also need to give a huge shoutout to Heather Schill. She is my advisory council chair that always has a solution for any problem that we have. She is responsible for the connection that we have with Berea College during our holiday season. Last year we were able to sponsor an extra 60 students due to a partnership she created. She has also been instrumental in getting out staff lunch on our Goosechase PD day, feeding the advisory council, helping us reserve space at the college and much more.

Federal Grants

- Consolidated Federal Grants (Title I, II, IV, V)
 - All Federal Grants that make up the Consolidated grant application (Title I, II, IV, V) were submitted for
 - KDE review on August 31, 2025. Currently awaiting approval from KDE.
- Perkins Federal Grant (Career and Technical Education)
 - Grant application for 2026 has been approved.
- Gear Up Opportunity
 - Year seven of the GUOP grant concludes September 30, 2025. There is no continuation.
- Continuous Improvement Plans
 - School and District 2026 Improvement Plans
 - The development of the school-level Continuous Improvement Plans (CSIP) and the District Continuous Improvement Plan (CDIP) is currently underway. These plans will be completed in four phases, with scheduled completion dates of October 1, November 1,

December 1, and January 1, continuing through December 31, 2026. The phases address critical areas including School Safety, Needs Assessment, Comprehensive Improvement Planning, Professional Development, and Progress Monitoring. Anticipate submission of the CDIP to the Board of Education for approval February 2026.

Testing

- Kentucky Summative Assessment (KSA)
 - KSA Tentative Data Release Dates:
 - QC Day for KSA is scheduled tentatively for 10/23/25
 - District/Media Release - mid/late November (tentative) EMBARGOED
 - Public Release - mid/late November (tentative)
 - Ten Day Regulatory - mid/late November (tentative)

Maintenance: Custodian supervision was turned back over to the assistant school principal starting this school year. This model was used before outside contractors were used from 2020-2024. The move to all in-house custodians will cut costs. The maintenance department has moved to a support role and substitute role when custodians call in sick. Currently there aren't any substitute custodians. We do have student workers that are filling roles through the day.

Transportation:

One of our buses had a major breakdown this summer and is in need of repair. Bus 37 has major issues with the rear end and it is going to need major work.

- Current bus inventory- 15 Year Life Expectancy according to KDE
- A bus was board approved in fall 2024 but never purchased due to financial issues. 12-14 month turnaround on new buses once ordered.
- Current bus inventory:
 - Bus 33 - 2011 Backup wheelchair lift bus
 - Bus 35- 2013 Back bus currently running fulltime route for 37
 - Bus 36- 2016 Route Bus
 - Bus 37- 2017 Route Bus (Currently not running estimated \$20,000+ repairs)
 - Bus 38- 2020 Route Bus
 - Bus 40-2004 Backup bus
 - Bus 41- 2022 Route Bus
 - Bus 42- 2024 Route Bus
 - Bus 43- 2025 Route Bus wheel chair lift

FRYSC:

FRYSC has had a great start to the school year! We hosted a back to school night where we brought back all PreK-12th grade families in one night. We also brought our community back into the building, added food trucks and inflatables. We gave out over 100 backpacks full of school supplies to students and families that came through to our table.

We were able to provide food for our staff on PD days (three lunches and four breakfast). Our community partners stepped up and all food was free to the district.

We partnered with the High School Cheerleading team and brought back the Hawaiian Luau dance. This is part of an effort to bring back a lot of the traditions that Berea had when I went to school here.

FRYSC has had many meetings with community partners to set up the school year and bring in all of the amazing programs that help our school offer a variety of experiences for our student body. This has included meetings with UNITE, Green Dot/Sources of Strength, Berea College CELTS, Be a Children's Champion, Berea College HR that helps to provide our students with food and Christmas gifts during the holiday season, Okonite and First Christian Church.

FRYSC hosted a grandparents dance on September 5th. We had a disco party theme where grandparents could dance with their grandchildren, eat snacks that were provided and have a photo opportunity with fun props.

We have planned four field trips scheduled for the month of September. Two of those field trips are Green Dot where freshman students learn about a variety of topics including anti-bullying, anti-substance use, internet safety, sextortion (now a state law). We also have one field trip for middle school students on the sources of strength leadership team where they will learn how to be good leaders, how to help friends that are struggling with their mental health and suicide prevention resources. The last field trip is for 6th graders, they will be attending a UNITE rally at ECU to learn about anti-vape and healthy choices.

FRYSC had our first advisory council meeting for the year back in August. This is a group that consists of parents, community members, staff and students. We meet five times a year to discuss what the FRYSC office has scheduled, establish partnerships within the community, meet the needs of our students, review budget and grant requirements and much more. I have a fantastic council that is very active and has many tremendous members. The rest of our meetings for this year are scheduled for October 2nd, December 4th, February 5th, and April 2nd from 4-5pm in the FRYSC office. Anyone is welcome to join us!

FRYSC has been asked by the students to sponsor Prom and Senior trip. We have been working to kick off fundraising for both of those events. We are working to look at options for a Prom venue and to try and bring back the overnight senior trip instead of the day trip. I am very excited to work with both the senior and junior classes. They are full of wonderful and enthusiastic students.