

NASBE

National Association of
State Boards of Education

Kentucky State Board of Education Self-Assessment Survey Results

Prepared by the National Association of State Boards of Education
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Purpose

As with any organization, a state board of education can often benefit from a look in the mirror, and an honest assessment of how effectively and productively the board is performing. A well-designed self-assessment allows a board to identify strengths as well as improvement opportunities that can inform its future practices and actions. Such reflection ensures that the board of education maintains fidelity to the common mission of providing educational excellence with equity for all students.

Process

The self-assessment evaluation for the Kentucky State Board of Education is based on feedback from individual board members regarding their perceptions of overall board effectiveness. Individual board members ranked a series of reflection statements by stating whether they strongly disagree, somewhat disagree, somewhat agree, or strongly agree. After five introductory questions, the statements align to four categories:

- **Mission, Priorities, and Goals (10 questions):** The board has defined its mission and developed priorities and goals. These questions gauge the extent to which the board's work reflects those defining ideas.
- **Agendas and Meetings (13 questions):** This category reflects the mechanics of how the board operates, so that it can work efficiently and with focus.
- **Collegiality and Collective Voice (6 questions):** Boards work best when members engage collaboratively and feel comfortable expressing their perspectives.
- **Stakeholder Engagement and Public Interaction (10 questions):** How the board collects and seeks feedback from the community and other agencies and uses this to inform board work matters greatly. These questions probe board members' perceptions on the type, degree and amount of public engagement.

An additional open-ended question was included at the end of the survey asking for any other comments or feedback.

Report Contents

The best approach to processing the information in this report is through review and discussion by board members. To help inform those discussions there are three parts to this report. First is this introduction which includes a short set of "**Observations**" at the end. The observations are meant to be a very high-level factual synthesis of the responses. Next, the "**Snapshot**" is a one-page compilation of all the questions and the percentage of responses by category for each. This allows for a quick scan of all responses in a relatively concise format. (For reference, Appendix A includes the exact wording for all questions.) Following the

“Snapshot” are the **open-ended questions** (questions 11, 24, 30, 40, 41, 42, and 43) of the survey with responses presented verbatim. For these open-ended questions, highlighting is used to indicate the primary idea(s) in each response to facilitate the identification of patterns.

Respondents

Eleven Kentucky State Board of Education members completed the Self-Assessment Survey between October 10 and 24, 2025.

Observations

The following are some neutral, aggregate response-based observations:

- All board members responded “somewhat agree” or “strongly agree” to 18 statements; board members showed the strongest overall agreement for items in the Mission, Priority, and Goals and the Collegiality and Collective Voice categories.
- Of those statements with general agreement, 16 had greater than 50% responding “strongly agree.” Four or more board members responded “strongly agree” to all statements in the survey.
- Only one board member responded “strongly disagree” on a single statement: “The frequency of board meetings is adequate.”
- One or more of respondents marked “inadequate information” on 10 statements; six of these responses occurred in the Stakeholder Engagement and Public Interaction category.
- Ten questions had one or more of respondents marking “somewhat disagree” or “strongly disagree.” The strongest disagreement was for items in the Agendas, Meetings, and Support category.

Snapshot Table

Question	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	AGREE	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	DISAGREE	Insufficient Knowledge
Mission, Priorities and Goals							
Understanding of Board vision	81.8%	18.2%	100.0%				
Understanding of United We Learn and the Big Ideas	63.6%	36.4%	100.0%				
Goals are appropriate to needs of KY students	81.8%	18.2%	100.0%				
Board goals focus on evidence-based decision making	45.5%	54.6%	100.0%				
Board goals are based on disaggregated data	63.6%	18.2%	81.8%	9.1%		9.1%	9.1%
Board focuses on equity in all decision making	72.7%	27.3%	100.0%				
Board seeks and uses high-quality data to inform decisions	45.5%	54.5%	100.0%				
Board communicates well with state commissioner	90.9%	9.1%	100.0%				
State stakeholders understand and support Board's mission/goals	54.6%	27.3%	81.8%				18.2%
Agendas, Meetings and Support							
Meeting agendas reflect our role as the citizen's voice in education	63.6%	27.3%	90.9%	9.1%		9.1%	
Meeting agendas reflect our Board's mission and goals and align to United We Learn and the Big Ideas	90.9%		90.9%				9.1%
Meeting agendas build on past work to move the needle	63.6%	36.4%	100.0%				
Meeting agendas prioritize student achievement and well-being	81.8%	18.2%	100.0%				
I understand the process to submit and recommend items	63.6%	27.3%	90.9%	9.1%		9.1%	
Board spends adequate time on the right issues during meetings	54.6%	36.4%	90.9%	9.1%		9.1%	
Time of meeting accommodates my schedule	63.6%	18.2%	81.8%	18.2%		18.2%	
Frequency of board meetings is adequate	54.6%	27.3%	81.8%	9.1%	9.1%	18.2%	
I have enough time to review agendas	90.9%	9.1%	100.0%				
I have sufficient resources and materials to review before meetings	90.9%	9.1%	100.0%				
I receive the support needed to make informed decisions	72.7%	27.3%	100.0%				
The Board is served well by the SEA	90.9%	9.1%	100.0%				
Collegiality and Collective Voice							
Board engages in healthy, effective collaboration	72.7%	27.3%	100.0%				
When disagreement, Board can reach consensus effectively	81.8%	9.1%	90.9%				9.1%
Board operates in nonpartisan way	90.9%	9.1%	100.0%				
Board can make decisions effectively	90.9%	9.1%	100.0%				
I can easily engage in conversations and discussions	72.7%	18.2%	90.9%	9.1%		9.1%	
Stakeholder Engagement and Public Interaction							
Board provides the public with enough resources	54.6%	27.3%	81.8%				18.2%
Board convenes the right groups to inform decisions	72.7%	27.3%	100.0%				
Boards works well with other state agencies	72.7%	9.1%	81.8%				18.2%
Board has strategy for communicating with different stakeholders	45.5%	18.2%	63.6%	9.1%		9.1%	27.3%
Board receives valuable comments from public	36.4%	54.6%	90.9%	9.1%		9.1%	
Meetings are effective and accessible to the public	63.6%	27.3%	90.9%				9.1%
Public engagement is easy and accessible	63.6%	18.2%	81.8%	9.1%		9.1%	9.1%
Meetings provide ample time for public engagement	63.6%	36.4%	100.0%				
Board involves necessary stakeholders in policy process	72.7%	18.2%	90.9%				9.1%

Appendix A - Survey Questions

The following are the questions that were used for the self-assessment by the Kentucky State Board of Education.

Respondents were given five choices for response (Strongly Disagree, Somewhat Disagree, Somewhat Agree, Strongly Agree, and Insufficient Knowledge). A few questions were open-ended, as indicated.

Mission, Priorities, and Goals

1. I have a solid understanding of *our board's* mission and priorities.
2. I have a solid understanding of United We Learn and the Big Ideas.
3. Our board sets goals that are appropriate to the needs of Kentucky's students and schools.
4. Our board sets goals that focus on evidence-based decision making.
5. Our board sets goals that are based on disaggregated school, district, and state data where appropriate.
6. Our board focuses on equity in all decision making.
7. Our board seeks and uses high-quality data to inform all decisions.
8. Our board communicates well with the state commissioner of education on mission and goals.
9. State stakeholders understand and are supportive of our board's mission and goals.
10. Reflecting on your answers above, what are your recommendations for improving the state board's focus on mission, vision, and goals? (OPEN ENDED)

Agendas & Meetings

11. The meeting agendas reflect our role as a public voice in education in accordance with our authority.
12. The meeting agendas reflect our board's mission and goals and are aligned to United We Learn and the Big Ideas.
13. The meeting agendas build on past work to move the needle forward on education topics.
14. The meeting agendas prioritize student achievement and well-being as appropriate to the established goals.
15. I understand the process to submit and recommend items for our agenda as appropriate.
16. Our board spends an adequate amount of time on relevant issues within our scope of authority and influence during each meeting to effectively accomplish goals and agenda actions.
17. The time during which the meetings take place is just right and accommodates my schedule.
18. The frequency of our board meetings is adequate for board effectiveness.
19. I have enough time to review our board agenda before each meeting.
20. I have sufficient resources and materials to review before each meeting.
21. I receive the support needed to make informed policy decisions.

- 22. The board is served well by the staff of the Department of Education.
- 23. Reflecting on your answers above, what are your recommendations for improving the state board agenda, meetings and support for consideration within the next 1-2 years? (OPEN ENDED)

Collegiality and Collective Voice

- 24. Our board engages in healthy, effective collaboration.
- 25. When there is a disagreement, our board can reach consensus effectively.
- 26. Our board operates in a nonpartisan way to accomplish goals.
- 27. During each meeting, our board can make decisions effectively.
- 28. I can easily engage in conversations and discussions during each meeting.
- 29. Reflecting on your answers above, what are your recommendations for improving collegiality and collective voice over the next 1-2 years?

Stakeholder Engagement and Public Interaction

- 30. Our board provides the public with enough resources to fully understand and engage in each meeting as appropriate.
- 31. Our board convenes the right groups to inform our decisions.
- 32. Our board works well with other state agencies to make decisions.
- 33. Our board has a strategy for communicating with different stakeholders.
- 34. We receive valuable comments from the public to make decisions.
- 35. Our meetings are effective and accessible to the public.
- 36. Our meetings make public engagement easy and accessible.
- 37. Each meeting provides ample time for public engagement.
- 38. Our board appropriately involves necessary stakeholders in the policy process.
- 39. Reflecting on your answers above, what are your recommendations for improving stakeholder engagement for consideration within the next 1-2 years? (OPEN ENDED)

Overall Positives, Missed Opportunities, and Final Comments

- 40. What progress do you feel most pleased with over the past year? (OPEN ENDED)
- 41. What were the board's missed opportunities over the past year? (OPEN ENDED)
- 42. Other comments or feedback. (OPEN ENDED)