

# KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (KDE)

## STAFF NOTE: REVIEW ITEM

**Topic:** 2024-2025 Student Group Performance  
**Date:** February 2026  
**Action Requested:** ☒Review ☐Action/Consent ☐Action/Discussion  
**Held In:** ☒Full Board ☐State Schools ☐United We Learn

### SUMMARY OF PRESENTATION:

The KDE Office of Assessment and Accountability (OAA) presented an assessment and accountability data overview to the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) in December 2025. As a continuation of that discussion, Board members requested additional detail on student group performance, including a closer look at achievement gaps, the factors contributing to those gaps, and the support in place to help improve performance.

To raise awareness of persistent achievement gaps, KDE Associate Commissioner Jennifer Stafford will present a summary analysis of disaggregated data by student demographic groups. Board members will receive detailed data results that includes 2024-2025 Kindergarten Readiness, 2024 National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) in Reading and Mathematics, 2024-2025 Kentucky Summative Assessments in all content areas and the 2025 state administration of the ACT for grade 11 students. The KBE will be provided with potential action items to consider.

Chief Performance Officer Karen Dodd and Strategic Data Analyst Leslie McKinney will present national research regarding achievement gaps as well as share state-level data showing the effects of poverty on student outcomes. Further research opportunities will be shared and can be discussed.

Micki Ray Marinelli, Chief Academic Officer, will present on the KDE's efforts to support student growth. The presentation will detail initiatives across the agency to support the implementation of high-quality instructional resources (HQIRs), including the role of principal leadership and high-quality professional learning (Kentucky Reading Academies, coaching model and professional learning communities) in maximizing the benefit of access to grade-level learning to accelerate progress toward proficiency. The KBE will also hear opportunities for advocacy in advancing these efforts.

### CONTACT PERSON(S):

Jennifer Stafford, Associate Commissioner  
Office of Assessment and Accountability  
Email: [jennifer.stafford@education.ky.gov](mailto:jennifer.stafford@education.ky.gov)  
(502) 564-2256, ext. 4714

  
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Commissioner of Education

**GOALS/PRIORITIES:** Indicate all applicable options.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Foster Educational Innovation Through Vibrant Learning Experiences
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Advance Educational Excellence Through Continuous Professional Improvement
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cultivate Collaborative Partnerships
<input type="checkbox"/>	Legislation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Commissioner's Management