

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (KDE)
STAFF NOTE: REVIEW ITEM

Topic: 2026 Kentucky Teacher of the Year

Date: February

Action Requested: ☒ Review ☐ Action/Consent ☐ Action/Discussion

Held In: ☐ Full Board ☐ State Schools ☐ United We Learn

SUMMARY OF PRESENTATION:

KDE Program Consultant Allie Green will introduce the 2026 Kentucky Teacher of the Year (KTOY), Michelle Gross, and provide an overview of Gross' spring sabbatical at KDE.

Michelle Gross will discuss her priorities for her time as the Kentucky Teacher of the Year. She plans to focus on helping teachers build community in their classrooms. After her short presentation, 2026 KTOY Michelle Gross will welcome any questions from members of the board.

CONTACT PERSON(S):

Allie Green, Program Consultant, Division of Educator Recruitment and Development
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Commissioner of Education

GOALS/PRIORITIES: Indicate all applicable options.

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