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

Topic: We Lead Computer Science Update
Date: February 2026
Action Requested: ☒Review ☐Action/Consent ☐Action/Discussion
Held In: ☐Full Board ☐State Schools ☒United We Learn

SUMMARY OF PRESENTATION:

To provide the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) with an update reviewing the impact of the We Lead Computer Science (CS) initiative for 2024-2025.

We Lead CS provides a virtual work-based learning program designed to create a pipeline of students interested in career exploration, skill development and meaningful professional connections in computer science and tech fields. We Lead CS aims to increase Kentucky's competitiveness in the tech economy and expand Kentucky's capacity to educate and prepare high school students for the tech workforce.
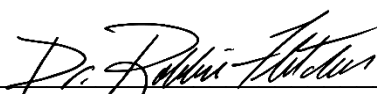
The presentation provides a summary of the efforts accomplished during 2024-2025 academic year including, increased access to computer science coursework throughout the state, dual credit and work-based learning opportunities and business/industry partnerships. The presentation will conclude with an overview of next steps, future projected student engagement and associated funding needs.

The 2024-2026 state budget allocated $1.5 million in each fiscal year to support We Lead CS efforts.

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Commissioner of Education

GOALS/PRIORITIES: Indicate all applicable options.

- ☒ **Foster Educational Innovation Through Vibrant Learning Experiences**
- ☐ **Advance Educational Excellence Through Continuous Professional Improvement**
- ☒ **Cultivate Collaborative Partnerships**
- ☐ **Legislation**
- ☐ **Commissioner's Management**