

The Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) held its regular meeting on January 7, 2026. The KBE met virtually via Microsoft Teams. Members of the public were encouraged to view the meeting on the Kentucky Department of Education's (KDE) Media Portal. The board conducted the following business:

I. Call to Order

Chair Sharon Robinson welcomed all board members and guests to the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 3:04 P.M. ET. Chair Robinson said that this meeting was focused on the board's learning related to authority over budget and contracts, as well as school district funding and financial reporting to the KBE, and is the first in a series of virtual meetings for 2026.

II. Roll Call

Chair Robinson asked for a roll call of members. The following members were present: Holly Bloodworth, Harold McKinney, Julie Pile, Randy Poe, Sharon Robinson, Lee Todd, Steve Trimble, Lu Young, Harper Blake, Alfonso De Torres Núñez, and Secretary Jamie Link. Juston Pate and President Aaron Thompson were absent.

III. Board Learning Agenda

A. Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) Authority Over Budgets and Contracts

KDE Deputy Commissioner and General Counsel Todd G. Allen presented the information. Allen's presentation included information on the various sources of school funding in the executive branch budget, including the Support Education Excellence in Kentucky (SEEK) funding program, the Operations and Support Services (BOSS) budget and the Learning and Results Services (LARS) budget. He also discussed how the budgets are crafted under KRS 156.010 and KRS 156.024, where the commissioner of education and KDE provide the state board with budget requests that board members review and approve before sending to the governor for consideration in the executive branch budget submitted to legislators. Once the legislature approves a budget with appropriations to KDE, the Office of State Budget Director provides a more detailed budget by fund source, class and working unit for KDE to follow.

Todd also stated that since the Kentucky Education Reform Act of 1990, the KBE established a policy delegating contracting authority to the commissioner of education and KDE, following various processes, regulations and laws such as the Kentucky Model Procurement Act and

review by the legislature's Government Contract Review Committee. Some of the discussions among board members centered on the board's role in approving and evaluating contracts, of which KDE enters into approximately 400-500 per year.

B. School District Funding and Financial Reporting to the KBE

KDE Associate Commissioner Matt Ross, KDE Division Director Chay Ritter, and KDE Policy Advisor Lindsey Swartz presented the information. The team provided details to the board about school district funding and financial reporting to the KBE. Their presentation included information on how KDE administers money to districts from state and federal sources and how local revenue sources impact district budgets. The presentation also included information on the role KDE and KBE play with budget approvals and helping districts with tax calculations and navigating the SEEK funding program, often in conjunction with other state agencies.

IV. Board Comments and Sharing

Chair Robinson said the next item on the agenda was board member comments and sharing. It is an opportunity for board members to raise issues not included on the agenda for the purposes of clarification, referral to a committee, or scheduling for future board review and/or action if such is the consensus of the board. Vice Chair Young commented that the upcoming virtual meetings in March and May will be "highly interactive, very discussion-oriented and steeped in inquiry based on the kinds of questions that (board members) have already posed."

V. Adjournment

Chair Robinson thanked everyone for their time and asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by Steve Trimble and seconded by Holly Bloodworth. The motion passed with a voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 5:18 P.M. E.T.