

**The Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) held its regular meeting on March 4, 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 9:01 A.M. ET. Chair Robinson said that this meeting was focused on the board’s learning related to science assessment, standards and student performance.

**II. Roll Call**

Chair Robinson asked for a roll call of members. The following members were present: Holly Bloodworth, Harold McKinney, Juston Pate, Julie Pile, Randy Poe, Sharon Robinson, Lee Todd, Steve Trimble, Lu Young, and Alfonso De Torres Núñez. Harper Blake, Secretary Jamie Link, and President Aaron Thompson were absent. KDE Director of Education Policy GlyptusAnn Grider Jones, Ph.D., stated that a quorum was present.

**III. Board Learning Agenda**

**A. Standards and Assessment: A Focus On Science**

Commissioner of Education Dr. Robbie Fletcher introduced the meeting focus and presenters. He stated, “With direction and input from board leadership, today’s conversation and board learning is designed for KBE members to discuss their priorities and ask questions.” KDE Associate Commissioner Jennifer Stafford, Ed.D., and KDE Chief Academic Officer Micki Marinelli presented on the KDE’s efforts to support science instruction in Kentucky schools and districts. Marinelli presented an overview of the *Kentucky Academic Standards (KAS) for Science* and the standards review process. Stafford presented an overview of federal and state assessment requirements and how Kentucky meets those requirements.

The presentation included a focus on the alignment of the Kentucky Summative Assessment (KSA) and the Alternate Kentucky Assessment (AKSA) to the KAS, and an overview of current assessment design and test item types. Board members engaged in an in-depth discussion about the design of the KSA in science, the phenomenon cluster-based test item approach, educator involvement in the development of the assessment and student performance over the last several years.

## **B. District Perspective: K-12 Science Experience**

Representatives from Graves County Schools, including Amanda Henson, Allyssa Binkley, Dana Dowdy, Keri Cornwell, Anna Rhea, and Lindsey Hargitt, joined to discuss their district's strategic approach to implementing high-quality, phenomenon-based science instruction across K-12. They described their adoption of Open SciEd, professional development efforts, and the observed impact on student engagement and achievement. Board members reflected on the district's presentation, with some members emphasizing the need for continued investment in professional development, collaboration, and advocacy for resources to support effective science instruction and assessment alignment.

## **IV. Board Comments and Member 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. Chair Robinson began by saying that she believes it's important to cultivate the relationship between practice and educator preparation. Lee Todd emphasized the importance of keeping the legislature informed regarding professional learning supports needed as data presented in the meeting indicated students perform better in classrooms with teachers who utilize professional learning and about test scores. Randy Poe discussed the potential of continuing the conversation surrounding science in committee time.

## **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 roll call vote, 8-0 (Bloodworth-yes, McKinney- yes, Pate- absent, Pile- yes, Poe- yes, Robinson- yes, Todd- yes, Trimble- yes, Young- yes). The meeting was adjourned at 11:07 A.M. E.T.