

The Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) held day one of its regular meeting on April 8, 2026. The majority of KBE members met in-person at the Kentucky Department of Education, 300 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, KY. Members of the public were permitted to attend the meeting in person although 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 1:01 P.M. ET.

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 Porter 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. KDE Director of Education Policy GlyptusAnn Grider Jones, Ph.D., stated that a quorum was present.

III. Public Comment Session

Chair Robinson stated that the public comment segment is limited to 10 speakers at a maximum of 3 minutes each. No one submitted items via the KBE email inbox and no one attended in-person to comment.

IV. Internal Board Business (Action/Discussion)

A. Summary Minutes for the February 4, 2026 KBE Regular Meeting Day 1; February 4, 2026 KBE United We Learn Committee Meeting; February 4, 2026 KBE State Schools Committee Meeting; February 5, 2026 KBE Regular Meeting Day 2; March 4, 2026 KBE Virtual Regular Meeting; and April 1, 2026 KBE Awards Committee Meeting

The minutes of the February 4, 2026 KBE Regular Meeting Day 1; February 4, 2026 KBE United We Learn Committee Meeting; February 4, 2026 KBE State Schools Committee Meeting; February 5, 2026 KBE Regular Meeting Day 2; March 4, 2026 KBE Virtual Regular Meeting; and April 1, 2026 KBE Awards Committee Meeting were distributed to members in advance. Chair Robinson asked for any corrections to any of the minutes. There were no corrections. Chair Robinson asked for a motion to approve all of the meeting minutes. The motion was made by Holly Bloodworth and seconded by Steve Trimble. The motion passed with a voice vote.

B. Recipient of the 2026 David Karem Award for Excellence in Education Policy

On behalf of the KBE Awards Committee, Chair Julie Pile presented the information related to the award description. Chair Pile shared that the committee met on Wednesday, April 1 and determined that candidate 6 best met the criteria of the award. Chair Pile moved to approve candidate 6 as the recipient and asked the chair for the board's approval to recognize the recipient at the board's June regular meeting. The motion did not require a second as it came from the committee. The motion passed with a voice vote.

C. Charge for the KBE State Schools Committee

Chair Robinson said, "In 2023, the Kentucky Board of Education approved the charge for the State Schools Standing Committee to review and advise the full board on all policy matters related to the governance and operations of the Kentucky School for the Blind, Kentucky School for the Deaf, and the Area Technology Centers operated by the KDE." Chair Robinson then brought forward for consideration a proposal to expand the committee's charge to also include gathering insights from high-performing, low-income districts. Chair Robinson asked for a motion to approve the expanded charge for the KBE State Schools Standing Committee to include gathering insights from high-performing, low-income districts. The motion was made by Lu Young and seconded by Julie Pile. The motion passed with a voice vote.

D. KBE Member Out-of-State Travel Request for Approval

Chair Robinson said Dr. Lu Young has been invited to present at the Education Commission of the States conference and the parallel National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) New Member Institute to be held in Washington, D.C. in July. Chair Robinson asked the board to approve Lu Young's travel request to attend the ECS and NASBE New Member Institute. The motion was made by Holly Bloodworth and seconded by Randy Poe. The motion passed with a voice vote.

E. KBE Goals: Progress Report and Discussion

Chair Robinson said that in 2025, the Kentucky Board of Education approved its 2025-2026 goals which included the development of measurability and reporting for each board goal, thereby reinforcing the KBE's accountability to its mission and established legislative priorities.

Chair Robinson then asked board members to review two working materials prepared by KDE staff. Chair Robinson invited KDE Chief Performance Officer Karen Dodd to guide board members through the tracking materials. Dodd described the new Google Form for board members to report activities related to board goals and to allow for easier data entry and reporting, with options to select goals, key performance indicators, and list participating members. Board members were encouraged by Dodd to submit evidence of their activities to ensure accountability to established goals, with Dodd offering to assist with data entry as needed.

VI. Consent Agenda

Note: Chair Robinson said that “KDE staff identified items in the consent agenda as those that are non-controversial and routine in nature.” She said that the consent agenda items were distributed to members in advance of the meeting for review and asked if any member wished to move an item from the consent agenda. Chair Robinson said, however, if an item is moved, the chair may decide to take up the matter immediately or move it to a discussion item later in the agenda. Alfonso De Torres Núñez requested that item O be moved for discussion later in the agenda. Chair Robinson asked the board to entertain a motion to approve all items in the consent agenda aside from O and move item O to the action/discussion agenda. The motion was made by Harold McKinney and seconded by Julie Pile. The motion passed with a voice vote.

- A. Hearing Officer’s Report-** KDE Deputy Commissioner and General Counsel Todd G. Allen
- B. Litigation Report-** KDE Deputy Commissioner and General Counsel Todd G. Allen
- C. Recommend Approval of the Recipient of the 2026 Robinson Award for Diversity and Equity in Public Education**
- D. Recommended Approval of the Perkins V. State Plan-** KDE Associate Commissioner Beth Hargis, Ed.D., and KDE Education Administration Program Manager Lori Looney
- E. Revision of the 2025-2026 Unmet Need Report, KRS 157.620(4)-** KDE Associate Commissioner Matt Ross and KDE Division Director Chay Ritter
- F. Recommended Approval of Waiver Request 2026-WV-061, Mercer County Schools-** KDE Associate Commissioner Matt Ross and KDE Policy Advisor Lindsey Swartz

- G. Recommended Approval of Waiver Request 2026-WV-062, Franklin County Schools-** KDE Associate Commissioner Matt Ross and KDE Policy Advisor Lindsey Swartz
- H. Recommended Approval of Waiver Requests 2026-WV-063, 2026-WV-064, 2026-WV-065, 2026-WV-066, 2026-WV-067, 2026-WV-068, 2026-WV-069, 2026-WV-070, 2026-WV-071, 2026-WV-072, 2026-WV-073, Jefferson County Schools-** KDE Associate Commissioner Gretta Hylton, Ed.D., KDE Division Director Carol Ann Morrison, and KDE Policy Advisor Melody Cooper
- I. Certification of 705 KAR 2:140, Equalization of funding for locally-operated area vocational centers-** KDE Associate Commissioner Beth Hargis, Ed.D., and KDE Policy Advisor Lauren Graves, Ph.D.
- J. Certification of 780 KAR 2:140, Tuition and fees-** KDE Associate Commissioner Beth Hargis, Ed.D., and KDE Policy Advisor Lauren Graves, Ph.D.
- K. Certification of 780 KAR 3:050, Employment lists-** KDE Associate Commissioner Beth Hargis, Ed.D., and KDE Policy Advisor Lauren Graves, Ph.D.
- L. Certification of 780 KAR 3:140, Certification and professional development requirements-** KDE Associate Commissioner Beth Hargis, Ed.D., and KDE Policy Advisor Lauren Graves, Ph.D.
- M. Certification of 780 KAR 7:010, Definitions for 780 KAR Chapter 7-** KDE Associate Commissioner Beth Hargis, Ed.D., and KDE Policy Advisor Lauren Graves, Ph.D.
- N. Certification of 707 KAR 1:310, Determination of eligibility-** KDE Associate Commissioner Gretta Hylton, Ed.D., and KDE Policy Advisor Melody Cooper
- ~~**O. Certification of 704 KAR 7:160, Use of physical restraint and seclusion in public schools-** KDE Associate Commissioner Gretta Hylton, Ed.D., and KDE Policy Advisor Melody Cooper~~
- P. Certification of 702 KAR 3:100, Data report, professional staff-** KDE Associate Commissioner Matt Ross and KDE Policy Advisor Lindsey Swartz
- Q. Certification of 702 KAR 3:110, Document filing dates-** KDE Associate Commissioner Matt Ross and KDE Policy Advisor Lindsey Swartz
- R. Certification of 702 KAR 3:120, Uniform school financial accounting system-** KDE Associate Commissioner Matt Ross and KDE Policy Advisor Lindsey Swartz
- S. Certification of 702 KAR 5:030, Pupil transportation-** KDE Associate Commissioner Matt Ross and KDE Policy Advisor Lindsey Swartz
- T. Certification of 702 KAR 5:110, Vocational pupils, reimbursement for-** KDE Associate Commissioner Matt Ross and KDE Policy Advisor Lindsey Swartz

VI. Action/Discussion Items

A. Amendment to 702 KAR 6:110, Claim reimbursement for school and community nutrition programs

KDE Associate Commissioner Matt Ross, KDE Division Director Lauren Moore, and KDE Policy Advisor Lindsey Swartz presented the proposed amendments. Following a discussion with the full board, Chair Robinson called for a motion to approve the amendments to 702 KAR 6:110, Claim reimbursement for school community nutrition programs. The motion was made by Randy Poe and seconded by Steve Trimble. 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).

B. Amendment to 702 KAR 3:220, Guidelines for waiver of school fees

KDE Associate Commissioner Matt Ross and KDE Policy Advisor Lindsey Swartz presented the proposed amendments. Following a discussion with the full board, Chair Robinson called for a motion to approve the amendments to 702 KAR 3:220, Guidelines for waiver of school fees. The motion was made by Lee Todd and seconded by Harold McKinney. The motion passed with a voice vote.

C. Kentucky Minimum Specifications for School Buses

KDE Associate Commissioner Matt Ross, KDE Division Director Chay Ritter, and KDE Branch Manager Roger Banks presented the proposed minimum specifications. Following a discussion with the full board, Chair Robinson called for a motion to approve the 2027 Kentucky Minimum Specifications for School Buses. The motion was made by Steve Trimble and seconded by Holly Bloodworth. The motion passed with a voice vote.

D. Certification of 704 KAR 7:160, Use of physical restraint and seclusion in public schools

Chair Robinson invited staff from the KDE Office of Special Education and Early Learning to address questions from Alfonso De Torres Núñez regarding this item. Following a discussion, Chair Robinson called for a motion to table the item until the June Regular KBE meeting for further review and the opportunity to receive feedback from the public. The motion was made by Harold McKinney and seconded by Randy Poe. The motion passed with a voice vote.

VII. Review Items

A. KDE School Improvement Efforts

KDE Associate Commissioner Kelly Foster, Ed.D., and KDE Policy Advisor Matthew Courtney, Ed.D., reviewed the KDE's processes for supporting schools identified as Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI), Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI), and Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI). The presenters explained that schools in Kentucky are annually identified for TSI status if they have a subgroup of students performing at or below the bottom five percent of all schools by level for three consecutive years. ATSI schools are identified every three years and require a school to be identified for TSI status in the year prior to ATSI identification. CSI schools are identified annually if they have overall performance in the bottom five percent of all schools by level, a graduation rate below 80 percent, or failed to exit ATSI status after three years. In 2025, KDE identified 39 TSI schools, 101 ATSI schools, and 49 CSI schools. Foster and Courtney outlined the types of support KDE offers schools, as well as community partners offering support.

B. Legislative Update

KDE Director of Government Relations Brian Perry, Ph.D., presented the update. Dr. Perry provided an update on legislative priorities, key bills, and budget issues impacting education, including House Bill 257 related to education assessment and accountability systems. Board members discussed the continued underfunding of SEEK (Support Education Excellence in Kentucky) transportation and the impact on district budgets, as well as efforts to advocate for full funding of the SEEK funding program. Dr. Perry also discussed a critical issue with KDE leadership salary language being omitted from the proposed state budget bill. Dr. Perry said KDE will prepare legislative guidance and a frequently asked questions resource document for districts and the board summarizing the outcomes of the 2026 legislative session and providing clarity on new requirements and funding changes.

VIII. 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 Harold McKinney. The motion passed with a voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 3:34 P.M. E.T.