

**The Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) held the Awards Committee meeting on May 27, 2026. The committee met virtually. The following business was conducted:**

**I. Call to Order**

Chair Julie Pile welcomed the committee members and guests viewing the livestream to the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 2:31 P.M. ET.

**II. Roll Call**

Chair Pile asked for a roll call of members. The following members were present: Alfonso De Torres Núñez, Julie Pile, and Lu Young. No members were absent. Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) Director of Education Policy GlyptusAnn Grider Jones stated that a quorum was present.

**III. Grissom Award for Innovation in Special Education**

**A. Review of Criteria for Selecting the Recipient of the Grissom Award for Innovation in Special Education**

Chair Pile provided an overview and brief discussion of the criteria for the Grissom Award. She said that “the KBE gives the award each year to a Kentuckian or a Kentucky organization to honor outstanding dedication to improving achievement for students with disabilities.” She also stated that “Criteria for the award include: leadership or implementation of innovative practice in curriculum, instruction or assessment that leads to improved learning, postsecondary or workforce outcomes for students with learning or behavior differences; and, district or schools demonstrating significant improvement or sustained excellence in learning or behavior outcomes for students with learning or behavior differences.”

**B. Review and Discussion of Nominations for the Grissom Award for Innovation in Special Education**

Committee members were asked to review the candidates prior to the meeting using a provided rubric. Chair Pile led members in a review and discussion of nominations. All members positively commented on the qualifications of candidates 13 and 18.

**C. Approve Recommendation of Individual(s) as the Recipient of the Grissom Award for Innovation in Special Education**

The committee determined that its top applicants were candidates 13 and 18. A vote was necessary to bring the recommendation before the full board for consideration of approval at its June 3, 2026 regular meeting.

Based on the candidate's extraordinary efforts and contributions in the area of special education, Chair Pile asked the committee to entertain a motion to approve candidates 13 and 18 as the recipients of the 2026 Grissom Award for Innovation in Special Education. The motion was made by Lu Young and seconded by Alfonso De Torres Núñez. The motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote.

#### **IV. Adjournment**

Chair Pile thanked everyone for their time and a productive meeting. Chair Pile requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by Alfonso De Torres Núñez and seconded by Lu Young. The motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote. The meeting was adjourned at 2:44 P.M. ET.