

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (KDE)

STAFF NOTE: REVIEW ITEM

Topic: KBE/EPSTB Research Practice Collaborative Recommendations

Date: August 5, 2026

Action Requested: ☒Review ☐Action/Consent ☐Action/Discussion

Held In: ☒Full Board ☐State Schools ☐United We Learn

SUMMARY OF PRESENTATION:

The Kentucky Board of Education (KBE)/Education Professional Standards Board (EPSTB) Research Practice Collaborative was created in October to gather insights from Kentucky education stakeholders on what drives educator retention, why teachers leave mid-career and how vibrant classroom learning environments – especially in literacy and numeracy – influence teacher satisfaction and career persistence.

Participants of the collaborative include KBE members, EPSTB members, KDE staff members, classroom educators, school and district administrators, educator preparation program faculty, and education-focused community stakeholders. The group narrowed down two recommendations for the full KBE and EPSTB to consider.

Recommendation #1: Develop a continuum of growth and support for educators from preservice to retirement. Establish a structured statewide system that supports educators at every career stage by integrating mentoring, professional learning, coaching, communities of practice, and teacher leadership—allowing educators to grow, lead, and remain connected to the classroom.

Recommendation #2: Develop a continuum of support and growth for school leaders. Strengthen principal capacity for talent management, working conditions, and instructional leadership.

In small groups, KBE members will be asked to sort proposed actions to address these recommendations into the following categories:

- **Low Hanging Fruit:** A simple, highly achievable idea that requires minimal effort or resources. It delivers clear value with little risk.
- **Darling:** A favorite idea people feel emotionally attached to, even if it may not be the most practical. It often persists because of enthusiasm rather than feasibility.
- **Quick Win:** An idea that can be executed rapidly and shows visible results fast. It boosts momentum and confidence while supporting larger goals.
- **Long Shot:** An idea with big potential but low likelihood of success due to major obstacles or uncertainty. It usually requires significant resources, time, or breakthroughs to become viable.
- **New Idea:** A fresh concept that hasn't been evaluated or categorized yet. It may need exploration before determining its feasibility or impact.

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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