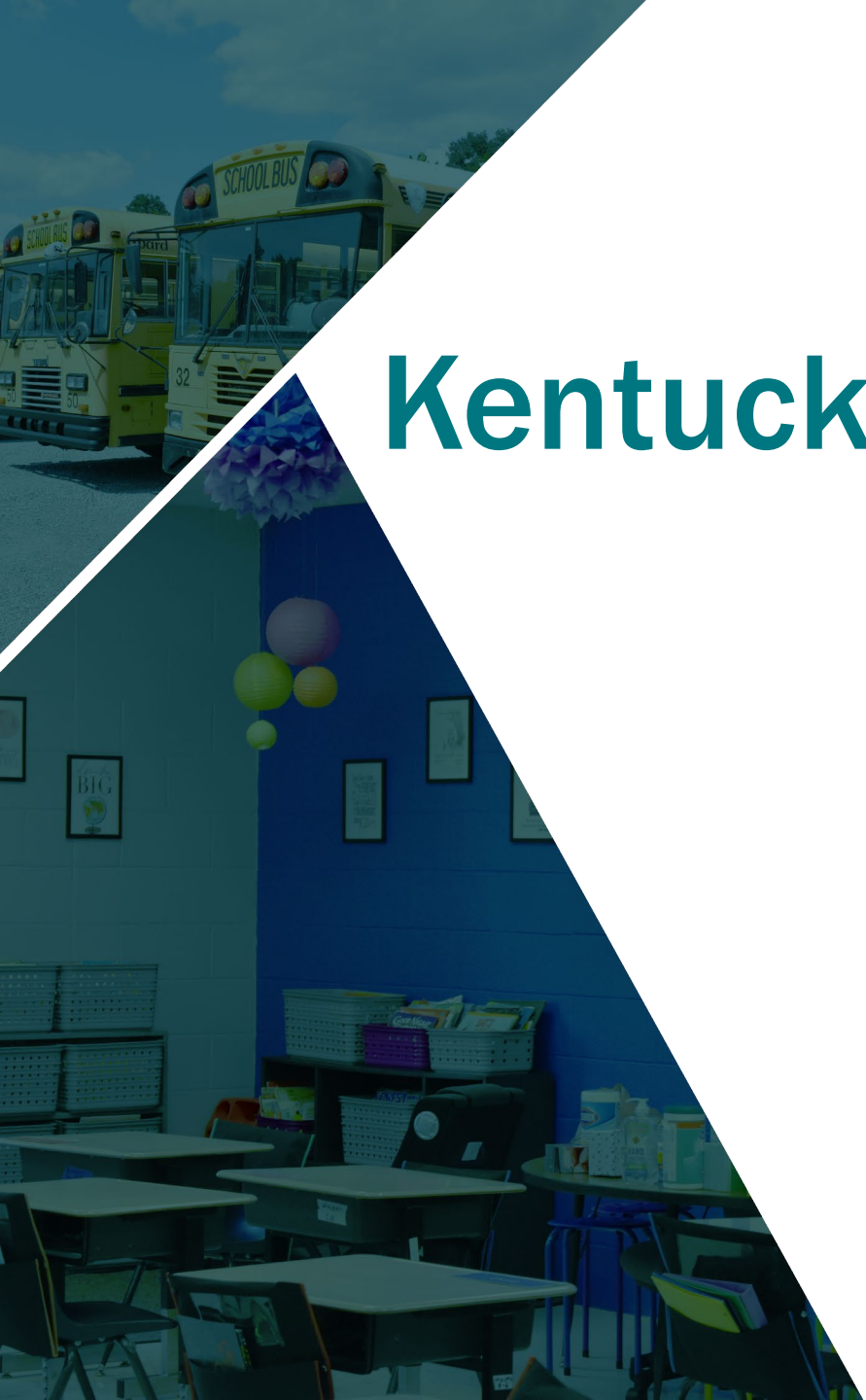


The background of the slide is a collage. The top left shows a line of yellow school buses, with the number '32' visible on the front of one. The bottom left shows a classroom with blue walls, decorated with colorful balloons and framed pictures. There are several small white tables and chairs arranged in the room.

Kentucky Board of Education Good News

Aug. 5, 2026



Kentucky Department of
E D U C A T I O N

Seventeen New Members Selected for 2026-2027 Commissioner's Student Advisory Council

Established to gather student feedback on critical issues impacting students and schools, the council connects Kentucky students with KDE staff to develop ideas to strengthen student voice and transform education.

The new members, who will join nine returning members, are:

- **Mallehwar Jayaraman Suresh**, 12th grade, Western Hills (Franklin County);
- **Jeremiah Stephens**, 12th grade, duPont Manual High School (Jefferson County);
- **Amelia Hassett**, 12th grade, J. Graham Brown High School (Jefferson County);
- **Ava Adame**, 12th grade, McCracken County High School;
- **Lina Berhane**, 12th grade, Daviess County High School;
- **Lindsey Wireman**, 12th grade, Magoffin High School;
- **Gracyn Hill**, 12th grade, South Warren County High School;
- **Rhianna Harrell**, 12th grade, Christian County High School;
- **Anikaa Sharma**, 11th grade, Pikeville Independent High School;
- **Noah Ward**, 11th grade, Thomas Nelson High School (Nelson County);
- **Saachi Thomas**, 11th grade, Paul Laurence High School (Fayette County);
- **Colin Gearhart**, 11th grade, Floyd Central High School (Floyd County);
- **Ava June Tackett**, 11th grade, Johnson Central High School (Johnson County);
- **Ellie Gallagher**, 11th grade, Bracken County High School;
- **Trace Brooking**, 11th grade, Glasgow High School (Glasgow Independent)
- **Farrahlauren Terrado**, 10th grade, Central Hardin High School (Hardin County); and
- **Ezra Anglin**, 10th grade, Lafayette High School (Fayette County).

Kentucky Reads to Succeed Summer Conference



The annual Kentucky Reads to Succeed Summer Conference was attended by nearly 1,700 educators, administrators and district leaders.

- The third-annual Kentucky Reads to Succeed Summer Conference experienced huge success this year, with approximately 1,700 educators, administrators and district leaders in attendance.
- Hosted by the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) at the Galt House in Louisville on June 8-9, the conference featured 73 breakout sessions designed to support classroom teachers, interventionists, instructional coaches, principals and district leaders. In previous years, the conference took place on one day, but it expanded this year to be a day and a half.
- The conference takes place each summer and is available for free to any Kentucky public educator. The conference is funded by Senate Bill 9 (2022), the [Reads to Succeed Act](#).

Nine Kentucky educators named 2027 Teacher Achievement Award winners

The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) announced nine Kentucky educators as recipients of the 2027 Kentucky Teacher Achievement Awards.

These teachers are also nominees for the 2027 Kentucky Teacher of the Year Award, which will be announced Sept 9. KDE will announce winners of the elementary, middle and high school teaching divisions during the ceremony. From those three finalists, one will be named the 2027 Kentucky Teacher of the Year.

The nine Kentucky Teacher Achievement Award winners and where they taught during the 2025-2026 school year are:

Elementary School

- Nikki Janiak, Estes Elementary School (Owensboro Independent)
- Kellie Moses, Garth Elementary School (Scott County)
- Amanda O'Bryan, Old Mill Elementary School (Bullitt County)

Middle School

- Katherine Sigmon Berner, Baker Intermediate School (Clark County)
- Gregory Edens, Rosspoint Elementary School (Harlan County)
- Trino Grau, Bryan Station Middle School (Fayette County)

High School

- Paula Gieseke, Christian County High School
- Brandon Riddle, duPont Manual High School (Jefferson County)
- Molly Seifert, Beechwood High School (Beechwood Independent)



Greenup County ATC student graduates certified in three industries



Cameron Whitt graduated from the Greenup County ATC with three career pathway certifications, including automotive technology, welding and industrial electricity. Photo by Nathan Lyttle, Kentucky Department of Education

- Greenup County Area Technology Center (ATC) recent graduate Cameron Whitt accomplished something no student at the school has completed before: becoming fully certified in three different career pathways before graduation.
- Whitt completed full certification stacks in welding, automotive technology and industrial electricity, earning industry credentials that school leaders say have already opened doors to employment opportunities.
- He completed all automotive and electrical coursework at the Greenup County ATC and added welding after realizing he had room in his schedule during his senior year at Greenup County High School.
- Greenup County High School Principal Stacey Thompson said Whitt took more than 60 tests to achieve his goal and is the first student in school history to earn this many certifications.
- Thompson said students like Whitt represent the impact career and technical education can have when students commit themselves early.

Harlan High School teacher creates GoTeach Scholarship to support future educators



Haley Jones, a graduating senior at Harlan High School, left, was awarded the district's first GoTeach Scholarship. Tyler Saylor, right, an English language arts and Senior Seminar instructor at Harlan High School, created the scholarship in partnership with two local businesses.

- Tyler Saylor, an English language arts and Senior Seminar instructor at Harlan High School (Harlan Independent), has launched a new scholarship initiative aimed at encouraging and supporting future educators in Kentucky.
- The newly established GoTeach Scholarship was created through partnerships with two local businesses – Homes4Rent and Coldiron Rentals – and was awarded during the district's Annual Awards and Honors Night.
- The one-time \$500 scholarship was presented to graduating senior Haley Jones, who plans to pursue a career in secondary social studies education.
- Saylor shared that the scholarship grew out of meaningful conversations and collaboration through serving as part of the Kentucky Department of Education's 2025-2026 GoTeachKY Ambassador cohort. Through the program, participants explored innovative ways to strengthen teacher recruitment and retention efforts across the Commonwealth.