

## **Commissioner's Report – August 2026**

### **Kentucky Board of Education**

Back-to-school preparations are well underway in districts across Kentucky and summer break is quickly coming to an end. As a new school year begins, there will be new faces in the hallways and classrooms and, for some of our districts, in the superintendent's office. All of us at the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) welcome our students, teachers and district leaders and wish them all a successful 2026-2027 school year.

#### **Summer Food Service Program Updates**

Making sure children have access to nutritious meals during the summer is the primary goal of the Summer Food Service Program, a federally funded program operated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and administered by the KDE. The program provides meals at no cost to children 18 and under in low-income areas from late May through August. KDE partners with school districts and community organizations statewide to offer nutritious meals, recreational fun and educational activities while school is out of session.

The number of Summer Food Service Program meals and meal sites has increased annually as more awareness of, and participation in, the program has occurred. This summer, we have seen over a 30% increase in meals served and have served meals to Kentucky children across nearly 2,000 sites.



*Education Commissioner Robbie Fletcher talks with Boone County students during the Summer Boost program.*

#### **Campus Updates for the Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB) & Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD)**

Due to delays in construction, the opening and first days for students at the KSB and KSD are delayed. The opening day for KSB in Louisville is now Aug. 10, registration for dorm students is Aug. 16, and the first day for students is Aug. 17.

KSD in Danville, Ky., is also undergoing significant renovations. Four buildings on the KSD campus are currently closed due to renovations, and they are expected to reopen at varying stages during the months of August to December. As a result of the ongoing construction, KSD's opening day is now Aug. 10, registration for dorm students is Aug. 23, the first day for students is Aug. 24, and the first day for preschool is Aug. 31. Additional details about these renovations are provided in the KDE Division of State Schools Update later in my report.

Our focus remains on ensuring a safe opening and school year ahead for our KSB and KSD teachers, students and communities.



## **Commissioner's Report – August 2026 Kentucky Board of Education**

### **Division of State Schools Update**

#### **KY SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND (KSB)**

##### **Campus Happenings**

1. Summer school was in session from June 1–5, serving over 40 students from across the Commonwealth, including KSB students.
2. Twenty-three students participated in KSB's Summer Work Program from June 8–19. Students worked at the Louisville Zoo and Kentucky Kingdom with support from KSB staff.
3. Twenty students, including five from KSB, attended the Insight Post-Secondary Program at Morehead State University during the week of June 1.
4. On June 12, the final Low Vision Clinic of the 2025–2026 school year was held in Ashland, serving six students.
5. Fourteen students, including four from KSB, attended the Winsight Post-Secondary Program at Murray State University during the week of June 15.

##### **Campus Updates**

1. New windows are being installed in the Scoggan-McDaniel Classroom Building, and it is being connected to the geothermal HVAC system.
2. The Richie Building is getting a new HVAC system. Projects at both buildings are near completion.

##### **New Staff**

1. Richard Woolums began serving as KSB's operations manager on June 16.

##### **Upcoming Events**

1. Opening Day for Staff: Aug. 10
2. Registration: Aug. 16
3. First Day of School: Aug. 17

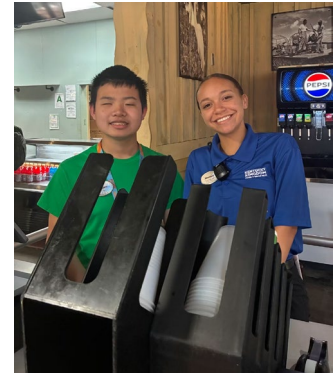
**Pictures:**



*A staff member and a student in a wheelchair are holding a bowling ball, getting ready to roll the ball down the roller.*



*Three costumed student performers are holding hands on stage. The student in the middle is wearing a Sully costume.*



*A student and an employee are standing together, smiling.*

## **Division of State Schools Update**

### **KENTUCKY SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF (KSD)**

#### **Campus Happenings**

The 29th annual Family Learning Vacation (FLV) took place on June 6. The event focused on empowering families of deaf and hard-of-hearing children through learning, connection and support. Children participated in engaging activities that promoted teamwork, communication, problem-solving, and self-confidence, while parents attended sessions on advocacy, accessibility resources and community supports.

KSD hosted its Summer Program from June 7–12. During the week, middle school students worked with Pioneer Playhouse owner Heather Henson and actresses Brittney Brizzee and Alex Heckert to prepare for a production of *The Mystery of the Missing Flashlight*, which they performed for elementary students at Pioneer Playhouse.

#### **Campus Updates**

1. Four buildings on the KSD campus are currently closed due to renovations, and they are expected to reopen at varying stages during the months of August to December.
2. Brady Hall is getting a new HVAC system, new ceiling tiles and new lighting. It will be closed until December.

3. Kerr Hall is getting a new HVAC system and new lighting; some windows are being repaired. The expected reopening is in September.
4. Grow Hall is getting a new HVAC system and new lighting. It should reopen in mid- to late August.
5. Middleton Hall renovations are ongoing and the building is expected to reopen in late September.

### Upcoming Events

1. Opening Day for Staff: Aug. 10
2. Registration Day: Aug. 23
3. First Day of School: Aug. 24
4. First Day of Preschool: Aug. 31

### Pictures:



*An instructor is standing in front of a stage filled with students, practicing for a play.*



*A group of students pose for a photo at a pet store, with a few holding animals.*



*At left: A group of students are petting a dog.*

## **Kentucky Tech System of Area Technology Centers (ATCs) Updates**

**Summary:** The Kentucky Department of Education’s Kentucky Tech system of 50 state-operated Area Technology Centers (ATCs) provide high-quality career and technical education programs and pathways for 115 local school districts and their students. Most of the 50 state-operated ATCs service rural districts comprised of 70% or greater populations of low-income residents.

The mission of Kentucky Tech and career and technical education is to assist in providing students with necessary skills for a successful transition to postsecondary education or work. The ATC’s vision is to actively engage all students in the mastery of academic, technical and employability skills to be ready to enter the workforce and/or college upon graduation.

During the 2025-2026 school year, ATCs served more than 26,000 students enrolled in high-demand, high-wage career pathways. Senior ATC students achieved notable outcomes, including:

- More than 6,300 senior concentrators;
- Enrollment in 3,700 dual credit courses;
- More than 4,300 industry certifications earned; and
- Participation in on-the-job training opportunities.

These accomplishments reflect the hard work of ATC students and staff. As a result, seniors in the 2025-2026 cohort are already making successful transitions to postsecondary opportunities in both college and career pathways.



**Breckinridge County Area Technology Center (ATC): Serves students from Breckinridge County, Cloverport Independent and Hancock County.**



Senior students from Breckinridge County ATC were recognized for their achievements, including earning industry certification certificates and receiving awards.

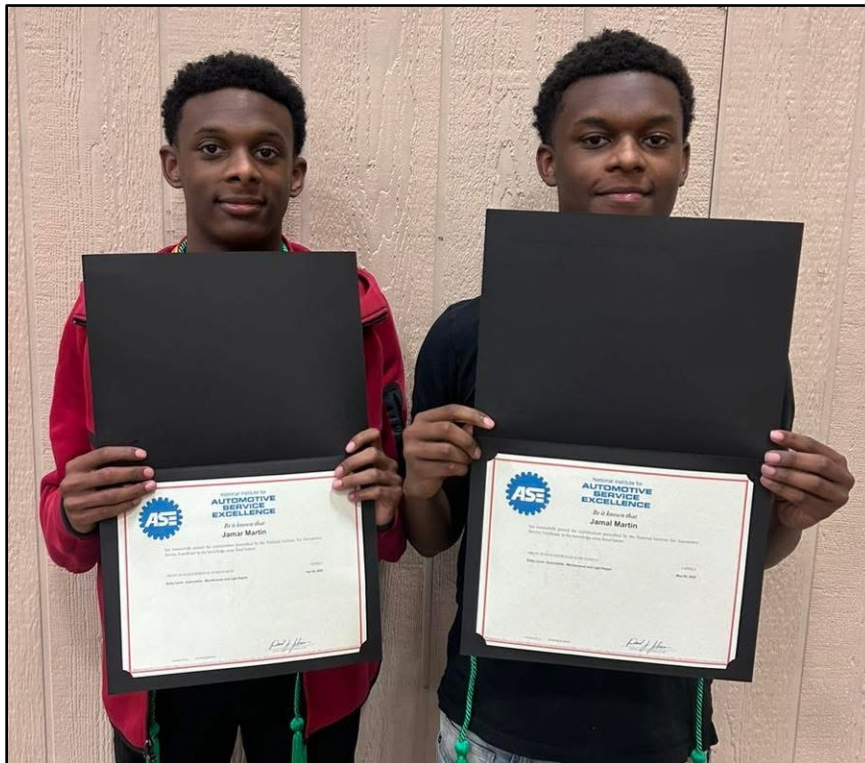
**Paducah Innovation HUB Area Technology Center: Serves students from Paducah, McCracken County and St. Mary's High School.**



Senior students from Paducah Innovation HUB were recognized for their achievements, including earning industry certification certificates and receiving awards.



**Four Rivers Academy: Serves students from Fulton County, Fulton City and Hickman County.**



Senior students from Four Rivers Academy were recognized for their achievements, including earning industry certification certificates and receiving awards.

*(photos continued on next page)*

