

**MEETING MINUTES ARE DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED AT
SEPTEMBER 2025 MEETING**



**KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (KDE)
SCHOOL CURRICULUM, ASSESSMENT AND
ACCOUNTABILITY COUNCIL (SCAAC)
MEETING SUMMARY
July 15, 2025**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Martha Emmons, Chuck Fletcher, Deborah Atherton, Carrie Ballinger, Jana Beth Francis, Leslie Jeffries, Brenda McGown, Jason Reeves, Alan Young

MEMBERS ABSENT: Artavia Acklin, Houston Barber, Renee Boss, Frank Hall, Allison Tamme, Josh Trosper

SUMMARY: The July 15, 2025, virtual School Curriculum, Assessment and Accountability Council (SCAAC) meeting was called to order at 9 a.m. ET by Chairperson Jana Beth Francis. The council charge and member responsibilities were shared. Roll call was taken, and Melissa Chandler, program consultant in KDE's Office of Assessment and Accountability, informed the council of public meeting protocol.

A quorum of members was present. The open meeting was recorded and made available for viewing on the [KDE Media Portal](#).

All materials were made available in the SCAAC Members Google Folder.

Agenda Item: Approve Minutes from March 2025 and May 2025 Meetings

Presenter: Jana Beth Francis, Chair, SCAAC

Summary of Discussion: Deborah Atherton made a motion to approve the March 2025 meeting minutes. Carrie Ballinger seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Atherton made a motion to approve the May 2025 meeting minutes. Jason Reeves seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Agenda Item: Greetings

Presenter: Robbie Fletcher, Commissioner, Office of the Commissioner, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: Fletcher provided brief updates on the multi-state lawsuit concerning Title funds, Senate Bill 181 guidance, the KDE audit required by House Bill (HB) 825, and the new accountability model.

Agenda Item: *Kentucky Academic Standards (KAS)* Update

Presenter: Chrystal Rowland, Director, Office of Teaching and Learning, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: Rowland detailed the standards review process outlined in KRS 158.6453, which establishes the process for reviewing all academic standards and aligned assessments beginning in the 2017-2018 school year and calls for one to two content areas to be reviewed each year and every six years after that on a rotating basis. Rowland shared that the standards review timeline was updated in June 2025 and is available on the KDE standards review webpage. The process includes an initial 30-day public comment survey on the current standards. Three advisory panels (elementary, middle school and high school) and a review committee consisting of teachers, higher education representatives and community members review public feedback, other state standards and current research to make recommended revisions to the standards. The recommended revisions are released in another 30-day public comment survey. The advisory panels and review committee review the survey feedback for the recommended changes and make final recommended revisions. The final draft is presented to the Interim Joint Committee for Education. The Standards and Assessment Process Review Committee reviews the process and determines if it was sufficient before the standards are presented for final approval by the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE). The standards enter the regulation change process and are then adopted into law. The approved standards and assessments are implemented in all schools no later than the second academic year following the process.

KAS for Reading and Writing began in January and *KAS for Social Studies* began in April. *KAS for Mathematics* is set to begin in the fall of 2025. *KAS for Health Education and Physical Education* was approved by the KBE in June 2025 with implementation set for the 2026–2027 school year.

Feedback: Young asked clarification on the integration of the KAS, the Portrait of a Learner (PoL) and core competencies. Rowland emphasized the ongoing collaborative discussions across KDE aimed at providing educators with guidance on how these components align to support cohesive instructional practices.

Agenda Item: Vibrant Learning Experiences Across Kentucky

Presenter: Robert Meacham, Program Manager, Office of Continuous Improvement and Support, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: Meacham shared the Kentucky United We Learn Council's definition of vibrant learning. He provided several examples of vibrant learning experiences (VLE) from Kentucky schools, including sustainability projects tied to high school science standards at Tates Creek High School, Table-Top Role Playing Games (TTRPG) like Dungeons and Dragons being used to improve the student experience at Marnel C. Moorman Middle School, and community engagement projects where students interact with elected official and university professional from Morehead State at Rowan County High School.

Feedback: Martha Emmons commended the learning opportunities that teachers are providing for students through VLEs.

Brenda McGown raised concerns about public understanding of VLEs. Young agreed on the need for public education.

Francis stressed the importance of developing guardrails and having a model framework in place surrounding VLEs if it is to be a viable part of the accountability system moving forward.

Agenda Item: Assessment and Accountability Updates

Presenter: Jennifer Stafford, Associate Commissioner, Office of Assessment and Accountability, Kentucky Department of Education; Shara Savage, Director, Office of Assessment and Accountability, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: Stafford introduced Savage as the new director for the Division of Assessment and Accountability Support before providing an update on the Kentucky United We Learn Council. Stafford connected the topics of the meeting—Kentucky Academic Standards, vibrant learning experience, and assessment and accountability—to the PoL, which serves as the vision that outlines the essential skills, knowledge and dispositions that prepare students for success. Stafford shared that the Kentucky United We Learn Council is in the advocacy phase, focusing on engaging communities and stakeholders to develop local accountability systems. This phase involves champions who collaborate with their communities to define what matters and what should be measured in their local accountability systems. She provided examples of local accountability systems from Shelby County and Fleming County, showcasing different approaches to displaying accountability data.

Savage shared important dates including assessment regulation training release dates and the tentative reporting timeline for the 2024-2025 assessment and accountability data.

Stafford announced that the College Board won the contract for the statewide college admissions exam, which will be the SAT for juniors starting with the class of 2027. The contract was awarded following a competitive bid process; however, the contract award is currently under protest. This has paused any further actions related to the implementation of the SAT. The

protest process is part of the Kentucky Model Procurement Code and could take one to two months to resolve.

Chuck Fletcher made a motion to adjourn. Alan Young seconded the motion. Motion carried. The next SCAAC meeting is scheduled for Sept. 16.

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