

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



**KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (KDE)
SCHOOL CURRICULUM, ASSESSMENT AND
ACCOUNTABILITY COUNCIL (SCAAC)
MEETING SUMMARY
September 16, 2025**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Artavia Acklin, Houston Barber, Renee Boss, Martha Emmons, Chuck Fletcher, Jana Beth Francis, Brenda McGown, Josh Trosper, Alan Young

MEMBERS ABSENT: Deborah Atherton, Carrie Ballinger, Leslie Jeffries, Frank Hall, Jason Reeves, Allison Tamme

SUMMARY: The Sept. 16, 2025, virtual School Curriculum, Assessment and Accountability Council (SCAAC) meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. ET by Chairperson Jana Beth Francis. The council charge and member responsibilities were shared. Roll call was taken, and Melissa Chandler, program manager 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 the July 2025 Meeting

Presenter: Jana Beth Francis, Chair, SCAAC

Summary of Discussion: Chuck Fletcher made a motion to approve the September 2025 meeting minutes. Alan Young seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Agenda Item: Updates to 701 KAR 5:100, Non-Traditional Instruction (NTI) Regulation

Presenter: Matthew Courtney, Policy Advisor, Office of the Continuous Improvement and Support, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: Courtney shared that 701 KAR 5:100 will go before the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) in October 2025. The regulation was last reviewed in 2020.

Amendments are being made to the application process including a requirement for districts to include plans for collecting and archiving evidence of student learning, as well as the name and contact information of the district NTI coordinator.

A clarifying provision will be added to the regulation to specify that approved NTI plans are valid for only one year, and a new application must be submitted annually. Additionally, a clarifying clause will be added stating that amendments to applications cannot be submitted until after the original application has been approved by KDE.

The updated regulation expands the types of acceptable evidence for NTI days to include student work, lesson plans, online learning management system reports, teacher-student communications, and other documentation approved in consultation with KDE. Minimum documentation thresholds are set for K-5 (one piece each for reading, mathematics, and one other content area per NTI day) and for grades 6-12 (one piece per course taught per NTI day).

The amended regulation also clarifies monitoring procedures with NTI programs. Monitoring visits may be conducted virtually or in person, and if non-compliance is found, a corrective action plan will be developed with the district, followed by a follow-up visit to ensure compliance.

Feedback: Chairperson Francis inquired about the implementation timeline, and Courtney confirmed the regulation is scheduled to be in effect for the 2026-2027 school year, with ongoing opportunities for public feedback until the end of the calendar year.

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

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

Summary of Discussion: Rowland provided a brief overview of KRS 158.6453, which outlines the process for reviewing all academic standards and aligned assessments every six years for each content area. The Standards and Assessment Review Process, established in 2017, guides this work.

The *Kentucky Academic Standards (KAS) for Reading and Writing* are currently in the final stages of review. The Standards and Assessment Process Review Committee has determined that the process to be sufficient. The standards will be presented to the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) in October. Upon KBE approval, they will proceed through the regulation change process before being formally adopted into law.

The *KAS for Mathematics* is set to begin in the fall of 2025. KDE is currently seeking public comment on the current mathematics standards.

Feedback: Renee Boss commended the process and the value placed on educator input.

Alan Young expressed concern with the antiquated word “academic” being included and suggested the standards be renamed as the Kentucky Learning Standards.

Agenda Item: Kentucky United We Learn Update

Presenter: Karen Dodd, Chief Performance Officer, Office of the Commissioner, Kentucky Department of Education; Susan Strange, Program Manager, Office of the Commissioner, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: Dodd shared the Three Big Ideas that form the foundation of Kentucky’s United We Learn Vision, along with eight objectives outlined in the Strategic Plan. Strange and Dodd highlighted five key objectives, which include implementing a new accountability model, reducing chronic absenteeism, improving early literacy and numeracy, and increasing completion rates in teaching pathways. Each objective is supported by specific goals, key performance indicators, and strategies that emphasize cross-agency collaboration. The plan is monitored quarterly, with adjustments made based on feedback.

Dodd outlined the shift from establishing to implementing the new accountability system, which incorporates local accountability measures and vibrant learning experiences. Together, Strange and Dodd explained why the new system matters, what educators can expect, and how they can get involved. They also directed participants to information sheets and encouraged everyone to help spread the word about the system and where to find additional resources.

Dodd announced ongoing recruitment for the Kentucky United We Learn Council, emphasizing the need for diverse perspectives, especially from students, families, and community members. Applications are open until Sept. 26, with selection focused on geographic and demographic diversity.

Feedback: Young commended the work on the strategic plan and raised a question about the number of authentic ways students can demonstrate reading proficiency beyond the state summative assessment. Dodd responded that authentic assessments should be incorporated into the local accountability model. Stafford emphasized the value of using multiple authentic assessment methods, particularly in early literacy and numeracy, and highlighted the potential for local accountability systems to capture a more comprehensive picture of student learning.

Agenda Item: Local Accountability Design Guide

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

Summary of Discussion: Meacham introduced the Local Accountability Guidance Toolkit, designed to help districts develop community-driven accountability systems that reflect student success beyond test scores, with practical tools, templates and case studies. The toolkit was developed in response to district demand for guidance on local accountability and includes a framework, principles, step-by-step processes, tools, and templates derived from successful practices in Kentucky's Local Laboratories of Learning (L3s) and other innovative districts.

A series of regional workshops and presentations are scheduled to support districts in using the toolkit, with sessions tailored to different roles such as teachers, instructional leaders and district administrators.

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; Christen Roseberry, Program Consultant, Office of Assessment and Accountability, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: Stafford and Roseberry reminded members 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. Currently, the protest is in week 9.

Savage shared details about the science standard-setting process for the updated assessment, which was conducted virtually on Sept. 4–5. During this process, Kentucky educators established performance cut scores for grades 4, 7 and 11. Science scores are expected to be released in mid to late October, followed by updated performance level descriptors.

Savage outlined changes to federal accountability, highlighting the adoption of a three-year average for change calculations used to determine classifications such as Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) and Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI).

Feedback: Boss inquired about the proposed release of resources and training information. Francis shared that resources will be released as soon as possible when the protest is resolved.

Agenda Item: Expiring SCAAC Member Terms

Presenter: Jana Beth Francis, SCAAC Chairperson

Summary of Discussion: Francis noted that several SCAAC members have terms set to expire in October 2025. Members were encouraged to continue serving on the council until new appointments are finalized. In light of the upcoming expirations, an election for chair and vice-chair will be held during the November meeting.

Agenda Item: Proposed 2026 SCAAC Meeting Dates

Presenter: Jana Beth Francis, SCAAC Chairperson

Summary of Discussion: The proposed SCAAC meeting dates for 2026 are March 17, July 21, Sept. 15, and Nov. 17. These dates will be presented for a vote at the November 2025 meeting.

Alan Young made a motion to adjourn. Martha Emmons seconded the motion. Motion carried. The next SCAAC meeting is scheduled for Nov. 18.