

SUMMARY MINUTES ARE DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED AT THE FEBRUARY 2025 MEETING



**KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (KDE)
COMMISSIONER'S STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (CSAC)
SUMMARY**

Dec. 9, 2025

Present: Harper Blake, Graham Borden, Ani Cockerham-O'Donnell, Delanie Crump, Manas Garla, Patrick Graboviy, Preston Graham, Sophia Johnson, Charlie Kinkade, Abigail Ladwig, Sophia (Seth) Langford, Gabriella MacAdams, Hadley Nicolas, Lacey Paige, Tara Rakesh, Daniel Ratley, Luisa Sanchez-Almenarez, Prisha Shah and Austin Eric Vitto.

Absent: Tejas Basneth, Lillian Darr, Vivian Fox and Aliete Yanes Medina

Summary:

Agenda Item: Welcome

Presenter: Robbie Fletcher, Ed.D., Commissioner of Education, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: Fletcher welcomed the students to the Commissioner's Student Advisory Council meeting.

Summary:

Agenda Item: Roll Call, Approval of Minutes, Introduction of Chair and Vice Chair and Introduction of new member

Presenter: Rosalind Turner, CSAC Liaison, KDE

Summary of discussion: Turner called the roll. The summary notes from the [Oct. 30, 2025](#), meeting were approved. Turner shared the results of the council's election of its chair and vice chair election. Daniel Ratley, a senior from Grayson County High School, was elected chair and Abby Ladwig, a junior from Owensboro High School, was selected as vice chair. Turner also

introduced the council's newest member, Harper Blake, who is a junior at Marion County High School and a member of the Kentucky Board of Education. Harper also spoke briefly.

Turner reminded the members that the virtual meeting falls under the Open Meetings Act and they need to keep their cameras on during the meeting.

Agenda Item: Announcements

Presenter: Robbie Fletcher, Ed.D., Commissioner of Education, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: Fletcher made several announcements, recognizing student achievements such as Patrick Grabovey's selection as a Kentucky delegate for the U.S. Senate Youth Program, highlighting school and district awards, and sharing updates on statewide initiatives and opportunities.

Summary:

Agenda Item: Mindful Minute Activity

Presenter: Michelle Sircy, Ed.D., Program Coordinator for Comprehensive School Counseling, Office of Teaching and Learning, KDE, and Thomas Tucker, Ph.D., Deputy Commissioner and Associate Commissioner, KDE

Summary of Discussion: Sircy and Tucker led a mindfulness and stretching session, engaging students in activities to promote well-being and focus, and discussed strategies for managing stress and maintaining engagement during virtual meetings.

Summary:

Agenda Item: Transitioning to Postsecondary

Presenter: Karen Dodd, Chief Performance Officer, Strategic Planning and Research, Office of the Commissioner, KDE

Sarah Medley, Policy Advisor, Office of Teaching and Learning, KDE

Sharon Collins, Education Academic Program Consultant, Office of Career and Technical Education, KDE

Michelle Sircy, Ed.D., Program Coordinator for Comprehensive School Counseling, KDE

Summary of Discussion: Dodd led the launch of a project to improve the Individual Learning Plan process. Dodd, Medley, Sircy and Collins facilitated breakout discussions for students, who came back together as a group to share feedback. The feedback and recommendations for enhancing ILP implementation and student preparedness for post-secondary transitions were collected and be utilized as the project moves forward.

Summary:

Agenda Item: Attendance Matters

Presenter: Myles Young, Assistant Communications Director, Division of Communications, Office of the Commissioner, KDE

Summary of Discussion: Young introduced a statewide, student-led video and poster contest as part of the You Belong Attendance Matters campaign, outlined the contest details and participation guidelines, and shared the importance of student voice in promoting school connectedness and attendance. Young emphasized the campaign's reach and the value of student-produced content in shaping the narrative around attendance, encouraging council members to participate and promote the contest within their schools and communities.

Summary:

Agenda Item: 2026 Kentucky Youth Tobacco Control Conference

Presenter: Rosalind Turner, CSAC Liaison, Division of Communications, Office of the Commissioner, KDE

Summary of Discussion: Turner announced the 2026 Kentucky Youth Tobacco Control Conference on Feb. 17, highlighting opportunities for student participation, travel scholarships with a Dec. 19 deadline and the chance to connect with peers and lead change in school communities. Interested students should contact judi.vanderhaar@education.ky.gov.

Summary:

Agenda Item: School Safety Report

Presenter: Rosalind Turner, CSAC Liaison, Division of Communications, Office of the Commissioner, KDE

Summary of Discussion: Turner asked the students to review and offer feedback on a former Student Advisory Council's School Safety Report. Any suggestions should be emailed to Rosalind.turner@education.ky.gov by Jan. 30.

Summary:

Agenda Item: Adjournment

Presenter: Rosalind Turner, CSAC Liaison, Division of Communications, Office of the Commissioner, KDE

Summary: Turner called for a motion to adjourn. Ladwig made a motion and Graham seconded the motion.

Next Meeting Date: Turner announced the next CSAC meeting will be virtual and is scheduled for Feb. 24, 2026.