



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

AUG. 25, 2026

ATTENDANCE: Ava Adame, Ezra Anglin, Tejas Basneth, Harper Blake, Savannah Brock, Vivian Fox, Elle Gallagher, Collin Gearheart, Amelia Hassett, Gracyn Hill, Sophie Johnson, Charlie Kinkade, Tara Rakesh, Prisha Shah, Anikaa Sharma, Jeremiah Stephens, Ava June Tackett, Farrahlauren Terrado, Saachi Thomas, Noah Ward, Trace Brooking.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Lina Berhane, Delanie Crump, Rhianna Harrell, Malleshawar Suresh, Lindsey Wireman.

SUMMARY:

Agenda Item: Welcome and Agenda

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

Summary of Discussion: Fletcher welcomed the students to the CSAC in-person meeting and went over the agenda.

Agenda Item: Approval of Minutes

Presenter: Rosalind Turner, CSAC Liaison

Summary of Discussion: After calling the roll, Turner asked for approval of the April 28, 2026, meeting minutes. The minutes were approved on a motion and second by Ava June Tackett (Johnson Central High School) and Anikaa Sharma (Pikeville High School). All voted for approval.

Agenda Item: Announcements

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

Summary of Discussion: Fletcher discussed the following:

- The tentative School Report Card (SRC) release timeline will be kept updated on the [SRC Resources webpage](#). He provided the timeline of dates from July 22 when the portal opened for data collection of school and district data entry and approval of data in the School Safety domain until Oct. 15, the tentative public release date

- Kid Hungry announced Jennifer Wheeler, nutrition director for Marion County Public Schools, as a 2026 Summer Hunger Hero.

This annual celebration of those who go above and beyond in efforts to end childhood hunger shines a light on extraordinary individuals and agencies from across the nation. This year's list of heroes includes 10 honorees from nine states – a diverse array of celebrants, but all united in their commitment to ending childhood hunger during the summer months, and throughout the year.

- With school underway, the Kentucky Department of Education is reminding drivers of a recent change in state law regarding when drivers must stop for school buses picking up students.

[House Bill 7](#) requires drivers on highways with four or more lanes to stop for a bus in the opposite direction with its stop arm extended and lights flashing unless that road is divided by an elevated barrier or unpaved median. Stops are required on all lanes for four-lane highways that include a painted median, paved median or center turn lane. This legislation took effect on July 15.

Drivers in both directions still need to stop on two-lane roads when a school bus is stopped to pick up or drop off students.

A person who violates this law can face a civil penalty of \$300 for the first offense.

- Trace Brooking, a junior at Glasgow High School and a member of the CSAC, was selected as the new KBE non-voting student member. His term began on July 1 and will end on June 30, 2027.

While serving on the KBE, Trace plans to connect with principals, superintendents, teachers and students around Kentucky to find out what issues are important to them.

- Stephanie Phillips, a family consumer sciences teacher at Paul Blazer High School in the Ashland Independent District is the newest non-voting teacher member of the Kentucky Board of Education.

Her career started in early childhood education, but she moved to the high school level to teach family consumer sciences as part of Ashland Independent's Career and Technical Education program. She has been in her current role with the district for 14 years.

Her tenure on the KBE began July 1 and will continue until June 30, 2027. She is the sixth non-voting teacher member of the KBE.

- Patti Minter of Bowling Green was appointed by Gov. Andy Beshear as a voting member of the Kentucky Board of Education on July 30. She replaces Lee Todd, whose term expired.
- Felicia Nu'Man of Louisville also was appointed by Gov. Beshear on July 30 to serve as a voting member of the Kentucky Board of Education. She replaces Diana Woods, whose term expired.

- Kentucky ranked fifth out of 35 states in reading and eighth out of 38 states in math between 2022 and 2025.

Several school districts across the state were designated as “on the rise,” a distinction given to districts that have shown exceptional progress compared to other schools. Those districts include Perry County, Pike County and Corbin Independent School.

- The Kentucky English Learner Leadership Summit, held on July 7, is a new, full-day conference for district English learner directors, coordinators and other leaders. The event followed the first session of the summit in Owensboro on June 17.

From 2017 to 2025, English learner enrollment has grown by more than 25,000 students in Kentucky, which is an 89% increase.

- For the 2025-2026 school year, Greenup ATC senior Cameron Whitt accomplished something no student at the school has completed before: becoming fully certified in three different career pathways before graduation.

Cameron 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.

- The Kentucky United We Learn Council met in July to discuss the implementation of reimagined assessment and accountability systems under [House Bill \(HB\) 257](#) and the resources available to districts to help provide more vibrant learning experiences.

The discussion included a deeper dive into how local accountability is already working in districts, featuring testimonials from leaders of Allen County and Fleming County on how they reimagined assessment and accountability.

KDE staff members presented resources to help districts with assessment and accountability, including the [Local Accountability Design Guide and Toolkit](#). The guide provides a step-by-step approach, real examples from across the Commonwealth and practical tools to help schools and communities design accountability systems that reflect local priorities and create vibrant learning experiences for every student.

Agenda Item: Mindful Minute

Presenter: Thomas Tucker, Ph.D., deputy commissioner, led the council in a mindful minute

Summary of Discussion: After a brief discussion, Tucker led the students in some simple, stress relieving exercises that they can do seated.

Agenda Item: House Bill 257

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

Summary of Discussion: Fletcher gave the students an overview of the recently passed legislation, House Bill 257.

Agenda Item: Individual Learning Plan Video Showcase

Presenter: Karen Dodd, Chief Performance Officer

Summary of Discussion: Dodd said the 2025-2026 council were working on an Individual Learning Plan project to solicit ILP promotional videos from students across the state. The top videos in the showcase would be shared on KDE's social media. The deadline for entries was scheduled for mid-October.

Agenda Item: CSAC Project Proposals

Presenter: Karen Dodd, Chief Performance Officer, KDE

Summary of Discussion: Three project ideas were presented to the council. They were:

- Chronic Absenteeism Project (Ashley Gates)
- Students serving on local school boards (Trace Brooking, KBE non-voting student member)
- High School Transformation: Building Trust with Community (Karen Dodd, Chief Performance Officer)

The students also discussed continuing the ILP project as another project idea. They chose to move forward with the student school board member.

Follow-up Required: Students will begin work on project.

Agenda Item: CSAC Chair and Vice Chair

Presenter: Rosalind Turner, CSAC liaison, KDE

Summary of Discussion: Members will be asked to nominate up to two of their peers on the council to serve in the positions and will vote after the nomination period end.

Agenda Item: Next Meeting and Adjournment

Presenter: Rosalind Turner, CSAC liaison

Summary of Discussion: The next meeting will be virtual on Oct. 21. Members were asked to join the commissioner for lunch. The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Tackett and second by Noah Ward (Thomas Nelson High School).