



## KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION COMMISSIONER'S STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL SUMMARY

FEB. 24, 2026

**ATTENDANCE:** Harper Blake, Graham Borden, Savannah Brock, Delanie Crump, Vivian Fox, Manas Garla, Patrick Graboviy, Preston Graham, Sophie Johnson, Charlie Kinkade, Abigail Ladwig, Sophia Langford, Gabriella MacAdams, Hadley Nicolas, Lacey Paige, Daniel Ratley, Luisa Sanchez-Almenarez, Prisha Shah and Austin Eric Vitato,

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Tejas Basneth, Lillian Darr, Tara Rakesh and Aliete Yanes Medina.

### **SUMMARY:**

**Agenda Item:** Welcome and Announcements

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

**Summary of Discussion:** Fletcher welcomed the students to the CSAC virtual meeting and went through the agenda. During his announcements, Fletcher told the council about the new series of videos released by the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) highlighting revolutionary things happening in Kentucky classrooms with local assessments and accountability. The videos are available on KDE's social media channels and can be watched on [KDE's YouTube page](#).

The commissioner also said that All In for Ag Education week is March 16-20. The initiative has seen a 21% increase in the number of counties participating in All In for Ag Education Week from spring 2025 to fall 2025. This year's event will feature more opportunities for field trips and labs for elementary school students, along with more professional development opportunities for educators in the summer. All In for Ag Education Week is held in the spring and fall each year, with the 2026 fall schedule set for Sept. 21-25.

Fletcher said Governor Beshear proclaimed February as Career and Technical Education Month. Career and technical education (CTE) offers students the opportunity to pursue postsecondary opportunities, including dual-credit options and industry certifications, while they experience engaging, vibrant learning experiences in professional workplace settings alongside the traditional school curriculum, he said. Kentucky has more than 120 state-approved career pathways in 13 CTE program areas. During the 2024-2025 school year, more than 145,000 Kentucky high school students participated in a CTE pathway and earned more than 16,000 industry certifications, continuing a growing trend in the Commonwealth.

The governor also proclaimed February as Gifted Education Month in Kentucky. Gifted Education Month is a time to celebrate the more than 90,000 gifted and talented students across Kentucky, as well as the dedicated educators who teach them. Fletcher said gifted education is an important part of helping students develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills that will prepare them for their future careers.

**Agenda Item:** Mindful Minute

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

**Summary of Discussion:**

Sircy introduced KDE's Deputy Commissioner Thomas Tucker, who also welcomed the students. After, Sircy led the students in several exercises like naming the person who has had the biggest positive impact in their lives and sharing with that person their impact; determining their health triangle and its importance; and maintaining balanced mental, social and physical health.

**Agenda Item:** Kentucky Board of Education Non-Voting Student Member Applications

**Presenter:** GlyptusAnn Grider Jones, Ph.D., Director of Education Policy

**Summary of Discussion:** Jones discussed the application process for the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) non-voting student member, including eligibility, application requirements and the benefits of participation. Harper Blake, a junior at Marion County High School who currently holds that position on the board, shared feedback and encouraged students to apply. Jones also asked for volunteers to serve on a special committee to review candidate applications to select three applicants to be submitted to the KBE.

**Follow-up Required:** Following the meeting, Turner was to email members with the information on the board position and the special committee.

**Agenda Item:** Transition to Postsecondary Project and ILP Resource Review

**Presenter:** Karen Dodd, Chief Performance Officer; Sharon Collins, Education Academic Program Consultant; Michelle Sircy, Ph.D., Program Coordinator for Comprehensive School Counseling, all KDE; and Mitzi Holland, Jessica Fletcher and Trey Peppin, all Council of Postsecondary Education

**Summary of Discussion:**

Holland introduced an Individual Learning Plan (ILP) collection template that is still in the working process. She proposed adding a section for students to indicate which general education requirements a dual credit course fulfills. There also was discussion about creating a short instructional video that would explain how to find the information. Dodd gave students instructions before they went into their assigned breakout rooms to discuss ILP resources. After

meeting in their groups, they returned to the full council to share their feedback with the rest of the council. Dodd proposed a project, inviting students to participate in meetings in March to plan and create a video. The project is to create a commercial or 60-second video that can be shared on KDE and school social media to make students aware of the resources that are available to them. Students were given a survey form link to respond to show interest in participating. Once the feedback is gathered, Dodd's team will move forward by meeting with students and helping them to implement their project. The video project is to be presented to the commissioner in April at the CSAC meeting.

**Follow-up Required:**

Students were asked to access a survey form to indicate interest in participating in the project.

**Agenda Item:** Next Meeting and Adjournment

**Presenter:** Rosalind Turner, CSAC liaison

**Summary of Discussion:** The next meeting will be in person on April 28 at 300 Sower Blvd., Frankfort. The meeting was adjourned.