



**KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
School Counselor Advisory Council
SUMMARY**

NOVEMBER 18, 2025

ATTENDANCE: Completed using 11/18/25 Spreadsheet

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Michelle Sircy, Alecia Bush, Strauzie Collins, Fatemia Fuson, Suzanne Gibbs, John Hargis, Juli Link, Jessica Longland, Karla McCarty, Kari McGrath, Antonio Melton, Paula Moore, Cordia Pickerill, Manijeh Reynolds, Jalina Wheeler

SUMMARY: Minutes from the meeting on 9/25/25 were approved by 1. Heather Moore and 2. Kristyn Williamson

Agenda Item: Welcome and KDE Greetings

Presenter: Dr. Thomas Tucker, Ph.D. Deputy Commissioner and Chief Equity Officer, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion:

Dr. Tucker welcomed the council. On November 3rd, Dr. Zach Stumbo, state homeless coordinator for the Kentucky Department of Education, was honored by the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY) with the 2025 McKinney-Vento State Coordinator of the Year.

Dr. Tucker also reported that state accountability data will be released this week.

Agenda Item: Homeschool

Presenter: David Millanti, Assistant Director, Office of Continuous Improvement and Support, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion:

In Kentucky, there are 25,000 homeschooled children in Kentucky with 40,000 enrolled. Requirements for homeschooled children differ from state to state. In KY, we require compulsory attendance, families are exempt from enrolling in public schools, families must submit attendance and scholarship reports, the homeschooled child is required to submit annual enrollment to the district, and the length of the instructional year must be 1062 hours of instruction. Families must notify the district within

the first 10 days of school or within 10 days of withdrawal that they are homeschooling the student. This notice must be submitted annually with names, ages, and home address.

Feedback:

A question was asked about who keeps track of attendance. Mr. Millanti shared that the DPP keeps track of attendance. If attendance is not turned in, the district could move forward with truancy procedures. Districts cannot require families to sign an agreement.

Another question was asked - How can we get policies to be more rigorous? Mr. Millanti recommended that district leadership be contacted as well as legislators. Amanda Reifsnyder is the KDE contact for homeschool.

Agenda Item: Homeless Education

Presenter: Dr. Zach Stumbo, Program Consultant, Office of Continuous Improvement and Support Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion:

Dr. Stumbo shared that every district must have a homeless local district liaison. Unaccompanied homeless youth must be offered 1:1 help with the FAFSA. Also, after high school, the student must have a letter verifying that they are an unaccompanied homeless youth. Homeless youth struggle to reach graduation in time due to records getting lost because of multiple school transfers. School Counselors are encouraged to check their policies and procedures regarding homeless youth, as there is a process to ensure that students receive partial credits. Dr. Stumbo recommended that school counselors connect students with CTE opportunities. Currently about 20% of homeless youth are in CTE concentrations.

Agenda Item: ASCA National Model, 5th Edition

Presenter: Santina Plottner, Director of School Based Mental Health Services, Ohio Valley Educational Cooperative

Summary of Discussion:

On behalf of Dr. Sircy, Santina Plottner shared information on the updates to the ASCA National Model, 5th Edition. The core framework remains, but it has tighter alignment around these phases. ASCA has provided a phased implementation plan for the 5th edition. The delivery section is closely aligned with MTSS, which is highlighted throughout the 5th edition. School Counselors can download a free copy of the ASCA National Model, 5th Edition, from the ASCA website.

Questions and Additional Feedback - no additional questions or feedback.

Adjournment and Next Meeting: February 11, 2026