



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION Commissioner's School Counselor Advisory Council SUMMARY

SEPTEMBER 25, 2025

ATTENDANCE: Completed using 9/25/25 spreadsheet

MEMBERS ABSENT: Alecia Bush, Rachel Caswell, Strauzie Collins, Juli Link, Karla McCarty, Cordia Pickrell, Manijeh Reynolds, Mindy Rose, Jalina Wheeler

SUMMARY: Minutes from the meeting on 2/27/25 were approved by **1. Heather Moore** and **2. Mary Lewis**

Agenda Item: Welcome and KDE Greetings

Presenter: Robbie Fletcher, Ed.D., Commissioner of Education, Kentucky Department of Education; Thomas Woods-Tucker, Ph.D., Deputy Commissioner and Chief Equity Officer, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: Dr. Fletcher discussed the switch from ACT to SAT in Kentucky. There are several benefits to the SAT. There is a partnership with Khan Academy. Districts can choose a day to give it within a 6 day window. Dr. Fletcher also discussed updates on the accountability model (state accountability that meets federal requirements; local accountability). This model will move from change to growth. Local accountability includes working with businesses to see what they need from our graduates (profile of a learner). Email Jennifer Stafford or Dr. Fletcher with any questions. Dr. Fletcher recognized that school counselors wear so many hats and encouraged counselors to advocate for their roles with their principals and superintendents. Dr. Fletcher mentioned that we have to address the mental health of students before academics.

Dr. Tucker thanked school counselors for everything that they do. Dr. Tucker also discussed AI and school counseling. KDE will be releasing modules on how AI can enhance the lives of our students and educators.

Feedback:

There were some questions around recommendations to get 504 meetings off the school counselors' plates. Dr. Fletcher mentioned to go to leaders with solutions instead of requesting that something be removed from a counselor's plate. Dr. Sircy recommended using data as well.

Dr. Sircy recommended that our first School Counselor Summit will look at the dual relationship between principals and counselors.

Agenda Item: Purpose and Realignment of the School Counselor Advisory

Presenter: Michelle Sircy, Ed.D, Program Coordinator of Comprehensive School Counseling, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: KDE went through an audit. Dr. Sircy said that the findings indicated that the council needs to voice more. Meetings will be more information getting rather than training. Dr. Sircy encouraged counselors to share more during meetings.

Agenda Item: Kentucky United We Learn Council – Member Application Open

Presenter: Susan Strange, Strategic Program Manager, Office of the Commissioner, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: Ms. Strange discussed the strategic plan and United We Learn Council. Goals from the strategic plan include an accountability system that includes vibrant learning opportunities, decrease chronic absenteeism, improve early literacy, improve early numeracy, expand the recruitment of qualified educators. They are working on a strategic plan dashboard. Ms. Strange asked that this council share information about the new accountability model as well as the KY United We Learn Council.

Feedback: Dr. Fletcher shared that we use words like joyful, meaningful, useful, relevant, etc. to describe a vibrant learning experience for a student. There are many great examples throughout the Commonwealth!

Kari McGrath shared that her school developed a AAA program (Academics/attendance/overall achievement) to work w/parents to improve attendance. They work with the FRC, attendance clerk, counselor, admin and family...to collaborate as a team to build attendance.

Dr. Tucker shared that the dashboard is exciting because it will show progress in real time.

Antonio Melton shared his thoughts about liking the language in the strategic plan and inquired how school counselors can get involved and how we share our input.

Dr. Sircy encouraged school counselors to apply to serve on the KY United We Learn Council.

Dr. Sircy mentioned that they will update the KY Best Practices document after the ILP updates are completed.

Agenda Item: School Counselor Use of Time

Presenter: Michelle Sircy, Ed.D, Program Coordinator of Comprehensive School Counseling, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: Dr. Sircy mentioned that there are no changes to the survey. It is open for completion. She recommended that members and school counselors join the KY GUID listserv. The template is on the KDE webpage. The survey is submitted by the superintendent.

Questions and Additional Feedback

Dr. Sirey for items that everyone would like to discuss in future meetings:

- One recommendation is that we discuss homeschooling.
- How do we get traction with implementing a comprehensive school counseling program in every building
- What information is shared with administrators regarding use of time. Advocacy.
- Collaboration between outside agencies and school counselors
- Looping together ILP with information from KAA.

Adjournment and Next Meeting:

Next Meeting - November 18, 2025

DRAFT