Kentucky Department of EDUCATION

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
FAMILY PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL
SUMMARY
May 27, 2026

ATTENDANCE: Laura Beard, Elizabeth Ashley Bruce, Leah Marcum, Kathleen Kelly, Rhonda Logsdon, Jeremy Cole, Autumn Neagle

MEMBERS ABSENT: Britney Faulkner, Marsha VanHook, Tara Truckor, Amy Nickerson, Alisha Miller, Elizabeth Delaney, Melissa Goins

Agenda Item: Opening Remarks
Presenter: Robbie Fletcher, Commissioner of Education, Kentucky Department of Education
Summary of Discussion: Fletcher provided an update on House Bill 257, outlining major changes to Kentucky's accountability system, including the separation into federal and local components, the addition of individual student growth measures, and the removal of certain testing elements. He reviewed key federal accountability changes, noting the shift to growth-based metrics, the removal of on-demand writing and editing mechanics, the replacement of the student safety and climate survey with chronic absenteeism, and a three-year onboarding period for English learners. Fletcher encouraged districts to develop local accountability models with input from families and community members, supported by a $15,000 allocation from Senate Bill 197 for dashboard development. The update also emphasized the role of community and family engagement in ensuring that local accountability systems reflect community values and support student success beyond test scores.

Agenda Item: Strategic Dashboard
Presenters: Susan Strange, Academic Program Manager, Office of the Commissioner
Summary of Discussion: Susan Strange presented the KDE Strategic Dashboard, demonstrating its features, key performance indicators, resource pages and inviting feedback from council members on usability and potential enhancements. She guided participants through the dashboard's structure, explaining how users can navigate external and internal objectives, track goals, and filter data by various demographics to examine metrics such as chronic absenteeism, early literacy, numeracy, and educator recruitment. Strange also reviewed the dashboard's chronic absenteeism and literacy components, which include data on absenteeism rates, awareness campaign reach, educator training, and literacy and numeracy proficiency, as well as participation in related academies. She highlighted the draft resources page, which provides links to attendance strategies and other supports, and demonstrated how users can customize data views to focus on specific student groups or needs.

Agenda Item: Legislative Update
Presenters: Brian Perry, Director of Government Relations, Office of the Commissioner

Summary of Discussion: Perry provided an update on the 2026 General Assembly, walking the council through the major education-related bills, budget decisions and guidance. He explained that the board is moving toward longer-term legislative planning and highlighted several key bills, including House Bill 257 on accountability, House Bill 67 focused on traceable communications and fiscal transparency, and House Bill 500, which outlines the state budget. He also touched on updates to maternity and paternity leave policies and changes to statewide job portal systems. Perry then reviewed budget and funding changes in the new biennial budget, noting modest increases to SEEK, shifts in funding for academic academies and new block grant proposals that could affect district programs such as literacy coaching. He also described funding set aside for School of Innovation pilot projects and explained the creation of a new alternative diploma for students with disabilities under House Bill 562, which is intended to support stronger employment opportunities after graduation. As part of his update, he discussed upcoming guidance and regulatory updates, including the need for supplemental guidance on certain bills like the alternate diploma.

Next Meeting:

Sept. 15, 2026

KDE:OCIS:DSPI:EM:LS