



**KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (KDE)
State Advisory Council for Gifted and Talented Education
(SACGTE)
SUMMARY**

APRIL 24, 2026

SUMMARY:

I. Welcome

Veronica Sullivan, KDE Division Director, Office of Special Education and Early Learning (OSEEL)

Summary of Discussion:

Sullivan welcomed members and thanked them for their work in the interests of gifted and talented students across Kentucky. She noted this would be the last SACGTE meeting of the year and reminded members of the council's purpose.

II. Review Meeting Norms, Duties and Attendance

Lynn Lockard, SACGTE Facilitator, OSEEL

Summary of Discussion:

Lockard reviewed the meeting norms and expectations. She explained the importance of keeping cameras on during roll call votes and remaining in attendance during the entire meeting.

III. Introduction of Members and Roll Call

Julia Roberts, Chair of SACGTE

Summary of Discussion: Roberts called the meeting to order and conducted the roll call.

ATTENDANCE:

Council members in attendance: 10

Council members not in attendance: 9

PRESENT:

Present Virtually: Abigail Wheaton, Amanda Wells, Jeanne Lee, Jessica Hastings, Julia Roberts, Kim Walters-Parker, Kimberly Clayton-Code, Mason Dyer, Paulynn Covington, Sade McKnight

Non-Voting Members Present Virtually: Veda Stewart, Melissa Thompson, Robin Hebert

ABSENT: Brandy Corbin, Brenda Martin, Carrie Ballinger, Cassidy Rosenthal, Diane Ford, Hannah England, Jonathan (Kirk) Haynes, Lindsay Burton, Lou Ann Gore Flanagan

NOTE:

Lockard welcomed Brenda Martin to the meeting at 11:06 a.m. Lockard advised Martin to turn her camera on to participate. Martin was unable to turn on her camera or microphone due to technical difficulties, so she could not participate as a voting member.

IV. Approval of SACGTE Meeting Minutes

Pro Tem Secretary of the SACGTE Appointed by Chair: Jeanne Lee

Summary of Discussion:

Roberts informed the council that a secretary was needed for this meeting only and asked for volunteers. Lee volunteered. Minutes from Feb. 11, 2026, were given to members for review. Wells made a motion to approve. Dyer seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed.

V. SACGTE Priorities and Recommendations

Julia Roberts, Chair of SACGTE

Summary of Discussion: Roberts reviewed the discussion from the previous meeting.

Priority 1- Parent Engagement and Transparency: Approved at the February meeting.

Priority 2- Awareness and Opportunity: The first bullet was reworded to raise awareness across the Commonwealth that gifted and talented (GT) is a category of special education in Kentucky. The second bullet stood to guarantee all children identified as GT are offered to receive appropriate services. The third bullet is to promote awareness campaigns to highlight GT services and rights, including information and communication to families and educators. The fourth bullet was deleted. Hastings made a motion to accept priority two as it is currently written. Covington seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed.

Priority 3- Teacher and School Support: Lockard clarified that priority three was to ensure general education teachers have access to students' Gifted Student Service Plan (GSSP). Wells made the motion to accept priority three as it is currently written. Wheaton seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed.

All three priorities have been established and approved by the council. They will be submitted to the commissioner to provide direction for the coming year.

Hastings made a motion to modify the date on the SACGTE priorities from 2025-2026 to 2026-2027. Wheaton seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed.

VI. KDE Strategic Dashboard

Susan Strange, Strategic Plan Program Manager, Office of the Commissioner

Summary of Discussion:

Susan Strange introduced council members to KDE's strategic plan and introduced members to the strategic dashboard. She explained how to access and navigate the dashboard, including the main page that describes the roles and duties of the strategic planning team. She demonstrated various scenarios for using the dashboard and explained two different views, graphs and about this metric. Strange also explained that the team is responsible for both customer and employee surveys used to inform the team's external and internal goals. She discussed each goal and the associated metrics. The accountability goal includes vibrant learning, related to House Bill 257 that just passed into legislation. Key Performance Indicators (KPI) were identified to assist in achieving each goal. Strange demonstrated how to change filters by gender, grade, locale, race and ethnicity, programs and socio-economic. She walked the council through the resources page including toolkits and other information and asked for feedback on how they might use the dashboard and if there was any other information they would like to see. Council member McKnight offered positive feedback. Hastings asked for clarification on parent use of the dashboard.

VII. State Gifted Education Update

Melissa Thompson, Gifted Education Consultant, OSEEL

Summary of Discussion:

Thompson informed the council that the GT End of Year (EOY) reports have been updated and are available on the GT Coordinator SharePoint site. All reports are due to KDE by June 1, 2026. She listed each report and explained they are essential for finalizing district data to ensure accurate reporting of student participation, service and program compliance. She discussed attending and presenting a session on differentiation at the Kentucky Association for Gifted Education (KAGE) Conference in Lexington. Thompson's session will be recorded soon and made available on the GT coordinator site and shared with the Office of Teaching and Learning.

VIII. Kentucky Association of Gifted Education (KAGE) Update

Julia Roberts, Chair of SACGTE

Summary of Discussion:

Roberts stated that the two main purposes for KAGE are to provide professional learning and advocacy. She informed the council that the KAGE conference will be held in Bowling Green next February, a change from the previous Lexington location. The date of the conference is Feb. 22 and 23, 2027. She also informed the council that KAGE will offer a summer conference that will be held in Elizabeth, which will include an online component. In 2027, the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) will be held in Louisville at the Galt House. Roberts also informed the council that \$10 million for gifted education for each year of the next biennium was approved in the state budget.

IX. Future Meeting Dates/Times

Lynn Lockard, SACGTE Facilitator, OSEEL

Summary of Discussion:

Lockard proposed dates for future meetings in the upcoming school year. She explained that the council is only required to meet twice per year, but this council chooses to meet four times, with two meetings scheduled as hybrid (both in-person and virtual) and the other two fully virtual. Roberts suggested Sept. 30, 2026; Nov. 18, 2026, and Feb. 11, 2027, as future meeting dates. Wheaton made a motion to meet Sept. 30, 2026; Nov. 18, 2026, and Feb. 11, 2026, from 9 a.m. to noon ET. Code seconded. Discussion for clarification followed the motion. The motion was revised to say the Sept. 30 meeting will be hybrid from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. the Nov. 18 meeting will be virtual from 9 to 11 a.m. and the Feb. 11 meeting will be hybrid from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Code seconded. A roll called vote was taken. Motion passed.

X. Questions and Additional Feedback

Lynn Lockard, SACGTE Facilitator, OSEEL

Summary of Discussion:

Lockard asked for new business and there was none.

XI. Closing Remarks

Julia Robers, Chair of SACGTE

Summary of Discussion:

Roberts had closing remarks, explaining the 2025 House Bill 190 established that all schools for grades 4-12 are provided with advanced content for GT students in their identified areas as well as for other students who demonstrated readiness for advanced content. Roberts then asked for a motion to adjourn. Hastings made the motion to adjourn. Covington seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed.

XII. Exit Slip and Adjournment

Lynn Lockard, SACGTE Facilitator, OSEEL

Summary of Discussion:

Lockard reminded everyone to complete exit slips and turn in reimbursement forms.