



**KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
(KDE)**

Local Superintendent's Advisory Council (LSAC)

SUMMARY

July 29, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Kirk Biggerstaff, Vice Chair Harry Burchett, Thom Cochran, David Cox, David Trimble, Sheila Mitchell, Russ Tilford, Brian Alexander, Will Hodges

Agenda Item: Annual Amendments to Area Technology Center (ATC) Policies and Procedures

Presenters: KDE Division Director Beth Engle

Summary of Discussion: Engle shared that the Office of Career and Technical Education (OCTE) contracts with the Kentucky School Board Association (KSBA) for annual revisions to the ATC Policies and Procedures. Engle provided the proposed amendments reflect statutory changes and technical updates for clarity and alignment with current practices. The ATC policies and procedures proposed amendments also were provided to LSAC members for review and consideration in advance of the meeting. LSAC members did not have questions and there was no discussion on the topic.

Action Taken: Biggerstaff asked for a motion to approve the annual amendments to the Area Technology Center (ATC) Policies and Procedures. The motion was made by Burchett and seconded by Hodges. The motion passed by a roll call vote.

Follow-up Required: Following the Local Superintendents Advisory Council meeting with Commissioner Robbie Fletcher and KDE staff, this item will be presented to the members of the KBE for consideration and action.

Agenda Item: Annual Amendments to the Kentucky Tech Student Handbook

Presenters: KDE Division Director Beth Engle

Summary of Discussion: Engle shared that the proposed amendments to the Kentucky Tech Student Handbook reflect legislative changes and technical updates for clarity. The proposed amendments also were provided to LSAC members for review and consideration in advance of

the meeting. LSAC members did not have questions and there was no discussion on the topic.

Action Taken: Biggerstaff asked for a motion to approve the annual amendments to the Kentucky Tech Student Handbook. The motion was made by Alexander and seconded by Cochran. The motion passed by a roll call vote.

Follow-up Required: Following the Local Superintendents Advisory Council meeting with Fletcher and KDE staff, this item will be presented to the members of the KBE for consideration and action.

Agenda Item: Kentucky Minimum Specifications for School Buses

Presenters: KDE Associate Commissioner Matt Ross and Chay Ritter

Summary of Discussion: Ross and Ritter presented the proposed 2026 Kentucky Minimum Specifications for School Buses. The minimum specifications for school buses are reviewed annually for any necessary revisions and input is received from the School Bus Specification Committee. LSAC members did not have any questions or comments.

Action Taken: Biggerstaff asked for a motion to approve the 2026 Kentucky Minimum Specifications for School Buses. The motion was made by Tilford and seconded by Cochran. The motion passed by a roll call vote.

Follow-up Required: Following the Local Superintendents Advisory Council meeting with Fletcher and KDE staff, this item will be presented to the members of the KBE for consideration and action.

Agenda Item: 701 KAR 5:170 and 701 KAR 5:170E, Waiver Requests

Presenters: KDE General Counsel and Deputy Commissioner Todd Allen and Corey Nichols

Summary of Discussion: Allen and Nichols provided an overview of two new administrative regulations for school districts to request waivers from statutes and administrative regulations. The proposed regulations were also provided to LSAC members in advance of the meeting. Senate Bill 207 from the 2025 legislative session amended the process and standards for school districts to request waivers from the Kentucky Board of Education. The two new regulations presented set forth the process and forms for districts to use to request waivers from the Kentucky Board of Education.

Action Taken: Biggerstaff asked for a motion to approve 701 KAR 5:170 and 701 KAR 5:170E, Waiver Requests. The motion was made by Hodges and seconded by Cochran. The motion passed by a roll call vote.

Follow-up Required: Following the Local Superintendents Advisory Council meeting with Fletcher and KDE staff, this item will be presented to the members of the KBE for consideration and

action.

Agenda Item: Amendments to 703 KAR 5:280, School improvement procedures

Presenters: KDE Associate Commissioner Kelly Foster, Ed.D., and KDE Policy Advisor Matthew Courtney, Ed.D.

Summary of Discussion: Foster and Courtney explained that the substantive changes for this regulation come from House Bill 298 (2025) and necessary updates to provide clarity in the field. Courtney walked the members through the substantive changes. There were no questions.

Action Taken: Biggerstaff asked for a motion to approve the amendments to 703 KAR 5:280, School improvement procedures. The motion was made by Mitchell and seconded by Tilford. The motion passed by a roll call vote.

Follow-up Required: Following the Local Superintendents Advisory Council meeting with Fletcher and KDE staff, this item will be presented to the members of the KBE for consideration and action.

Agenda Item: Amendments to 704 KAR 3:440, Primary school program guidelines

Presenters: KDE Deputy Commissioner Dr. Thomas Woods Tucker, Chief Academic Officer Micki Ray Marinelli, and Policy Advisor Sarah Medley

Summary of Discussion: Tucker, Marinelli, and Medley discussed the proposed amendments to 704 KAR 3:440, Primary school program guidelines. 704 KAR 3:440 requires the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) to promulgate administration regulations to address methods for verifying successful completion of the primary school program in carrying out the goals of education as described in KRS 158.6451. KRS 13A.3104(1)(a) requires a review of the regulation in its entirety for compliance with current law governing the subject matter of the administrative regulation. Upon review of 704 KAR 3:440, amendments were identified to conform to current statutory requirements which impact students enrolled in the primary school program. No questions were asked by members related to the amendments provided in 704 KAR 3:440, Primary school program guidelines.

Action Taken: Biggerstaff asked for a motion to approve the amendments to 704 KAR 3:440, Primary school program guidelines. The motion was made by Alexander and seconded by Cochran. The motion passed by a roll call vote.

Follow-up Required: Following the Local Superintendents Advisory Council meeting with Fletcher and KDE staff, this item will be presented to the members of the KBE for consideration and action.