



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (KDE)

Local Superintendent's Advisory Council (LSAC)

SUMMARY

Jan. 27, 2026

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Kirk Biggerstaff, Vice Chair Harry Burchett, Russ Tilford, Brian Alexander, Dennis Messer, Sheila Mitchell, David Trimble, Henry Webb, Thom Cochran and Sharla Six

Agenda Item: Amendment to 704 KAR 3:305, Minimum requirement for high school graduation

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

Summary of Discussion: Tucker, Marinelli and Medley discussed proposed amendments to 704 KAR 3:305, minimum requirements for high school graduation. House Bill (HB) 342 (2025) amended KRS 158.1411 to require, beginning with students entering grade 9 on or after July 1, 2025, successful completion of a one credit course in financial literacy for high school graduation. Regulatory amendments are required to conform to HB 342 (2025). No questions were asked by members related to the amendments provided in 704 KAR 3:305, minimum requirements for high school graduation.

Action Taken: Biggerstaff asked for a motion to recommend approval of the amendments to 704 KAR 3:305, minimum requirements for high school graduation. The motion was made by Thom Cochran and seconded by Dennis Messer. 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 Kentucky Board of Education for consideration and action.

Agenda Item: Amendment to 702 KAR 7:065, Designation of agent to manage middle and high school interscholastic athletics

Presenters: KDE Deputy Commissioner and General Counsel Todd Allen, Kentucky High School Athletic Association Commissioner Julian Tackett and KHSAA General Counsel Chad Collins

Summary of Discussion: Allen, Tackett and Collins presented amendments to the regulation which are contained exclusively in the documents incorporated by reference. KHSAA annually

convenes its member schools, and the membership votes on changes that should be made to KHSAA bylaws and policies. Those changes approved by the membership are reflected in the amended documents incorporated by reference in the regulation.

Action Taken: Biggerstaff asked for a motion to recommend approval of the amendments to 702 KAR 7:065, designation of agent to manage middle and high school interscholastic athletics. The motion was made by Harry Burchett and seconded by David Trimble. 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: Certification Structure: Content Discussion

Presenter: KDE Division Director Todd Davis

Summary of Discussion: Davis shared an overview of the Certification Structure Workgroup established by the Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB). He explained the purpose of the workgroup and reviewed its recommendations for possible updates to current grade bands, including PreK-K (with added endorsement for grades 1-3), Elementary (grades K-6), Middle School (grades 4-9), and Secondary (grades 7-12). The presentation also highlighted feedback gathered through small-group and focus group discussion on content-area certifications in difficult-to-fill areas such as science, special education and mathematics. This feedback guided discussion among LSAC members about current challenges and potential strategies the workgroup may consider to improve the recruitment and retention of both new and current teachers in these high need fields.

Action Taken: The presentation was for informational purposes only, so no action was taken.

Follow-up Required: N/A