



**KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
(KDE)**

Local Superintendent's Advisory Council (LSAC)

SUMMARY

July 28, 2026

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

Agenda Item: Kentucky School for the Blind and Kentucky School for the Deaf Updated Policies

Presenters: Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) Associate Commissioner Gretta Hylton, Ed.D., and KDE Policy Advisor Melody Cooper

Summary of Discussion: Hylton and Cooper discussed contracts with the Kentucky School Board Association to provide annual policy updates based on legislative action. Materials provided in advanced to LSAC members summarized the changes to the KSB and KSD policies and the basis for those changes.

Action Taken: Chair Biggerstaff asked for a motion to recommend approval of the updated policies for the Kentucky School for the Blind and Kentucky School for the Deaf. The motion was made by Brian Alexander and seconded by Thom Cochran. The motion passed unanimously by 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: Area Technology Centers (ATC) Updated Policies and Procedures

Presenters: KDE Associate Commissioner Beth Hargis, Ed.D., and KDE Policy Advisor Lauren Graves, Ph.D.

Summary of Discussion: Hargis provided 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. Hargis provided the proposed amendments reflect statutory changes and technical updates for clarity and alignment with current practices. OCTE is recommending 31 policies and five procedures for approval. They are not recommending two policies provided by KSBA as they do not apply to ATCs. The ATC policies and procedures proposed amendments were provided to LSAC members in advance for review and consideration.

Action Taken: Chair Biggerstaff asked for a motion to recommend approval of the updated policies and procedures for the Area Technology Centers. The motion was made by Dennis Messer and seconded by David Meinschien. The motion passed unanimously 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 Kentucky Board of Education for consideration and action.

Agenda Item: KY Student Handbook

Presenters: KDE Associate Commissioner Beth Hargis, Ed.D., and KDE Policy Advisor Lauren Graves, Ph.D.

Summary of Discussion: Hargis provided that the proposed amendments to the KY Tech Student Handbook reflect legislative changes and technical updates for clarity. Additionally, the handbook was previously organized alphabetically; it has been reorganized by subject area and the applicable OCTE policies that align with a subject in the handbook have been identified. The proposed amendments were provided to LSAC members in advance for review and consideration.

Action Taken: Biggerstaff asked for a motion to recommend approval of the updates to the KY Tech Student Handbook. The motion was made by Thom Cochran and seconded by David Meinschein. The motion passed unanimously 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 Kentucky Board of Education for consideration and action.

Agenda Item: Amendment to 780 KAR 3:072, Attendance, compensatory time, and leave for certified and equivalent service

Presenters: KDE Associate Commissioner Beth Hargis, Ed.D., and KDE Policy Advisor Lauren Graves, Ph.D.

Summary of Discussion: Graves provided that House Bill 727 from the 2026 legislative session added maternity leave as a type of leave to KRS 156.808. The amendment to 780 KAR 3:072 reflects that addition to include up to 30 days of maternity leave for KRS 156 employees who give

birth. The proposed amendments were provided to LSAC members in advance for review and consideration.

Action Taken: Biggerstaff asked for a motion to recommend approval of the amendment to 780 KAR 3:072, Attendance, compensatory time, and leave for certified and equivalent service. The motion was made by Harry Burchett and seconded by Sheila Mitchell. The motion passed unanimously 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 Kentucky Board of Education for consideration and action.

Agenda Item: Amendment to 702 KAR 6:090, Minimum nutritional standards for foods and beverages available on public school campuses during the school day; required nutrition and physical activity reports

Presenters: KDE Policy Advisor Lindsey Swartz and KDE Division Directory Lauren Moore

Summary of Discussion: Swartz and Moore presented the proposed amendment, which adds a definition section and language regarding student-based enterprises, deletes the local district nutrition program report in Section 4 to comply with the repeal of KRS 158.856, and updates the reporting requirement for schools subject to the requirements of KRS 160.345 (11).

Action Taken: Biggerstaff asked for a motion to recommend approval of the amendment to 702 KAR 6:090, Minimum nutritional standards for foods and beverages available on public school campuses during the school day; required nutrition and physical activity reports. The motion was made by Sheila Mitchell and seconded by Brian Alexander. The motion passed unanimously with 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 701 KAR 5:160, Selection and appointment of non-voting Kentucky Board of Education members

Presenters: KDE Associate Commissioner and General Counsel Todd Allen

Summary of Discussion: Allen provided an overview of the changes to 701 KAR 5:160, such as transitioning from non-voting members being selected from Congressional districts to Kentucky Supreme Court Districts, and clarification that the student non-voting member shall be a sophomore at the time of appointment and a junior at the time of service.

Action Taken: Chair Biggerstaff asked for a motion to recommend approval of the amendment to 701 KAR 5:160, Selection and appointment of non-voting Kentucky Board of Education members. The motion was made by David Meinschein and seconded by Thom Cochran. The motion passed unanimously 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: Amendments to 704 KAR 8:060, Required academic standards for social studies

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

Summary of Discussion: KRS 158.6453(2) requires the KDE to implement a comprehensive process for reviewing Kentucky's academic standards and the alignment of corresponding assessments for possible revision or replacement every six years. In order to conform to statutory requirements, the KDE implemented the standards review process which resulted in a new material incorporated by reference. Additional amendments to 704 KAR 8:060 are technical in nature to conform to current statutory language and drafting requirements provided in KRS Chapter 13A. Members heard a presentation detailing the standards review process, as provided in KRS 158.6453, and the timeline for completion. Members inquired about the release of the new social studies high-quality instructional resource (HQIR) for K-8 that has been developed specifically for Kentucky in partnership with Core Knowledge Foundation. The curriculum will be published in grades K, 3, 5 and 8 in 2027-2028 and the remaining grades will be published in 2028-2029.

Action Taken: Biggerstaff asked for a motion to recommend approval of the amendments to 704 KAR 8:060, Required academic standards for social studies. The motion was made by Sheila Mitchell and seconded by Harry Burchett. The motion passed unanimously with 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: Amendments to 704 KAR 8:090 Required academic standards for technology

Presenters: KDE Associate Commissioner David Couch, KDE Chief Digital Officer Marty Park, KDE Digital Learning Coach State Lead Laura Raganas, and KDE Policy Advisor Lisa Moore

Summary of Discussion: The presenters discussed the proposed amendments. The technology skill standards have been updated – there are general updates and an incorporation of artificial intelligence (AI) components across all grade bands. Technology skills are scaffolded to allow for increased skills over time. Park and Raganas provided additional comments regarding the

standards revision process and timeline. The revisions were shared with the School Curriculum and Accountability Council (SCAAC) at their July 21 meeting with positive feedback.

Action Taken: Biggerstaff asked for a motion to recommend approval of the amendments to 704 KAR 8:090, Required academic standards for technology. The motion was made by Thom Cochran and seconded by Harry Burchett. The motion passed unanimously 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 Kentucky Board of Education for consideration and action.

Agenda Item: Amendment to 703 KAR 5:270, Kentucky's Accountability System (First Reading)

Presenters: KDE Associate Commissioner Jennifer Stafford, Ed.D., and KDE Policy Advisor Jennifer Larkins

Summary of Discussion: Stafford and Larkins presented a summary of proposed amendments to 703 KAR 5:270, primarily to align with changes made in House Bill 257 (2026). Stafford facilitated a discussion of the proposed value table that will be used to assign credit in the state accountability system for individual student growth in reading and mathematics. In the proposed table, students earn full credit of 100 points for maintaining a performance level from prior year to current year or increasing a half level, 50 points for a half level decline, and 125 points for growth beyond one full level. Novice and Distinguished levels follow slightly different logic.

LSAC members were also provided an alternative value table that reflected input received during the July 21 meeting of the School Curriculum Assessment and Accountability Council (SCAAC). The updated table included an increase to 110 points credit for students who demonstrate growth at half levels (e.g., Apprentice Low to Apprentice High). Members were supportive of both tables but expressed stronger support for the table that included SCAAC's recommendations.

Commissioner Fletcher reminded LSAC members that a growth value table should reward student growth and that a student's proficiency is measured in a different accountability indicator. Superintendent Mitchell questioned the points attributed to students who decline from a Distinguished High to a Distinguished Low performance level. The current proposed table attributes 50 points in most categories with a half-level drop. Mitchell suggested that a drop where a student is still performing at a Distinguished level should be credited at 100 points. Other LSAC members agreed.

Stafford then requested feedback on the proposed Overall Accountability Weights table. Superintendent Webb expressed concern that chronic absenteeism and graduation rate were proposed equally at five percent. He suggested a decrease in the percentage for chronic absenteeism at all levels and an increase in the percentage for graduation rate in high school with agreement from other members. Commissioner Fletcher noted the recommendations and

expressed gratitude for input on chronic absenteeism provided by Directors of Pupil Personnel. LSAC members were also supportive of increasing weight for postsecondary readiness.

Action Taken: This presentation was for the purpose of gathering feedback and input from LSAC members. No action was taken.

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