



**KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Superintendents Advisory Council (SAC)
SUMMARY**

MARCH 15, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chuck Abell, Carrie Ballinger, Doug Bechanan, Joe Buerkley, Thom Cochran, Robbie Fletcher, David Gilliam, Damien Johnson, Mark Kopp, Matthew Matting, Misty Middleton, Jason Radford, Patrick Richardson, Tim Spencer, Bill Thorpe, Robert Tuck, Henry Webb, Leonard Whalen

MEMBERS ABSENT: Danny Adkins, Doug Bennett, Matthew Constant, Michael Ford, Sanford Holbrook, Marty Pollio, Wayne Roberts

SUMMARY:

Agenda Item: ESSER Monitoring

Presenter: Tara Rodriguez, Director, Division of School and Program Improvement, Office of Continuous Improvement and Support, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: Tara Rodriguez updated SAC members on the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE)'s approach to ESSER monitoring. KDE monitored 17 districts in 2021 for the CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security) Act and the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) I funds. The following year, KDE monitored 14 districts for Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act or ESSER II monies. KDE intends to monitor around 14 districts in 2023 for American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds. Through monitoring KDE found common findings such as unallowable purchases and/or a lack of prior approval.

Agenda Item: Kentucky Department of Education's Monitoring Protocol

Presenter: David Millanti, Assistant Director, Division of School and Program Improvement, Office of Continuous Improvement and Support, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: David Millanti shared information on KDE's monitoring protocol. He said that monitoring could include a variety of things including conducting a risk assessment to providing training and technical assistance to a district. It was also shared that if a district has high risk assessment points that this does not necessarily mean something negative. The consolidated monitoring program is meant to reduce the number of on-site visits conducted and to ultimately identify successes and challenges of a district's programmatic and fiscal

implementation. Though monitoring adds work for everyone involved, it must be done as a condition for accepting federal monies.

Agenda Item: Legislative Update

Presenter: Brian Perry, Director of Government Relations, Office of the Commissioner, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: A legislative update and timeline provided by Brian Perry to SAC members, included a list of high-priority, education-related bills. Several bills were mentioned including reference to Senate Bill 5 that addresses parent complaints regarding instructional materials and addressing those complaints locally. The process would begin at the school level with the principal and if the complaint was not resolved, it would be taken to the local board of education for review.

Agenda Item: Facilities and House Bill (HB) 678 Update

Presenter: Chay Ritter, Director, Division of District Support, Office of Finance and Operations, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: Chay Ritter provided updates on facilities and House Bill 678. HB 678 provides an opportunity for school districts to accelerate construction projects and address extracurricular facilities with a funding source typically reserved for school buildings. It is assumed that in most situations, athletic facilities are “extracurricular” facilities. Chay shared summer work that was done with the Capital Planning Advisory Board that looked at the rise in cost of construction. They are interested in ongoing district projects that have run into a situation where they have exhausted all funding options and cannot take care of this cost.

Next Meeting:

May 17, 2023