



**KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
SUPERINTENDENTS ADVISORY COUNCIL (SAC)
SUMMARY
AUG. 26, 2025**

ATTENDANCE: Amanda Abell, Wayne Ackerman, Matt Baker, Carrie Ballinger, Larry Begley, Wes Bradley, Robin Cochran, Thom Cochran, Ralph Hamilton, Bob Lawson, Barry Lee, Matthew Madding, Chad Molley, Todd Neace, Brian Robinson, Mike Rowe, Sheri Satterly, John Siler, Seth Southard, Sarah Wasson, Leonard Whalen, Brian Yearwood

MEMBERS ABSENT: Buddy Berry, Damian Johnson, Wayne Sizemore

Agenda Item: Kentucky United We Learn Council – Reimagining High School
Presenter: Karen Dodd, Chief Performance Officer
Office of the Commissioner

Summary of Discussion: Dodd provided an update of the 2024-2029 [Strategic Plan](#) and how it ties into Kentucky United We Learn. United We Learn has three big ideas at its foundation that include vibrant learning experiences for every student, encouraging innovation especially around assessment, and creating a bold new future for Kentucky's schools through collaboration with our communities. The mission is to create broad partnerships to provide leadership and support to ensure success for every student. The Kentucky United We Learn Council (the council) has been essential in developing the model framework and collaborating with communities, bringing together stakeholders to work on elevating vibrant learning experiences for all students. The council is accepting applications for new members through Sept. 26. Attendees were asked to advocate for the new assessment and accountability model using the Kentucky Department of Education's (KDE's) [The Future of Assessment and Accountability webpage](#) as well as the [Model Framework information Sheets](#). Dodd encouraged council members to share information about council membership within their district and schools. The next council meeting will be in January 2026.

Agenda Item: College Admissions Exam Junior State Administration
Presenter: Jennifer Stafford, Associate Commissioner
Christen Roseberry, Program Consultant
Division of Assessment and Accountability Support
Office of Assessment and Accountability

Summary of Discussion: Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, College Board was awarded the contract to provide the SAT for the state administration of the college admissions exam as required by [KRS 158.6453](#). Stafford explained that a protest was filed by a vendor, however the Finance and Administration Cabinet granted the Kentucky Department of Education's (KDE's) request to proceed with the College Board pending a determination regarding the protest. KDE has resumed planning for the spring 2026 administration of the SAT. Once the protest is resolved, the Office of Assessment and Accountability will be able to share

trainings, resources and testing dates with districts. Roseberry advised that this does not affect rising seniors but will affect rising juniors. Council members asked questions regarding the impact of this change on students, parents and districts.

Agenda Item: Facilities Projects, Expenditures and Funding

Presenters: Matt Ross, Associate Commissioner
Chay Ritter, Division Director
Division of District Support
Office of Finance and Operations

Summary of Discussion: Ritter shared data concerning facilities projects, expenditures and funding. Many districts have levied the recallable nickel and several more are in the process of doing so as a mechanism for funding district facility projects. The commissioner noted that a finding from KDE's recent audit by the Kentucky Auditor of Public Accounts stated that the school facilities funding process needs to be modernized. There have been discussions about what funding can look like in the future, and this is a topic that could be coming up in legislature. Council members will continue to be involved in this discussion and share how the process and potential changes will impact their unique districts.

Next Meeting:
Nov. 5, 2025