



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

ATTENDANCE: Amanda Abell, Matt Baker, Carrie Ballinger, Doug Bechanan, Robin Cochran, Ralph Hamilton, Damian Johnson, Bob Lawson, Chad Molley, Charles Morton, Todd Neace, Mike Rowe, Sheri Satterly, Wayne Sizemore, Robert Tuck, Leonard Whalen

MEMBERS ABSENT: Will Begley, Buddy Berry, Joe Buerkley, Thom Cochran, Barry Lee, Matthew Madding, Marty Pollio, Seth Southard, Tim Spencer

Agenda Item: Facilities Funding

Presenter: Steve Lyles
Assistant Director
Division of District Support
Office of Finance and Operations

Summary of Discussion: Lyles provided an overview of the different funding sources schools can pull from to fund facility improvements. Several superintendents spoke about the challenges they face in their communities, including how districts have relied on local taxes, how they navigate the bonding markets and how natural disasters have impacted their ability to improve their facilities. The size of a district matters, too. If the district is pulling from a smaller tax base, the amount it can raise through local taxes is also smaller, regardless of what needs the district has. Several superintendents also mentioned how difficult it has been to adjust construction costs with recent inflation. Commissioner of Education Robbie Fletcher said he looks forward to having more discussions with superintendents as they work toward potential recommendations that can be shared with the Kentucky General Assembly.

Agenda Item: Support Education Excellence in Kentucky (SEEK) Funding Shortfall Update

Presenter: Steve Lyles
Assistant Director
Division of District Support
Office of Finance and Operations

Summary of Discussion: Gov. Andy Beshear announced his approval of the Kentucky Department of Education's (KDE) written request to increase the 2024-2025 SEEK general fund appropriation to address the \$14.7 million shortfall in statutorily required funding. The decision to increase the SEEK appropriation, based on the language in House Bill (HB) 6, will help keep Kentucky's schools from having to make cuts in their current budgets to make up for this shortfall. The legislature also included additional language in HB 6 that gave KDE the opportunity to make this request to benefit all schools.

Next Meeting:
May 14, 2025