



**KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
SUPERINTENDENTS ADVISORY COUNCIL (SAC)
SUMMARY**

FEB. 25, 2026

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Buddy Berry, Seth Southard, Sarah Wasson, Brian Yearwood

Agenda Item: Certification Structure Workgroup

Presenter: Todd Davis, Division Director, Division of Educator Preparation and Certification, Office of Educator Licensure and Effectiveness

Summary of Discussion: Todd Davis provided an overview of the Education Certification Structure Workgroup, which has been tasked with looking into potential areas of reform, including the grade bands and content areas associated with educator certification. The workgroup's recommendations are:

- Keep preschool and kindergarten certification the same for early childhood educators, but consider an optional endorsement for grades 1-3;
- Expand elementary certification to kindergarten through 6th grade instead of the current K-5 arrangement;
- Expand middle grades certification to grades 4-9; and
- Expand secondary level certification to grades 7-12.

The council discussed the difficulty of hiring and retaining teachers with proper certifications, especially around specialized sciences and special education at the high school level. They would like to see as much flexibility as possible with certification, favoring state models that offer a secondary general science certification, which allows science teachers to teach across science subjects.

Agenda Item: School and Community Nutrition: Unanticipated School Building Closure

Presenters: Lauren Moore, Division Director; Katie Embree, School Meal Programs Manager; Cathy Gallagher, Summer Food Service Program Manager, Division of School and Community Nutrition, Office of Finance and Operations

Summary of Discussion: Lauren Moore presented the options districts can use to keep students fed when schools close unexpectedly due to inclement weather as well as events like natural disasters, major building repairs or safety-related court orders. Offering meals during these

unplanned closures is optional, but it requires advance planning and careful consideration by school leaders. All program operations must receive prior approval from School and Community Nutrition. The correct meal program depends on whether the district is using Non-Traditional Instruction (NTI) or is fully closed with no instruction, as each scenario requires a different child nutrition program to be implemented if meals are to be provided.

Agenda Item: College Admission Exam – Junior State SAT Administration

Presenters: Jennifer Stafford, Associate Commissioner; Christen Roseberry, Program Consultant, Division of Assessment and Accountability Support, Office of Assessment and Accountability

Summary of Discussion: Jennifer Stafford and Christen Roseberry presented an overview of the Junior State SAT Administration trainings offered since November and available resources. These include eight trainings in the educational cooperatives, three Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) and College Board Office Hours sessions, an accommodations training webinar and the February District Assessment Coordinator (DAC) Training with accompanying Question & Answer sessions. Schools are scheduled to begin testing juniors as early as next week and report they are prepared. Council members expressed appreciation for how seamless the transition to SAT has been. They noted that students have benefited from the practice tests, the process to apply for student accommodations is much smoother and the cost for sophomores to participate is lower than the ACT.

Agenda Item: Expanding Preschool Access Discussion

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

Summary of Discussion: Brian Perry led a discussion on the expansion of preschool access. Council members discussed how the availability of resources impacts districts' ability to expand access. Smaller districts are concerned about losing preschool students and teachers to neighboring districts with more access to preschool opportunities. The group also discussed the need to explore opportunities to support recruitment and retention of preschool teachers.

Next Meeting:

May 5, 2026