

The background of the slide is a collage. The top-left portion shows a line of yellow school buses, with the number '32' visible on the front of one. The bottom-left portion shows a classroom with blue walls, decorated with colorful balloons and framed pictures. There are several small desks and chairs arranged in the room.

Superintendents Advisory Council

May 5, 2026



Kentucky Department of
EDUCATION



Kentucky Department of Education Strategic Dashboard

Susan Strange, Strategic Plan Program Manager
Division of Strategic Planning and Research
Office of the Commissioner

Strategic Plan Webpage

- https://www.education.ky.gov/CommOfEd/StrategicPlan/Pages/Strategic_Plan.aspx

Feedback

- Could you see yourself using this?
- What other information would draw you to the dashboard?
- Would you like to see a district spotlight?
 - If so, what would be of interest to you?
 - Video, article, data, etc.

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Analysis of Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) in Kentucky

Terry Scott, Executive Director
Kentucky Reading Research Center



Analysis of LETRS Implementation in Kentucky

Key Outcome: Significant Growth in “Proficient” Students

Schools with more LETRS-trained teachers experienced stronger growth in the share of students reaching the “Proficient” level.



574
schools



135
districts



2021-
2025



7,000+
educators

Analysis of data between the 2021–2022 and 2024–2025 academic years, using **Kentucky Summative Assessment (KSA)** reading results.

More trained teachers = more proficient readers.

Schools with higher percentages of LETRS-trained teachers consistently had higher percentages of students scoring “Proficient” in reading. This relationship held even when accounting for other school factors and prior performance.

Schools with more trained teachers saw stronger growth.

When schools were divided into two groups—those above the state average for LETRS-trained teachers and those below—the difference was noticeable.

- Schools above the average saw 4.26% growth in “Proficient” readers from 2023 to 2025.
- Schools below the average saw 2.90% growth during the same period.

While both groups improved, schools with more LETRS-trained teachers improved significantly more.



Analysis of LETRS Implementation in Kentucky

Impact on struggling readers

The overall pattern of results indicates that LETRS training appears to:

- Move more students toward the “Proficient” level
- Reduce the number of students at the “Novice” level

This suggests LETRS may be most effective at strengthening foundational reading skills and helping students reach grade-level expectations, rather than primarily increasing the number of top-performing students.

What this means for Kentucky

The takeaway is straightforward: **LETRS training is helping move students into reading proficiency.** This matters because the “Proficient” level represents students who are reading at grade level and prepared for future academic success. Even modest percentage gains translate into thousands of additional students reading on grade level across the state.

Opportunities for future research

Further research could strengthen understanding of LETRS effectiveness by focusing on:

- Classroom-level implementation
- How teachers apply LETRS instructional strategies
- Connections between specific literacy practices and student reading development

Recommendations for decision-makers



Expand access to LETRS professional learning. Many schools and districts still report 0% of educators trained in LETRS.



Invest in data systems to track teacher training participation, measure classroom-level impacts, and strengthen future program evaluations.



Encourage instructional alignment and support from school leadership to sustain literacy initiatives, align instruction, and build school-wide reading culture.

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Assessment and Accountability Update

Jennifer Stafford, Associate Commissioner

Shara Savage, Division Director

Division of Assessment and Accountability Support
Office of the Assessment and Accountability



Kentucky Department of
E D U C A T I O N

Impact of Legislative Changes to Kentucky's College Entrance Exam

Jennifer Stafford, Ed.D. Associate Commissioner

Office of Assessment and Accountability

Division of Assessment & Accountability Support

Senate Bill 197, Section 15

- April 15: On the final day of the legislative session, the General Assembly passed [Senate Bill 197](#).
- The bill included a section related to Kentucky's college entrance exam that would place limitations on the use of general funds and require a new procurement for a college entrance exam for the 2026–2027 school year.

4 (15) College Entrance Exam: No General Funds provided to the Kentucky
5 Department of Education shall be used for any contract that does not meet Kentucky
6 Academic Standards and the Accountability and Assessment provisions outlined in
7 KRS 158.645, 158.6451, 158.6453, 158.6455, 158.649, and 160.346 and applicable
8 federal statutes. The Kentucky Department of Education shall initiate a new
9 competitive procurement process and shall award a contract only to a vendor or
10 vendors whose assessment product satisfies all applicable state and federal statutory
11 requirements for accountability and assessment purposes to be in place for the 2026-
12 2027 school year.

Senate Bill 197, Section 15 after Gov. Veto

- April 27: Gov. Andy Beshear vetoed limits on the use of general funds but did not veto the requirement for a new procurement.

8 The Kentucky Department of Education shall initiate a new
9 competitive procurement process and shall award a contract only to a vendor or
10 vendors whose assessment product satisfies all applicable state and federal statutory
11 requirements for accountability and assessment purposes to be in place for the 2026-
12 2027 school year.

Legislative Changes to Kentucky's College Entrance Exam

- As a result of SB 197, KDE must conduct a new procurement for the state-provided college entrance exam for 2026–2027.
- The 2026–2027 school year will begin without a selected exam, creating uncertainty for students, families and educators.
- KDE is working with the Finance and Administration Cabinet to repeat the competitive procurement process following the requirements in the statute.

Status of HB 257

Shara Savage, Director.

Office of Assessment and Accountability

Division of Assessment & Accountability Support

HB 257 Update

- [House Bill \(HB\) 257](#), a bill to reimagine Kentucky's state assessment and accountability systems, passed and has been signed by the Governor.

Locally Developed Indicators of Quality

Locally Developed Indicators of Quality

- Aligned to Kentucky academic standards
- Allow all students to apply knowledge and skills in real-world contexts
- May include local priorities (e.g., student well-being, fiscal responsibility, school safety)

Vibrant Learning

- Emphasizes student agency and real-world application
- Developed with families, communities, and workforce partners
- Demonstrated through personalized projects and experiences tied to student interests

District Implementation

Districts may develop and implement a local system that includes:

- Student participation in vibrant learning experiences
- Locally developed performance indicators

If implemented, districts must:

- Include student performance data (disaggregated by subgroup, where permissible)
- Provide a public, online display of school and district performance

KDE Support

- KDE will offer technical assistance
- KDE may offer a one-time payment (up to \$15,000 per district) to offset cost of development.

2025 – 2026 Assessment & Accountability

- Testing (KSA and AKSA) *remains* the same for Spring 26 Testing for grades 3 through 8, 10 and 11
 - Reading
 - Mathematics
 - Science
 - Social Studies
 - Editing and Mechanics
 - On-Demand Writing
 - Quality of School Climate and Safety Survey (QSCS)
- Fall Data Reporting *remains* the same for 2026
 - State Calculations with Status and Change cut scores will continue to determine school color ratings.
 - Federal Calculations with the three-year average will continue to determine classifications such as Comprehensive School and Improvement (CSI), Targeted School and Improvement (TSI), and Additional Targeted School and Improvement (ATSI).

2026 – 2027 Assessment & Accountability

- Testing (KSA and AKSA) **Changes** for Spring 27 Testing for grades 3 through 8, 10 and 11
 - The following will be removed from the state testing program:
 - Editing and Mechanics
 - On-Demand Writing
 - Quality of School Climate and Safety Survey (QSCS)
- New Accountability **Changes for 2026-2027**
 - Chronic Absenteeism will be a new indicator
 - Individual Student Growth will be a new indicator
 - Evaluation of Change for each indicator is removed
 - Writing is removed from the State Assessment Results indicator
 - One Overall Score used in the state accountability system that meets federal requirements
- *Please note: The contract for the KSA and AKSA will also be out for bid, which could affect future administrations, (i.e. 2028 and beyond).*

Targeted Quality Measures to be reported on the Kentucky School Report Card until June 2030

Additional Readiness & Quality Measure

- Educators
 - Percentage of certified teachers who have:
 - Achieved Rank II status or higher
 - Earned National Board Certification
- Grade 8 Students
 - Percentage of students earning at least one high school credit by the end of grade 8
- Grade 12 Students
 - Percentage of graduates who:
 - Complete the FAFSA by graduation or
 - Parents submit an approved opt-out
- Not currently included in State Accountability that Meets Federal Requirements and not included in regulatory changes until closer to implementation.

HB 257 Discussion and Feedback TENTATIVE TIMELINE

HB 257 Discussion and Feedback TENTATIVE TIMELINE	
April	English Learner Growth Small Group and Accountability Thought Partners met in Frankfort.
May	- English Learner Growth Small Group and Accountability Thought Partners second meeting - Kentucky Technical Advisory Council (KTAC) - Local Superintendent Advisory Council (LSAC)
June	Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) Work Session, facilitated by the Center for Assessment
July	- School Curriculum, Assessment and Accountability Council (SCAAC) - LSAC
Aug.	- KBE First Read (at KSB) - KTAC
Sept.	- SCAAC to hear recommendations - LSAC to hear recommendations
Oct.	KBE Second Read
Nov. – Dec.	Public Comment Period
Feb. 2027	- Update Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) State Plan - Statement of Consideration to KBE - Education Assessment and Accountability Review Subcommittee (EAARS) Next Meeting
<i>Please note: KDE will continue to engage with the Commissioner's Advisory Councils and other key stakeholders to gather input and guide the development of policy to align with House Bill 257.</i>	

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2026 General Assembly Update

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

House Bill 257

- Student growth vs change
- State indicators will continue to include math, reading, science and social studies
 - On-demand writing and editing mechanics will no longer be included in state assessments
- Chronic absenteeism replaces the school climate and safety survey in state accountability
 - The school climate and safety survey will remain available for districts to include in local measures of quality
- School districts will be encouraged to create their own local indicators of quality
- Local indicators of quality must include:
 - Vibrant learning experiences for students
 - Local measures of performance identified by community members
 - A method of displaying data that includes breaking down data by demographic groups
- Includes a one-time payment to offset costs incurred by local school districts in the development of locally developed indicators of quality of up to \$15,000
 - \$2,570,000 one-time appropriation in SB 197 (2026) to “support additional costs to local school districts associated with the implementation of the new education assessment and accountability system.”

HB 257 - Targeted Quality Measures

- Requires "targeted quality measures" to be reported on the Kentucky School Report Card:
 - The percentage of certified teachers within the school and district who have attained Rank II or higher or who are National Board certified;
 - For schools and districts containing students in 8th grade, the percentage of students earning at least one high school credit upon the completion of the student's 8th-grade school year; and
 - For schools and districts containing 12th-grade students, the percentage of students who have completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by the student's graduation date or officially opted out of completing it.
- Beginning July 1, 2030, the targeted measures of quality would not only be reported in the Kentucky School Report Card but also would be included as a new indicator in the state accountability system with a cumulative weight of no less than 5%.

Other KBE/KDE Priorities

- [HB 727](#) (Riley) – omnibus bill that includes our clean-up items
 - Replace KEPS with statewide job portal using existing funds from certification fees
 - ~~Stagger KBE board terms~~
 - Replace KEPS with statewide job portal using existing funds from certification fees
 - [SB 207](#) clean-up – ~~extend time for KBE to review waiver requests~~, allow the Commissioner to approve class size waiver requests for special education, & remove the automatic expiration of waivers related to district facility projects
 - Repeal [KRS 156.690](#) (Teachers' computer purchase program)
 - Repeal statutory language concerning the Council for Education Technology (CET) which has not been needed nor met in over 33 years
 - Clarify ownership/authority regarding the FFA Leadership Training Center
 - Mirror maternity leave provided to district employees under [SB 9 \(2025\)](#) for KRS 156 employees (ATCs)
- SB 181 (2025) clean-up
 - [HB 67](#) (Payne)
 - Also has most of [SB 3](#) (Tichenor) - financial responsibility and transparency

House Bill 500

- SEEK: \$4,626 in FY27 & \$4,792 in FY28
 - Up from \$4,586 in FY26
- SEEK Transportation
 - \$398,884,500 in each fiscal year
 - \$491,979,038 estimated need
- Academic Academies (Craft, Gatton, & Votruba):
 - Students will no longer be included in the average daily attendance of the students' districts of residence for the purpose of calculating SEEK
- LARS
 - ATCs included in the supplemental funding
 - Our programs are funded for both years of the biennium
- KBE leadership employment language is included (via SB 197)
- Reduction in travel (in- and out-of-state) in the 4th quarter

House Bill 500– reductions

Take the necessary steps to reduce, modify, or eliminate the expenditures of state agencies in the following priority order:

1. Temporary Manpower
2. Services personnel and contracts
3. Out-of-state travel
4. Providing food and meals that cost more than is set out in the in-state travel guideline allowance for employees attending meetings
5. Prior written approval of the agency head for any conference, meeting, or event that will require in-state travel of 20 employees or more
6. Abolishment of positions that have remained vacant for six months
7. Moratorium on all discretionary salary increases
8. Reduction, modification, or elimination of programs or services not required by state or federal law or regulation

House Bill 900

- **FFA Leadership Training Center - Activity Center**
 - \$5,000,000 in FY28
- **CTE Supplemental funding**
 - \$14,000,000 in each year
- **School of Innovation Pilot Project – Covington**
 - \$2,500,000 in FY27
- **School of Innovation Pilot Project - two schools to be selected**
 - \$5,000,000 in FY28
- **SFCC – Marion, Clay, McCreary, Frankfort, Lyon, Todd, Williamstown, Lincoln, Garrard, Russellville, McCracken**
 - Various amounts

Senate Bill 197

- Restored leadership language in HB 500:
 - *Notwithstanding KRS 18A.005 to 18A.200, the Kentucky Board of Education shall continue to have sole authority to determine the employees of the Department of Education who are exempt from the classified service and to set those employees' compensation comparable to the competitive market.*
- Included new language on the college entrance exam:
 - ~~College Entrance Exam: No General Funds provided to the Kentucky Department of Education shall be used for any contract that does not meet Kentucky Academic Standards and the Accountability and Assessment provisions outlined in KRS 158.645, 158.6451, 158.6453, 158.6455, 158.649, and 160.346 and applicable federal statutes. The Kentucky Department of Education shall initiate a new competitive procurement process and shall award a contract only to a vendor or vendors whose assessment product satisfies all applicable state and federal statutory requirements for accountability and assessment purposes to be in place for the 2026-2027 school year.~~
- \$2,570,000 one-time appropriation to “support additional costs to local school districts associated with the implementation of the new education assessment and accountability system.”

Senate Bills

- [SB 1](#) (Givens) changes to JCPS board/superintendent roles and responsibilities.
- [SB 2](#) (Adams) limit superintendent/administrator percentage pay increase greater than the average percentage pay increase provided to classroom teachers within the district.
- [SB 4](#) (West)
 - Four-year principal training and mentoring program
 - Four-year cohort model
 - First two years with KDE
 - Third year Truist/KY Chamber Foundation
 - Fourth year optional
 - \$1m in each year in HB 500
 - Reduces JCPS board to five and provides initial maps for new districts
- [SB 5](#) (Howell) aims to get more local/KY Proud food in schools
- [SB 46](#) (Deneen) permits schools to use non-school bus passenger vehicles designed for ten.
- [SB 59](#) (Rawlings) relating to prohibited uses of tax dollars and resources
- [SB 101](#) (Nunn) mandatory 12-month expulsion for students in 6-12th grade that intentionally caused or attempted to cause physical injury to a school district employee on school property or at a school function under the board's jurisdiction
- [SB 170](#) (Storm) establish a pilot program to be known as the Supporting Opportunities for Accountability and Restoration Program for children who are truant
- [SB 263](#) (West) schools of innovation & innovation fund
 - Total appropriation of \$7,500,000
 - \$2,500,000 for Covington Ind
 - \$5,000,000 for two additional projects TBD

House Bills

- [HB 1](#) (Moser) the qualified elementary and secondary education scholarship federal tax credit
- [HB 4](#) (Proctor) broad anti-grooming bill which defines grooming behavior
- [HB 7](#) (Hale) stop arm cameras for school buses
- [HB 10](#) (Hodgson) Senate confirmations
 - KBE & EPSB chairs will now require Senate confirmation
 - School Curriculum, Assessment, and Accountability Council (SCAAC) members and chair will now require Senate confirmation
- [HB 253](#) (Tipton)
 - Three-cueing prohibition
 - Prohibits nondisclosure agreements relating to misconduct involving a minor or student
- [HB 280](#) (Moser) permit schools to stock undesignated glucagon
- [HB 307](#) (Tipton) proactive postsecondary admission
- [HB 555](#) (Pollack) permit student-based enterprises within their district to sell competitive foods throughout the school day
- [HB 562](#) (Truett) alternative high school diplomas
- [HB 757](#) (Petrie) revenue bill
- [HB 778](#) (Wilson) changes who in a district and/or school is notified by a court-designated worker when a diversion agreement is developed
- [HB 900](#) (Petrie) one-time spending projects

House Bill 727 – The Omnibus

- All the previously mentioned clean-up items
- [HB 621](#) (Bojanowski) class sizes for exceptional children and youth
- [HB 654](#) (Baker) clean-up to HB48 (2025)
- [HB 685](#) (Riley) require the Education Professional Standards Board to issue a 5-year teaching certificate to eligible applicants
- [SB 71](#) (Deneen) update the annual in-service training requirements for local board of education members

KDE Legislative Guidance

- <https://www.education.ky.gov/districts/LegislativeGuidance/Pages/default.aspx>
- One main guidance document with supplemental guidance as needed

Questions

- Brian Perry, Ph.D., Director of Government Relations, Office of the Commissioner
- brian.perry@education.ky.gov

Tentative 2026-2027 Meetings

Aug. 26, 2026

Nov. 10, 2026*

Feb. 17, 2027

May 12, 2027

*Original date was Nov. 11, however KDE will be closed for Veteran's Day.