KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Superintendents Advisory Council
SUMMARY

NOVEMBER 4, 2026

ATTENDANCE: Wayne Ackerman, David Arvin, Carrie Ballinger, Larry Begley, Wes Bradley, Thom Cochran, Ralph Hamilton, Damian Johnson, Justin Kaiser, Bob Lawson, Matthew Madding, Todd Neace, Brian Robinson, Wayne Sizemore, Mark Wade, Sarah Wasson, Leonard Whalen, Brian Yearwood

MEMBERS ABSENT: Amanda Abell, Charlie Brock, Vicki Jones, Mike Rowe, Sheri Satterly, Seth Southard, Henry Webb

Agenda Item: Kentucky Educator Placement Service (KEPS) Platform Update

Presenter: Meredith Brewer, Associate Commissioner, Office of Educator Licensure and Effectiveness

Summary of Discussion: Meredith Brewer presented the redesigned Kentucky Educator Placement Service (KEPS) that is scheduled to go live in February. KEPS serves as a centralized online platform for posting education job vacancies and managing educator applications across Kentucky school districts. KEPS, which is accessible through KDE's website, allows school districts to post job openings electronically and enables the public to view job postings. The updated platform will allow educators and noncertified staff to create and submit universal applications and supporting materials to multiple districts, which will be able to access, review and download applications. KEPS is available at no cost to districts, and districts can post both certified and classified positions in the system. The update to the system includes a simplified posting and waiver request process, a mobile-friendly design, a common application that can be used to apply to multiple vacancies across several districts with one submission, and a prospect feature that lets districts connect with potential applicants before they ever apply to a posting. Superintendents Advisory Council members asked questions about the system and said they appreciate the upcoming changes.

Agenda Item: House Bill 253 (2026) Overview

Presenter: Micki Marinelli, Chief Academic Officer, Office of Teaching and Learning

Summary of Discussion: Micki Marinelli presented responses to frequently asked questions from superintendents regarding House Bill (HB) 253 (2026). The bill states that districts may not use curriculum, reading interventions or programs of instruction that employ the three-cueing system to teach students to read beginning in the 2029–2030 school year. KDE and partner entities also may not provide or use professional development that uses the three-cueing system, and districts must establish a policy for identifying and assisting K-3 students with dyslexia. Marinelli explained that the three-cueing system encourages guessing rather than sounding out

unfamiliar words, lacks empirical support, and the method disproportionately disadvantages students with dyslexia, who benefit more from explicit phonics instruction. HB 253 also requires KDE to establish an approved list of reading interventions that are scientifically researched, evidence-based and do not include instructional strategies aligned to the three-cueing system. By June 30, 2029, all interdisciplinary early childhood through grade 5 educators must complete a science of reading professional learning program approved by the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE). One approved option is the Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS). Educators who have completed LETRS do not need additional training to meet the House Bill 253 requirement. KDE recently added the AIM Institute for Learning & Research Pathways coursework as another approved option. The most flexible approved option, however, is the newly published KY Learning Hub elementary science of reading course entitled "What the Research Says: Effective Reading Instruction for All Students," which KDE completed in partnership with SchoolKit Group.

Next Meeting:
Feb. 16, 2027

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