



**Kentucky Department of Education  
Superintendents Advisory Council (SAC)  
Meeting Summary  
August 22, 2024**

**ATTENDANCE:** Carrie Ballinger, Doug Bechanan, Thom Cochran, Robbie Fletcher, Michael Ford, David Gilliam, Barry Lee, Matthew Madding, Patrick Richardson, Robert Tuck, Leonard Whalen, Chad Molley, Sheri Satterly, Tim Spencer, Robin Cochran, Bob Lawson, Amanda Abell, Matt Baker, Will Begley, Ralph Hamilton, Todd Neace, Mike Row and Wayne Sizemore.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Buddy Berry, Joe Buerkley, Damian Johnson, Chad Molley, Charles Morton, Misty Middleton and Seth Southard.

**Agenda Item:** School Resource Officer Reimbursement Process

**Presenter:** Matt Ross  
Associate Commissioner  
Office of Finance and Operations  
Kentucky Department of Education

**Summary of Discussion:** Ross clarified the process for School Resource Office (SRO) reimbursement and clarified language in House Bill (HB) 63. HB 63 provides districts with \$20,000 for one full-time SRO per campus. An SRO splitting time between campuses would not be funded, indicating a safety gap. Ross mentioned the possibility of amending HB 63 in the next legislative session. If amended, leftover funds could be redistributed to districts to cover previously unfunded positions. Districts can apply to the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) for reimbursement, following the same process they are accustomed to. Superintendents requested that KDE provide each district with a list of their campuses and the number of SROs eligible for reimbursement.

**Agenda Item:** Transportation Policy Update

**Presenters:**

Matt Ross, Associate Commissioner  
Office of Finance and Operations

Chay Ritter, Division Director  
Division of District Support

Steve Lyles, Assistant Director  
Division of District Support

Elisa Hanley, Branch Manager  
Pupil Transportation Branch

**Summary of Discussion:** HB 446 requires KDE to create statewide transportation service policy guidelines. These guidelines are still in development. They are like statewide discipline policy guidelines in that they are not model policies but rather considerations for districts to use when creating their own policies. The guidelines will provide a high-level overview of expectations and responsibilities for students and parents, including a parent acknowledgment of the policy. Topics will include riding, bus stop behavior, orderly operations, bus driver focus and safety, fostering a positive bus atmosphere, grievance procedures, discipline procedures and clear expectations of student behavior. KDE was given until August 31 to create the guidelines, and it took time to gather stakeholder feedback.

**Agenda Item:** Career and Technical Education Funding

**Presenters:** Beth Hargis, Associate Commissioner  
Office of Career and Technical Education

Regan Satterwhite, Policy Advisor  
Office of Career and Technical Education

**Summary of Discussion:** Satterwhite presented on HB 499, effective July 1, 2024, detailing its impact on Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs and funding. Satterwhite explained FY25 supplemental CTE funding, with roughly \$70 million split 40/60—40% for performance incentives and 60% for weighted CTE funding. Hargis noted that fluctuations could impact CTE allocations due to factors like changes in enrollments and the number of programs. Overall, allocations were not based solely on incentives but including them ensures high-quality instruction for everyone.

**Agenda Item:** Artificial Intelligence in Public Schools

**Presenters:** Marty Park  
Chief Digital Officer  
Office of Technical Education

**Summary of Discussion:** Park reported that the Kentucky Education Technology System (KETS) operational plan has been approved by the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE). KDE is requesting additional funds to operate effectively. Given the rapid growth of generative Artificial Intelligence (AI), KDE is collaborating with the Kentucky School Board Association (KSBA) to develop a model AI policy and integrate it into acceptable use policies. Park shared KDE's Artificial Intelligence Guidance Brief which highlights KDE's recognition of AI's transformative potential in education and the workforce. The KDE's Office of Education Technology (OET), through the KETS Master Plan, identifies AI as a growth opportunity and aims to encourage, engage and

empower the safe, secure and responsible use of AI in schools by teachers and students, ensuring human oversight in AI implementations.

**Agenda Item:** Virtual Schools in Kentucky

**Presenters:** Marty Park  
Chief Digital Officer  
Office of Technical Education

**Summary of Discussion:** Less than 1% of full-time Kentucky students are enrolled in virtual school. Currently, there are 12 programs listed as A8 (full-time online virtual remote). During COVID-19, a waiver was provided for virtual students, allowing for an attendance-based virtual strategy and a performance-based model. The regulation 704 KAR 3:535 establishes a permanent attendance-based funding mechanism for K-12 virtual students. An amendment has been approved to enhance accountability, which was previously lacking in the model.

**Agenda Item:** Assessment and Accountability Update

**Presenters:** Rhonda Sims, Associate Commissioner  
Office of Assessment and Accountability

Jennifer Stafford, Division Director  
Division of Assessment and Accountability Support  
Office of Assessment and Accountability

**Summary of Discussion:** The Kentucky United We Learn Council has been gathering input from advisory councils, stakeholder groups and school leaders on two prototypes, which should not be viewed as mutually exclusive; rather, the council plans to incorporate elements of both into its next prototype.

One alternative is to move to an accreditation-style accountability model that would allow for ongoing collection and submission of evidence of learning throughout the school year. In this model, schools would submit evidence to an external evaluator and the local board of education and receive ratings on rubrics with feedback for improvement. Another option is to include a vibrant learning experiences indicator. This indicator would focus on making sure students, families and communities are engaging in “authentic, joyful and relevant learning opportunities.” This also allows students to be creative in their learning and applying their knowledge and skills through their personalized projects and experiences.

**Next Meeting**

November 12, 2024