



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Superintendents Advisory Council (SAC)
SUMMARY
MAY 15, 2024

ATTENDANCE: Carrie Ballinger, Thom Cochran, Robbie Fletcher, Michael Ford, Barry Lee, Matthew Madding, Chad Molley, Patrick Richardson, Seth Southard, Tim Spencer, Robert Tuck, Leonard Whalen

MEMBERS ABSENT: Doug Bechanan, Buddy Berry, Joe Buerkley, Robin Cochran, David Gilliam, Damian Johnson, Bob Lawson, Misty Middleton, Charles Morton, Marty Pollio, Sheri Satterly

Agenda Item: Kentucky Department of Education Update

Presenters: Todd Allen, Deputy Commissioner and General Counsel, Office of Legal Services

Summary of Discussion: Todd Allen stated he was filling in for Interim Commissioner Robin Kinney and would be sharing today's discussion with her. Allen provided a brief update from KDE to SAC.

Agenda Item: Legislative Update Covering New Educational Bills Passed During the Session

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

Summary of Discussion: Brian Perry discussed enacted legislation from the 2024 legislative session and what it meant for the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) and school districts.

House Bill (HB) 377 includes paid student teaching, student loan forgiveness, and increased scholarships for teacher recruitment and retention. The legislature has appropriated funds to be used in the budget. HB 499 made changes to the funding allocation process for state supplemental career and technical education (CTE) grant funds (formerly LAVEC funding). Sixty percent of a district's allocation will be based upon student enrollment and 40% will be based on performance incentives. CTE programs must maintain eligibility for federal Perkins funding to receive state supplemental CTE funds.

Perry detailed several other pieces of legislation superintendents need to be aware of, including Senate Bill 6, which proposes that a new section be added to the constitution of Kentucky for financial support to be provided to the education of students outside the system of common schools. Other bills enacted deal with numeracy, student safety and mental health, transportation and artificial intelligence among many other subjects.

Agenda Item: Overview of Property Assessment Growth Relief

Presenters: Chay Ritter, Division Director, Division of District Support, Office of Finance and Operations

Summary of Discussion: Senate Bill (SB) 91 aims to provide relief to districts experiencing real estate growth and a potential cut in funding through the Support Education Excellence in Kentucky (SEEK) funding formula. Chay Ritter, division director in the KDE Office of Finance and Operations, said KRS 157.360(17) – which is known as the “4% adjusted assessment rule” – already allows for some relief, and SB 91 would be in addition to that relief. Ritter said KDE is working on how the reporting and notification portion of the bill will be conveyed to districts. He expects if a district qualifies for the funding, payment will not occur until the SEEK final calculation that occurs on March 1 each year.

Ritter said the bill is specific to real property assessments only – not the assessment used for SEEK calculations – and multiple qualifying events must occur for a district to qualify. Funds must also be available in the SEEK budget appropriation for districts to receive the relief.

Agenda Item: Discuss Possible Support Education Excellence in Kentucky (SEEK) Workshop Event for Summer 2024

Presenters: Chay Ritter, Division Director, Division of District Support, Office of Finance and Operations

Summary of Discussion: The council discussed the possibility of organizing a SEEK workshop for district staff to gain a better understanding of how the SEEK funding formula works. Members agreed that hosting sessions at the regional co-ops would make it easier for multiple staff members from each district to attend. A proposal was made to supply each district with their specific SEEK worksheet during the workshop, allowing the superintendent and staff to delve into the particulars of their district. Robbie Fletcher noted the urgency of conducting the workshop, keeping in mind the schedule of the Legislative Research Committee SEEK taskforce.

Next Meeting:

To be determined