



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
TEACHER ADVISORY COUNCIL  
SUMMARY

SEPTEMBER 7, 2023

**Members Present:** Byron Wilson, Chad Davidson, Carla Criswell, April Jackson, Jamaal Stiles, Amanda Klare, Susan Cintra, Rosa Cubero-Hurley, Donnie Wilkerson, Jane Modlin, Carla Lawson, Amy Leasgang, Mandy Perez

**Members Absent:** Erica Deal, Jen Davis, Misty Bivens, Kenita Ballard, Gregory Smith, Jennifer Stewart

**Agenda Item: Welcome**

**Presenter:** Stacy Noah, Office of Educator Licensure and Effectiveness, Kentucky Department of Education

**Agenda Item: Approve Summary from Last Meeting and Roll Call of Members**

**Presenter:** Jamaal Stiles, Teachers Advisory Council (TAC), Chairperson, Washington County Schools

**Summary of Discussion:** Donnie Wilkerson made a motion to approve the summary minutes from the June 2023 meeting. Carla Criswell made a second.

**Agenda Item: HB 538**

**Presenter:** Matthew Courtney, Office of Continuous Improvement and Support, and Todd Allen, Office of Legal Services, Kentucky Department of Education

**Summary of Discussion:** Per TAC member request, an update on new legislation on student discipline was provided by Matthew Courtney to the group.

[House Bill \(HB\) 538](#), passed during the 2023 legislative session, creates new requirements to resolve behavior issues, including:

- Requiring the expulsion of a student for at least 12 months if the student has made threats that pose “a danger to the well-being of students, faculty or staff of the district”; and
- Requiring each local school board to adopt a policy outlining the disciplinary response for a student who has physically assaulted, battered or abused educational personnel or other students off school property and the incident is likely to substantially disrupt the educational process.

Courtney explained that there are alternatives to expulsion, including involuntary enrollment in the district's alternative education program. Local boards also may adopt policies that establish an appeals committee and procedures.

Courtney said the alternative education programs would be reviewed annually by the local school board to determine whether students need to continue in that program if it is utilized as an alternative to expulsion.

The law also creates a potential disciplinary route for students who are deemed "chronically disruptive," or students who have been removed from the same classroom three times within a 30-day period. They may be suspended if they fit this category.

Courtney said the expulsion rule in HB 538 could conflict with other laws, but referencing Kentucky Office of the Attorney General Opinion 23-02 ([OAG 23-02](#)) will help districts make that determination. The opinion states the 12-month expulsion may be imposed as long as the punishment is not arbitrary compared with the nature of the offense.

"What this really tells us here is that context is key for this," he said.

The federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act continues to govern situations involving students with disabilities.

**Feedback:** Carla Criswell, an English language arts teacher in Christian County, asked what the local school board could do if a student is sent to an alternative program and the disruptive behavior continues. Courtney said HB 538 did not change any policies governing alternative programs, and beyond the annual review of a student's placement in an alternative program in lieu of expulsion, local school boards would need to craft a policy to address such a matter.

### **Agenda Item: Kentucky Academic Standards for Health and Physical Education Review**

**Presenter:** Chrystal Rowland and Thomas Clouse, Office of Teaching and Learning, Kentucky Department of Education

**Summary of Discussion:** Updates as well as feedback and design opportunities related to Kentucky Academic Standards (KAS) for Health and Physical Education were shared. KDE is seeking public comment on the current standards. Teachers, administrators, students, families, business and community members are encouraged to provide feedback by Sept. 29 using a link. Additionally, TAC members were asked share that applications are being accepted for Health and PE teachers to serve on the Advisory Panel and Review Committee until Sept. 29

**Feedback:** None

**Agenda Item:** Kentucky Academic Standards (KAS) for Social Studies Update

**Presenter:** Lauren Gallicchio and Heather Ransom, Office of Teaching and Learning, Kentucky Department of Education

**Summary of Discussion:** To support educators in implementing the revised *KAS for Social Studies*, TAC members were introduced to an upcoming module series entitled Supporting Students in Using Evidence. The professional learning module series supports teachers in learning how to effectively modify and implement sources based on students' needs while still maintaining the integrity and content of the source. TAC members were also encouraged to access the Social Studies Resource Page that includes all available resources for Social Studies teachers.

TAC members were asked to provide feedback regarding the best strategies to communicate all the available resources with teachers and others across the state.

**Feedback:** Carla Criswell suggested reaching out to district level curriculum specialists to share the resources as they generally work closely with content teachers. Susan Cintra suggested using educational cooperatives and the Kentucky Education Association (KEA) as a communication partner as both work with large numbers of teachers.

**Agenda Item:** Teacher Recruitment Efforts: GoTeach KY Ambassador Program

**Presenter:** Justin Edwards, Office of Educator Licensure and Effectiveness, Kentucky Department of Education

**Summary of Discussion:** On behalf of the [GoTeachKY](#) initiative, Justin Edwards shared that KDE is looking for the next class of ambassadors, and updated council members on efforts to bolster the development and recruitment of Kentucky teachers.

The mission of GoTeachKY is to ensure all students across the Commonwealth have equitable access to effective educators. GoTeachKY seeks to recruit the next generation of teachers and help remedy the critical teacher shortage, which affects every state in the U.S.

Justin Edwards, a program consultant in KDE's Office of Educator Licensure and Effectiveness, said there are three goals for an ambassador:

- Communicate with and inspire students in high school and college to consider teaching as a career;
- Communicate with potential and current teachers to positively capture the rewards and opportunities associated with a career in teaching; and
- Support and promote the central focus areas, programs and organizations of GoTeachKy.

Edwards said there are opportunities for [GoTeachKY ambassadors](#) to get stipends through the program to speak at different locations, including college campuses.

**Feedback:** April Jackson, a special education teacher in Hardin County, asked if there are ways to reach college students with teacher recruitment efforts. Jamaal Stiles, chair of the Teachers Advisory Council and a biology teacher in Washington County, was a GoTeachKY ambassador and said one of most promising things about the program was seeing students at the national [Educators Rising](#) conference excited about teaching and learning.

“If you’re on the fence about applying, I would very highly suggest it,” he said. “It helped me, as a professional, to see our students across the Commonwealth who are also passionate about teaching and entering the field.”

**Agenda Item: Conditional Waiver of 16 KAR 5:040, Section 5(7)**

**Presenter:** Brandon Harrod, Office of Educator Licensure and Effectiveness, Kentucky Department of Education

**Summary of Discussion:** Harrod shared a recent update from the June 2023 Education Professional Standards Boards (EPSB) meeting. A conditional waiver of 16 KAR 5:040, Section 5(7) was approved. The waiver allows classified staff members who have met all the requirements for student teaching to maintain their benefits of employment. The waiver’s intent is to promote local districts in growing their own pool of qualified teachers by supporting nontraditional candidates in completing all the necessary steps to obtain teacher certification without sacrificing salary, insurance, etc.

**Feedback:** TAC member Chad Davidson asked if the waiver applied only to those districts who wanted to participate or was it to be applied to all districts. Harrod confirmed it was a judicial waiver and applied to all districts.

**Agenda Item: Portrait of a Learner**

**Presenter:** Sarah Snipes, Office of Continuous Improvement, Kentucky Department of Education

**Summary of Discussion:** Snipes shared overview information about Portrait of a Learner (PoL) and provided guidance on the development of local competencies to support the district’s PoL. An emphasis was placed on the identification of knowledge, skills and dispositions necessary for success in academics, personal and professional life. A sample continuum was shared with the group as a tool to support best practice development. TAC members were polled regarding where their district was on the continuum.

A PoL Guidance Document and Frequently Asked Questions link was shared with the group. TAC members were encouraged to review the related materials and advocate for student attainment of identified skills.

**Feedback:** Carla Criswell shared an example of how she was designing learning experiences to develop her district’s identified competencies.

**Agenda Item: Teacher Morale Feedback Loop**

**Presenter:** Jamaal Stiles, TAC Chairperson, Washington County Schools

**Summary of Discussion:** TAC members reviewed a teacher morale survey that was developed and shared by Chad Davidson. Members worked in breakout rooms to identify common themes in the responses. Stiles will be pulling the information together to share with the group via email for review and consideration of next steps.

**Feedback:** None

**Agenda Item: TAC Chairperson Selection Process**

**Summary of Discussion:** Stacy Noah shared with the council that the TAC chairperson for 2023-2024 must be selected. Noah informed the council that the selection process was determined by the group. After reviewing different ways to identify the TAC chairperson, the group decided to call for volunteers who would be interested in serving in that capacity. By Sept. 15, TAC members must email Stacy Noah specifying interest to serve. If more than one person is interested, a vote will be conducted by TAC members. The member with the most votes will serve.

**Agenda Item: Adjournment**

**Presenter:** Jamaal Stiles, TAC Chairperson, Washington County Schools

**Summary of Discussion:** Chad Davidson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Susan Cintra.