

SUMMARY MINUTES ARE DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED AT THE DECEMBER 2026 MEETING



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (KDE)
TEACHER ADVISORY COUNCIL
SUMMARY

Sept. 9, 2026

ATTENDANCE: Megan Hall (chair), Tyler Saylor, Mandy Perez, Jason Davidson, Corey Burns, Emmanuel Anama-Green, Shane Baker, Robyn Ballinger, Amber Hinkle, Casey Page, Joseph Stivers, Amy Leasgang, Kevin Dailey, Brooke Leffingwell, Kristen Morgan

MEMBERS ABSENT: Scott Bratcher, Jessica Hobson, Sarah Lizer, Becky Spies, Toni Prater, Nick Shoffner, Wendy Young

Agenda Item: Welcome

Presenter: Veda Stewart, Division Director, Office of Educator Licensure and Effectiveness

Summary of Discussion: Stewart welcomed the council members and spoke on the importance of the teaching profession. Stewart reminded the members of the important role the members play on the council to serve as a voice for teachers across the state. Stewart closed her

welcome with the following message, “As you begin this amazing new school year, may you lead with purpose, teach with passion and never underestimate the power that each of us has to bring something unique to our classrooms.”

Feedback: None

Agenda Item: Roll Call of Members

Presenter: Megan Hall, TAC Chairperson, Rosa Parks Elementary, Fayette County

Summary of Discussion: Hall led the roll call of members.

Feedback: None

Agenda Item: Approve Agenda

Presenter: Megan Hall, TAC Chairperson, Rosa Parks Elementary, Fayette County

Summary of Discussion: Hall asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Baker made a motion to approve the agenda. Page made a second to approve the agenda. The agenda was then voted on and approved.

Feedback: None

Agenda Item: Approve Summary from Last Meeting

Presenter: Megan Hall, TAC Chairperson, Rosa Parks Elementary, Fayette County

Summary of Discussion: Hall asked for a motion to approve the summary of the June meeting. Hinkle made a motion to approve the June summary. Stivers made a second to approve the June summary. The summary was voted on and approved.

Feedback: None

Agenda Item: Kentucky Academic Standards Update

Presenter: Lauren Gallicchio, Assistant Director, Division of Program Standards

Sara Merideth, World Language Consultant, Division of Program Standards

Summary of Discussion: Gallicchio and Merideth explained the Kentucky Academic Standards update process. Gallicchio explained that Kentucky reviews one or two content areas annually on a rotating six-year cycle under KRS 158.6453. World Language Standards are currently included in that scheduled review. Merideth said public comments are being collected through a Google form covering the four main parts of the World Language Standards, along with basic biographical information. The form is available through the KDE press release, the standards newsletter, and the QR code displayed in their PowerPoint. Merideth also let the group know that comments are accepted through Oct. 5. Classroom teachers and instructional leads may apply to serve on the World Language Standards advisory panel or review committee. Applications are open through Oct. 5 and should be shared with language teachers across districts and regional cooperatives. The form is available through the KDE press release, the standards newsletter and the QR code displayed in their PowerPoint.

Feedback: None

Agenda Item: K–8 Social Studies Curriculum Project

Presenter: Lauren Gallicchio, Assistant Director, Division of Program Standards

Summary of Discussion: Gallicchio presented *Our Commonwealth, Our Nation, Our World*, a free, optional K–8 social studies curriculum being developed by the Kentucky Department of Education and the Core Knowledge Foundation to align with Kentucky's revised standards. The resource is being developed in response to requests from Kentucky districts, schools, and teachers for high-quality materials aligned to the *Kentucky Academic Standards (KAS) for Social Studies*. *Our Commonwealth* will reflect Kentucky communities and provide opportunities for K-8 students to have access to vibrant, coherent social studies instruction. The curriculum will integrate civics, economics, geography and history around grade-level themes that build knowledge cumulatively across K-8. The curriculum reflects the *KAS for Social Studies* design principle that content knowledge and inquiry are inseparable, and that deep knowledge in civics, economics, geography and history strengthens students' reading comprehension, vocabulary and academic language. The curriculum will be an open education resource available for free digital download. The first release is planned for the 2027–2028 school year for kindergarten and grades 3, 5 and 8. Grades 1, 2, 4, 6 and 7 are planned for release during 2028–2029. KDE tentatively expects to preview one unit for each first-release grade in spring 2027. In response

to a question raised by chair Hall, Gallicchio clarified that the new resource will not change the state assessment.

Feedback: None

Agenda Item: Individual Learning Plan (ILP) Showcase

Presenter: Susan Strange, Strategic Plan Program Manager, Office of the Commissioner

Summary of Discussion: Strange announced a Kentucky Department of Education ILP Showcase led by the Commissioner Student Advisory Council, inviting middle and high school students, teachers, and counselors to submit original short videos explaining how ILPs support students' future education and career planning in their district. The showcase is open from Aug. 17 through Oct. 23 with teamwork encouraged. Videos must be entirely original; AI-generated videos are not permitted, and media releases are required for every student appearing in or shown in a video. Selected videos may be featured on KDE websites and social media channels. Submission information is available through the KDE website, and questions should be directed to Myles Young in the Communications Department.

Feedback: None

Agenda Item: Research Blogs

Presenter: Leslie McKinney, Academic Program Manager, Office of the Commissioner

Summary of Discussion: McKinney introduced KDE's new research blog as a recurring, accessible resource that translates department research into short articles for Kentucky educators, families, community members and policymakers. The blog launched on Aug. 11 and is expected to be published approximately every couple of weeks. Posts are designed as five- to 10-minute reads and will include current and archived content organized by topic. The opening five-part series focuses on chronic absenteeism. A subsequent series on teacher well-being is planned to continue into spring. Posts will include targeted reflection questions to gather responses from different Kentucky communities and role groups. The content will combine research-backed information with real-world examples from the Commonwealth. The blog can be found by searching for "research blog" on the KDE website. Announcements and links will also appear in Kentucky Teacher Magazine and the Commissioner's weekly messages.

Feedback: None

Agenda Item: Setting Priorities

Presenter: Megan Hall, TAC Chairperson, Rosa Parks Elementary, Fayette County

Summary of Discussion: Hall facilitated a priority-setting exercise in which council members identified and voted on issues to guide future agendas, speakers, resources and advice to the commissioner. Hall first asked members to identify challenges affecting their schools and communities on their own. Then, members discussed them in breakout groups. After their breakout groups, themes were shared with the whole group. The shared themes were then voted on and five were selected as the priorities for the council's annual work. The selected priorities will shape future meeting agendas, guest speakers, data and resource development. The selected priorities decided by the group for the following year will be:

- Gap in student readiness
- Workload affecting wellbeing of teachers
- Truancy / Attendance
- Teacher Mentorships (something similar to the Kentucky Teacher Internship Program)
- Artificial Intelligence (using it in classroom)

Feedback: None

Agenda Item: Adjournment

Presenter: Megan Hall, TAC Chairperson, Rosa Parks Elementary, Fayette County

Summary of Discussion: Hall asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Stivers made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ballinger made a second to adjourn the meeting. The motion was voted on and the meeting was adjourned.