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Superintendents Webcast

Aug. 11, 2026



Kentucky Department of
EDUCATION

Agenda

Welcome and Updates

Dr. Robbie Fletcher, Commissioner of Education

Kentucky Department of Education Update

Jennifer Ginn, KDE's Director of Communications

KBE Update

GlyptusAnn Grider Jones, Director of Education Policy, Office of the Commissioner

2026-2027 Improvement Planning Platform Update

Associate Commissioner Kelly Foster, KDE's Office of Continuous Improvement and Support

Local Indicators of Quality Diagnostic

Associate Commissioner Kelly Foster, KDE's Office of Continuous Improvement and Support

Senate Bill 4 Listening Tour

Associate Commissioner Kelly Foster, KDE's Office of Continuous Improvement and Support

Individual Learning Plan (ILP) Video Showcase

Karen Dodd, KDE's Chief Performance Officer, Office of the Commissioner

Michelle Sircy, Program Coordinator for Comprehensive School Counseling, KDE's Office of Teaching and Learning

OCTE New Pathway Timeline

Associate Commissioner Beth Hargis, KDE's Office of Career and Technical Education

Special Education Monitoring: From Program to Fiscal – What You Need to Know

Associate Commissioner Gretta Hylton, KDE's Office of Special Education and Early Learning

Jarrod S. Slone, Director, Division of IDEA Monitoring and Results, KDE's Office of Special Education and Early Learning

Jessica Jones, Branch Manager, Division of IDEA Monitoring and Results, KDE's Office of Special Education and Early Learning

Questions and Answers

Important Dates

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Welcome and Updates

Dr. Robbie Fletcher
Commissioner of Education



Kentucky Department of
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New KBE Voting Members Appointed

- Patti Minter of Bowling Green was appointed by Gov. Andy Beshear as a voting member of the Kentucky Board of Education on July 30.
- She replaces Lee Todd, whose term expired.
- Minter has taught history and legal studies courses at Western Kentucky University (WKU) since 1993.
- She previously served as the faculty regent on the WKU Board of Regents from 2007 to 2014 and was a state lawmaker from 2019 to 2023.



Patti Minter

New KBE Voting Members Appointed (2)

- Felicia Nu'Man of Louisville also was appointed by Gov. Beshear on July 30 to serve as a voting member of the Kentucky Board of Education.
- She replaces Diana Woods, whose term expired.
- Nu'Man is an attorney with experience as a prosecutor and as a private attorney in civil, criminal and family law.
- She has been director of the Louisville Urban League's Center for Justice and Policy Initiatives since 2022 and previously worked as an attorney with KDE and the Education Professional Standards Board.
- Their terms expire April 14, 2030, and they are at-large members of the board.



Felicia Nu'Man

Ashland Independent's Stephanie Phillips Named to KBE as Non-Voting Teacher Member

- Stephanie Phillips, a family consumer sciences teacher at Paul Blazer High School (Ashland Independent), is the newest non-voting teacher member of the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE).
- Her career started in early childhood education, but she moved to the high school level to teach family consumer sciences as part of Ashland Independent's CTE program. She has been in her current role with the district for 14 years.
- Phillips said she's excited to see how education policy works at the state level and offer her thoughts to the discussions.
- Her tenure on the KBE began July 1 and will continue until June 30, 2027. She is the sixth non-voting teacher member of the KBE.



Stephanie Phillips, last on the right, poses with students from her Child Development Services 2 course during the 2025-2026 school year as they celebrated graduation. Photo courtesy Stephanie Phillips

Trace Brooking Selected as New Non-Voting KBE Student Member

- Trace Brooking, a junior at Glasgow High School (Glasgow Independent), has been selected as the new KBE non-voting student member.
- Brooking's term began on July 1 and will end on June 30, 2027.
- While serving on the KBE, Brooking plans to connect with principals, superintendents, teachers and students around Kentucky to find out what issues are important to them.
- After high school, he said he wants to pursue law school and follow a political path to potentially become a senator or representative. He has interest in attending Duke University in North Carolina.



Educators Attend Inaugural Kentucky English Learner Leadership Summit

- The Kentucky English Learner Leadership Summit, held on July 7, is a new, full-day conference for district English learner directors, coordinators and other leaders. The event followed the first session of the summit in Owensboro on June 17.
- From 2017 to 2025, English learner enrollment has grown by more than 25,000 students in Kentucky, which is an 89% increase.
- Will Spalding, KDE's multilingual learner specialist, said the purpose of the summit was to share updated KDE guidance and resources with English learner leaders, and to provide opportunities for them to collaborate to learn and grow from one another.
- KDE recently released an updated [English Learner Program Guidebook](#), which is designed to support district program leaders, English language development teachers and general education teachers in serving English learners. It offers practical tools and clear guidance to strengthen instruction and support alignment with state and federal expectations.



Kentucky United We Learn Council Focuses on How to Support Districts

- The [Kentucky United We Learn Council met July 24](#) to discuss the implementation of reimagined assessment and accountability systems under [House Bill \(HB\) 257](#) and the resources available to districts to help provide more vibrant learning experiences.
- The discussion included a deeper dive into how local accountability is already working in districts, featuring testimonials from leaders of Allen County and Fleming County on how they reimagined assessment and accountability.
- KDE staff members presented resources to help districts with assessment and accountability, including the [Local Accountability Design Guide and Toolkit](#). The guide provides a step-by-step approach, real examples from across the Commonwealth and practical tools to help schools and communities design accountability systems that reflect local priorities and create vibrant learning experiences for every student.
- [Read more about the Kentucky United We Learn Council meeting on Kentucky Teacher.](#)



Allen County Superintendent Travis Hamby talks about how they reimagined assessment and accountability with members of the Kentucky United We Learn Council

School Report Card Release Tentative Timeline

- The tentative SRC Suite timeline is provided below and will be kept updated on the [SRC Resources webpage](#).
 - July 22: SRC Portal opened for data collection of school and district data entry and approval of data in the School Safety domain.
 - Aug. 11: Overview and Education Opportunity domains open for district review and approval.
 - Mid-September: Career and Technical Education and Transition to Adult Life domains open for district review and approval.
 - Mid-September: QA day for assessment and accountability data (not in the SRC Portal).
 - Oct. 1: School Profile Reports should be completed, signed and available in the district board office.
 - Oct. 2: SRC portal closes for approvals and district data entry.
 - Oct. 13-14: Embargo period
 - Oct. 15: Tentative public release date

OSEEL GUIDES Workshop Series

- Early learning directors, preschool coordinators and directors of special education entering their first or second year are invited to participate in OSEEL GUIDES.
- This virtual monthly workshop series focuses on essential responsibilities, practical guidance and leadership development for new administrators.
- Offered by KDE's Office of Special Education and Early Learning (OSEEL) in partnership with TAESE and the University of Kentucky Human Development Institute, the series provides opportunities to build knowledge, strengthen leadership skills and connect with other new administrators.
- For more information, contact [Alisha Reeves](#).
- Register for the [OSEEL GUIDES Workshop Series](#).



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KDE Update

Jennifer Ginn, KDE's Director of Communications



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Competitive Grants from KDE

General Grant Q&A Session

Tuesday, Aug. 18, 10 a.m.–11:30 a.m. ET

A brief overview of the KDE Request for Application (RFA/Grant) process and a time for general questions related to RFAs offered by the KDE. Questions related to specific RFAs will not be answered during this session.

There are no grants currently accepting applications.

Applicants are responsible for monitoring KDE's Competitive Grants webpage for amendments and updates to the posted RFAs and supporting materials. More information about grants can be found on the [KDE Competitive Grants webpage](#) or by emailing [Jennifer Bryant](#).



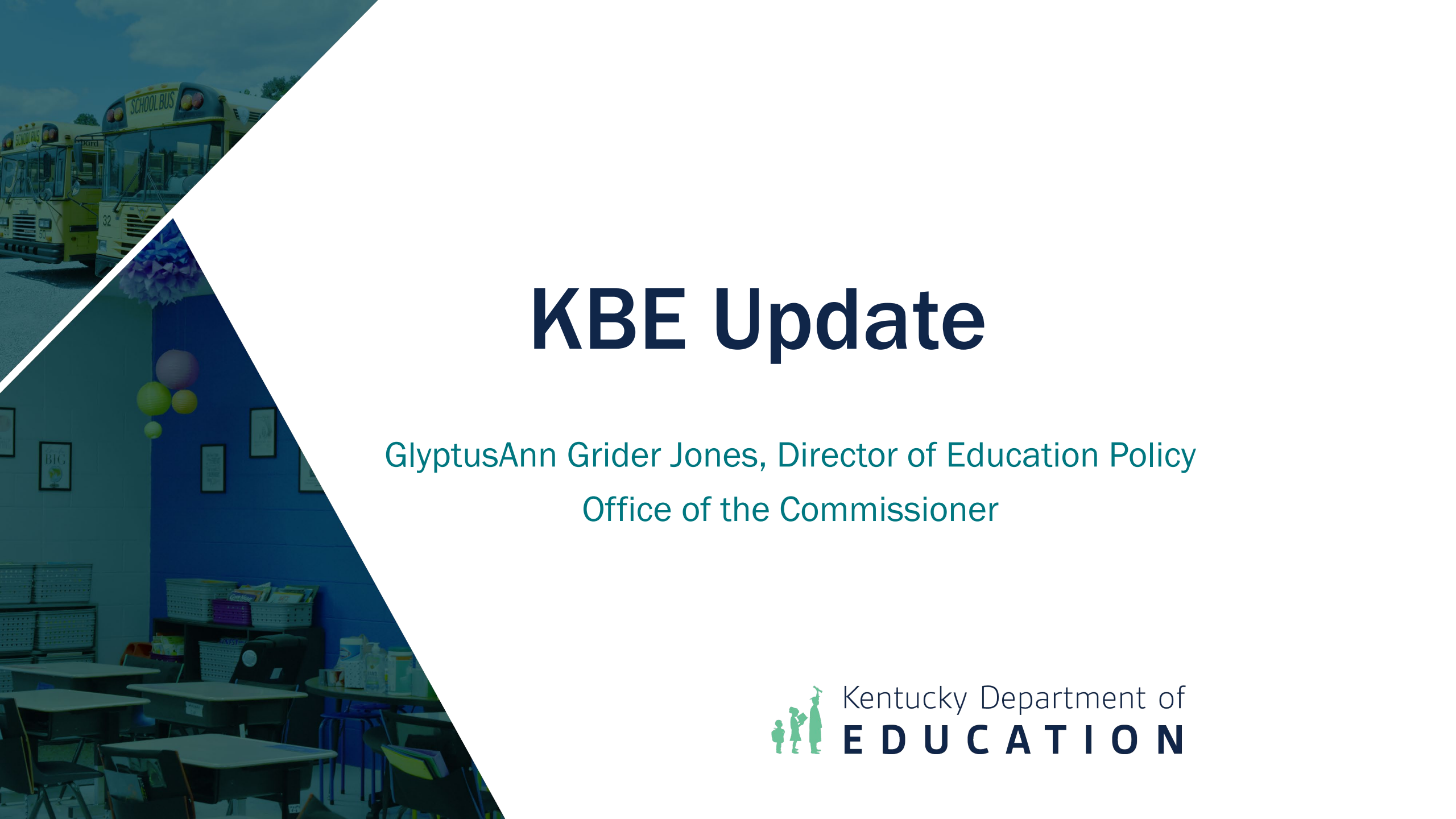
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Applications Open for 2026-2027 GoTeachKY Ambassadors

- GoTeachKY Ambassadors act as the face of the GoTeachKY initiative, connecting with prospective educators and community members primarily through digital platforms like social media and Microsoft Teams. They foster positive in-person connections with colleagues and students at secondary and post-secondary schools.
- As representatives of the teaching profession, ambassadors provide valuable information to those considering teaching careers and contribute to the elevation of the teaching profession. Teachers can apply to be an ambassador by filling out the [GoTeachKY Ambassador Program Application](#).
- Ambassadors will receive a \$75 monthly stipend with opportunities to earn additional compensation.
- Please visit the [GoTeachKY Ambassador Program](#) webpage to learn more and apply.
- Applications close on Sept. 30, and applicants will be informed of the decision on or before the end of the first full week of October. Please share this opportunity with your network of outstanding educators.

Applications for 2027 U.S. Senate Youth Program Open

- Applications are open for the 2026-2027 U.S. Senate Youth Program (USSYP), a merit-based program that takes the most outstanding high school students from around the country to Washington, D.C., for a week-long study of the federal government and the people who lead it.
- Two Kentucky high school students will be selected this fall as delegates and will each receive a \$12,500 college scholarship, with encouragement to continue coursework in history, government and public affairs.
- Students will attend Washington Week, scheduled for March 6-13, and participate in meetings and briefings with high-level officials from each branch of the federal government.
- High school teachers and principals are encouraged to nominate qualified high school juniors and seniors to apply. [Applications for the 2026-2027 USSYP program](#) are available online and are due Sept. 12.



KBE Update

GlyptusAnn Grider Jones, Director of Education Policy
Office of the Commissioner



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2026-2027 Improvement Planning Platform Update

Associate Commissioner Kelly Foster,
KDE's Office of Continuous Improvement and Support

2026-2027 Improvement Planning

- The Cognia Improvement Platform is being updated with a redesigned interface that provides a more user-friendly experience and stronger connections across the four phases of the improvement planning process.
- Cognia and KDE are offering multiple training opportunities over the next few months designed for the district and school representatives who will learn how to navigate the new platform and then train other district and school-level staff.
 - [Registration form for Cognia Improvement Training](#)

Training Dates and Locations



Date	Location
Aug. 19	Kentucky Valley Educational Cooperative (KVEC) 412 Roy Campbell Drive, Hazard
Aug. 25	Western Kentucky Educational Cooperative (WKEC) (Address Updated) 435 Outlet Avenue, Eddyville
Aug. 26	Green River Regional Educational Cooperative (GRREC) 230 Technology Way, Bowling Green
Sept. 8	Lexington Northeast Christian Church 990 Star Shoot Parkway, Lexington
Sept. 9	Central Bank Center 430 W. Vine Street, Lexington
Sept. 15	Center for Professional Learning (Jefferson County Public Schools) 3909 Atkinson Square Drive, Flex Room #1, Louisville
Sept. 16	Northern Kentucky Cooperative for Educational Services (NKCES) 5516 East Alexandria Pike, Cold Springs
Sept. 21 – 22	Kentucky Continuous Improvement Summit (Central Bank Center) 430 W. Vine Street, Lexington

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Local Indicators of Quality Diagnostic

Associate Commissioner Kelly Foster
KDE's Office of Continuous Improvement and Support



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2026-2027 Local Indicators of Quality (Due by Apr. 1)

Pursuant to House Bill 257 (2026), local school districts may develop and implement locally defined indicators of quality to supplement statewide accountability measures and reflect local priorities and contexts. To support this work, districts may complete and submit a description of its locally developed indicators of quality. Upon submission of the diagnostic and supporting documentation, districts shall be eligible to receive funding in an amount not to exceed a one-time payment of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) to support implementation activities.

1. List all team members responsible for the development and oversight of the locally developed indicators of quality.

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Insert text here ...

2. Provide a list of your district's locally developed indicators of quality. Locally developed indicators must align with the Kentucky Academic Standards (KAS) and provide measures of quality (including student demonstration and local priorities). Pursuant to HB 257 (2026), the local system must include indicators for student participation in vibrant learning experiences. Indicators must allow students to demonstrate the application of standards-driven knowledge in real-world scenarios.

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3. Provide a timeline showing how and when the locally developed indicators of quality will be developed and implemented.

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Submit official board minutes showing that the Local Indicators of Quality were adopted by the local board and that the implementation timeline was approved by the local board.

[Add & Assign Evidence](#)

[Link from Evidence Library](#)



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Four Questions

1. List all team members responsible for the development and oversight of the Locally Developed Indicators of Quality.
2. Provide a list of your district's Locally Developed Indicators of Quality. Locally developed indicators must align with the *Kentucky Academic Standards (KAS)* and provide measures of quality (including student demonstration and local priorities). Pursuant to HB 257 (2026), the local system must include indicators for student participation in vibrant learning experiences. Indicators must allow students to demonstrate the application of standards-driven knowledge in real-world applications.
3. Provide a timeline showing how and when the Locally Developed Indicators of Quality will be developed and implemented.
4. Submit official board minutes that show the indicators were approved by the board as well as the implementation timeline.

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Senate Bill 4 Listening Tour

Associate Commissioner Kelly Foster
KDE's Office of Continuous Improvement and Support



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Senate Bill 4 Listening Tour (2)



- Gather stakeholder input to shape Kentucky's future principal leadership development program.
- Join Us:
 - Sept. 14: Embassy Suites, Bowling Green (9 a.m.–noon CT)
 - Sept. 15: Marriott Lexington Downtown, Lexington (9 a.m.–noon ET)
 - Sept. 16: Kentucky Valley Educational Cooperative, Hazard (9 a.m.–noon ET)

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Individual Learning Plan (ILP) Video Showcase

Karen Dodd, KDE's Chief Performance Officer, Office of the
Commissioner

Michelle Sircy, Program Coordinator for Comprehensive School
Counseling, KDE's Office of Teaching and Learning



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Student Advisory Project

Members goals:

- Be more prepared for transitioning out of high school
- Know where to find resources
- Know how to use resources

Work Conducted

- Received information about the Individual Learning Plan
- Received links to resources from the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education, including Futuriti, to explore
- Spent a couple months reviewing resources and providing feedback
- Created a promotional video to introduce the showcase
- Helped think through the specific requirements of the videos

Where to Find Information

- [Individual Learning Plan website](#)

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OCTE New Pathway Timeline

Associate Commissioner Beth Hargis
KDE's Office of Career and Technical Education



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OCTE Pathway/TEDS Timeline

- **ALL** requests to add new pathways, remove existing pathways or alter existing pathways for **2026-2027** must be submitted no later than **Aug. 21, 2026**.
- TEDS will be closing Aug. 21, 2026, to coincide with the Student Data Review and Roster (SDRR) deadline.
(This is changed from previous Sept. 1 deadline)
- [TEDS Frequently Asked Questions](#)

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Special Education Monitoring: From Program to Fiscal – What You Need to Know

Office of Special Education and Early Learning (OSEEL)

Gretta Hylton, Ed.D., Associate Commissioner

Division of IDEA Monitoring and Results (DIMR)

Jarrold S. Slone, Ed.S., Division Director

Jessica Jones, Branch Manager



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IDEA Monitoring Focus Group Next Steps

- Convened in April 2026
- Superintendents with recent monitoring experiences from all cooperative regions attended
- Follow-up actions:
 - Added Myth Busters to OSEEL's News You Can Use
 - Revised the Risk Assessment to remove first-year DoSE as a risk factor
 - Continued publishing weekly spotlights to highlight effective practices within districts
 - Shared Monitoring Trends from School Year 2025-2026

IDEA Fiscal Monitoring Trends

2025-2026 Monitoring Cycle (FY 24 Budgets and Documentation)



IDEA Fiscal Standards Met by Most Local Education Agencies (LEAs)

Commingled IDEA Funds

- The local education agency did not commingle IDEA funds with other federal, state or local funds in the LEA ([34 CFR §300.162\(b\)](#)).

Obligated and Liquidated Funds

- The LEA obligated and liquidated funds solely during the period of availability ([34 CFR §76.709](#), [2 CFR §§200.309](#) & [200.331](#))

GMAP Application

- The LEA submitted a timely, substantially approvable application ([34 CFR §§300.200](#), [300.806](#) & [300.815](#)).

2025-2026 Fiscal Monitoring: Non-Compliance Overview

- Budget and Expenditures – Non-compliance in all 11 districts
- Personnel Activity Reports – 9 of 11 districts
- Inventory – 8 of 11 districts
- Private School Proportionate Amounts – 4 of 11 districts
- Procurement – 3 of 11 districts

Budget and Expenditures

- The LEA budgeted and expended IDEA funds consistent with Part B of the IDEA ([34 CFR §§300.162\(a\) & \(c\)](#) & [300.202\(a\)\(1\)](#)).

Budget and Expenditures (2)

Common Findings:

- Section 504 expenses, membership fees with organizations that lobby, Medicaid administrative fees, food for staff members and other non-special education charges coded to IDEA and/or MOE
- Journal entries with no backup documentation
- Expenditures outside of the period of availability
- GMAP and Munis budgets do not match
- Expenditures in codes that were not approved in GMAP

Personnel Activity Report (PAR)

- The LEA ensured that charges to federal awards for salaries and wages were based on records that accurately reflected the work performed ([2 CFR §§200.430](#) & [200.431](#)).

Personnel Activity Report (PAR) (2)

- **Common Findings:**

- Lack of PARs for 100% Special Education Funded Employees and Split-Funded Employees
- PARs do not match the payroll records
- Section 504 salary expenses is coded to IDEA and/or MOE

Inventory

- The LEA demonstrated that it takes physical inventories of property/equipment purchased with IDEA Part B funds (or state/local funds included in LEA MOE calculations) and the results are reconciled with property records at least once every two years.

[2 CFR §200.313](#) and [34 CFR §300.14](#)

- IDEA Equipment Regulation - **[300.14](#) Equipment.** *Equipment* means - (a) Machinery, utilities, and built-in equipment, and any necessary enclosures or structures to house the machinery, utilities, or equipment; and (b) All other items necessary for the functioning of a particular facility as a facility for the provision of educational services, including items such as instructional equipment and necessary furniture; printed, published and audio-visual instructional materials; telecommunications, sensory, and other technological aids and devices; and books, periodicals, documents, and other related materials.

Inventory (2)

- **Common Findings:**

- Non-technology items are not listed on the inventory
- Inventory spreadsheets do not include all the requirements of [2 CFR §200.313](#). Property records must include a description of the property, a serial number or other identification numbers, the source of funding for the property, who holds the title, the acquisition date and cost of the property, the percentage of federal participation in the project costs for the federal award under which the property was acquired, the location, use, and condition of the property, and any ultimate disposition data including the date of disposal and sale price of the property (according to the Uniform Grant Guidance).

Private School Proportionate Amount

- The LEA correctly implemented the fiscally related requirements for parentally placed private school children with disabilities.

[34 CFR §§300.130-300.138, 300.141 & 300.144](#)

- **Common Findings:**

- Lack of the project numbers 337XP and 343XP
- Service logs do not match the expenditures charged to the private school proportionate grant

Procurement

- The LEA used procurement mechanisms that conformed to [2 CFR §§200.317-200.326](#)
- **Common Finding:**
 - Lack of written documentation

IDEA Programmatic Monitoring

Positive Trends in Programmatic Monitoring

- On our monitoring travels across the state, our team discovered some positive trends, such as:
 - Several districts utilized early learning buses to bridge the transition from preschool to kindergarten. They delivered hands-on instruction in literacy, mathematics, art, science, dramatic play and motor skills to children and families throughout rural communities.
 - Several districts hosted family nights throughout the school year to provide learning opportunities on a variety of topics, including special education, literacy and other areas that support student success and family engagement.

Positive Trends in Programmatic Monitoring (2)

- Several districts increased peer participation within moderate and severe disabilities classrooms. They created more inclusive learning environments by providing students with opportunities to interact, collaborate and build relationships with their peers.
- One district utilized volunteer grandparents to work with small groups of students. The district engaged these volunteers to support core academic instruction and help students develop important social and interpersonal skills.

Positive Trends in Programmatic Monitoring (3)

- Several districts implemented reverse transition fairs and provided students with opportunities to staff information tables, deliver presentations and share their resumes with community members. These districts helped students strengthen their communication, self-advocacy, employment readiness and interview skills while building meaningful community connections.
- Several districts established partnerships with community-based training centers and enrolled students in programs that developed independent living and employment skills. These districts provided real-world learning experiences that prepared students for successful transitions to employment and adult life before exiting services at age 21.

2025-2026 School Year Monitoring Trends

Focus Area Cited	Number of citations	Regulations Cited
Postsecondary Transition	19	<u>707 KAR 1:320, Section 3(4)</u> inviting students to meeting, having consent to invite any outside agency to meeting and receiving input from the outside agency
Postsecondary Transition	15	<u>707 KAR 1:320, Section 4(4)</u> Not addressing transition will be discussed during the meeting on the Admission and Release Committee (ARC) meeting notice
Postsecondary Transition	13	<u>707 KAR 1:320, Section 7(2)</u> There is an appropriate, measurable postsecondary goal, transition services and including specific courses in the student's course of study

2025-2026 School Year Monitoring Trends (2)

Focus Area Cited	Number of citations	Regulations Cited
Suspension and Expulsion	11	<u>34 CFR 300.536</u> Change of placement because of disciplinary removals (not completing the procedures and process needed when a change of placement occurs or to determine if a change of placement has occurred.)
IEP Development/Implementation	11	<u>707 KAR 1:320, Section 5(2)(a)</u> Behavior in the special factors section of the IEP being marked no when it is addressed in other areas of the IEP (present levels, goals, SAS, SDI)

2025-2026 School Year Monitoring Trends (3)

Focus Area Cited	Number of citations	Regulations Cited
IEP Development/Implementation	10	<u>707 KAR 1:320, Section 5(2)(f)</u> Assistive technology in the special factors section of the IEP being marked no when it is addressed in other areas of the IEP (SAS, accommodations, direct instructions for use in the SDI).
IEP Development/Implementation	9	<u>707 KAR 1:320, Section 5(8)</u> ARCs not documenting a statement of Special Designed Instruction, Supplementary Aids and Services or Program modifications into the IEP for the student.

2025-2026 School Year Monitoring Season Trends (4)

Focus Area Cited	Number of citations	Regulations Cited
Initial Evaluation Timelines	9	707 KAR 1:320, Section 2(3) The districts are not meeting the 60 school day timelines when completing initial evaluations for students who have been referred for evaluations.

Contact Information

- Darnell McIntosh, Education Academic Program Manager
 - IDEA Fiscal Monitoring Lead
 - Darnell.mcintosh@education.ky.gov
 - (502) 564-4970
- Jessica Jones, Individual Programming Branch Manager
 - IDEA Programmatic Monitoring Lead
 - Jessica.jones@education.ky.gov
 - (502) 564-4970, ext. 4144

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Question and Answer Session

(Submit Questions in Teams)

KDE Leadership



Important Dates

Education Professional Standards Board

Aug. 18

Commissioner's Student Advisory Council (in-person)

Aug. 25

Superintendents Advisory Council

Aug. 26

Kentucky Board of Education (virtual)

Sept. 2

Labor Day (KDE Closed)

Sept. 7

Superintendents Webcast

Sept. 10