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Superintendents Webcast

February 10, 2026



Kentucky Department of
EDUCATION

Agenda

Welcome and Updates

Dr. Robbie Fletcher, Commissioner of Education

Kentucky Department of Education Update

Jennifer Ginn, KDE Director of Communications

All in for Ag Week

Bethany Mattingly, Agriculture Education and Outreach, Kentucky Department of Agriculture

March Leadership Meeting 2026

Chrystal Rowland, Director of the Division of Program Standards, KDE's Office of Teaching and Learning

College Admissions Exam – Junior State SAT Administration

Associate Commissioner Jennifer Stafford, Ed.D., KDE's Office of Assessment and Accountability

Christen Roseberry, Program Consultant, KDE's Office of Assessment and Accountability

2026 General Assembly Update

Brian Perry, Ph.D., Director of Government Relations, Office of the Commissioner

AI in Action: Professional Learning Network (budget proposals)

Marty Park, Ed.D., K-12 Deputy CIO and Chief Digital Officer, KDE's Office of Education Technology

Questions and Answers

Important Dates

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Welcome and Updates

Dr. Robbie Fletcher
Commissioner of Education



Kentucky United We Learn Council Discusses High School Transformation, Next Steps

- During the [Jan. 23 Kentucky United We Learn Council meeting](#), members discussed progress made with assessment and accountability reform and efforts to reimagine the high school experience in Kentucky.
- The council's meeting started with a discussion on where assessment and accountability efforts stand, including a breakdown of what has been included in [House Bill \(HB\) 257](#).
- Alexa Hardin, regional innovative specialist for northeast Kentucky in KDE's Division of Innovation, provided council members with an overview of KDE's [Local Accountability Design Guide and Toolkit](#).
- Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) Vice Chair Lu S. Young told council members about how their efforts with assessment and accountability have worked alongside KDE's efforts to transform high schools.
- The National Association of State Boards of Education invited KBE to participate in its [High School Transformation State Network](#), which builds the capacity of state boards to enable rich student experiences that foster content mastery and durable skills.
- [Read more about the Kentucky United We Learn Council meeting on Kentucky Teacher.](#)



Spencer County's Michelle Gross Named 2026 National Teacher of the Year Finalist

- Michelle Gross, a middle school teacher at Spencer County Middle School [and the 2026 Kentucky Teacher of the Year](#), has been named a finalist for the 2026 National Teacher of the Year award by the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO).
- Gross has 22 years of experience teaching math, including 20 years in Spencer County. She teaches 7th-grade math classes, and a gifted and talented class called The Academy where students pick a subject area to dig into deeper.
- Gross was among nine educators who were honored as [2026 Kentucky Teacher Achievement Award Winners](#) during the Kentucky Teacher of the Year ceremony on Oct. 7.
- CCSSO will announce the 2026 National Teacher of the Year this spring.



KDE Unveils New Video Series Highlighting Local Assessment and Accountability Work

- KDE started releasing a series of videos highlighting the revolutionary things happening in Kentucky classrooms with local assessments and accountability.
- The videos document the work done by KDE, the Kentucky United We Learn Council and districts across the Commonwealth to explore new ways of incorporating vibrant learning experiences into the classroom while emphasizing collaboration with the community and innovation on how we approach assessments.
- The videos, which started being released over KDE's social media channels on Jan. 29, go over the work in more detail and also feature testimonials from stakeholders involved in the work, including Shelby County, which has developed its own portrait of a graduate.
- The videos, which are available on KDE's social media channels, also can be watched on [KDE's YouTube page](#).

Applications Open for Non-voting KBE Student/Teacher Member

- Applications are now being accepted for the non-voting teacher and student members of the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE).
- Each member would serve a one-year term, from July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027.
- To be considered for the non-voting teacher position, the applicant must be employed on a full-time basis by a Kentucky public school district in a position for which Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) certification is required, not employed in an administrative role and must reside in Kentucky's 4th Congressional District.
- Kentucky's 4th Congressional District includes these counties: Boone, Bracken, Campbell, Carroll, Carter (partial), Gallatin, Grant, Greenup, Harrison, Henry, Kenton, Lewis, Mason, Nelson (partial), Oldham, Owen, Pendleton, Robertson, Shelby, Spencer and Trimble.
- Required materials for the teacher application include the online [KBE non-voting teacher application](#), resume, narrative statement explaining why the applicant wants to serve as a non-voting teacher member of the board, a statement of assurance that the applicant meets the definition of a "teacher" as defined in [701 KAR 5:160](#), and a description of any pending or final disciplinary action against the applicant by the EPSB.

Applications Open for Non-voting KBE Student/Teacher Member (cont.)

- For the non-voting student position, the applicant must be enrolled in a Kentucky public high school, be a junior at the time of appointment (which means a sophomore at the time of the application) and must reside in Kentucky's 2nd Congressional District.
- Kentucky's 2nd Congressional District includes these counties: Barren, Breckinridge, Bullitt, Butler, Daviess, Edmonson, Grayson, Green, Hancock, Hardin, Hart, Jefferson (partial), LaRue, Logan (partial), McLean, Meade, Muhlenberg, Nelson (partial), Ohio and Warren.
- Required materials for the student application include the online [KBE non-voting student application](#), resume, narrative statement explaining why the applicant wants to serve as a non-voting student member of the board, two letters of recommendation, a parent statement of support and an optional school statement of support.
- For more information, contact [GlyptusAnn Grider Jones](#).

APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR

**STUDENT AND TEACHER
NON-VOTING KBE MEMBERS**

Kentucky Board of
EDUCATION 

APPLICATION DEADLINE
FEBRUARY 27, 2026

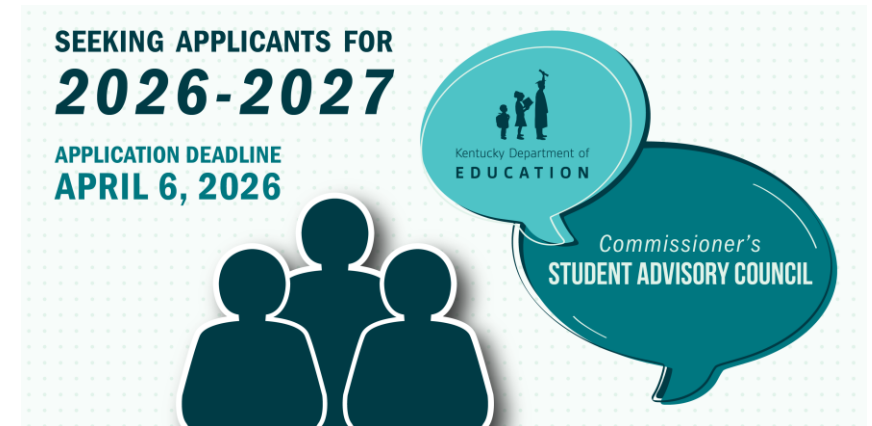
**UNITED
WE
LEARN**



Kentucky Department of
EDUCATION

KDE Seeking High School Students for 2026-2027 Commissioner's Student Advisory Council

- Public school students who are currently freshmen, sophomores or juniors in high school are invited to apply for positions on the 2026-2027 Commissioner's Student Advisory Council.
- A term on the Commissioner's Student Advisory Council lasts one academic year, August through May. The council meets every two months with two in-person meetings in Frankfort.
- The group meets with the commissioner and KDE staff to discuss how decisions made at the state level are affecting students throughout Kentucky.
- The application deadline is 11:59 p.m. CT on April 6.
- Interested students should complete the [2026-2027 KDE Commissioner's Student Advisory Council Application](#). Refer to the [application guide](#) for required materials and additional details.



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KDE Updates

Jennifer Ginn

KDE Director of Communications



Kentucky Department of
EDUCATION

Competitive Grants from KDE

FY26 Math Achievement Fund Mini-Grant

- Grant applications due: Feb. 19, 4 p.m. ET
- Award Amount: \$40,000 per awarded school
- Matching Funds Requirement: No

This mini-grant provides funding for the purchase of materials needed for modification of instruction (tier one, tier two and/or tier three) in mathematics and pays for extended time or release time for teachers to engage in professional learning on the high-quality instructional resource.

FY26 Math Achievement Fund Middle School Coaching Pilot Grant

- Grant Applications Due: **March 19** at 4 p.m. ET (**Extension of Deadline**)
- Award Amount: \$62,000 per year for up to 2 years.
- Matching Funds Requirement: No

This pilot grant will provide developmentally appropriate diagnostic assessment and intervention services to students to help them reach proficiency in mathematics. The mathematics coach will improve mathematics teaching practices by working with teachers of grades 6-8 in their classrooms. **Eligibility for this grant has been increased to additional districts/schools.**

Competitive Grants from KDE (2)

FY26 Migrant Education Program (MEP) Grant

- **Grant Applications Due:** March 17 at 4 p.m. ET
- **Award Amount:** Up to \$280,000 per year for up to 4 years.
- **Matching Funds Requirement:** No

The Migrant Education Program provides states with funding to reduce the impact of educational barriers on migratory children ages 3 through 21. These children run a greater risk of failing to meet the challenging state content and performance standards that all students are expected to meet. Low academic achievement and frustration with school cause many migrant children to drop out in their early teens.

Competitive Grants from KDE (3)

FY26 AED Grant

- **Grant applications due:** March 6, 4 p.m. ET
- **Award Amount:** \$2,000 per AED
- **Matching Funds Requirement:** No

The Kentucky AED (automated external defibrillator) Grant will assist districts with the purchase of new devices when none are presently available; replace AEDs that are more than 8 years old; and increase the inventory of such devices, all for the purpose of improving survival rates in the event of a cardiac event.

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](#).

Educators Rising Judges Needed



- KDE is looking for judges for the 2026 [Educators Rising Kentucky State Conference and Competitions](#).
- The event will be held on March 5 at the Kentucky Exposition Center in Louisville.
- The conference provides a platform for aspiring educators to showcase their skills and knowledge in various teaching areas.
- To learn more and apply, volunteers can look at the [Competition Cheat Sheet](#) and [apply to be a judge](#). Volunteers may list three competition preferences, but KDE cannot guarantee placement.
- KDE is specifically looking for judges who speak Spanish. KDE requests that volunteers who are bilingual in English and Spanish select a Spanish competition.
- For more information, people can email edrising@education.ky.gov or call (502) 892-6231, ext. 4548.

KBE Seeking Applicants for KHSAA Board of Control At-large Position

- The Kentucky Board of Education (KBE), through KDE, is seeking an individual to serve on the [Kentucky High School Athletic Association's \(KHSAA's\) Board of Control](#) to fill an at-large position that will become vacant on June 30.
- The individual currently holding the position is eligible for reappointment.
- *The KBE appointed Board of Control member must not be a current employee of a Kentucky public school district.*
- All interested individuals are encouraged to submit a letter of interest, a resume and a minimum of two written letters of recommendation to KDE.
- The deadline for applications is March 30.
- Materials should be mailed to Todd Allen, General Counsel, Kentucky Department of Education, 300 Sower Blvd., Frankfort, KY 40601, or emailed to Todd.Allen@education.ky.gov.

KDE Accepting Applications for the School Counselor Advisory Council

- This advisory group plays a critical role in informing statewide school counseling initiatives, policies and guidance by elevating the voices and expertise for practitioners from across the Commonwealth.
- Selected members will serve a three-year term, with the inaugural term beginning in the 2026-2027 school year.
- Advisory council members will collaborate with KDE staff and key stakeholders to provide feedback, identify emerging needs, and help shape resources and professional learning that directly impact students and school counselors statewide.
- To ensure alignment with school and district priorities, applicants must obtain the support of their building principal prior to applying.
- The application, which is due by April 15, can be completed through [the School Counselor Advisory Council application form](#).

APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR

**SCHOOL COUNSELOR
ADVISORY COUNCIL**



APPLICATION DEADLINE
APRIL 15, 2026



Kentucky Department of
EDUCATION

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All in for Ag Week

Bethany Mattingly, Agriculture Education and Outreach
Kentucky Department of Agriculture



Kentucky Department of
EDUCATION

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March Leadership Meeting 2026

Chrystal Rowland, Director of the Division of Program Standards
KDE's Office of Teaching and Learning

March Leadership Meeting 2026 – What's Covered

- **Revised Kentucky Academic Standards for Reading and Writing**
Learn what's changed, why it matters and how to prepare for local implementation.
- **Curriculum Implementation Monitoring Toolkit**
New tools to help leaders monitor HQIR use, professional learning and classroom instruction.
- **Aligning Tier 2 Intervention to Tier 1 Instruction**
Practical guidance for creating instructional coherence across Kentucky's Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS).
- **Standards Review Update**
Hear what's next in the statewide standards review cycle.

Meeting Logistics

- Intended audience: Superintendents, Chief Academic Officers, District Curriculum and Instruction Leads, District MTSS Coordinators and School Administrators
- Held in-person in partnership with the regional cooperatives (most sessions will accommodate 50-100 attendees)
- Sessions from 9 a.m. - noon local time

2026 March Leadership Dates

Date	Time	Cooperative Location
Thursday, March 5	9 a.m.- noon ET	SESC
Tuesday, March 10	9 a.m.- noon ET	CKEC
Thursday, March 12	9 a.m.- noon ET	KVEC
Friday, March 13	9 a.m. - noon ET	KEDC
Tuesday, March 17	9 a.m. - noon ET	OVEC
Wednesday, March 18	9 a.m. - noon CT	WKEC
Thursday, March 19	9 a.m. - noon CT	GRREC
Tuesday, March 24	9 a.m. - noon ET	NKCES

Register in the [KY Learning Hub](#) or click dates above to access the registration.



Contact Information

Chrystal Rowland

chrystal.rowland@education.ky.gov

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College Admissions Exam – Junior State SAT Administration

Jennifer Stafford, Ed.D., Associate Commissioner
Christen Roseberry, Program Consultant
KDE's Office of Assessment and Accountability

SAT State Administration – Training Recap

Test Administration Trainings

- The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) and College Board offered eight trainings at the educational cooperatives in November 2025.
- A total of 487 educators attended from across the state.

Office Hours

- To date, KDE and College Board have held three Office Hours,
 - October - School Setup
 - December - Requesting accommodations and EL supports
 - January - Accessing the State Data Management System and Test Day Toolkit.
- Over 225 educators participated.

Accommodations Webinar

- The accommodations training webinar on Nov. 12 hosted by College Board had 480 in attendance.

February DAC Training and Question & Answer Sessions

- A recorded training was released on Scores and Reporting.
- College Board staff are available at the Q&A Sessions.

SAT State Administration – Systems Open Now

- State Data Management System (SDMS) is open.
 - Testing staff are currently verifying student rosters and ensuring students with special needs have the appropriate accommodations for the SAT.
- Test Day Toolkit (TDTK) is open as well.
 - This system allows coordinators to set up their testing staff and test sessions.
 - Staff can print access tickets from TDTK for students to be able to utilize the seven practice tests that are available to them.
 - Those tickets will also allow students to complete the readiness check 1-2 weeks prior to testing to ensure that their device is ready.

SAT State Administration – SAT Practice Tools and Resources

- College Board offers many free, engaging [SAT practice resources](#) to help students prepare.
 - Digital Practice Tests Question Banks
 - Questions of the Day
 - Official SAT Prep on Khan Academy
- Just released! College Board is partnering with [Schoolhouse.world](#) to launch Official SAT Tutoring – a new, free peer-to-peer tutoring option.

SAT State Administration – Upcoming

- KDE's Office of Assessment and Accountability (OAA) and College Board will host Office Hours in February, March and April that will discuss timely topics for the state administration, as well as provide time for testing staff to ask questions.
- OAA and College Board will also host a webinar to discuss SAT scores and information reporting to students and educators.
- In short, Kentucky is ready for a successful SAT administration.

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2026 General Assembly Update

Brian Perry, Ph.D.

Director of Government Relations



2026 Regular Session Schedule

- President's Day – Feb. 16
- Last day for new Senate bills – March 2
- Last day for new House bills – March 4
- Concurrence days – March 31 and April 1
- Veto days – April 2-13
- Sine Die – April 15
- [Session calendar](#)

2026 Committee Schedule

- HOUSE

- Primary & Secondary Education -Wednesday, 8 a.m. ET
- BR Sub Primary & Secondary Education/Workforce Development – Tuesday, 10 a.m. ET
- A&R – Tuesday, noon ET
- Families & Children - Thursday, 9 a.m. ET
- State Government – Thursday, noon ET

- SENATE

- Education - Thursday, 10 a.m. ET
- A&R – Wednesday, 9 a.m. ET
- State & Local Government – Wednesday, 11 a.m. ET
- Families & Children - Tuesday, 8 a.m. ET

- [Committee Schedule](#)

How to Follow Along

- How to watch committee meetings
 - [KET](#)
 - [LRC YouTube website](#)
 - [LRC webpage to follow bills](#)

KBE/KDE Priorities

- [House Bill \(HB\) 257](#) (Payne): Proposed changes to the assessment and accountability system
- [Senate Bill \(SB\) 22](#) (Higdon): Expanded dual credit for registered teacher apprenticeship programs
- [SB 121](#) (Williams): Clean-up items
 - ~~Stagger KBE board terms~~
 - Replace KEPS with statewide job portal using existing funds from certification fees
 - [SB 207](#) – Extend time for KBE to review waiver requests, allow the commissioner to approve class size waiver requests for special education and remove the automatic expiration of waivers related to district facility projects
 - Repeal [KRS 156.690](#) (Teachers' computer purchase program)
 - Repeal statutory language concerning the Council for Education Technology, which has not been needed nor met in over 33 years
 - Clarify ownership/authority regarding the FFA Leadership Training Center
 - Mirror maternity leave provided to district employees under [SB 9 \(2025\)](#) for KRS 156 employees (ATCs)
- SB 181 (2025) clean-up – [SB 181 \(2026\)](#)
- Workgroup looking at certification related to science
- Simplification of options

Senate Bills

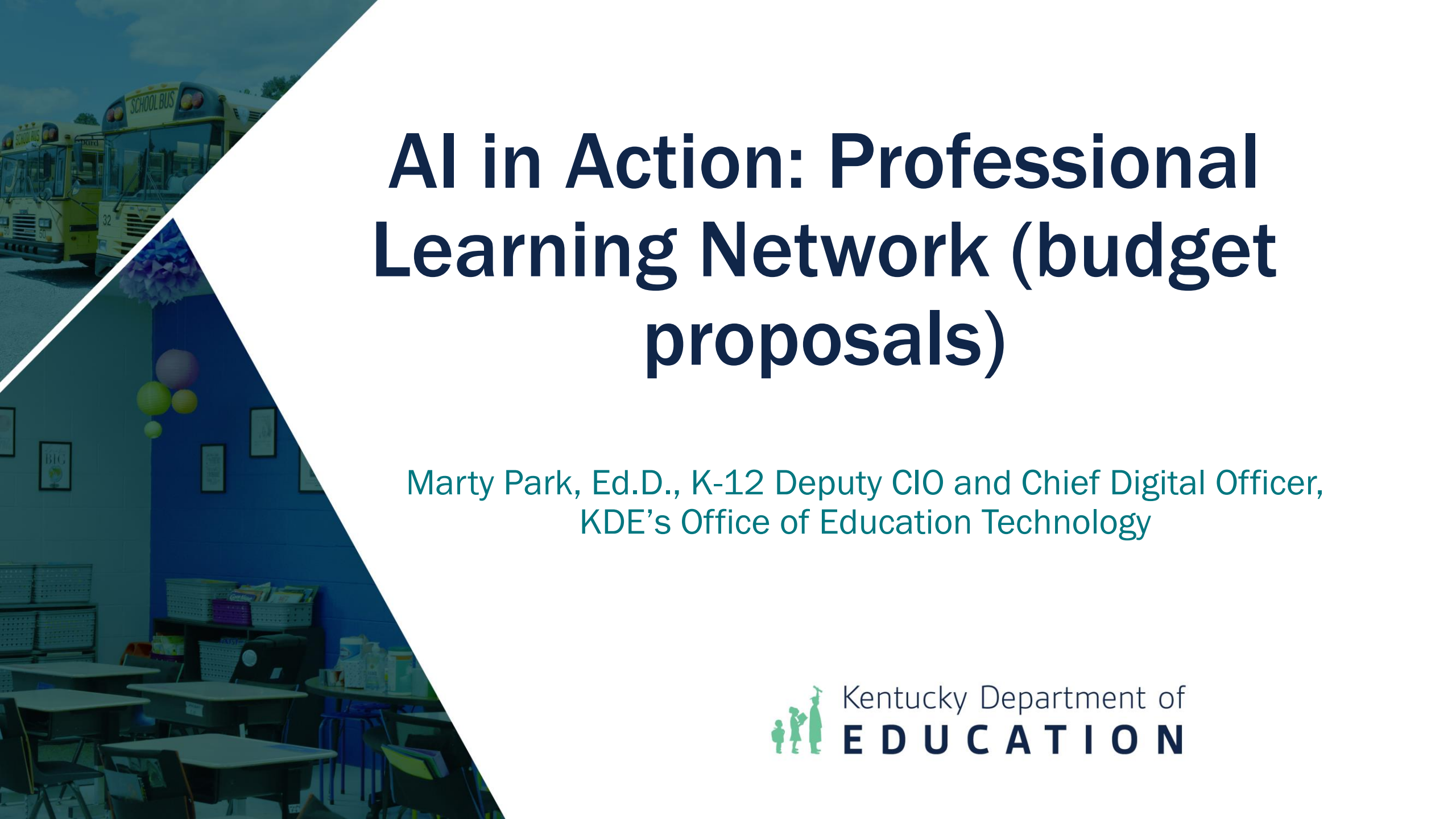
- [SB 1](#) (Givens): Changes to JCPS board/superintendent roles and responsibilities
- [SB 2](#) (Adams): Limits superintendent/administrator percentage pay increase greater than the average percentage pay increase provided to classroom teachers within the district.
- [SB 3](#) (Tichenor): Financial responsibility and transparency
- [SB 4](#) (West): Five-year principal training and mentoring program
- [SB 5](#) (Howell): Aims to get more local/KY Proud food in schools
- [SB 6](#) (Stivers): Appropriates \$150,000,000 to the endowed research fund

House Bills

- [HB 4](#) (Proctor): Anti-grooming
- [HB 7](#) (Hale): Stop arm cameras for school buses
- [HB 88](#) (Roberts): The qualified elementary and secondary education scholarship federal tax credit
- [HB 307](#) (Tipton): Proactive postsecondary admission
- [HB 415](#) (Clines): HB 300 clean-up
- [HB 416](#) (Clines): Formative and content assessments
- [HB 500](#) (Petrie): Budget bill
- [HB 562](#) (Truett): Alternative high school diplomas

Questions About the Session

- Brian Perry, Ph.D., Director of Government Relations, Office of the Commissioner
- brian.perry@education.ky.gov

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AI in Action: Professional Learning Network (budget proposals)

Marty Park, Ed.D., K-12 Deputy CIO and Chief Digital Officer,
KDE's Office of Education Technology

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Question and Answer Session

(Submit Questions in Teams)

KDE Leadership



Important Dates

Education Professional Standards Board

Feb. 17

2026 National Board Certification Ceremony, Frankfort

Feb. 23

Commissioner's Student Advisory Council (virtual)

Feb. 24

Kentucky Board of Education (virtual)

March 4

Superintendents Webcast

March 12