

The background of the slide is a collage of two images. The top-left portion shows a line of yellow school buses, with the front of one bus clearly visible, displaying the number 32 and the words 'SCHOOL BUS'. The bottom-right portion shows a classroom interior with blue walls, decorated with colorful balloons and framed pictures. Several small, square tables and chairs are arranged in the room.

Superintendents Webcast

May 12, 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

Special Education Regional Technical Assistance Centers

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

New Teacher Survey

Allie Green, Program Consultant, KDE's Division of Educator Recruitment and Development

Impact of Legislative Changes to Kentucky's College Entrance Exam

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

Status of HB 257

Shara Savage, Director of KDE's Office of Assessment and Accountability

Office of Teaching and Learning Updates

Micki Ray Marinelli, Chief Academic Officer, KDE's Office of Teaching and Learning

Revised Kentucky Academic Standards for Reading and Writing

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

Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water in Schools and Childcare Facilities Program

Eileen Miller, Division of Water, Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

2026 General Assembly Update

Brian Perry, Ph.D., KDE's Director of Government Relations

Questions and Answers

Important Dates

A diagonal collage image on the left side of the slide. The top portion shows two yellow school buses, with the front one labeled 'SCHOOL BUS' and the number '32'. The bottom portion shows a classroom with blue walls, decorated with colorful balloons and framed pictures. There are several small desks and chairs arranged in the room.

Welcome and Updates

Dr. Robbie Fletcher
Commissioner of Education

Students Engage in Vibrant Learning at 2026 STLP State Championship

- More than 20,000 people attended the 2026 Student Technology Leadership Program (STLP) State Championship at Rupp Arena in Lexington on April 24.
- Run by KDE's Office of Education Technology, STLP uses project-based learning, technology utilization and digital content creation to empower student achievement.
- Congratulations to the four STLP Project State Champions. From 631 K-12 projects, judges narrowed down the champions to the following teams:
 - K-5 Division Best STLP Project in Kentucky: "Bloom News Kidz," Bloom Elementary School (Jefferson County)
 - 6-8 Division Best STLP Project in Kentucky: "Flood Guard," James D. Adams Middle School (Floyd County)
 - 9-12 Division Best STLP Project in Kentucky: "PhisherMen," Eminence High School
 - Dave Sigler Award for Best Technical STLP Project: "Breaking Point Initiative," Morgan County High School



Lily Schlotterbeck, right, a 5th-grade student at Bloom Elementary School, explains part of her group's project to judges. The group developed "Bloom News Kidz," an interactive website to help students stay up to date with current events in a fun way.

You Belong! Attendance Matters Video and Poster Contest

- The 2026 STLP State Championship was the first to feature the You Belong! Attendance Matters video and poster contest.
- The contest invited K–12 public school students across the Commonwealth to create a short commercial or digital poster that highlights belonging, connection and why showing up to school matters.
- The poster contest winners were:
 - Elementary School: Phelps Elementary School (Pike County)
 - Middle School: Harrison County Middle School
 - High School: Lawrence County High School
- And the video contest winners were:
 - Elementary School: Cold Hill Elementary (Laurel County)
 - Middle School: North Middle School (Henderson County)
 - High School: Pineville High School (Pineville Independent)
- The works of the winners and other entrants will be shared in future KDE statewide social media campaigns. More details about chronic absenteeism and the You Belong! Attendance Matters campaign can be found on [KDE's Attendance Matters website](#).



OSEEL Myth Buster Series

- As a follow-up to the recent Superintendent Focus Group on IDEA Monitoring, KDE's Office of Special Education and Early Learning (OSEEL) is launching a new Myth Busters series through its weekly *News You Can Use* publication.
- The series will address common misconceptions heard from districts across the Commonwealth.
- Please share this [OSEEL Myth Buster Topic Submission Form](#) so district staff can anonymously share questions, concerns or misconceptions they would like for KDE to address.
- This effort is part of KDE's broader commitment to strengthening communication, increasing transparency and ensuring districts have clear, accurate and actionable information to support their work under IDEA.

New Study Shows LETRS Training Improves Student Reading Outcomes

- A [new analysis of the Kentucky Reading Academies](#) shows the Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) training is making a difference for student literacy success.
- Drawing on data from 574 elementary schools across 135 districts, the study by the Kentucky Reading Research Center found that schools with more LETRS-trained teachers experienced stronger growth in the share of students reaching the proficient level and a greater reduction of the number of students at the novice level on the Kentucky Summative Assessment.
- Some of the key takeaways of the new study:
 - **Stronger proficiency rates:** Schools with higher percentages of LETRS-trained teachers had significantly more students reaching the proficient level in reading.
 - **Faster growth in high-implementation schools:** Schools above the average level of LETRS participation saw a 4.26% increase in proficient readers, compared to 2.9% in schools below the average.
 - **Consistent evidence across models:** Statistical analyses confirmed a significant positive effect of LETRS training on proficiency outcomes.
 - **Declines in lower performance levels:** Schools with more trained teachers also experienced larger decreases in novice readers.
 - **Limited administrator effect:** While administrator training showed some positive trends, it was not a statistically significant factor in improving outcomes.

Rockcastle County Teacher Receives National Wild Turkey Federation's National Educator of the Year Award

- Peyton Pugh, who teaches science at Rockcastle County Middle School, has [received the National Educator of the Year award from the National Wild Turkey Federation](#) (NWTF).
- The NWTF, founded in 1973, is an organization committed to the conservation of the wild turkey and the preservation of hunting heritage.
- Pugh, who grew up in Leslie County, has always had a passion for the outdoors after being introduced to hunting and fishing by family members as a child. He said his love for the outdoors grew into a personal commitment to contributing to saving public land and protecting Kentucky's natural resources.
- Pugh has been teaching for only three years, and he said his passion for wildlife and conservation influences his role as a teacher as he finds ways to bring real-world examples of outdoor education into his classroom.
- "Showing kids and teaching kids things that they will use for the rest of their lives is a big deal, especially in science," he said.
- Congratulations to Pugh and Rockcastle County Middle School!



KDE's Gretta Hylton Recognized Nationally for Exceptional Work in Special Education

- Gretta Hylton, associate commissioner of KDE's Office of Special Education and Early Learning, was honored with the Glenn I. Latham Annual Excellence Award by Technical Assistance for Excellence in Special Education.
- The Glenn I. Latham Award recognizes state leaders who demonstrate sustained and effective leadership and who exemplify the attributes of Latham, including knowledge, wisdom and a deep commitment to improving outcomes for children and youth with disabilities.
- Before coming to KDE, Hylton worked as a special education teacher in several Kentucky school districts. She came to KDE in 2010 as an exceptional children consultant. She also has served as an Individuals with Disabilities Education Act formal complaint investigator, executive staff advisor, policy advisor, division director and now associate commissioner.
- [Read more about Hylton's award on Kentucky Teacher.](#)



Kentucky Department of
EDUCATION

June Update

- There will be no Superintendents Webcast in June.
- The next webcast is scheduled for July 7.
- Remember to take some time off this summer to rest and recharge!

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KDE Updates

Jennifer Ginn

KDE Director of Communications



Kentucky Department of
EDUCATION

Competitive Grants from KDE

FY26 Migrant Education Program Grant (Northern Region Only)

Grant Applications Due: May 12 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.

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](#).

KDE Opens Nominations for 2026 Teresa Perry Compassion Award

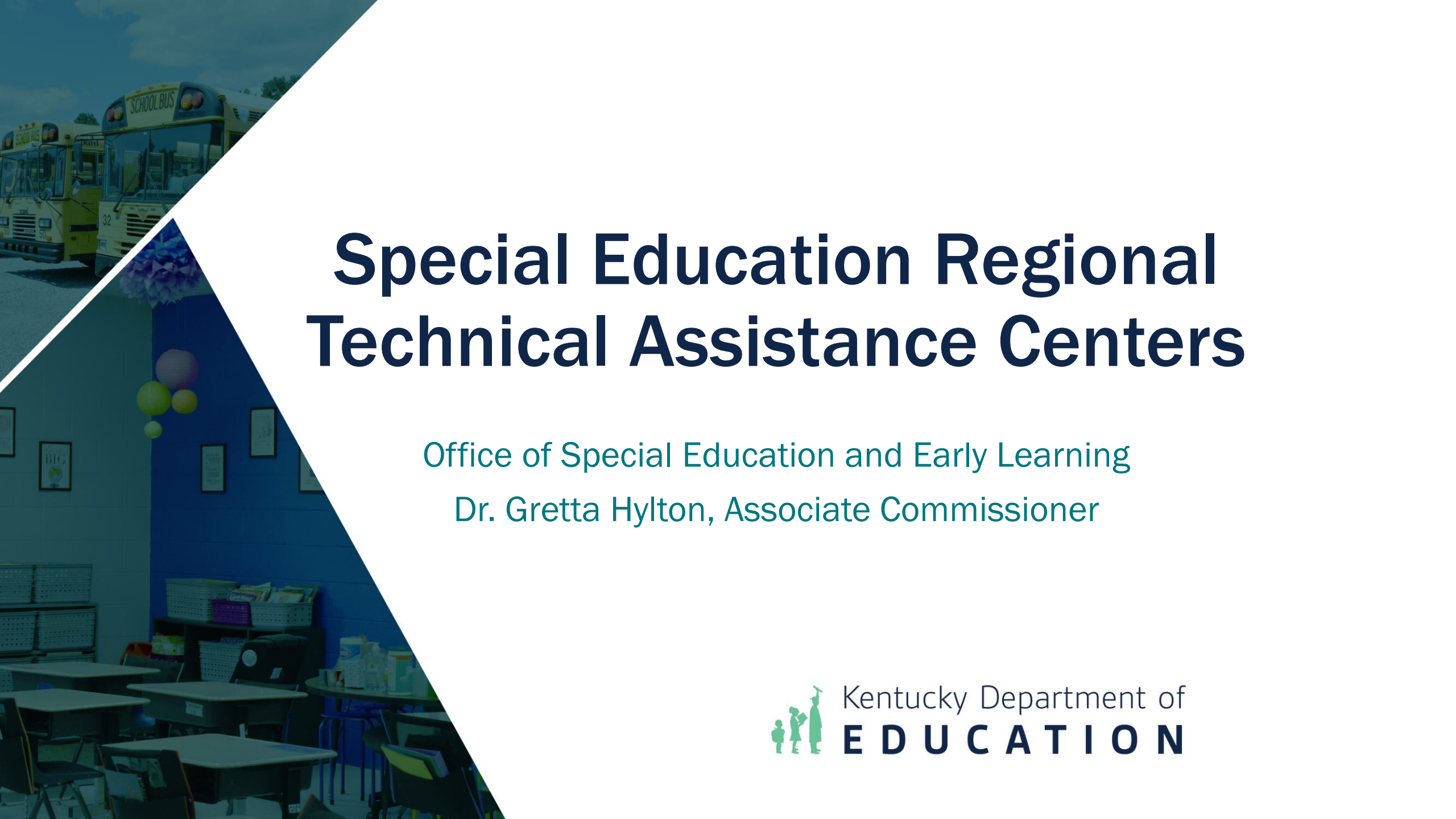
- The award is given each year to a KDE employee who exhibits integrity and is committed to assisting others, focuses on delivering excellent customer service for the department, is knowledgeable and productive, and shows compassion for others in the work they do.
- The award is named in honor of the late Teresa Perry, who served at KDE as executive secretary to the commissioner of education. For more than 33 years, she worked tirelessly for the Commonwealth, KDE, each school district and Kentucky's children.
- Individuals presently employed by the executive branch are eligible to be nominated. Eligible employees include all 18A classifications, merit and non-merit (associate commissioners are not eligible for this award).
- The nomination deadline is May 15. Nominations will be accepted via [the 2026 Teresa Perry Compassion Award nomination form](#) from individuals within KDE and from Kentucky educational partnerships and sources throughout the state.
- The winner will be announced at the regular June meeting of the Kentucky Board of Education.



Nominations Open for 2026 Grissom Award for Innovation in Special Education

- The award is given in the spring of each year to a Kentuckian or a Kentucky organization to honor outstanding dedication to improving achievement for students with disabilities. Criteria for the award include:
 - Leadership or implementation of innovative practice in curriculum, instruction or assessment that leads to improved learning, postsecondary or workforce outcomes for students with learning or behavior differences; and
 - Districts or schools demonstrating significant improvement or sustained excellence in learning or behavior outcomes for students with learning or behavior differences.
- The award is named in honor of the late Johnnie Grissom, a longtime KDE employee who served as associate commissioner for the Office of Special Instructional Services.
- [Nominations for the Grissom Award for Innovation in Special Education](#) will be accepted online through May 15 at 3 p.m. ET.
- The award will be presented at the KBE's August meeting.





Special Education Regional Technical Assistance Centers

Office of Special Education and Early Learning
Dr. Gretta Hylton, Associate Commissioner

OSEEL's SERTAC Regions Across Kentucky

Federal IDEA-B Section 611 State Set-Aside Funds are used by OSEEL to establish the nine ***Special Education Regional Technical Assistance Centers*** that are designed to help fulfill the mission of the OSEEL.

- Central Kentucky Educational Cooperative
- Green River Regional Educational Cooperative
- Kentucky Educational Development Corporation
- Northern Kentucky Cooperative for Educational Services
- West Kentucky Educational Cooperative
- Ohio Valley Educational Cooperative
- Greater Louisville Education Cooperative
- Kentucky Valley Educational Cooperative
- Southeast/South-Central Educational Cooperative

OSEEL's SERTAC Directors



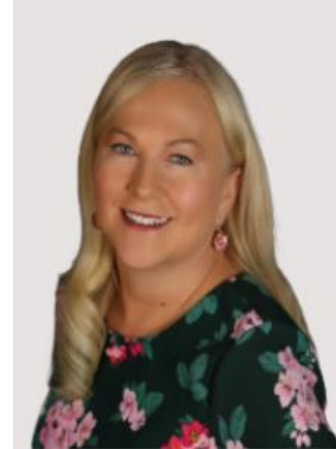
Kim Hinton (July 1)
*Director, Central
Kentucky Educational
Cooperative
*Ramona Karsner
Retiring June 30



Merissa Waddy, Ed.D.
Director, Green River
Regional Educational
Cooperative



Latricia Bronger
Director, Greater
Louisville Education
Cooperative



Stephanie Little
Director, Kentucky
Educational
Development
Cooperative



Dionne Bates, Ed.D.
Co-Director, Kentucky
Valley Educational
Cooperative



OSEEL's SERTAC Directors (2)



Brenda Combs
Co-Director, Kentucky
Valley Educational
Cooperative



Christel Bogar
Director, Ohio Valley
Educational
Cooperative



Brittney Howell
Director, Northern
Kentucky Cooperative
for Educational
Services



Brandi Bray, Ed.D.
Director, Southeast/
South-Central
Educational
Cooperative



Rachel Johnson
Director, West
Kentucky Educational
Cooperative



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New Teacher Survey

Allie Green

Program Consultant

Division of Educator Recruitment & Development



Kentucky Department of
EDUCATION

Kentucky Educator Mentorship Program

- KRS 161.031 established the Kentucky Educator Mentorship Program (KEMP) and required the Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) to develop standards and guidance for school districts to implement new teacher induction programs.
- EPSB is required to submit an annual report to the Legislative Research Commission (LRC) on KEMP implementation.

HB 48 (2025)

- Section 8 of House Bill (HB) 48 amends KRS 161.031 by encouraging, rather than requiring, school districts to provide an induction program for new teachers.
- Adds a new requirement for EPSB to identify in its annual report any school districts that have not implemented an induction program that aligns with the EPSB established standards and guidance. A nonresponse to the survey will indicate noncompliance.

New Teacher Surveys



District Administrators



New Teachers & Mentors

District Administrator

- Components of district's new teacher program*
- Types of training
- Organization and management of induction program
- Funding, duration and timeframe for induction program
- Evaluation of induction program



New Teacher & Mentor

- Components of district's new teacher program they participated in
- Perception of effectiveness of new teacher's educator preparation program (EPP)
- Suggestions for remediation or support not covered in EPP
- Frequency of meetings with assigned mentor
- Impact of participation in the induction program on professional plans



Next Steps

- Identify an individual to complete the district administrator survey on behalf of the **district**.
- Share the new teacher/mentor survey with **school-level** administrators to disseminate to all new teachers and mentors. Please note: School-level administrators should not complete the survey.
- Please encourage all eligible respondents (new teachers/mentors) to complete the survey by the deadline.

Survey will close on Aug. 14, 2026

Report due to LRC by Oct. 1, 2026

Impact of Legislative Changes to Kentucky's College Entrance Exam

Jennifer Stafford, Ed.D. Associate Commissioner

Office of Assessment and Accountability

Division of Assessment & Accountability Support

Senate Bill 197, Section 15

- April 15: On the final day of the legislative session, the General Assembly passed [Senate Bill 197](#).
- The bill included a section related to Kentucky's college entrance exam that would place limitations on the use of general funds and require a new procurement for a college entrance exam for the 2026–2027 school year.

4 (15) College Entrance Exam: No General Funds provided to the Kentucky
5 Department of Education shall be used for any contract that does not meet Kentucky
6 Academic Standards and the Accountability and Assessment provisions outlined in
7 KRS 158.645, 158.6451, 158.6453, 158.6455, 158.649, and 160.346 and applicable
8 federal statutes. The Kentucky Department of Education shall initiate a new
9 competitive procurement process and shall award a contract only to a vendor or
10 vendors whose assessment product satisfies all applicable state and federal statutory
11 requirements for accountability and assessment purposes to be in place for the 2026-
12 2027 school year.

Senate Bill 197, Section 15 after Gov. Veto

- April 27: Gov. Andy Beshear vetoed limits on the use of general funds but did not veto the requirement for a new procurement.

8 The Kentucky Department of Education shall initiate a new
9 competitive procurement process and shall award a contract only to a vendor or
10 vendors whose assessment product satisfies all applicable state and federal statutory
11 requirements for accountability and assessment purposes to be in place for the 2026-
12 2027 school year.

Legislative Changes to Kentucky's College Entrance Exam

- As a result of SB 197, KDE must conduct a new procurement for the state-provided college entrance exam for 2026–2027.
- The 2026–2027 school year will begin without a selected exam, creating uncertainty for students, families and educators.
- KDE is working with the Finance and Administration Cabinet to repeat the competitive procurement process following the requirements in the statute.

Status of HB 257

Shara Savage, Director

Office of Assessment and Accountability

Division of Assessment & Accountability Support

HB 257 Update

- [House Bill \(HB\) 257](#), a bill to reimagine Kentucky's state assessment and accountability systems, passed and has been signed by the Governor.

Locally Developed Indicators of Quality

Locally Developed Indicators of Quality

- Aligned to Kentucky Academic Standards
- Allow all students to apply knowledge and skills in real-world contexts
- May include local priorities (e.g., student well-being, fiscal responsibility, school safety)

Vibrant Learning

- Emphasizes student agency and real-world application
- Developed with families, communities and workforce partners
- Demonstrated through personalized projects and experiences tied to student interests

District Implementation

Districts may develop and implement a local system that includes:

- Student participation in vibrant learning experiences
- Locally developed performance indicators

If implemented, districts must:

- Include student performance data (disaggregated by subgroup, where permissible)
- Provide a public, online display of school and district performance

KDE Support

- KDE will offer technical assistance
- KDE may offer a one-time payment (up to \$15,000 per district) to offset cost of development.

2025–2026 Assessment and Accountability

- Testing (KSA and AKSA) **remains** the same for Spring 2026 Testing for grades 3 through 8, 10 and 11
 - Reading
 - Mathematics
 - Science
 - Social Studies
 - Editing and Mechanics
 - On-Demand Writing
 - Quality of School Climate and Safety Survey (QSCS)
- Fall Data Reporting **remains** the same for 2026
 - State Calculations with Status and Change cut scores will continue to determine school color ratings.
 - Federal Calculations with the three-year average will continue to determine classifications such as Comprehensive School and Improvement (CSI), Targeted School and Improvement (TSI) and Additional Targeted School and Improvement (ATSI).

2026–2027 Assessment and Accountability

- Testing (KSA and AKSA) **changes** for Spring 2027 Testing for grades 3 through 8, 10 and 11
 - The following will be removed from the state testing program:
 - Editing and Mechanics
 - On-Demand Writing
 - Quality of School Climate and Safety Survey (QSCS)
- New Accountability **Changes for 2026-2027**
 - Chronic Absenteeism will be a new indicator
 - Individual Student Growth will be a new indicator
 - Evaluation of Change for each indicator is removed
 - Writing is removed from the State Assessment Results indicator
 - One Overall Score used in the state accountability system that meets federal requirements
- *Please note: The contract for the KSA and AKSA will also be out for bid, which could affect future administrations, (i.e., 2028 and beyond).*

Targeted Quality Measures Reported on the Kentucky School Report Card until June 2030

Additional Readiness and Quality Measure

- Educators
 - Percentage of certified teachers who have:
 - Achieved Rank II status or higher
 - Earned National Board Certification
- Grade 8 Students
 - Percentage of students earning at least one high school credit by the end of grade 8
- Grade 12 Students
 - Percentage of graduates who:
 - Complete the FAFSA by graduation;
or
 - Parents submit an approved opt-out
- Not currently included in State Accountability that Meets Federal Requirements and not included in regulatory changes until closer to implementation.

HB 257 Discussion and Feedback TENTATIVE TIMELINE

HB 257 Discussion and Feedback TENTATIVE TIMELINE	
April	English Learner Growth Small Group and Accountability Thought Partners met in Frankfort.
May	- English Learner Growth Small Group and Accountability Thought Partners second meeting - Kentucky Technical Advisory Council (KTAC) - Local Superintendent Advisory Council (LSAC)
June	Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) Work Session, facilitated by the Center for Assessment
July	- School Curriculum, Assessment and Accountability Council (SCAAC) - LSAC
Aug.	- KBE First Read (at KSB) - KTAC
Sept.	- SCAAC to hear recommendations - LSAC to hear recommendations
Oct.	KBE Second Read
Nov. – Dec.	Public Comment Period
Feb. 2027	- Update Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) State Plan - Statement of Consideration to KBE - Education Assessment and Accountability Review Subcommittee (EAARS) Next Meeting

Please note: KDE will continue to engage with the Commissioner's Advisory Councils and other key stakeholders to gather input and guide the development of policy to align with House Bill 257.

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Office of Teaching and Learning Updates

Micki Ray Marinelli,
Chief Academic Officer

HQIR Implementation Technical Assistance

- KDE's Office of Teaching and Learning PL Coordinators and Regional Principal Support Leaders are **now available** to support districts and schools **with technical assistance for high-quality instructional resource (HQIR) implementation support.**
- A new [HQIR Implementation Support Request Form](#) provides a streamlined process for districts and schools to request targeted support aligned to their specific needs and stage of implementation.
- Targeted areas for support include:
 - Instructional visioning and adoption support;
 - Yearly curriculum implementation planning and monitoring;
 - Curriculum-Based Professional Learning and intellectual preparation, including unit and lesson internalization, lesson rehearsal and student work analysis; and
 - Instructional Practice Guide Observations and Learning Walk Feedback Support.

Cohort 5 of LETRS for Educators and LETRS for Administrators

- [Registration for Cohort 5 of LETRS](#) opened May 4 and will be open through Aug. 21.
- Limited licenses are available. First come, first served.
- One registration document for both courses.
- Open to K-5 public school educators who teach reading or work with K-5 students (e.g., core and special education teachers, reading specialists, interventionists, English language development teachers, administrators).
- Professional learning for Cohort 5 begins in October.

Kentucky Reads to Succeed Summer Conference: Registration NOW OPEN!

- **Date:** June 8-9
- **Location:** The Galt House in Louisville
- Registration is free for all Kentucky public school educators.
- Event includes multiple breakout sessions across both days; a featured welcome and keynote on Tuesday morning; and dedicated time for networking and Vendor Hall Experience.
- Visit the [Read to Succeed Summer Conference webpage](#) to **register now** and review the [Schedule at a Glance](#).

Kentucky Numeracy Counts Academies: Applications NOW OPEN!

KCM K-5 Teacher Academies (2nd Cohort)

- A 2-year hybrid learning experience for K-5 educators, launching **Summer 2026**
- Features in-person summer launch sessions plus synchronous and asynchronous virtual learning for Kentucky K-5 math teachers
- Application available on the [KCM website](#)

PIMSER Leadership Academies

- Launching **Summer 2026** with a mix of in-person, synchronous virtual and asynchronous virtual learning
- Prioritizes instructional leaders (district leaders, building principals, assistant principals, etc.) from schools with teachers in the KCM K-5 Teacher Academies
- Application available on the [PIMSER website](#)

EPIC Numeracy Alliance

- A 2-year professional learning grounded in *Patterns* by Carnegie Learning with a mix of in-person, synchronous live virtual and asynchronous virtual learning
- Across both grade-bands (Intermediate 3-5 and Middle Grades 6-8), the Alliance focuses on building teacher skill, increasing self-efficacy in delivering grade-level mathematics, and supporting continuous improvement through collaboration among teachers and leaders.
- For more information, visit the [EPIC Numeracy webpage](#).

Middle School Advanced Mathematics Survey

- [HB 257](#), Section 7, requires KDE to submit a study report by Nov. 1, 2026, to the Legislative Research Commission and the Interim Joint Committee on Education on **local middle school mathematics and advanced mathematics coursework opportunities**.
- KDE has developed a survey tool designed to gather the specific information required in HB 257. **The link to the survey will be shared with District Curriculum and Instruction Leads and will remain open from May 4-June 12.**
- Per Section 8, KDE has been authorized and required to collect the information from local schools and districts. To ensure the most accurate information is provided to state legislators, prompt attention is greatly appreciated.

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Revised Kentucky Academic Standards for Reading and Writing

Chrystal Rowland
Director of Academic Program Standards
Office of Teaching and Learning



KAS for Reading and Writing Adopted!

The *Kentucky Academic Standards for Reading and Writing* were adopted into law on May 5, 2026, and will be effective for classroom implementation in Kentucky schools this fall.



Resources for Implementing Reading and Writing Standards

Updated Resources

- Reading and Writing **Standards at a Glance**
- Instructional Resources **Consumer Guide** for Reading and Writing
- Kentucky Academic Standards **Family Guides**

New Resources

- *KAS for Reading and Writing* **Implementation Guide**
- Companion **Glossary and Support**
- **Digital *KAS for Reading and Writing***

Professional Learning Resources

- **Getting to Know the *Kentucky Academic Standards for Reading and Writing***
- **Interdisciplinary Literacy Practices in Action**



School-based Module



Self-paced Course

March Leadership Recording Available!

- **Academic Standards Update**
 - *Kentucky Academic Standards (KAS) for Reading and Writing*
 - *KAS for Reading and Writing Implementation Guide*
- **Model Curriculum Framework (MCF) Resource Update**
 - Curriculum Implementation Monitoring Toolkit
- **KyMTSS Resource Update**
 - Aligning Tier 2 Intervention with Tier 1 Instruction When Using and HQIR Guidance Document



Contact Information

Chrystal Rowland

Director; Division of Academic Program Standards
chrystal.rowland@education.ky.gov

Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water in Schools and Childcare Facilities Program

Gabriel Tanner, Eileen Miller, Destiny Hall-Combs
Division of Water (DOW)
Drinking Water Branch

Lead in Drinking Water



- Potential Health Effects of Lead Exposure
 - Primary damage to brain and nervous system
 - Learning and behavior problems
 - Damage to multiple organ groups
- How does lead get in Drinking Water?
 - Enters water from materials used in plumbing – pipes, faucets, solder, service lines
 - Colorless, Odorless, and Tasteless in drinking water
- History of lead bans
 - 1986 – Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) prohibits use of pipes, solder, or flux not certified “lead-free”
 - 2014 – reduced the definition of “lead free” materials from 8% to 0.25%
- Upcoming Regulations: Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI)
 - Goes into effect on November 1, 2027
 - Requires public water systems to:
 - Provide education/communications about lead in drinking water to schools/childcares
 - Offer to sample to all schools and childcares built prior to 2014
 - DOW program counts towards compliance for water system requirements
 - No requirement for schools to participate in offered sampling

Kentucky's Voluntary Lead Testing Program Overview

Program Goal: Reduce lead in drinking water at schools/childcares

What our program provides:

- Free lead testing of drinking water to public schools and licensed childcare facilities built prior to 2014
- Educational guidance and remediation recommendations/assistance
- Reimbursement for remediation completed if lead is detected

Funding Sources and Restrictions:

- Funded by Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act
- Private schools not eligible under this funding (*exception for preschools*)
- Schools built after 2014 are not eligible (*pending any extenuating circumstances*)
- Program prioritizes schools and childcares with students aged six years or younger
- Results must be made publicly available on program website

Program Steps

1. Facility signs up online
2. Pre-meeting between facility and DOW (can be online or in person)
3. Inventory site visit
 - Identify drinking water outlets to be sampled (max 25 per facility)
4. Sampling site visit
 - Collect water samples at all outlets using approved methods
 - Water must be stagnant for 8-18 hours prior to sampling
5. Samples sent to Kentucky's Environmental Services Lab
6. Results sent to facility and made available to public
7. Remediation guidance and assistance provided (as needed)
8. Follow up re-sampling site visit (as needed)



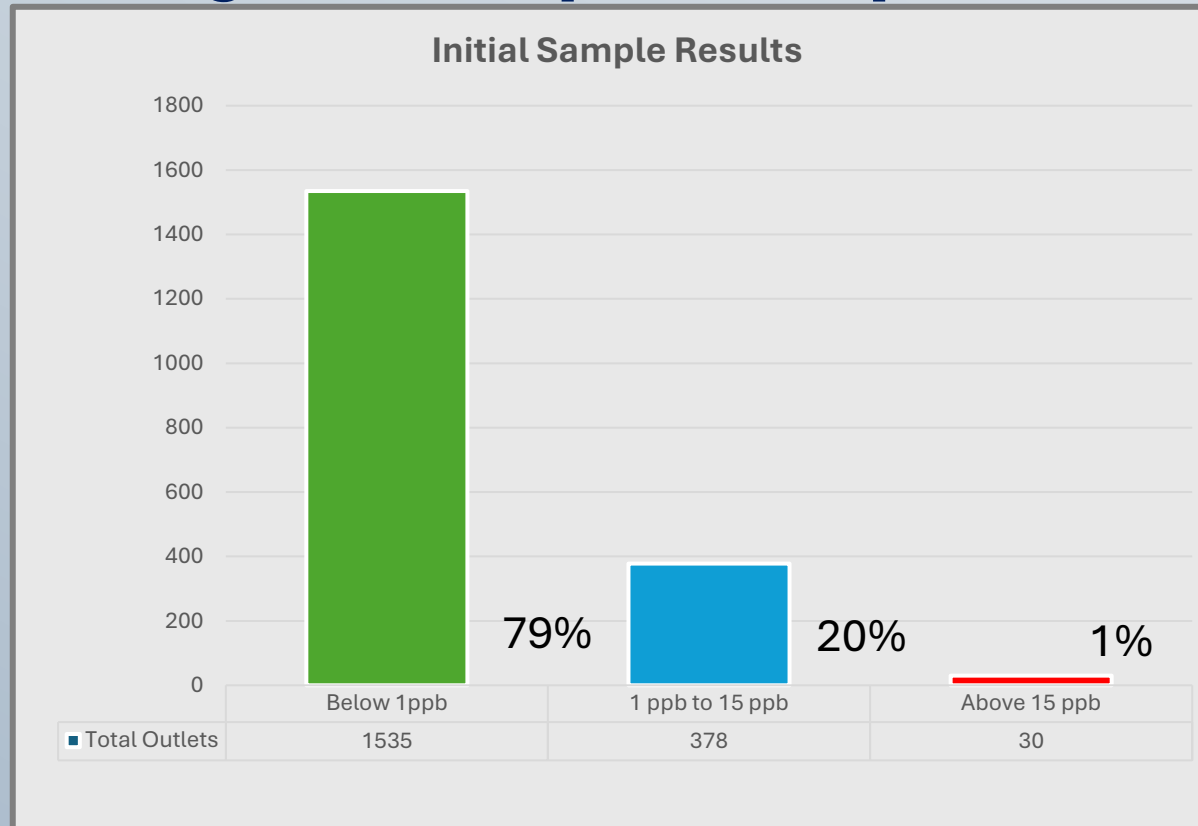
Results and Current Trends

- True goal is to be below the program's remediation guidance level of 0.001 mg/L or 1 ppb
 - Any outlets with results above 1 ppb are eligible for remediation reimbursement
- Results over 15 ppb (EPA's action level for Lead)
 - Recommended to immediately remove outlet from service (*if possible*) until remediation can occur
- Kitchen faucets have been most common elevated result
- No systemic problems found in school buildings to date
 - Individual outlets appear to be main concern

	Floor	Location	Initial Results
	Room No.	Outlet Type*	Flush Results
	1		< 0.5 ppb
	BAT	BS	

Status Updates

Current Program Snapshot (April 1, 2026)



Facilities signed up for program (results received)	332 (188)
Total Samples Collected (results received)	1943
Highest lead level at any outlet	691 ppb

Voluntary Lead Testing in Schools and Childcares

Where can I get more information?

Visit Our Website:



bit.ly/VoluntaryLeadTestingInSchools

Contact our Coordinators:

Eileen Miller
(502) 401-6947
Eileen.miller@ky.gov

Gabriel Tanner
(502) 782-7088
Gabriel.Tanner@ky.gov

Destiny Hall-Combs
(502) 782-4481
Destiny.Hallcombs@ky.gov

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2026 General Assembly Update

Brian Perry, Ph.D.
Director of Government Relations

House Bill 257

- Student growth vs. change
- State indicators will continue to include math, reading, science and social studies
 - On-demand writing and editing mechanics will no longer be included in state assessments
- Chronic absenteeism replaces the school climate and safety survey in state accountability
 - The school climate and safety survey will remain available for districts to include in local measures of quality
- School districts will be encouraged to create their own local indicators of quality
- Local indicators of quality must include:
 - Vibrant learning experiences for students
 - Local measures of performance identified by community members
 - A method of displaying data that includes breaking down data by demographic groups
- Includes a one-time payment to offset costs incurred by local school districts in the development of locally developed indicators of quality of up to \$15,000
 - \$2,570,000 one-time appropriation in SB 197 (2026) to “support additional costs to local school districts associated with the implementation of the new education assessment and accountability system.”

HB 257 - Targeted Quality Measures

- Requires “targeted quality measures” to be reported on the Kentucky School Report Card:
 - The percentage of certified teachers within the school and district who have attained Rank II or higher or who are National Board certified;
 - For schools and districts containing students in 8th grade, the percentage of students earning at least one high school credit upon the completion of the student’s 8th-grade school year; and
 - For schools and districts containing 12th-grade students, the percentage of students who have completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by the student’s graduation date or officially opted out of completing it.
- Beginning July 1, 2030, the targeted measures of quality would not only be reported in the Kentucky School Report Card, but also would be included as a new indicator in the state accountability system with a cumulative weight of no less than 5%.

Other KBE/KDE Priorities

- [HB 727](#) (Riley) – Omnibus bill that includes our clean-up items
 - ~~Staggers KBE board terms~~
 - Replaces KEPS with statewide job portal using existing funds from certification fees
 - [SB 207](#) Clean-up – ~~extends time for KBE to review waiver requests~~ }, allows the commissioner to approve class size waiver requests for special education, and removes the automatic expiration of waivers related to district facility projects
 - Repeals [KRS 156.690](#) (Teachers' computer purchase program)
 - Repeals statutory language concerning the Council for Education Technology (CET), 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
 - [HB 67](#) (Payne)
 - Also has most of [SB 3](#) (Tichenor) – Financial responsibility and transparency

House Bill 500

- SEEK: \$4,626 in FY27 and \$4,792 in FY28
 - Up from \$4,586 in FY26
- SEEK Transportation
 - \$398,884,500 in each fiscal year
 - \$491,979,038 estimated need
- Academic Academies (Craft, Gatton and Votruba):
 - Students will no longer be included in the average daily attendance of the students' districts of residence for the purpose of calculating SEEK
- LARS
 - ATCs included in the supplemental funding
 - Our programs are funded for both years of the biennium
- KBE leadership employment language is included (via SB 197)
- Reduction in travel (in- and out-of-state) in the 4th quarter

House Bill 500– Reductions

Take the necessary steps to reduce, modify or eliminate the expenditures of state agencies in the following priority order:

1. Temporary manpower
2. Services personnel and contracts
3. Out-of-state travel
4. Providing food and meals that cost more than is set out in the in-state travel guideline allowance for employees attending meetings
5. Prior written approval of the agency head for any conference, meeting or event that will require in-state travel of 20 employees or more
6. Abolishment of positions that have remained vacant for six months
7. Moratorium on all discretionary salary increases
8. Reduction, modification or elimination of programs or services not required by state or federal law or regulation

House Bill 900

- **FFA Leadership Training Center - Activity Center**
 - \$5,000,000 in FY28
- **CTE Supplemental funding**
 - \$14,000,000 in each year
- **School of Innovation Pilot Project – Covington**
 - \$2,500,000 in FY27
- **School of Innovation Pilot Project - two schools to be selected**
 - \$5,000,000 in FY28
- **School Facilities Construction Commission – Marion, Clay, McCreary, Frankfort, Lyon, Todd, Williamstown, Lincoln, Garrard, Russellville, McCracken**
 - Various amounts

Senate Bill 197

- Restored leadership language in HB 500:
 - *Notwithstanding KRS 18A.005 to 18A.200, the Kentucky Board of Education shall continue to have sole authority to determine the employees of the Department of Education who are exempt from the classified service and to set those employees' compensation comparable to the competitive market.*
- Included new language on the college entrance exam:
 - ~~College Entrance Exam: No General Funds provided to the Kentucky Department of Education shall be used for any contract that does not meet Kentucky Academic Standards and the Accountability and Assessment provisions outlined in KRS 158.645, 158.6451, 158.6453, 158.6455, 158.649, and 160.346 and applicable federal statutes~~
The Kentucky Department of Education shall initiate a new competitive procurement process and shall award a contract only to a vendor or vendors whose assessment product satisfies all applicable state and federal statutory requirements for accountability and assessment purposes to be in place for the 2026-2027 school year.
- \$2,570,000 one-time appropriation to “support additional costs to local school districts associated with the implementation of the new education assessment and accountability system.”

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 4](#) (West)
 - Four-year principal training and mentoring program
 - Four-year cohort model
 - First two years with KDE
 - Third year Truist/Kentucky Chamber Foundation
 - Fourth year optional
 - \$1 million in each year in HB 500
 - Reduces JCPS board to five and provides initial maps for new districts
- [SB 5](#) (Howell) Aims to get more local/KY Proud food in schools
- [SB 46](#) (Deneen) Permits schools to use non-school bus passenger vehicles designed for 10.
- [SB 59](#) (Rawlings) Relating to prohibited uses of tax dollars and resources
- [SB 101](#) (Nunn) Mandatory 12-month expulsion for students in 6-12th grade that intentionally caused or attempted to cause physical injury to a school district employee on school property or at a school function under the board's jurisdiction
- [SB 170](#) (Storm) Establishes a pilot program to be known as the Supporting Opportunities for Accountability and Restoration Program for children who are truant
- [SB 263](#) (West) Schools of innovation and innovation fund
 - Total appropriation of \$7,500,000
 - \$2,500,000 for Covington Independent
 - \$5,000,000 for two additional projects TBD

House Bills

- [HB 1](#) (Moser) The qualified elementary and secondary education scholarship federal tax credit
- [HB 4](#) (Proctor) Broad anti-grooming bill that defines grooming behavior
- [HB 7](#) (Hale) Stop arm cameras for school buses
- [HB 10](#) (Hodgson) Senate confirmations
 - KBE & EPSB chairs will now require Senate confirmation
 - School Curriculum, Assessment and Accountability Council (SCAAC) members and chair will now require Senate confirmation
- [HB 253](#) (Tipton)
 - Three-cueing prohibition
 - Prohibits nondisclosure agreements relating to misconduct involving a minor or student
- [HB 280](#) (Moser) Permits schools to stock undesignated glucagon
- [HB 307](#) (Tipton) Proactive postsecondary admission
- [HB 555](#) (Pollack) Permits student-based enterprises within their district to sell competitive foods throughout the school day
- [HB 562](#) (Truett) Alternative high school diplomas
- [HB 757](#) (Petrie) Revenue bill
- [HB 778](#) (Wilson) Changes who in a district and/or school is notified by a court-designated worker when a diversion agreement is developed
- [HB 900](#) (Petrie) One-time spending projects

House Bill 727 – The Omnibus

- All the previously mentioned clean-up items
- [HB 621](#) (Bojanowski) Class sizes for exceptional children and youth
- [HB 654](#) (Baker) Clean-up to HB 48 (2025)
- [HB 685](#) (Riley) Requires the Education Professional Standards Board to issue a 5-year teaching certificate to eligible applicants
- [SB 71](#) (Deneen) Updates the annual in-service training requirements for local board of education members

KDE Legislative Guidance

- Can be found on KDE's [Legislative Guidance webpage](#)
- One main guidance document with supplemental guidance as needed

Interim Period

- [2026 Interim Calendar](#)
- June-November
 - May see an Interim Joint Committee on Education added in December

Election Year

- [2026 Election Calendar](#)
- Primary Election Day: May 19
 - Polls open 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., prevailing time.
- General Election Day: Nov. 3
 - Polls open 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., prevailing time.

Questions about the 2026 General Assembly

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

The background of the slide is a composite image. The top left portion shows a line of yellow school buses, with the number '32' visible on the front of one. The bottom left portion shows a classroom with blue walls, decorated with colorful balloons and framed pictures. Several small desks and chairs are arranged in the room.

Question and Answer Session

(Submit Questions in Teams)

KDE Leadership

The background of the slide is a collage. The top left shows two yellow school buses, one with the number 32. The bottom left shows a classroom with blue walls, decorated with colorful balloons and framed pictures. Desks and chairs are visible in the foreground.

Important Dates

Memorial Day (KDE Closed)

May 25

Local Superintendents Advisory Council

May 26

Kentucky Board of Education (in-person)

June 3-4

Kentucky Reads to Succeed Conference

June 8-9

Education Professional Standards Board

June 22

Superintendents Webcast

July 7



Kentucky Department of

E D U C A T I O N