

The Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) held day one of its regular meeting on June 3, 2026. The majority of KBE members met in-person at the Kentucky Department of Education, 300 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, KY. Members of the public were permitted to attend the meeting in person although encouraged to view the meeting on the Kentucky Department of Education's (KDE) Media Portal. The board conducted the following business:

I. Call to Order

Chair Sharon Robinson welcomed all board members and guests to the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 1:01 P.M. ET.

II. Roll Call

Chair Robinson asked for a roll call of members. The following members were present: Holly Bloodworth, Harold McKinney, Julie Pile, Randy Poe, Sharon Porter Robinson, Steve Trimble, Lu Young, Juston Pate, Harper Blake, Alfonso De Torres Núñez and Secretary Jamie Link. President Aaron Thompson was absent. KDE Director of Education Policy GlyptusAnn Grider Jones, Ph.D., stated that a quorum was present.

III. Public Comment Session

Chair Robinson stated that the public comment segment is limited to 10 speakers at a maximum of 3 minutes each. There were two guests, Katie Bentley and Lucy Heskins. Ms. Bentley commented on her support for recertification of 704 KAR 7:160, on behalf of her son's experiences. Ms. Haskins also shared her support for 704 KAR 7:160.

IV. Internal Board Business (Action/Discussion)

A. Summary Minutes for the April 8, 2026 KBE Regular Meeting Day 1; April 9, 2026 KBE Regular Meeting Day 2; May 6, 2026 KBE Virtual Regular Meeting; and May 27, 2026 KBE Awards Committee Meeting

The minutes of the April 8, 2026 KBE Regular Meeting Day 1; April 9, 2026 KBE Regular Meeting Day 2; May 6, 2026 KBE Virtual Regular Meeting; and May 27, 2026 KBE Awards Committee Meeting were distributed to members in advance. Chair Robinson asked for any corrections to any of the minutes. There were no corrections. Chair Robinson asked for a motion to approve all of the meeting minutes. The motion was made by Steve Trimble and seconded by Julie Pile. The motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.

B. Recipient of the 2026 Grissom Award for Innovation in Special Education

On behalf of the KBE Awards Committee, Chair Julie Pile presented the information related to the award description. Chair Pile shared that the committee met on Wednesday, May 27 and determined that candidates 13 and 18 best met the criteria of the award. Chair Pile moved to approve candidates 13 and 18 as the recipient at the board's regular August meeting. The motion did not require a second as it came from the committee. The motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.

C. 2026-2027 Non-Voting Student and Teacher Members

Chair Robinson spoke about the annual item to approve new non-voting student and teacher Kentucky Board of Education members. She outlined the selection process as detailed in 701 KAR 5:160 and explained the process for approving the recommended candidates. Chair Robinson then called for a motion to approve student candidate #4 and teacher candidate #4 to serve as the 2026-2027 non-voting KBE members. The motion was made by Juston Pate and seconded by Randy Poe. The motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.

D. Membership Renewal for the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE)

Chair Robinson explained that annual membership dues for the board's participation in the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) were due for renewal. She said that members were provided with a document outlining NASBE member benefits in the portal. Chair Robinson called for a motion to renew the NASBE membership for the upcoming year. The motion was made by Julie Pile and seconded by Randy Poe. The motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.

V. Consent Agenda

- A. Litigation Report-** KDE Deputy Commissioner and General Counsel Todd G. Allen
- B. Certification of Non-Public Schools-** KDE Associate Commissioner Kelly Foster, Ed.D.
- C. Approval of Per-Child Rates for State-Funded Preschool Programs-** KDE Associate Commissioner Gretta Hylton, Ed.D., Early Learning Unit Director Andrea Bartholomew, and KDE Policy Advisor Melody Cooper
- D. Recommended Approval of Work-Based Learning Placements for State Accountability-** KDE Associate Commissioner Beth Hargis, Ed.D. and KDE Work-Based Learning Coordinator Tina Brogli

- E. Recommended Approval of School District Indirect Cost Rates for Fiscal Year 2026-2027-** KDE Associate Commissioner Matt Ross and KDE Division Director Chay Ritter
- F. Recommended Approval of the 2025-2026 Tax Rates Levied-** KDE Associate Commissioner Matt Ross and KDE Division Director Chay Ritter
- G. Recommended Approval of Waiver Request 2026-WV-076, Pineville Independent-** KDE Associate Commissioner Matt Ross, KDE Division Director Chay Ritter and KDE Assistant Division Director Marshall Smith
- H. Recommended Approval of Waiver Request 2026-WV-077, Mason County Schools-** KDE Associate Commissioner Matt Ross, KDE Division Director Chay Ritter, and KDE Assistant Division Director Marshall Smith

Chair Robinson stated that KDE staff identified items in the consent agenda as those that are noncontroversial in nature. Chair Robinson remarked that the consent agenda items were distributed in advance for review and asked if any member wished to move a consent agenda item to regular discussion. None of the items were moved, and Chair Robinson asked for a motion to approve all items in the consent agenda. The motion was made by Holly Bloodworth and seconded by Harold McKinney. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

VI. Action/Discussion Items

A. Recertification of 704 KAR 7:160, Physical restraint and seclusion

Chair Robinson stated that the recertification of 704 KAR 7:160 was tabled at the April meeting until June while questions were answered by KDE staff. KDE Associate Commissioner Gretta Hylton and KDE Policy Advisor Melody Cooper were present to address any additional questions. Following a discussion with the board, Chair Robinson asked for a motion for recertification of 704 KAR 7:160, Physical restraint and seclusion. The motion was made by Randy Poe and seconded by Julie Pile. The motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.

B. Hearing Officer's Report

1. Agency Amendment to 702 KAR 5:130, Vehicles designed to carry nine (9) passengers or less, standards for

KDE Deputy Commissioner and General Counsel Todd Allen, KDE Associate Commissioner Matt Ross, KDE Division Director Chay Ritter, and KDE Policy Advisor Lindsey Swartz presented the agency amendment to 702 KAR 5:130, Vehicles designed to carry nine (9) passengers or less, standards for. The presenters explained that this regulation received public comments and input

from the General Assembly to inform the proposed agency amendment. The presenters discussed interest and feedback from members of the Local Superintendents Advisory Council (LSAC) regarding random drug testing requirements. After the feedback, KDE staff made a change to address the schedule that local districts utilize for the random drug testing pool. After a discussion with the board, Chair Robinson called for a motion to approve the agency amendment to 702 KAR 5:130, Vehicles designed to carry nine (9) passengers or less, standards for. The motion was made by Randy Poe and was seconded by Steve Trimble. The motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.

C. Amendment to 701 KAR 5:090, Teacher Disciplinary Hearings

KDE Deputy Commissioner and General Counsel Todd Allen and KDE Staff Attorney Sara Bentley presented this amendment. Allen explained that 701 KAR 5:090 related to requests for hearings for teachers in Kentucky to challenge their termination or disciplinary action was reviewed as it was nearing its seven-year expiration term. Bentley discussed how the proposed amendment improves the language of the regulation for clarification to school districts regarding their reimbursement responsibilities for the hearings. Chair Robinson called for a motion to approve the amendment to 701 KAR 5:090, Teacher Disciplinary Hearings. The motion was made by Harold McKinney and seconded by Juston Pate. The motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.

D. Amendment to 701 KAR 5:170, Waiver Requests

KDE Deputy Commissioner and General Counsel Todd Allen presented the proposed amendment to 701 KAR 5:170 regarding waiver requests. Allen discussed the process for school waiver requests to the Kentucky Board of Education being revised in Senate Bill 207 (2025), and then again in Senate Bill 263 (2026). The proposed amendments include clarifying information about waiver requests, the removal and addition of various categories of waivers, and technical language for KBE's responsibilities for waiver request approval, Todd said. After a discussion with the board, Chair Robinson called for a motion to approve the suggested amendment. The motion to approve the amendment to 701 KAR 5:170, Waiver Requests was made by Juston Pate and seconded by Julie Pile. The motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.

E. Appointment of At-Large Member to Kentucky High School Athletic Association Board of Control

KDE Deputy Commissioner and General Counsel Todd Allen and KDE Deputy Commissioner David Couch discussed the recommendation to appoint Randy McCallon to the KHSAA Board of Control. Couch expressed support for McCallon's appointment and Allen explained the appointment timeline. Chair Robinson asked for a motion to approve the appointment of Randy McCallon to the KHSAA Board of Control. The motion was made by Steve Trimble and seconded by Harold McKinney. The motion was passed unanimously with a voice vote.

F. Local Board Member In-Service Training

KDE Deputy Commissioner and General Counsel Todd Allen and Kentucky School Boards Association (KSBA) Representative Matt McCarty presented the 2025 Report, 2025 Exceptions, and 2027 Training Plan related to Local Board Member In-Service Training. Allen stated that KSBA presents a report annually to the KBE on the training KSBA offers. McCarty explained the training that Kentucky school board members complete and the benefits of the training requirements. After a discussion with the board regarding clarifications on requirements and the expansion of multilingual training, Chair Robinson called for a motion to approve the 2025 report, 2025 exceptions, and 2027 training plan. The motion was made by Juston Pate and seconded by Steve Trimble. The motion was passed unanimously with a voice vote.

VII. Review Items

A. Kentucky School for the Blind Outreach: Low Vision Clinics

Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB) Principal Peggy Sinclair-Morris and KSB Teacher Connie Hill presented the update. Hill provided members of the board with dome magnifiers and explained the mission of the low vision clinics throughout Kentucky. Hill stated the process for students to receive an examination at one of the clinics, and the prevalence of Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI) in Kentucky students. The low vision clinics saw 120 students in the 2024-2025 school year, and 95 students for the 2025-2026 school year. Hill emphasized the importance of the results of the clinics and continued support for the program. Sinclair-Morris mentioned that Hill has traveled to Vanderbilt University for collaboration on the low vision clinics.

**Next, Chair Robinson called for a short recess before the following board item.
The board reconvened at 2:40 pm.**

B. Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) Implementation Results

KDE Chief Academic Officer Micki Ray Marinelli and Kentucky Reading Reach Center representative Dr. Terry Scott gave the update. The presenters discussed an analysis of Kentucky Summative Assessment (KSA) reading results from the 2021-2022 through the 2024-2025 academic years, encompassing 574 schools and over 7,000 students with varying degrees of LETRS-trained teachers. According to the presentation, districts with higher LETRS-trained rates saw increases toward “Proficient” reading levels and reductions in the percentage of students at “Novice” level, with significant increases for socioeconomically disadvantaged students, and Hispanic/Latino students. LETRS provides K-5 public school educators and administrators with a comprehensive, no-cost professional learning opportunity through the KDE’s Kentucky Reading Academies. Board members provided feedback on opportunities for future research such as improving accessibility to other subgroups of students, tracking student reading data in districts not using LETRS, and how to integrate research and advocacy in the implementation of LETRS.

C. Kentucky’s Accountability System

KDE Associate Commissioner Jennifer Stafford, Ed.D., and Laura Pinsonneault from the Center for Assessment presented the item. The presenters identified options for measuring student growth with updated accountability systems and explained the new accountability system in development to comply with Kentucky House Bill 257 (2026) and the Every Student Succeeds Act. The accountability model is making several changes, including removing a school safety measure, removing assessment in writing, adding an absenteeism measure, and adding in a new individual student growth indicator, beginning with the 2026-2027 school year. KDE will consult with multiple stakeholders regarding proposed amendments to 703 KAR 5:270, Kentucky’s accountability system regulation, as well as options for including Recently Arrived English Learners in school accountability through Kentucky’s Consolidated State Plan submitted to the U.S. Department of Education. Stakeholders include but are not limited to the School Curriculum, Assessment and Accountability Council (SCAAC);

KDE's technical advisory committee (KTAC), the Commissioner's Advisory Groups and the Local Superintendents Advisory Council (LSAC). Board members had a discussion regarding accountability for multilingual learners and other subgroups, and supporting models that recognize individual progress and celebrate student growth.

VIII. Adjournment

Chair Robinson thanked everyone for their time and asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion to adjourn was made by Harold McKinney and seconded by Steve Trimble. The meeting adjourned at 5:29 P.M. ET.