

The Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) held day two of its regular meeting on June 4, 2026. The majority of KBE members met in-person and virtually 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 9:01 A.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. Good News

- A. Students engage in Vibrant Learning at 2026 STLP State Championship** (Trimble)
- B. You Belong! Attendance Matters Video and Poster Contest** (Poe)
- C. KDE's Gretta Hylton Recognized Nationally for Exceptional Work in Special Education** (Young)
- D. Paducah Tilghman's Deatrik Kinney Named 2026 Kentucky High School Principal of the Year** (Bloodworth)
- E. New Study Shows LETRS Training Improves Student Reading Outcomes** (Pate)

IV. Board Member Sharing

Chair Robinson stated that the next item on the agenda is board sharing, an opportunity for board members to raise issues, pose questions, share concerns, and suggest topics to include on future board meeting agendas.

Juston Pate began by reporting on the final meeting of the KBE High School Transformation Work Group. Pate shared that the work group voted to provide their recommendations to the Kentucky United We Learn (KUWL) Council for continued research and input. Pate made a motion for the Kentucky Board of Education to support the KUWL Council's continued exploration of high school

transformation and invite the KUWL Council to consider research and input related to school transformation. Julie Pile seconded the motion. After a discussion by the board, the motion was approved unanimously by voice vote. Julie Pile then reported from the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child Subcommittee on legislative updates regarding medication in schools and distributing information on type 1 diabetes, as well as data on summer food service programs. Chair Robinson and Lu Young reported their experiences at the Kentucky School for the Blind and Kentucky School for the Deaf graduations. Lu Young shared that she met with Fayette County students regarding a health literacy project.

V. Reports

A. Report from the Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB)

EPSB Chair Amber Snell and Chair Robinson presented the results of a shared practice collaborative between KBE and EPSB that sought to gather insights into educator retention, career persistence, and teacher satisfaction.

1. KBE/EPSB Research Practice Collaborative (RPC) Recommendations- KBE Chair Sharon Robinson, Ed.D., and EPSB Chair Amber Snell

Chair Robinson and Chair Snell presented an update on the work of the KBE/EPSB RPC. Each chair presented and discussed one of two recommendations from the RPC: (1) to “Develop a Continuum of Growth and Support for Educators from Preservice to Retirement” and (2) to “Develop a Continuum of Support and Growth for School Leaders.” Chair Robinson thanked the EPSB and the members of their work on the RPC and stated that the KBE would want to consider this item further at the August KBE retreat meeting.

B. Report from the President of the Council on Postsecondary Education

Chair Robinson noted that President Thompson’s report was posted in the KBE meeting portal for board members to review. Thompson was not in attendance.

C. Report from the Secretary of the Education and Labor Cabinet

Secretary Jamie Link presented a report virtually. He began by stating that the cabinet has been working with the U.S. Department of Labor on

various agency programs. He said that pilot programs as part of Kentucky Pre-K for All were being implemented in Robertson County and Rockcastle County. Link reported that the cabinet has been working diligently on preparations for the Workforce Pell program scheduled to start July 1. He shared that a new unemployment insurance program is in the works and on schedule that will benefit employers paying into the trust fund. He finished his report by stating that additional work needs to be completed to sustain the Dolly Parton Imagination Library program.

D. Report from the Commissioner of Education

Commissioner Robbie Fletcher presented his report to the KBE. He began by recognizing Teacher Appreciation Week and the 42,000 educators in Kentucky, as well as congratulating this year's high school graduates. Fletcher discussed Senate Bill 197 (2026 Regular Session) and the requirement for a new procurement for a college entrance exam for the 2026-2027 school year. The KDE is searching for a new vendor to fit accountability requirements and work with stakeholders. He stated the new accountability system changes for 2026-2027 and how it will impact state testing. Fletcher concluded his report with updates from Kentucky's state schools and area technology centers.

Chair Robinson asked for a motion of affirmation of the procurement process as outlined by the Commissioner, including delegation of the contract development to the Commissioner, for the college admissions examination provided by KRS 158.6453. A motion was made by Juston Pate, and seconded by Steve Trimble. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

VI. Review Items

A. Local Accountability Design Guide and Toolkit Implementation

KDE Associate Commissioner Kelly Foster and Division Director Sarah Snipes presented this update. Foster provided an overview of the Local Accountability Design Guide and Toolkit, which is designed to help Kentucky districts transition toward locally developed indicators of quality. The session focused on highlighting how districts across Kentucky are defining, designing, and demonstrating success at both the student and district levels using actions identified in the toolkit. Snipes also detailed how KDE is showcasing district innovation and success stories on its websites.

B. 2026-2028 Biennial Budget Update

KDE Associate Commissioner Matt Ross and KDE Division Director Karen Wirth presented this item. The presenters discussed how the Kentucky General Assembly enacted House Bill (HB) 500, the 2026-2028 biennial budget, which establishes KDE and school district funding for the next biennium. The Kentucky General Assembly also enacted Senate Bill (SB) 197 which is to clean up legislation to HB 500 and HB 900 which provides additional appropriations to KDE and school districts.

Presenters noted that SEEK (Support Education Excellence in Kentucky) per pupil funding increased in both years of the biennium while SEEK funding in transportation remained flat. Presenters also noted that funding for Bureau of Operations and Support Services (BOSS) remained flat, while Bureau of Learning and Results Services (LARS) funding did increase. Presenters noted however that funding for the Kentucky School for the Blind and Kentucky School for the Deaf remained flat and is insufficient to cover the current operating cost of these schools.

Board member discussion included concerns about various budget cuts, the impact to SEEK transportation funding, and questions regarding how KDE and districts will be able to manage budget shortfalls. Chair Robinson challenged the board to consider strategies for strengthening the board's advocacy for budget concerns.

C. Competitive Grants for State Assessments (CGSA) Evaluation Update

KDE Associate Commissioner Meredith Brewer and Human Resources Research Organization (HumRRO) Chief Scientist Art Thacker presented this item. Thacker reviewed the goals, progress toward, and evaluation activities related to the objectives outlined in Kentucky's 2022 CGSA grant. Kentucky's 2022 CGSA is focused on innovation related to new systems of Assessment and Accountability that both ensure consistency of high expectations for all learners while also valuing local context and innovations in competency-based education. Thacker presented the CGSA Year 3 data regarding milestones and their progress, as well as recommendations for Year 4.

D. Reflections from the 2025-2026 Teacher and Student Non-Voting KBE Members

Harper Blake and Alfonso De Torres Núñez were invited to share their reflections on serving as the 2025-2026 teacher and student non-voting KBE members. Blake reflected on the confidence she has gained from serving on the board and her appreciation for the opportunity. De Torres Núñez shared his personal mission of advocating for multilingual communities during his time with the board and his appreciation of the members for engaging. Board members thanked both for their service and commitment to the role.

E. Presentation of the Teresa Perry Compassion Award

Commissioner Robbie Fletcher and KDE Communications Director Jennifer Ginn presented the 2026 Teresa Perry Compassion Award to Thomas Clouse. Fletcher said the Perry Award is given annually by the department in June to a KDE employee who exhibits the characteristics and professionalism Perry showed every day. Clouse is the education program manager of KDE's Academic Core Branch and has been with KDE for seven years. Fletcher and Ginn shared the remarks of the nominator.

F. Presentation of the 2026 Karem Award for Excellence in Education Policy

Commissioner Robbie Fletcher and KBE Chair Sharon Robinson facilitated the award presentation. Each year, the KBE grants this award to a Kentucky policymaker, education leader, or citizen who has made notable state-level contributions to the improvement of Kentucky's public education system. The winner of the 2026 Karem Award for Excellence in Education Policy was announced to be the late Dr. Tom Shelton, former Superintendent of Daviess County Schools and Fayette County Schools, and former Executive Director of the Kentucky Association of Superintendents. The nominator and Dr. Shelton's daughters, Abby Shelton Sizemore and Audrey Shelton, accepted the award. Fletcher remarked on Dr. Shelton's long service to public schools and thanked the attendees for joining the recognition.

VII. Adjournment

Chair Robinson thanked everyone for their time and asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by Steve Trimble and seconded by Holly Bloodworth. The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 P.M. ET.