



**KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
SCHOOL CURRICULUM, ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY COUNCIL  
MEETING SUMMARY  
Nov. 16, 2021**

**SCAAC MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Artavia Acklin, Heather Aldrich, Deborah Atherton, Houston Barber, Renee Boss, Martha Emmons, Chuck Fletcher, JanaBeth Francis, Leslie Jeffries, Lisa Kear, Brenda McGown, Kristin Putnam, Allison Tamme, Jenny Urie, Henry Webb

The Nov. 16, 2021 virtual School Curriculum, Assessment and Accountability Council (SCAAC) meeting was called to order at 9 a.m. by Associate Commissioner Rhonda Sims (Office of Assessment and Accountability, KDE). Members and guests were welcomed, and introductions were made to the newly appointed SCAAC advisory board. Henry Webb stated that it was great to be a part of this important work and thanked everyone for their continued outstanding services to the Commonwealth. A quorum of members was present. The open meeting was broadcast live from the State Board Room at the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) and recorded on the KDE Media Portal.

All materials available in Google Folder:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1O\\_Vfkuu3EXjBKtUyrsDC7ebJFA2vsoLK](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1O_Vfkuu3EXjBKtUyrsDC7ebJFA2vsoLK)

**Agenda Item: Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman**

A motion and second were made to elect JanaBeth Francis Chairman, and Heather Aldrich Vice-Chairman of the School Curriculum, Assessment and Accountability Council for the 2021-2022 year. Motion carried.

**Agenda Item: Approval of Sept. 21, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

Renee Boss made a motion to approve the Sept. 21, 2021 meeting minutes. Artavia Acklin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Agenda Item: Commissioner's Greetings**

Education Commissioner Jason E. Glass welcomed members to the advisory council meeting. Dr. Glass shared much of the ongoing work at the Department, mentioning the recent Education Summit and the Laboratories of Learning (L3), which are upcoming agenda topics. JanaBeth Francis shared a link to the [United We Learn](#) efforts that may be of interest to members.

**Agenda Item: SCAAC Charge and Responsibilities**

**Presenter:** Felicia Nu'Man, Staff Attorney, Office of Legal Services, KDE

**Summary of Discussion:** Kentucky Revised Statute ([KRS 158.6452](#)) governs the work of the

School Curriculum, Assessment, and Accountability Council. Executive Order 2019-500 (under the previous administration) abolished the School Curriculum, Assessment, and Accountability Council that the statute created. Governor Andy Beshear issued Executive Order 2021-729 noting the General Assembly declined to codify the EO issued by the previous administration, so the statute reverted to its original structure. The Governor named the new members of the Council in his EO under the statute.

The goal and intent of SCAAC is to:

- *study, review, and make recommendations concerning Kentucky's system of setting academic standards, assessing learning, identifying academic competencies, and deficiencies of individual students, holding schools accountable for learning, and assisting schools to improve their performance.*
- *advise the Kentucky Board of Education and Legislative Research Commission on issues related to the development and communication of the academic expectations and core content for assessment, the development, and implementation of the statewide assessment and accountability program, recognition of high performing schools, imposition of sanctions, and assistance for schools to improve their performance under KRS 158.6453, KRS 158.6455, KRS 158.782, and KRS 158.805*

### **Agenda Item: Kentucky Education Summit Summary**

**Presenter:** Karen Dodd, Chief Performance Officer, Strategic Planning and Research, KDE

**Summary of Discussion:** SCAAC members were provided with an overview of the work of the Advancing Education Project whose purpose is to utilize effective listening techniques and co-create tools and resources with diverse stakeholder for the purpose of meeting the needs of students, families, educators and community leaders by changing how we educate in Kentucky.

Multiple components of this work include:

- ▶ Keep, Stop, Start Survey
- ▶ Commissioner's Listening Tour
- ▶ Courageous Conversations
- ▶ Kentucky Coalition for Advancing Education
- ▶ Local Laboratories of Learning (L3)
- ▶ Student Mental Health Forums
- ▶ Kentucky Future of Education Summit

The Kentucky Education Summit was held Nov. 1-2 in Louisville with over 500 people from across the state participating. The summit focused on the future of K-12 education in the Commonwealth. Over two days, the event pulled in some of the nation's top education reform leaders to help begin a discussion about how to build a stronger education system with high standards in Kentucky.

### **Agenda Item: Overview of the L3 Work**

**Presenter:** Sarah Snipes, Program Consultant, Division of Innovation, Office of Continuous Improvement and Support, KDE

**Summary of Discussion:** Sarah Snipes continued the conversation related to the Advanced Education Project and the Local Laboratories of Learning (L3) work. The goals of the L3 work include:

- Create new approaches for local accountability and assessment to bring the greatest positive impact to those currently least well-served.
- Influence KDE’s thinking, shape Kentucky policy, contribute to the argument for greater federal flexibility if needed.
- Deepen partnership and trust among teachers, families, learners and school/district leadership in each of our communities.
- Create tangible shifts in policy, mindsets and habits throughout the systems.

Seven districts are participating in the L3 work in 2021: Allen County, Fleming County, Frankfort Independent, Jefferson County, Johnson County, Logan County, and Shelby County. Seven additional districts will begin in 2022: Berea Independent, Boone County, Bullitt County, Corbin Independent, Greenup County, Lawrence County, Marshall County, and Metcalfe County.

Sarah Snipes encouraged everyone to read the report on the current/future state of education, and to place an emphasis on reading the individual user profiles. The profiles were created by Kentuckians using authentic voices and experiences of users in the current system. Henry Webb encouraged everyone to review the work of John Tanner who wrote “Community Based Accountability.”

**Agenda Item: High Quality Instructional Resources**

**Presenters:** Misty Higgins and Carrie McDaniel, Professional Learning Coordinators, Division of Program Standards, Office of Teaching and Learning, KDE

**Summary of Discussion:** One Kentucky Board of Education resolution states that every student in the Commonwealth deserves equitable access to effective educators who have unique experiences and perspectives, quality preparation and are committed to the success of all learners.

The goal of the HQIR effort is to equip and empower local schools and districts in providing educators access to HQIRs and HQPL so they are better prepared to support all students with engaging, relevant, standards-aligned grade-level assignments.

- Communicate and promote KDE’s definitions and rationale for HQIRs and HQPL
- Focus on Reading and Writing in Year 1
- Provide local leaders with a consumer guide that includes selection criteria and evaluation tools

KDE defines high-quality instructional resources (HQIRs) as materials that are:

- Aligned to the *Kentucky Academic Standards* (KAS);
- Research-based and/or externally validated;
- Comprehensive to include engaging texts (books, multimedia, etc.), problems and assessments;
- Culturally relevant and free from bias; and
- Accessible for all students.

KDE is providing professional learning (PL) support to schools/districts as they implement the Curriculum Development Process, which includes the selection of high-quality instructional resources (HQIRs). Schools and districts will be piloting this work to gather feedback to inform KDE guidance/work.

## **Agenda Item: Assessment and Accountability Updates**

**Presenters:** Rhonda Sims, Associate Commissioner, and Dr. Jennifer Stafford, Director, Office of Assessment and Accountability, KDE

**Summary of Discussion:** Rhonda Sims and Jennifer Stafford provided an update to members around current assessment and accountability work.

- 2020-2021 Public Reporting
- Data Suppression
- Assessment Plans for 2021-2022
- Assessment and Accountability Resources
- Supplemental Year Program
- Kentucky's Advancing Education Project

Additional resources were shared with the members to create a better understanding of the current assessment and accountability work.

[Accountability At A Glance](#) -- This document provides fundamental information about the new school accountability system. Senate Bill 158 (2020) amended KRS 158.6455 to create another new accountability system that will include an annual meaningful differentiation of all public schools.

[Assessment and Accountability Reporting Through 2024](#) -- This one-page resource provides a roadmap for future Kentucky assessments, accountability and reporting. Organized in a table format, it contains a timeline through 2024. Note: science standards have begun the revision process. This document contains the current timeline based on no obstacles.

Chuck Fletcher made a motion to adjourn the Nov. 16 SCAAC meeting. The next SCAAC meeting is scheduled for March 15.