



**KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL CURRICULUM, ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY COUNCIL (SCAAC)
MEETING SUMMARY
SEPT. 20, 2022**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Artavia Acklin, Heather Aldrich, Deborah Atherton, Houston Barber, Renee Boss, Martha Emmons, Chuck Fletcher, Jana Beth Francis, Leslie Jeffries, Lisa Kear, Brenda McGown, Allison Tamme, Jennifer Urie, Henry Webb, Jason Reeves

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Kristin Putnam

SUMMARY:

The Sept. 20, 2022, virtual School Curriculum, Assessment and Accountability Council (SCAAC) meeting was called to order at 9 a.m. by Chairperson Jana Beth Francis. Members and guests were welcomed and Melissa Chandler informed the council of public meeting protocol.

A quorum of members was present. The open meeting was recorded and made available for viewing on the [KDE Media Portal](#).

All materials were made available in [SCAAC Google Folder](#).

Agenda Item: Approval of July 19, 2022, Meeting Minutes

Chuck Fletcher made a motion to approve the July 19, 2022, meeting minutes. Heather Aldrich seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Presenter: Jana Beth Francis, Chair, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, Daviess County Public Schools

Agenda Item: Assessment and Accountability Updates

Presenters: Rhonda Sims, Associate Commissioner, Office of Assessment and Accountability, Kentucky Department of Education; and Jennifer Stafford, Division Director, Office of Assessment and Accountability, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion:

Sims and Stafford provided a brief review of Senate Bill (SB) 158 including the requirement that

state indicators be evaluated on “status” and “change” and be displayed on an online colored dashboard. Status, defined as current year performance, will be reported for the 2021-2022 school year. Change, defined as the difference between one year's status compared to the subsequent year's status score, will be reported beginning in the 2022-2023 school year.

Stafford provided a recap of the two-day standard setting meeting that took place on Sept. 13-14. The standard-setting panel recommended cut scores that define performance expectations for each indicator and the overall school rating. The cut scores determine how schools are reported in the online colored dashboard required by state law. The recommended cuts were approved by the Local Superintendents Advisory Council on Sept. 19. Districts will be able to see their own preliminary data for the first time on Sept. 22 during Quality Control day.

Using data from the 2021-2022 school year, Kentucky's accountability system will provide an overall color-coded rating for each school, district and the state ranging from red (lowest) to blue (highest). The color-coded rating, along with other important education data, will be available on the [Kentucky School Report Card](#), which is set to be publicly released on Oct. 18.

Stafford shared a reminder that the Kentucky Academic Standards (KAS) for Science along with the assessment blueprint are in the review process. The purpose of the blueprint is to communicate the emphasis within the standards as well as how teachers plan for instruction. Additionally, the blueprint is used to develop assessment items. The draft KAS for Science is set to be reviewed by the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) in the fall of this year.

Feedback:

Artavia Acklin shared her gratitude for having the opportunity to serve on the standard setting committee. She felt that all voices were heard and that the overall experience was worthwhile. Chair Francis agreed that the process allowed for individual voice and commended the Center for assessment for leading the work.

Henry Webb thanked the KDE and the standard setting committee for the surrounding accountability standard setting. He cautioned against labeling schools “good” or “bad” based solely on color rating. He inquired about comparative data from 2019 as well as the use of the Quality of School Climate and Safety (QSCS) survey. Sims shared that that data distribution from 2019 has not been reviewed. Sims also shared that the QSCS accounts for 4% of accountability and only includes data for complete surveys. Chair Francis shared that the standards setting committee had great conversation about the data for the QSCS and its impact.

Renee Boss shared that teachers would appreciate help in communicating accountability results in a positive way. Jennifer Urie agreed with Boss and felt that the focus in communications should be on growth and that teachers may benefit from seeing data prior to public release to help develop the narrative.

Acklin encouraged that schools focus on the positive things happening and capitalize on the successes schools have had over the past two years.

Chuck Fletcher shared his concerns with the number of languages spoken in individual schools and the challenges these schools face. He reiterated the need for positive narrative happening across Kentucky.

Agenda Item: Identification and Exit Criteria of Comprehensive School Improvement (CSI), Targeted School Improvement (TSI) and Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI)

Presenter: Matthew Courtney, Policy Advisor, Office of Continuous Improvement and Support, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion:

Courtney shared an update to the federal requirements of Kentucky’s accountability system. CSI, TSI and ATSI are federally mandated school identifications that are based on the overall school score that is generated by the state accountability system.

CSI status schools will be identified based on two criteria: If the school is in the bottom 5% of all schools based on the overall school score, or if they have a graduation rate below 80%. Normally, a third criterion is used to identify a CSI school, which includes any ATSI school that fails to exit the category within three years. KDE secured a waiver from the U.S. Department of Education that allows KDE to not count the previous two years during the pandemic, so no schools will be identified as CSI using that category.

KDE also will not be identifying any new ATSI schools this fall, but there may still be ATSI schools that were identified prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and did not meet the established exit criteria.

TSI schools are those who have a subgroup performing at or below the bottom 5% of all schools. TSI schools will be identified this fall based on one year of data.

All information about identification and exit criteria for CSI, TSI and ATSI will be available on the Comprehensive Support and Improvement website in the coming weeks.

Feedback:

Chair Francis inquired about schools previously classified as ATSI and the duration of time they would remain ATSI. Courtney shared that schools previously labeled as ATSI that were not able to exit based on the 2021-2022 accountability data would have an additional 2 years to meet requirements to exit.

Agenda Item: Kentucky Reading Academies, Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) Professional Learning Opportunity

Presenter: Christie Biggerstaff, Director, Office of Teaching and Learning, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion:

Biggerstaff discussed the Kentucky Reading Academies and how this learning opportunity will impact literacy achievement. Biggerstaff shared data supporting the need for the Kentucky Reading Academies.

The Kentucky Reading Academies is a free learning opportunity that will better equip teachers with the tools needed to provide quality reading instruction. The two-year, job-embedded professional development is being offered to teachers and administrators and will roll out in three phases, the first having started in August of 2022.

Feedback:

Martha Emmons inquired about integrating this learning opportunity with college preparation programs. Biggerstaff shared that several professors and university partners have already joined the first phase of the cohort and the intent is to have to have pre-service teachers join the later phases of the program.

Brenda McGown inquired about the percentage of teachers that are taking part in phase one. Biggerstaff shared that almost all districts have representation in the program, but exact numbers are unknown at this time.

Agenda Item: United We Learn: Kentuckians’ Vision for the Future of Education

Presenter: Sarah Snipes, Program Manager, Office of Continuous Improvement and Support, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion:

Snipes shared an update on the United We Learn vision and the current initiatives related to United We Learn. Kentucky was awarded the Competitive Grant for State Assessment (CGSA) in August 2022 for \$3 million over a four-year period. The grant award is intended to provide resources to build and sustain efforts under the three big ideas of the Kentucky United We Learn vision.

Snipes shared a video showing an overview of seven Local Laboratories for Learning (L3s) communities and how they are creating more vibrant learning experiences and using innovative approaches to assessment.

Snipes led the committee members through an exercise examining the results of empathy interviews that coalition members and L3 community stakeholders conducted.

Feedback:

Jennifer Urie asked for more details about the Frankfort Independent personalized passion driven pathways. Snipes explained that the plan is a prototype and currently is in the early stages of introducing students across grades K-12 (grade 5 in particular) to competency-based work and tapping into opportunities for community project-based learning.

Chuck Fletcher recommended making better use of chambers within communities to better facilitate communication.

Chair Francis inquired about chambers joining the Kentucky United We Learn Council. Snipes shared the process for applying to participate.

Agenda Item: 2023 SCAAC Meeting Dates

Presenter: Jana Beth Francis, Chair, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, Daviess County Public Schools

Summary of Discussion:

Francis confirmed the SCAAC meeting dates of March 21, July 18, Sept. 19, and Nov. 21 for 2023 year.

Heather Aldrich made a motion to adjourn the Sept. 20 SCAAC meeting. Deborah Atherton seconded the motion. Motion carried. The next SCAAC meeting is scheduled for Nov. 15, 2022.