



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
TEACHER ADVISORY COUNCIL  
SUMMARY

JUNE 6, 2023

**Members Present:** Kennita Ballard, Charlene Martin, Jennifer Stewart, Carla Criswell, Carla Lawson, Sharon Collins, Amy Leasang, Byron Wilson, Janie Modlin, Sarah Beard, Scott Osborn, Chad Davidson, April Jackson, Jamaal Stiles

**Members Absent:** Kaysin Higgins, Jen Davis, Misty Bivens, Amber Ramirez, Gregory Smith, Amanda Klare, Susan Cintra, Sara Green, Melanie Callahan

**Agenda Item: Welcome**

**Presenter:** Jason E. Glass, Ed.D., Commissioner and Chief Learner, Kentucky Department of Education

**Summary of Discussion:** Appreciation was extended to all teachers for their focused efforts to accelerate student learning and success amid the impacts of the pandemic. Glass expressed excitement regarding the positive gains that have been made.

Glass shared his desire to utilize the Teachers Advisory Council (TAC) to gain teacher perspective regarding needed supports for the profession to inform policy. He charged the group with thinking about the supports teachers need that would make a difference.

**Agenda Item: Approve Summary from Last Meeting and Roll Call of Members**

**Presenter:** Jamaal Stiles, Teachers Advisory Council (TAC) Chairperson, Washington County Schools

**Summary of Discussion:** Donnie Wilkerson made a motion to approve the summary minutes from the March 2023 meeting. Sharon Collins made a second.

**Agenda Item: Teacher Morale Feedback Loop**

**Presenter:** Byron Darnall, Ed.D., Associate Commissioner, Office of Educator Licensure and Effectiveness

**Summary of Discussion:** Dr. Darnall shared an open invitation with the TAC group regarding a teacher morale feedback loop between the council members and the Office of the Commissioner. Darnall expressed the importance of having Kentucky voice in the conversation about teacher morale and encouraged members to consider ways to share firsthand concerns

and correlated supports needed to improve teacher morale. TAC Chairperson Jamaal Stiles shared a Jamboard link and asked TAC members to identify issues and solutions pertaining to teacher morale in the state of Kentucky. Stiles told group members the Jamboard would be accessible until the next meeting and based on the responses, next steps would be taken to design a process to infuse Kentucky teacher voice into the development of policy.

**Agenda Item: Educator Recruitment Efforts: National Signing Day**

**Presenter:** John Paise, Office of Educator Licensure and Effectiveness, Kentucky Department of Education

**Summary of Discussion:** The latest effort in early educator recruitment was shared with members of TAC. National Signing Day was held on May 2, 2023. Eighty-four seniors, representing twenty-two high schools in Kentucky, signed their letter of intent to major in education. As part of the national Educators Rising event, the day was designed to celebrate the seniors for their commitment to become teachers. For this event last year, twenty-five students made the commitment. As such, Paise was thrilled with the increase and was looking to the TAC group for ways to make the event even larger next year.

**Feedback:** TAC member Sarah Beard, Estill County, requested more information about implementing Educators Rising National Signing Day in her school.

**Agenda Item: SB-9 Read to Achieve Initiatives**

**Presenter:** Christine Biggerstaff, Office of Teaching and Learning, Kentucky Department of Education

**Summary of Discussion:** Biggerstaff shared information about Kentucky's new Reading Academies. Biggerstaff emphasized the research demonstrating the importance of student third grade reading proficiency on academic and life-long success. She showed that statewide data confirms more than 50% of Kentucky's third graders were not at proficiency on the grade 3 reading Kentucky Summative Assessment in 2022. Thus, Kentucky has invested in supporting the professional learning needs of educators and administrators and is offering Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) free of charge. LETRS focuses on how the brain learns to read and why some students struggle. K-5 teachers and administrators were invited to participate in the online and live, virtual courses that begin in fall 2023. LETRS Phase 2 registration information was provided. Also, feedback from members of the LETRS Cohort 1 was shared with the group to showcase the positive impact the learning has had on first year participants. Biggerstaff encouraged TAC members to reach out with any additional questions.

**Feedback:** TAC member Kennita Ballard inquired about reading supports for secondary teachers. Biggerstaff acknowledged the need and shared that Kentucky is hoping to provide professional learning supports for secondary teachers in future phases of the work.

**Agenda Item: Kentucky Academic Standards for Science and Social Studies At A Glance Documents**

**Presenter:** Chrystal Rowland and Thomas Clouse, Office of Teaching and Learning, Kentucky Department of Education

**Summary of Discussion:** The “At A Glance” documents that outline the shifts in the *Kentucky Academic Standards (KAS) for Science* and the revisions to the *KAS for Social Studies* in response to the Teaching American Principles Act were shared. Also, the tentative dates for the *KAS for Science* and *KAS for Social Studies* to be officially adopted into regulation were provided.

TAC members were encouraged to provide input regarding resources and supports needed to assist educators in implementing the KAS documents. The group was also challenged to share resources that might be needed to help school-level leaders in supporting implementation.

Clouse reviewed aspects of the Science “At A Glance” document (e.g., Writer’s Vision Statement, Grade-Level Overviews, Additional Shifts, and Architecture) and explained the inclusion and importance of each. He also highlighted the updated resources on the [kystandards.org](http://kystandards.org) website that science teachers and administrators would certainly find useful.

Rowland explained that Social Studies was not due to be reviewed and revised until 2025, but in the 2022 legislative session, the *Teaching American Principles Act* passed, which created KRS (Kentucky Revised Statute) 158.196. The new legislation required the KDE to open up the standards document to insert twenty-four fundamental documents and speeches by July 1, 2023. To assist in communicating the revisions, the “At A Glance” document for social studies was developed.

Rowland emphasized that the *KAS for Social Studies* will still be fully reviewed in 2025 based on KRS 158.6453.

With the creation of KRS 158.196, the KDE recognized the opportunity to provide professional learning experiences to support educators with sourcing. A professional learning module entitled *Supporting Students in Using Evidence* will be released soon. Rowland encouraged members to access [kystandards.org](http://kystandards.org) for the most up-to-date resources to support standards implementation.

**Feedback:** TAC member Carla Criswell asked if teachers from across the state were involved in selecting some of the reading materials and documents. She noted there were not a lot of present-day documents that are relevant to today’s student population. Criswell also asked about the rationale for selecting some of the documents.

Rowland explained the documents selected were established in the law, the *Teaching American Principles Act*. She noted that while the documents referenced must be included in instruction, teachers are not limited to only those documents as part of the local curriculum for students.

TAC member Donnie Wilkerson shared the need for social studies teachers to be provided assessment boundaries and a litany of sample assessment questions. Wilkerson noted that teachers are overwhelmed with the new assessment and need good and bad examples of assessment items.

TAC members were encouraged to subscribe to the standards newsletter as that resource communicates feedback loops for teachers to share thoughts and suggestions.

**Agenda Item: Writing Across the Disciplines**

**Presenter:** Whitney Hamilton, Office of Teaching and Learning, Kentucky Department of Education

**Summary of Discussion:** In response to content area specialists getting numerous requests from the field for writing support, the KDE developed a Writing Across Disciplines Resource. As Hamilton highlighted the resource, she encouraged TAC members to share the resource with others.

The resource is an expansion of the existing resource Composition in the Classroom (CiC) and includes content specific Writing to Learn, Writing to Demonstrate Learning and (coming soon) Writing for Publication tasks aligned to the Kentucky Academic Standards. New supports within the resource include sample tasks to showcase how reading and writing fit into and support learning in mathematics, social studies, science, visual/performing arts and reading and writing classrooms.

Access to the resource is through the Writing Across Disciplines webpage which is embedded on [kystandards.org](http://kystandards.org).

**Feedback:** TAC member Sharon Collins suggested Career and Technical should be included in the resource as teachers in that field have to also include writing in their courses. Hamilton expressed gratitude for any and all feedback.

TAC member Jennifer Stewart inquired about the role of a school's Site Base Council and the required writing policy. Examining sample policies was a suggested practice and Hamilton encouraged a specific email outlining any questions and connected supports to assist councils in supporting writing across the disciplines.

**Agenda Item: Adjournment**

**Presenter:** Jamaal Stiles, TAC Chairperson, Washington County Schools

**Summary of Discussion:** Scott Osborn made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sharon Collins seconded the motion.

**Feedback:** None