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Superintendents Webcast

May 22, 2023



Kentucky Department of
EDUCATION

Agenda

Welcome

Jason E. Glass, Ed.D., Commissioner of Education and Chief Learner

P-EBT Update

*Eric C. Friedlander, Secretary, Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Lesa Dennis, Acting Commissioner, Cabinet for Health and Family Services*

KDE Updates

Toni Konz Tatman, KDE Chief of Communications

Continuous Improvement Summit

Kelly Foster, KDE Associate Commissioner, Office of Continuous Improvement and Support

Kentucky United We Learn Council Update

Karen Dodd, KDE Chief Performance Officer

LETRS Update

Christie Biggerstaff and Micki Ray, KDE Office of Teaching and Learning

Legislative Guidance on SB5

Micki Ray, KDE Office of Teaching and Learning, and Kentucky School Boards Association

Legislative Update, Upcoming KDE Presentation to Interim Joint Committee on Education

Brian Perry, KDE Director of Government Relations

Question and Answer Session

KDE Leadership

(Submit Questions via Google Form)

Important Dates



CABINET FOR HEALTH
AND FAMILY SERVICES

Department for Community Based Services

Eric C. Friedlander, Secretary

Lesa Dennis, Acting Commissioner

May 22, 2023

Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer

- Pandemic-Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) was introduced by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Provides reimbursement to children who did not have access to free or reduced-price school meals due to a physical absence for a COVID-19-related reason.
- Since March 2020, P-EBT has provided over \$3.3 billion in food assistance to Kentucky's children.

2022-2023 School Year P-EBT

Benefit Period
Sept. 1, 2022, through May 11, 2023

SY P-EBT

- No student will be automatically approved for SY P-EBT.
- Parents/guardians must apply for SY P-EBT via an online application. Applicants are required to enter the child(s) SSID, other identifying information and the number of days/month absent due to COVID-19, and attest to the accuracy of the application.

SY P-EBT (2)

Eligibility and Benefit Amount

- Public and private school students who are eligible to receive free/reduced-price meals and missed school due to COVID-related reasons.
- Students enrolled in all virtual learning due to COVID-related reasons and who meet NSLP free/reduced income eligibility.
- Homeschool students who began homeschool due to COVID-related reasons and who meet NSLP free/reduced income eligibility.
- Students are eligible to receive \$8.18 per day.

SY P-EBT (3)

DCBS cannot provide SY P-EBT to any student without the school district's validation.

- DCBS will provide school administrators access to a secure online portal to validate student information/absences.
- An instructional email requesting the name(s)/email address(es) of district administrators will be sent soon, with a 2-week deadline for return of information.

School Administrator Role

- In absence of COVID tracking, administrators may affirm an applicant's claim for P-EBT if the absence was excused.
- School administrators can approve, deny or edit application details.
- If a school district does not validate the absence, the student's application will be denied.
- Training and materials will be provided.
- Email support will be provided.

SY P-EBT (5)

Proposed Timeline

- Application *anticipated* to be available mid-July for at least 30 days.
- Administrators will be able to verify absences during application availability period through mid September.
- Benefits will begin issuing mid-August through September.

Summer P-EBT

Enrollment and Eligibility

- Public school students who were eligible to receive free/reduced price NSLP meals and were enrolled at the end of the school year may receive P-EBT.
- Each eligible student will receive \$120 for the summer period.
- Benefit issuance will occur mid to late August.
- Virtual and homeschool students are not eligible for summer benefits.

Summer P-EBT (2)

DCBS cannot provide Summer P-EBT to any student without the school district's validation.

- KDE has supplied CHFS with all student demographics (i.e., DOB, address, etc.).
- School administrators must provide the SSID of **each** eligible student.
- If data is not received from your district, your students will not receive summer P-EBT.

Public Support

- P-EBT Hotline available Monday through Friday (8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. ET) Saturday (8 a.m.-2 p.m. ET).
- Outreach materials for students will be provided to school districts and posted to social media and DCBS website.

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KDE Updates

Toni Konz Tatman

KDE Chief Communications Officer



Competitive Grants from KDE

Stronger Connections Grant

Grant applications were due May 15 at 4 p.m. ET

Award Amount: Varies by student population served, \$300,000 – \$3,000,000

Matching Funds Requirement: No

A recording of the technical assistance session is available on the KDE competitive grants page.

KDE Announces New Educator Recognition Program

- Recommendations for the **Kentucky Exemplary Educators Program (KEEP)** will be accepted via the [online KEEP recommendation form](#) through **May 30**.
- Individuals may recommend up to three certified teachers, teacher specialists, assistant and/or principals currently serving in Kentucky public schools for the program.
- Individuals should demonstrate:
 - Exceptional educational talent;
 - Exemplary educational accomplishments and leadership beyond the classroom;
 - Engaging and inspiring presence that motivates and impacts students, colleagues and the community; and
 - Strong, long-range potential for professional and policy leadership.



For more information, email [GlyptusAnn Grider Jones](mailto:GlyptusAnn.Grider.Jones@kde.ky.gov), KDE Awards and Recognition Coordinator.

Stakeholders Invited to Forums on Search for New KSD Principal

- KDE is inviting stakeholders to forums to gather feedback on the qualities they would like to see in the next principal of the Kentucky School for the Deaf.
- [You can view the job posting and qualifications for the KSD principal on the KDE website.](#)
- The input of students, staff, families and the Deaf/Hard of Hearing community will be incorporated throughout the search process.
- The forums are scheduled for:
 - Virtual: **Wednesday, May 24, 6-7 p.m. ET.** Via Zoom.
 - In-person: **Wednesday, May 31, 7-8 p.m. ET.** Gymnasium at the Kentucky School for the Deaf, 303 S. 2nd St., Danville.
- To register, complete the [KSD Virtual Forum registration form.](#)
- KDE hopes to have a new principal in place at KSD by July 1.



Applicants Sought for KSD Principal Interview Committee

- KDE is seeking stakeholders who may be interested in serving on a representative interview committee for the new Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD) principal.
- Those interested in serving should complete the [KSD Principal Interview Committee interest form](#), which will close at 5 p.m. ET on June 1. Stakeholders who are selected must be available June 12-30 to review applications and conduct interviews.
- KDE will select members to ensure appropriate representation of KSD stakeholders. Those selected will be notified on or before June 9.



Augusta Independent Student Representing Kentucky in Doodle for Google Contest

- Augusta Independent senior Erica Kegley entered the Doodle for Google, a national contest hosted by Google that gives K-12 students the opportunity to create a drawing that could be featured on the Google homepage as a doodle. The contest also includes a \$30,000 scholarship for the national winner and \$50,000 to the school district of the winner.
- Her doodle was recently selected as Kentucky's winner, which puts her into the national competition.
- More details about the contest, including where to vote, can be found on [the Doodle for Google contest page](#). Kegley's doodle is under the Grades 10-12 section.
- Voting will close on May 25 at 9 p.m. ET. Finalists will be announced on May 30 and the winner will be selected on June 6.
- [Read more about the Doodle for Google contest on Kentucky Teacher.](#)



New Members Selected for KDE's 2023-2024 Commissioner's Student Advisory Council

- **Ava Benson**, 11th grade, Henderson County High School
- **Isaac Reese Blakeman**, 11th grade, Somerset High School (Somerset Independent)
- **Owen Borden**, 11th grade, Highlands High School (Fort Thomas Independent)
- **Cameron Breier**, 11th grade, duPont Manual High School (Jefferson County)
- **Owen Cody**, 11th grade, McCracken County High School
- **Manas Garla**, 9th grade, Western Hills High School (Franklin County)
- **Nicholas E. Hazelett**, 11th grade, Paintsville High School (Paintsville Independent)
- **Honette Irakiza**, 10th grade, South Warren High School (Warren County)
- **Trey Jackson**, 11th grade, South Laurel High School (Laurel County)
- **Sophia Langford**, 9th grade, J. Graham Brown School (Jefferson County)
- **Danica Rose Love**, 11th grade, Meade County High School
- **Gabriella MacAdams**, 9th grade, Williamstown High School (Williamstown Independent)
- **Constance Martin**, 11th grade, Johnson Central High School (Johnson County)
- **Anopa Musoni**, 11th grade, Lafayette High School (Fayette County)
- **Ronald (R.J.) Osborne**, 10th grade, Whitley County High School
- **Daniel Ratley**, 9th grade, Grayson County High School
- **Jocelyn Dawne Reddick**, 11th grade, South Warren High School (Warren County)
- **Caleb Robinson**, 9th grade, Kentucky School for the Blind
- **Sophia Staples**, 10th grade, Paul Laurence Dunbar High School (Fayette County)
- **Ian Swenson**, 9th grade, Paducah Tilghman High School (Paducah Independent)
- **Austin Eric Vitato**, 9th grade, J. Graham Brown School (Jefferson County)
- **Carley Isabella Watts**, 9th grade, Hazard High School (Hazard Independent)
- **Aliete Yanes Medina**, 9th grade, Fern Creek High School (Jefferson County)
- **India Young**, 10th grade, Marion County High School
- **Joshua Zyzak**, 11th grade, Beechwood High School (Beechwood Independent)

Returning Student Advisory Council members

- Hunter Combs, 11th grade, Knott County High School
- Joud Dahleh, 11th grade, Ignite Academy (Boone County)
- Justin Dunning, 11th grade, Lyon County High School
- Raima Dutt, 11th grade, duPont Manual High School (Jefferson County)
- Peter Jefferson, 10th grade, Henry Clay High School (Fayette County)
- Shraman Kar, 11th grade, duPont Manual High School (Jefferson County)
- Vijaykumar Karthikeyan, 11th grade, Paul Laurence Dunbar High School (Fayette County)
- Tanvi Rakesh, 10th grade, Randall K. Cooper High School (Boone County)
- Amy Roblero-Perez, 11th grade, Bardstown High School (Bardstown Independent)
- Malley Taylor, 11th grade, Craft Academy (Rowan County)
- Sarah Umbarger, 11th grade, Marshall County High School
- Bentley White, 11th grade, Kentucky School for the Deaf

New Members Selected for KDE's 2023-2024 Commissioner's Student Advisory Council

- Twenty-five public high school students have been named as new members of the 2023-2024 Commissioner's Student Advisory Council
- Established to gather student feedback on critical issues impacting students and schools, the council connects Kentucky students with KDE staff to develop ideas to strengthen student voice and transform education.
- The group meets regularly with the commissioner, both in person and virtually, to discuss how decisions made at the state level are affecting students throughout Kentucky.
- [Read more about the new members on Kentucky Teacher.](#)



Federal Program Lowers Cost of Internet Connectivity for Kentucky Families

- Many Kentucky families qualify for a program aimed at increasing access to internet services for school-age children.
- The Affordable Connectivity Program provides enrolled households with up to \$30 per month for new or existing internet service and a one-time discount of up to \$100 for purchasing a tablet, laptop or desktop computer.
- More than 80% of households in Kentucky qualify.
- For more information about qualifications, visit [the Affordable Connectivity Program “Do I Qualify?” webpage](#).
- For more information about the program, visit [the KDE Affordable Connectivity Program website](#).

Four Kentucky Teachers Named Finalists for Presidential Award

- Four Kentucky educators have been named finalists for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST).
- Each year, a national committee recommends up to 108 teachers to receive PAEMST awards.
- For the 2023 state finalists in mathematics, the committee chose Marcus Blakeney of Fern Creek High School (Jefferson County) and Benjamin Molberger of Atherton High School (Jefferson County).
- The 2023 state finalists in science are Matthew Bryant of South Warren High School (Warren County) and Brian Welch of Madisonville North Hopkins High School (Hopkins County).
- The awards program is administered by the National Science Foundation on behalf of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.



2023 Kentucky STLP Event Breaks Records

- A record-breaking crowd attended Kentucky's Student Technology Leadership Program (STLP) State Championship on April 19.
- Nearly 20,000 students, educators, volunteers, community members and parents gathered at the Central Bank Center in Lexington to watch students from across the state showcase their knowledge, doubling last year's attendance.
- Each year, students demonstrate what they can do with STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics). Students participate in nearly 50 STLP competition areas, including robotics, coding, web design and newscasting.
- More than 13,000 students participated in the day's events.



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Continuous Improvement Summit

Kelly Foster, KDE Associate Commissioner
Office of Continuous Improvement and Support



2023 Continuous Improvement Summit

- Registration for KDE's 2023 Continuous Improvement Summit is open!
- The summit will be held on Sept. 25-26 at the Central Bank Center, formerly the Lexington Convention Center.
- This year's keynote is Mike Rutherford. Mike will engage participants with conversation on high-performance teaching and learning, leadership development, creating and leading team-based organizations, and results-based organizational improvement.
- The registration form can be found on the [2023 Kentucky Continuous Improvement Summit event webpage](#).

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Kentucky United We Learn Council Update

Karen Dodd, KDE Chief Performance Officer
Audrey Gilbert, Chair, Kentucky United We Learn Council

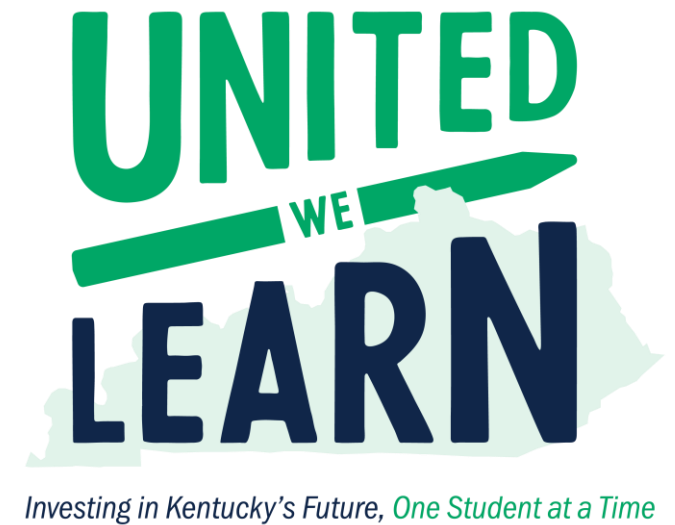
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Kentucky Reading Academies Phase 2 - LETRS

Micki Ray, KDE Chief Academic Officer
Christie Biggerstaff, KDE Director of Early Literacy
Office of Teaching and Learning

Kentucky Reading Academies

The purpose of the Kentucky Reading Academies is to **increase the reading outcomes** for elementary students by providing high-quality, job-embedded professional learning on how students learn to read to K-5 teachers and administrators.



What Makes the Kentucky Reading Academies Unique?

- Removes financial barriers to create equitable access statewide
- Invests in people, not programs
- Comprehensive and evidence-based
- Transferrable to align with the local curriculum
- Proactive and sustainable
- The Kentucky Reading Academies will be implemented in three phases:
 - **Cohort/Phase 1:** Fall 2022 – Spring 2024
 - **Cohort/Phase 2:** Fall 2023 – Spring 2025
 - **Cohort/Phase 3:** Fall 2024 – Spring 2026

What is LETRS?

- Determine **WHAT** to teach to increase student success
- Recognize the reasons **WHY** some students struggle and learn evidence-based strategies for addressing those struggles
- Know and understand **HOW** students learn to read and write



Who is Eligible to Participate?

- Phase 2 open to Kentucky public school educators who work with K-5 students:
 - General K-5 teachers
 - Special educators, English learner teachers
 - Reading specialists (interventionists, coaches)
 - Administrators (340 additional participants)
- CEO rank change opportunities through educational cooperatives

Kentucky Reading Academies Phase 1 Survey Results

- 95% of the 433 respondents say that they have learned **new and relevant** information.
- 93% of the respondents say that the information they have learned has **helped them to better meet the diverse learning needs of their students.**
- Multiple written testimonials shared about classroom assessment gains, student progress, the value of the information teachers are learning and the successful implementation in their classrooms.

LETRS Phase 1 Teacher Testimonial

“When starting LETRS training, I chose to work with three of my most struggling readers for my case study. One student has really shown incredible gains. This student came into my classroom saying, ‘I don't know how to read,’ or ‘I can't read.’ As a 3rd-grade student, this isn't something he should be saying. It really came down to his lack of phonological and phonemic awareness. Using specific strategies and lessons from LETRS, he has shown an entire year's worth of reading gains at just this point in the school year. Now, he is still behind grade-level, but this targeted approach will help close his gaps. The best part? He no longer says he can't read. He volunteers. He wants to read, and he is showing so much more confidence in himself. **LETRS transforms how educators think about teaching reading. I know it has really changed my view of it and how I plan instruction.**”



Courtney Line, Memorial Elementary, Hart County School District

LETRS Phase 1 Teacher Testimonials

“This has been the best learning experience I have had in 19 years of teaching. I wish that I had access to this experience when I first started teaching. I will be recommending this to all of my teaching colleagues!”

~Mark Gaskins, Fort Thomas

“I have many credentials to teach a student to read. However, there have been students for whom I have not made the difference I wanted to make. I am a quarter of the way through the LETRS training. **This is the training I have been seeking for decades. Every teacher should have this training. It is, hands down, the best training I have ever received.** It does take time, BUT, this training is well worth making the time to take. This is the training that will help us help our students. I am so glad I signed up.”

~Cindy Kennedy, Rockcastle County

“LETRS is a rigorous course that has provided me with so much information about teaching foundational skills. **I have been able to apply my knowledge almost immediately** after each self-guided and live virtual session I have completed.”

~Christy Rhodes, Jefferson County

“The interventionists have been bragging on my Tier 3 students and how much better they are at decoding since using some of the sound wall components! **It is truly making a difference in the reading confidence and abilities of my students.**”

~Neryssa Crisp, Scott County

“LETRS training has been a valuable experience for me as an educational leader. **It has given me a deeper understanding of the essential knowledge necessary for transformational change with reading instruction in our primary grades.**”

~Kristy Nelson, Livingston County

LETRS – Phase 2 Registration Now Open

Registration for the second cohort of the Kentucky Reading Academies will be open through Aug. 31.

Phase 1 participants will not need to register for Phase 2, as they are already enrolled in the professional learning.

[LETRS for Educators Phase 2 Registration](#): This course is recommended for K-5 teachers, interventionists, reading specialists and anyone providing reading instruction or intervention supports to early readers.

[LETRS for Administrators Phase 2 Registration](#): This course is recommended for district leaders, building administrators and instructional coaches.



Questions

Christie Biggerstaff

KDE Director of Early Literacy

Office of Teaching and Learning

christie.biggerstaff@education.ky.gov



Investing in Kentucky's Future, One Student at a Time



Kentucky Department of
EDUCATION

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Legislative Guidance on SB5

Micki Ray, KDE Office of Teaching and Learning
Kentucky School Boards Association





KSBA

KENTUCKY SCHOOL BOARDS
ASSOCIATION



KSBA POLICY SERVICE
1983-2023

SB5 FAQs

When does my school board need to adopt the updated board policy for resolving parent complaints about materials and programs deemed "harmful to minors?"



SB5 FAQs

If superintendents now have the responsibility to determine curriculum (2022’s SB 1), following legally-required public, council, principal and board input, how does SB 5 and policy bypass the superintendent when a complaint is received and appealed?”



SB5 FAQs

What options does a principal and/or board have in resolving a complaint?



SB5 FAQs

Why is there a reference in the policy to a U.S. Supreme Court decision (Board of Ed., Island Trees v. Pico)?





KSBA

KENTUCKY SCHOOL BOARDS
ASSOCIATION



KSBA POLICY SERVICE
1983-2023

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Legislative Update, Upcoming KDE Presentation to Interim Joint Committee on Education

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Kentucky Department of
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Question and Answer Session

(Submit Questions via Google Form)

KDE Leadership



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Next Superintendents Webcast

June 20, 2023

