

**KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (KDE)  
State Advisory Council for Gifted and Talented Education  
(SACGTE)  
SUMMARY**

**APRIL 25, 2024**

**SUMMARY:**

**I. Welcome**

Gretta Hylton, Associate Commissioner, Office of Special Education and Early Learning (OSEEL)

**Summary of Discussion:** Gretta Hylton welcomed members and thanked them for their work in the interests of gifted and talented students across Kentucky. Misty Green, SACGTE facilitator, Office of Special Education and Early Learning, went over meeting norms and expectations and reminded members to complete the exit slip.

**II. Introduction of Members and Roll Call**

Julia Roberts, Chair of the SACGTE

**Summary of Discussion:** Roberts called the meeting to order and conducted the roll call.

**ATTENDANCE:**

**PRESENT:** Kathie Anderson, Lindsay Burton, Kimberly Code, Brandy Corbin, Paulynn Covington, Byron Darnell, Hannah England, Kirk Haynes, Brenda Martin, Kim Nettleton, Julia Roberts

**ABSENT:** Katie Booth, Shaundeidra Bradford, Mason Dyer, Jessice Hastings, Phillip Cash, Jeanne Lee, Tiffany Marshall, Carrie Ballinger, Trinity Walsh

Council members in attendance: 11

Council members not in attendance: 9

**III. Approval of SACGTE Meeting Minutes**

Lindsay Burton, Secretary of the SACGTE

**Summary of Discussion:** Minutes from Feb. 5, 2024, were given to members for review. There was no discussion or needed changes. There was not a quorum of members, therefore, the council will vote on the minutes at the next meeting.

#### **IV. 2023-2024 Priority and Recommendations**

Julia Roberts, Chair of the SACGTE

**Summary of Discussion:** Roberts reviewed the three priorities the council voted on at the last meeting. Kathie Anderson reviewed the recommendations the council decided on for each priority.

Priority 1 - Develop a formal annual budget request for increased funding.

Recommendations to the KDE:

- Examine what data could be collected to support requests;
- Recommend an examination of multiple data sources to support budget requests; and
- Identify data that could be collected to support Priority #1 such as district caseloads.

Paulynn Covington asked if the legislature had specific templates for requesting data for budget proposals. Roberts did not know of a template but said it is best to be included in the Kentucky Department of Education's requests which come from the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE). Byron Darnell shared that there was a very simple form for budget requests. He said that presenting to the KBE is one option for priorities to be heard. Another option is to have legislation with a line-item budget item included, sponsored and presented to the General Assembly. Covington asked how the \$10 million allotment that gifted education received was secured. Roberts said it was in the governor's budget and the budget from the House.

Priority 2- Educate teachers and parents on the identification and recommendations for students showing gifted and talented characteristics.

Recommendations to KDE:

- Develop end-of-year report with questions focused on the following questions:
  - How the district gathers recommendations;
  - How districts implement identification;
  - How are Gifted and Talented (GT) resources utilized, and
  - What questions are included in parent surveys?

Brenda Martin asked if there was an end-of-the year survey being used by the department. Anderson said that districts are required by regulation to conduct an annual program evaluation. As part of the evaluation, districts must collect feedback from parents, students and faculty. However, it is a district decision as to how the district gathers feedback. That feedback data is not collected by KDE. Covington asked for clarification on what exactly the council hopes to learn/accomplish with this priority. Hannah England said she thought the intention was to gather information on what parents/teachers know and what they don't so that the council could make recommendations to KDE about how to assist teachers and parents on understanding how students are identified and recommended for the gifted program.

Council members shared that one of the biggest issues is teachers and others do not understand that gifted students are, as legally required, like special education students, to have a services plan. The Gifted Student Services Plan (GSSP) is the services plan for GT students and it must be implemented. Brandy Corbin said she thinks the parameters for receiving special education services are much clearer than those for receiving gifted services and there needs to be clarity on what are considered gifted characteristics.

Priority 3 - To support equitable funding for all socioeconomic/geographic groups/districts.

Recommendation to KDE:

- Create a task force to study the allocation of equitable funding for all school districts;
- Review the language of current regulation regarding 75% allocation to certified staff to allow for flexibility of funds to be spent on student services;
- Financially incentivize teachers to acquire GT endorsement to combat current shortage;
- Evaluate and develop guidelines for appropriate caseload; and
- Require GT training for general education teachers.

Roberts said that it was up to KDE how much each district was allocated for gifted education. Roberts asked Anderson to explain how districts receive gifted education funding. Anderson said that each district receives \$20,000 plus a per pupil amount based on their total enrollment of grades kindergarten through 12. Lindsay Burton said that some of the discussion at the last meeting was around some districts not having access to the same opportunities as larger districts due to location. Martin asked if the council wanted to include the word “equitable” due to the word being recently seen as a controversial term.

England asked if KDE has the ability when allocating funds to districts to stipulate how funds can be used. Anderson said according to the gifted regulation, the district must use 75% of the gifted allocation to hire certified staff to provide services to GT students. This is the minimum amount, but it is up to the districts how they may use the remaining funds in accordance with the regulation.

Roberts asked that these three priorities be communicated to the new commissioner of education when he takes office on July 1. Anderson said the request would require a motion, but since there was not a quorum, there could be no motion. However, it could be added to the agenda for the next meeting. Kim Nettleton asked if the council could vote on the request via email. KDE Policy Advisor Melody Cooper explained that email action does not comply with the Open Meetings Act. Darnell said the council could invite the new commissioner to join the next meeting. Anderson explained that the commissioner would be invited to all 2024-2025 meetings.

## **V. Election of 2024-2025 Officers**

Julia Roberts, Chair of the SACGTE

**Summary of Discussion:** Tabled until next meeting due to no quorum.

## **VI. Future Meeting Dates**

Kathie Anderson, Gifted Education Consultant

**Summary of Discussion:** Anderson shared potential dates when the KDE State Board Room is available.

- Wednesday, Sept. 15, 2024;
- Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2024;
- Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2025; and
- Wednesday, April 16, 2025.

The next meeting is tentatively set for Wednesday, Sept.15, 2024.

## **VII. Legislative Update**

Melody Cooper, Policy Advisor, Office of Special Education and Early Learning

**Summary of Discussion:** Cooper provided an update on the legislative passed during the legislative session, which wrapped up on April 14. All bills are signed or vetoed at this point. Cooper provided an overview of the bills that passed during this session.

- House Bill (HB 6), Budget Bill-There was a SEEK increase and transportation increase, language included to encourage salaries but not required, full day kindergarten was funded, allocation for STAR academy pilot program, some funding for school resource officers, language requiring districts to post reading and math results for Kentucky State Assessment (KSA).
- HB 1-\$2.5 million funding for Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) for schools
- HB 6 for OSEEL-Kentucky for the Blind (KSB) and Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD) funding maintained, pre-kindergarten, extended school year and GT funding maintained, funding given for Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS) for in-school services, funding for Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority or recruitment, and funding for Jefferson County Public Schools audit.
- Senate Bill (SB) 2-Mental health for students
- SB 11-Juvenile justice
- SB 167-Cursive writing
- SB 265-Alternate pathways
- HB 2-Constitutional amendment for nonpublic schools
- HB 142-Vaping
- HB 162-Numeracy bill
- HB 169-Automated External Defibrillators
- HB 300-Educational Professions Standards Board (EPSB) guidelines for teacher misconduct
- HB 377-Teacher recruitment/retention
- HB 446/446-Transportation
- HB 695-Adaptive kindergarten readiness pilot
- HB 825-KDE audit
- HB 387-Substitute teacher certification
- HB 449-Relates to local boards of education

- HB 499-Career and Technical Education (CTE) funding formula
- HB 829-Medicinal cannabis, requires district policy
- House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 81-School district governance task force
- Senate Resolution (SR) 285-Senate confirmation of new Commissioner of Education Robbie Fletcher. This was the first time the commissioner has been confirmed by the Senate; he takes office July 1, 2024.

### **VIII. Kentucky Association for Gifted Education (KAGE) Update**

Kimberly Nettleton, KAGE Liaison

**Summary of Discussion:** Nettleton said KAGE had their annual conference and it was well attended except for parents. She hopes KAGE can get the word out to families to increase participation.

There was discussion by KAGE regarding the fall conference dates and times. There are online parent nights during the summer. On Saturday, Sept. 7, there will be a virtual Gifted Education Update. The dates for the next KAGE conference are Feb.10-11, 2025. The Gifted Education Proclamation will be held Feb.13, 2025. Roberts shared some available upcoming workshops for classroom teachers and gifted teachers.

### **IX. Closing Remarks**

Julia Roberts, Chair of the SACGTE

**Summary of Discussion:** Roberts thanked everyone for coming and for the discussion.

### **X. Exit Slip and Adjournment**

Misty Green, SACGTE Facilitator, Office of Special Education and Early Learning

**Summary of Discussion:** Green reminded everyone to complete their exit slips. The meeting concluded.