



**KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
State Advisory Council for Exceptional Children (SACEC)  
MEETING SUMMARY**

**MEETING DATE AUGUST 20, 2020:**

**ATTENDANCE:**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

**Anita Dowd, Brandi Hitzelberger, Leisa Hutchinson, Gretta Hylton Melissa Knight, Ravonne Simms, Libby Suttles, Eric Umstead , ,**

**No quorum is present so no votes will be taken**

**Agenda Item: Welcome (Roll Call of Members)**

**Presenter:** Melissa Knight, board chair

**Agenda Item: Review Minutes from Last Meeting**

**Presenter:** Melissa Knight

**Summary of Discussion:** No vote can be taken.

**Agenda Item: KDE Update**

**Presenter:** Jason Glass, incoming commissioner of education

**Summary of Discussion:** Welcome and info from new commissioner.

**Agenda Item: Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) Communications Update**

**Presenter:** Toni Konz Tatman, KDE interim director of communications

**Summary of Discussion:**

Virtual Town Hall for Local School Board Members reviewed Healthy at School guidance.

Coverings for Kids program launched for First Lady Britanny Beshear to help districts with PPE. almost 90 districts are participating.

Info for KDE COVID-19 webpage. A reopening tab has recently been added with guidance links. FAQs for Kentucky schools and districts - more than 811 questions answered since March. The Student Advisory Team is meeting and is doing great work. Videos are being made about Mask Up KY. Next meeting with them Sept. 15.

### **Agenda Item: KDE Update and Reopening Guidance**

**Presenter:** Gretta Hylton, KDE associate commissioner, Office of Special Education and Early Learning

**Summary of Discussion:** Guiding Questions: Is the reopening of guidance and support meeting needs? Have you noticed a gap in the guidance or additional resources that will be needed? Teachers fear of progress monitoring and data. Easing anxiety of teachers. Learning pods and helping students with high learning needs.

**Follow-up Required:** Gretta requests any input to help fill gaps. Talked about mental health and support and possibility of learning pods.

### **Agenda Item: Considerations for Reopening Schools: Exceptional Learners and Preschool Students**

**Presenters:** Veronica Sullivan, division director, KDE Division of IDEA Implementation and Preschool

Amanda Waldroup, assistant division director, KDE Division of IDEA Implementation and Preschool

**Summary of Discussion:** Guidance for reopening safely. Handout will be shared in Google Drive. Guidance also given for exceptional needs students and guidance on transportation included. School health policies also included. Next steps to support schools (a web series is being developed).

**Question:** Based on the identified challenges, what are the most urgent topics that we need to address (and in what order)? What are the target audiences and timing of delivery of the support?

Leisa Hutchinson: Is there guidance on compensatory education? This topic is covered in the reopening guidance and this is related to the next presentation.

### **Agenda Item: Considerations for Reopening Schools and Contingency Planning**

**Presenter:** Sylvia Starkey, division director, KDE Office of Special Education and Early Learning

**Summary of Discussion:** What challenges have school districts experienced with contingency planning? What additional guidance is needed to assist school districts with contingency planning? What is the preferred method of delivery for this type of support.? Is a contingency plan adding confusion?

FAPE: How do we provide this during a pandemic? Document what can't be provided. Document posted on Google Drive. ESY is different than compensatory education. ESY is about regression without ability to recoup. Will be determined case by case and ARC decision.

Contingency Planning: They need to be in place for when things change suddenly, like in March. Schools should not start the year on a contingency plan. Right now districts have had time to plan so a contingency plan isn't needed.

**Agenda Item: Due Process Update**

**Presenter:** Sylvia Starkey

**Summary of Discussion:** Hearing updates on the last 7 cases listed on the website below.

[https://education.ky.gov/specialed/excep/Pages/Dispute\\_Resolution\\_Process.aspx](https://education.ky.gov/specialed/excep/Pages/Dispute_Resolution_Process.aspx)

**Agenda Item: Cooperative Update**

**Presenter:** Dionne Bates, director, implementation and improvement lead,  
Kentucky Valley Educational Cooperative

**Summary of Discussion:** Slides in Google Drive reviewed

Melissa Knight: Great job on resources provided.

5-minute break

Business meeting adjournment

**3:02 p.m. Open Forum**

Welcome statement read by Melissa Knight

Introduction of council

Appreciation of council from Leisa Hutchinson.

Brandi Hitzelberger comments on frustration and staying positive by parents of districts

Closing comments

**NEXT MEETING Nov. 22-24, 2020**

DRAFT