



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Superintendents Advisory Council (SAC)
SUMMARY
NOVEMBER 12, 2024

ATTENDANCE: Carrie Ballinger, Doug Bechanan, Thom Cochran, Robbie Fletcher, Michael Ford, David Gilliam, Barry Lee, Matthew Madding, Patrick Richardson, Robert Tuck, Leonard Whalen, Chad Molley, Sheri Satterly, Tim Spencer, Robin Cochran, Bob Lawson, Amanda Abell, Matt Baker, Will Begley, Ralph Hamilton, Todd Neace, Mike Row, Wayne Sizemore, Misty Middleton, Seth Southard

MEMBERS ABSENT: Buddy Berry, Joe Buerkley, Damian Johnson, Chad Molley, Charles Morton, Marty Polio

Agenda Item: Legislative Update

Presenter: Brian Perry
Director of Government Relations
Government Relations
Office of the Commissioner

Summary of Discussion: Perry outlined legislative priorities for the 2025 Regular Session, including support for the Kentucky United We Learn Council and securing additional funding for key initiatives. Perry also provided statutory updates and minor language revisions for the Council for Education Technology, the State Textbook Commission, and the KETS Teacher Home Computer Program. Continued support for the educator workforce was discussed, focusing on future educator preparation through collaboration with the Education Professional Standards Board and the Council on Postsecondary Education to update educator preparation programs. Educator recruitment and retention efforts included exploring a statewide common application system and advocating for the inclusion of education as an eligible program for Work Ready scholarships.

Agenda Item: Overview of Homeschool Requirements

Presenter: David Millanti
Assistant Director
Division of School and Program Improvement
Office of Continuous Improvement and Support

Summary of Discussion: Millanti gave a summary of the background, essential requirements, and the roles and responsibilities of the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) and the district concerning homeschools. KDE offers guidance on homeschool questions, collects data on federal program participation to calculate federal allocations, monitors districts' implementation of federal program services, and has the authority to inspect attendance and scholarship records of homeschools.

Agenda Item: Assessment and Accountability Update: Kentucky Summative Assessment (KSA) Science Results and How High School Graduation Rates Fit into the New Accountability System

Presenters:

Rhonda Sims, Associate Commissioner
Office of Assessment and Accountability

Jennifer Stafford, Division Director
Division of Assessment and Accountability
Support

Summary of Discussion: The Superintendents Advisory Council (SAC) discussed Kentucky Summative Assessment (KSA) science results as related to the accountability system. The current KSA science assessment was put in place in 2019. Throughout the years, Sims said there have been some changes to the percentage of students with proficient and distinguished test scores.

“There are things that we can look at within the assessment, but we also have to look at what is happening structurally in high school as it relates to the state assessments,” Sims said.

Stafford outlined how science content and performance standards are developed, including bringing together science teachers from across the state to give input as they review the standards and student performance levels. Stafford said new assessment items have been developed to align with updated [Kentucky Academic Standards for Science](#) that were adopted in 2022. These items will be included in the 2025 assessment. Stafford, acknowledging that the science assessment is required by both state and federal law, said there is a need to meet these requirements while considering potential changes at the federal level that could impact state accountability systems.

Sims and Stafford said they hope to have the new science assessment in place for testing in the spring of 2025.

Agenda Item: Discussion on Impact of Virtual School and Homeschool Enrollment on Food Service Budgets

Presenter: NA

Summary of Discussion: Superintendents discussed how enrollment in virtual schools and homeschooling is significantly affecting district food service budgets.

Agenda Item: Discussion on Utilizing SAC as a Research Group to Study Facility Funding

Presenter: Robbie Fletcher
Commissioner of Education
Office of the Commissioner

Summary of Discussion: Fletcher proposed utilizing the council as a research group to explore pathways to modernize the funding of district facilities. Fletcher outlined the recommendations from a School Funding Task Force in 2021, which included 18 superintendents who suggested exploring pathways to modernize district facility funding. “We would like to sit down and talk to you all about what do we need to change; what does that look like and how do we implement those recommendations,” he said. Fletcher said members of the council have a great opportunity to be leaders in this discussion and create recommendations for facility funding moving forward. The council approved a motion for this proposal and will learn additional information in the next meeting.

Next Meeting

Feb. 26, 2025