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Superintendents Webcast

Oct. 10, 2024



Agenda

Welcome and Updates

Dr. Robbie Fletcher, Commissioner of Education

Kentucky Department of Education Updates

Jennifer Ginn, KDE Director of Communications

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Associate Commissioner Beth Hargis, KDE Office of Career and Technical Education

KBE Resolution Supporting the Use of State Dollars to Exclusively Fund the Common System of Public Schools

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Kentucky United We Learn Study Phase Update

Meredith Brewer, Ph.D., Executive Director of Education Policy

Kentucky Board of Education Goals and Legislative Priorities

Brian Perry, Ph.D., Director of Government Relations

Customer Service Survey

Dr. Robbie Fletcher, Commissioner of Education

Questions and Answers

KDE Leadership

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Welcome and Updates

Dr. Robbie Fletcher
Commissioner of Education



Kentucky Schools and Districts recognized at the 2024 Continuous Improvement Summit

- KDE presented 16 awards for best practices to schools and districts during the 2024 Continuous Improvement Summit at the Central Bank Center in Lexington on Sept. 23-24.
- The summit allowed attendees to invest in their growth as a leader and a teacher and offered strategies to make a difference in their work and in their students' experiences.
- KDE Associate Commissioner Kelly Foster presented each Best Practice winner with a \$500 check to be used for school improvement.
- Districts recognized included: Butler County, Carroll County, Covington Independent, Fayette County, Jefferson County, McCracken County, Oldham County and Warren County.



Five Kentucky Public Schools Named 2024 Blue Ribbon winners

- The U.S. Department of Education has named five Kentucky public schools as 2024 National Blue Ribbon Schools based on their overall academic excellence.
- The five schools and their districts are:
 - Corbin Middle School (Corbin Independent)
 - Cold Hill Elementary School (Laurel County)
 - Lone Oak Elementary School (McCracken County)
 - Northern Elementary School (Pulaski County)
 - Shirley Mann Elementary School (Boone County)
- These Kentucky schools are among 356 schools across the country that were recognized this year.

2024 National Blue Ribbon Schools

U. S. Department of Education names five Kentucky public schools

Shirley Mann Elementary School - Boone County

Corbin Middle School - Corbin Independent

Cold Hill Elementary School - Laurel County

Lone Oak Elementary School - McCracken County

Northern Elementary School - Pulaski County



15 Educators Named to KDE's Teachers Advisory Council for 2024-2025

- The Teacher's Advisory Council is designed to improve Kentucky's educational landscape by providing the commissioner of education with direct input from classrooms.
- The council is designed to improve Kentucky's educational landscape by providing the commissioner of education with direct input from classrooms.
- The vacancies were created by former members rotating off the council and some moving into non-teaching positions. Only teachers can serve on the council.
- The new TAC members include:
 - Emmanuel Anama-Green, Harlan County
 - Shane Baker, Warren County
 - Scot Bratcher, Breckinridge County
 - Corey Burns, Mercer County
 - Kevin Dailey, Boone County
 - Megan Hall, Letcher County
 - Jessica Hobson, Christian County
 - Brooke Leffingwell, Campbell County
 - Sarah Lizer, Fayette County
 - Kristen Morgan, Danville Independent
 - Casey Page, Shelby County
 - Nick Shoffner, Middlesboro Independent
 - Becky Spies, Kentucky School for the Blind
 - Joseph Stivers, Jefferson County
 - Wendy Young, Fayette County

ANNOUNCING NEW MEMBERS FOR

**KENTUCKY'S TEACHERS
ADVISORY COUNCIL**



Kentucky Department of
EDUCATION

New Microgrant Opportunities Announced to Build Tech Talent Pipeline

- Education leaders gathered Sept. 26 in the Capitol Rotunda where We Lead Computer Science (CS) announced \$100,000 in microgrants to chambers of commerce to work with businesses and schools to build the state's tech talent pipeline.
- We Lead CS is a virtual computer science career academy created by the Kentucky General Assembly that serves students across Kentucky. The organization plans to recruit 300 new students for the 2025-2026 academic year.
- Chambers of commerce that show a dedication to improving computer science education for local students will be eligible to apply for microgrants.
- Kentucky averages more than 3,400 open computing jobs each month across all regions of the Commonwealth, with an average annual salary of almost \$80,000.
- [Read more about the new opportunities on *Kentucky Teacher*.](#)

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KDE Updates

Jennifer Ginn

KDE Director of Communications



Competitive Grants from KDE

FY25 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) Grant

- Grant applications due: Tuesday, Dec. 3, at 4 p.m. ET
- Award Amount: \$100,000-\$150,000
- Matching Funds Requirement: No

The 21st CCLC program provides academic, artistic and cultural enrichment opportunities for students who attend high-poverty and low-performing schools, to meet the challenging state academic standards.

Two additional grant opportunities will be posted before the next Superintendent's Webcast. Please check the [KDE Competitive Grants webpage](#) regularly for updates.

More information about grants can be found by emailing [Jennifer Bryant](#).

KDE Seeking Nominations for 2025 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program

- The [U.S. Presidential Scholars Program](#) is not a scholarship; however, all scholars will be honored for their accomplishments during the National Recognition Program in June 2025 in Washington, D.C.
- Each school may nominate three high school seniors: one male, one female and one career and technical education (CTE) student of any gender. KDE has more information about [the criteria for CTE student candidates](#).
- Schools are encouraged to nominate students who, while demonstrating outstanding scholarship, might not otherwise be nominated through the current ACT/SAT or arts recognition processes.
- For the arts component, students must participate in the [YoungArts program through the National Foundation for the Advancement of Artists](#).
- Application deadline is Nov. 1.



**KDE SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR
2025 U.S. PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS**

NOMINATION & APPLICATION DEADLINE
NOVEMBER 1, 2024

Kentucky Department of
EDUCATION

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Career and Technical Education (CTE) Term 1 Attend Hours Report

Associate Commissioner Beth Hargis
Office of Career and Technical Education

Term 1 Attend Hours Report Implications

- Utilized to determine the FTE allocation for CTE Supplemental Funding for the 2025-2026 school year
- Assists with the data validation process
- Acts as a deliverable to release the first half of funding allocation for the year
- Funding for CTE pathways for the 2025-2026 school could be impacted if the TEDS data has not been imported and the TERM 1 attend hours report has not been completed by Nov. 15.

Term 1 Attend Hours Report Requirements

- Enter and run TEDS Term 1 Attend Hours Report.
- Upload report to the SharePoint site.
- Area Technology Centers (ATCs) and local districts must complete.
- Detailed instructions including the SharePoint link have been sent to CTE points of contact, CTE TEDS users and CTE coordinators as listed for each district.

Term 1 Attend Hours Report Deadline

- **NOV. 15 DEADLINE**
- Two reminders will be sent in October and two in November
- Contact [Amy Tracy](#) with questions

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KBE Resolution Supporting the Use of State Dollars to Exclusively Fund the Common System of Public Schools

Dr. Robbie Fletcher
Commissioner of Education

KBE Passes Resolution Regarding Funding of Public Schools

- At its Meeting on Oct. 7, the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) unanimously passed [a resolution that opposes any legislation or policy that would allocate state dollars to fund schools outside the common system of public schools.](#)
- The resolution also upholds KBE members' beliefs that the best way to ensure all students in Kentucky receive a high-quality education is by supporting the existing public education system.

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Kentucky United We Learn Study Phase Update

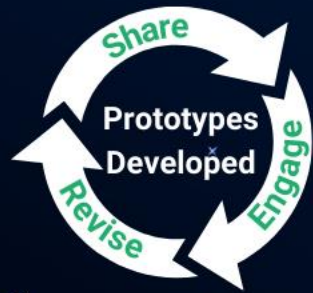
Meredith Brewer, Ph.D.,
Executive Director of Education Policy

KENTUCKY UNITED WE LEARN COUNCIL'S: JOURNEY TO THE MOON

“To build a prosperous Kentucky, we will launch an accountability system that is meaningful and useful to all our learners.”

Goal:
Approved Reimagined
Accountability System

SUMMER 2026



SUMMER 2024

Legislative Awareness

SUMMER 2024



FALL 2024

Council Recommends
Accountability
Model to
*KDE

FALL 2024

Council and
*KDE
Recommend
Model to
**KBE

WINTER 2024

Engage
General
Assembly

SPRING 2025



SUMMER 2025



Kentucky
UNITED WE LEARN
COUNCIL

*KDE - Kentucky Department of Education
**KBE - Kentucky Board of Education

Kentucky United We Learn Council Interviews

Activity

- Kentucky United We Learn Council members will conduct interviews with role-alike interviewees

Sample Guiding Question

- How will the reporting of the new vibrant learning indicator prioritize and advance equity?



District Preparedness Inventory

Activity

- KDE Innovation Specialists will assist districts in completing an inventory of district preparedness to implement vibrant learning experiences (VLE).

Sample Guiding Questions

- What milestones would indicate a readiness to scale performance assessments statewide?
- To what extent are districts ready to implement a VLE indicator?



36 District Focus Groups

Activity

- Feedback will be collected on the 4.0 prototype design representing the perspective of 18 Local Laboratories of Learning (L3) districts and 18 non-L3 districts.

Sample Guiding Questions

- What role should the state play to monitor quality without sacrificing local autonomy?
- What should the state's role be in determining what can be submitted locally, as well as in reviewing the quality of the local data points submitted (if at all)?



Technical Memos

Activity

- Expert partners will draft memos on the following topics:
 - Development of a vibrant learning experience indicator
 - A balanced state assessment system
 - Performance-based assessment systems
 - Student growth models.

Sample Guiding Question

- What support will be necessary from the state to ensure information about VLE implementation can be evaluated and reported in a manner that supports continuous improvement of local districts?



Feedback Survey

Activity

- 4.0 Feedback Survey open to any interested respondent. Superintendents received an invitation to complete the survey directly from their educational cooperative.

Sample Guiding Questions

- To be valuable for all learners, what types of timely and actionable instructional information should be provided by a through-year model?
- What kinds of resources and supports will districts need to provide greater access to vibrant learning experiences for their students?



Role Groups Represented

As of Oct. 4, 2024

Group Represented	Number of Respondents
Business/Industry Representative	5
Community Member	25
District Administrator	73
District Assessment Coordinator	45
Educational Cooperative Staff	11
Educator/Paraprofessional	277
Family Member/Guardian	18
KDE Staff	17
Legislator	3
School Administrator	111
Student	1
Superintendent	50
Other	4
TOTAL	640



What's Next?

- Kentucky United We Learn Council Convening (October 21-22)
 - Presentation of data
 - Discussion/deliberation
- Virtual Kentucky United We Learn Council Meeting (Week of Nov. 18)
 - Consideration of formal endorsement of proposal
- LSAC Meeting (November 26)/KBE Meeting (December 4-5)
 - Presentation of proposal for discussion/approval
- Advocacy Phase

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KBE Goals and Legislative Priorities

Brian Perry, Ph.D.,
Director of Government Relations



Kentucky Department of
EDUCATION

KBE Goals

2024-2025

Goal 1: Foster Vibrant Student Learning Experiences

- **Empower** educators to design and implement engaging, real-world, and content-rich learning experiences that inspire students to participate actively and apply their knowledge meaningfully.
- **Enhance** policies and regulations, in collaboration with the Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) and Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE), to strengthen the teacher pipeline. Prioritize the recruitment and retention of teachers of color to increase the diversity of Kentucky's educators, enriching the educational environment for all students.

Goal 2: Advance Educational Innovation and Excellence

- **Support** the development and implementation of an accountability system that values innovative teaching practices and vibrant learning environments.
- **Promote** continuous improvement through community-based accountability measures, ensuring that all students have equitable access to high-quality education.

Goal 3: Cultivate Collaborative Partnerships

- **Establish and sustain** strong partnerships with all education stakeholders, including families, policymakers and community members, to collaboratively enhance educational outcomes and support the holistic development of every student.

KBE Legislative Priorities

2025

Support the Work of the Kentucky United We Learn Council

Advocate for legislative backing to promote the Kentucky United We Learn Council's efforts in reimagining assessment and accountability systems. This includes fostering conversations around innovative approaches to measuring student success and ensuring the systems are meaningful and useful to all learners.

Secure Additional Funding for Key Initiatives

- **Numeracy Counts Act Professional Development:** Provide targeted professional development to educators to enhance math instruction and ensure the successful implementation of the Numeracy Counts Act.
- **Read to Succeed Literacy Coaches:** Increase funding for literacy coaches who can deliver job-embedded training and support for educators at all levels to improve literacy outcomes.
- **Universal Preschool:** Support the development of foundational literacy and numeracy skills by recognizing the need for high-quality early childhood educational experiences to ensure more students enter kindergarten ready to learn and be successful.
- **High-Quality Instructional Resources (HQIRs):** Support districts in adopting HQIRs that align with standards and promote grade-level, high-quality instruction in every classroom.

Secure Additional Funding for Key Initiatives (Cont.)

- **Kentucky Education Technology System (KETS):** Invest in the ongoing maintenance and sustainability of KETS, ensuring that districts have access to modern educational technologies that enhance teaching and learning.
- **Full-Day Kindergarten:** Advocate for the codification of funding for full-day kindergarten to ensure that all students have the opportunity to build a strong foundation for future learning.
- **School Safety:** Support ongoing efforts to create school environments where student and educator well-being is prioritized.

Statutory Updates and Clean-up

- **Council for Education Technology:** Remove or amend outdated references to the Council for Education Technology, which was repealed in 2006, from current statutes.
- **State Textbook Commission:** Update statutory language to reflect the modern selection and adoption process of curriculum materials, including high-quality instructional resources.
- **KETS Teacher Home Computer Program:** Eliminate the obsolete KETS teacher home computer statute, which no longer aligns with current education technology needs.

Support the Educator Workforce

- **Educator Preparation:** Collaborate with the Education Professional Standards Board and the Council on Postsecondary Education to update educator preparation programs, ensuring future educators are well-prepared in both the art and science of teaching and equipped to create vibrant learning experiences for every student.
- **Educator Recruitment and Retention:** Expand on the opportunities afforded through funding in 2024 budget for teacher scholarships, student teaching stipends and additional mentoring to improve the attractiveness of the teaching profession.
 - Explore the possibility of a statewide common application system to support future educators in their search for a teaching placement and districts in their identification of high-quality candidates.
 - Advocate for the inclusion of education as an eligible program to qualify for Work Ready scholarships.
- **Mentoring Program Impact on Title II Funding:** Address the negative impact on federal Title II funding for approximately 30% of districts due to the current structure of the mentoring program and seek legislative adjustments to protect district resources.

Facilities

- Work directly with the Kentucky Department of Education and its advisory council(s) to explore pathways to modernize the funding of district facilities.
- Amend KRS 162.060 to provide districts with final design plan approval authority.

Review and Update Substitute Teaching Bill

Address limitations on districts that currently restrict use of emergency certified substitutes to no more than 20 days.

Career and Technical Education (CTE)

- Continue the historic investment in CTE by addressing current funding inequities between area technology centers (ATCs) and local centers.
- Include the ATCs in the CTE funding formula and increase CTE funding by \$15 million to hold local programs harmless.

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Customer Service Survey

Dr. Robbie Fletcher
Commissioner of Education

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Question and Answer Session

(Submit Questions in Teams)

KDE Leadership

 Kentucky Department of
EDUCATION

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Important Dates

ACT Data Release

Oct. 16

Education Professional Standards Board Meeting

Oct. 22

Superintendents Webcast

Nov. 14

2026 Teacher of the Year Nominations Open

Dec. 2