

The background is a composite image. The top left shows a line of yellow school buses, with the word 'SCHOOL BUS' visible on the front of one. The bottom left shows a classroom with blue walls, desks, chairs, and various educational materials. A large white diagonal shape cuts across the image from the top left to the bottom right, serving as a background for the text.

Superintendents Webcast

Sept. 12, 2024



Kentucky Department of
EDUCATION

Agenda

Welcome and Updates

Robbie Fletcher, Commissioner of Education

Kentucky Department of Education Updates

Jennifer Ginn, KDE Director of Communications

ARP ESSER Plan Update

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

Office of Finance and Operations Updates

Associate Commissioner Matt Ross, KDE Office of Finance and Operations

Assessment and Accountability Prototype 4.0

Robbie Fletcher, Commissioner of Education

Jennifer Stafford, Director of KDE Division of Assessment and Accountability Support

Questions and Answers

KDE Leadership

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Welcome and Updates

Robbie Fletcher

Commissioner of Education



Kentucky Department of

E D U C A T I O N

2025 Kentucky Teacher of the Year Ceremony

- KDE celebrated nine Teacher Achievement Award winners at a ceremony at the Kentucky State Capitol Rotunda on Sept. 10.
- Jennifer Montgomery, an English teacher at Eminence Independent Middle School, was named as the 2025 Kentucky Teacher of the Year. She also was named the middle school division winner.
- Barren County's Scott Johnson was the finalist from the elementary school division.
- Boone County's Hayley Dant was the finalist from the high school division.
- Congratulations to all of the Teacher Achievement Award winners!



From left, Scott Johnson, Jennifer Montgomery and Hayley Dant

Scenes from the 2025 Kentucky Teacher of the Year Ceremony



Teacher Shortage Survey

- KDE is asking superintendents to participate in the Kentucky Educator Shortage Survey Fall 2024.
- The purpose of the survey is to gather facts about the number of vacant certified and classified positions and the ways those vacancies were filled, if filled at all.
- The data will allow KDE to identify shortage areas in Kentucky and to report to the Kentucky Legislature to inform decisions regarding support for recruiting and retaining school personnel. The data focuses on the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years.
- Please view the [Kentucky Educator Shortage Survey blank form](#) beforehand to see what the survey will ask for.
- Once you start entering information into the [Kentucky Educator Shortage Survey Fall 2024 Google Form](#), you will not have the option to save it before submitting it, so having all of the relevant information beforehand will be important.

KSB Gets New Braille Reading Devices

- The Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB) received a shipment of 15 new Braille Monarch reading devices.
- The devices are cutting-edge Braille readers with a multitude of other features and a larger display to improve the learning experience for blind and low-vision students.
- The 10-line refreshable Braille display feature is a large leap from previous technology, which only allowed for one line at a time.
- KSB purchased the Monarch devices using money from the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) fund.



KDE Hires New Director of Mathematics Education



- KDE hired Jennifer Fraley as the director of mathematics education.
- Fraley will oversee the implementation of [House Bill 162](#), the Kentucky Numeracy Counts Act, and the development of statewide supports for mathematics teaching and learning.
- Sponsored by Rep. James Tipton, chairman of the House Education Committee, the Kentucky Numeracy Counts Act provides a multifaceted approach to improve mathematics teaching and learning and advance outcomes for all students.
- Per the legislation, KDE, local districts, schools and postsecondary educator preparation programs will play a role in creating systemic improvement in math outcomes for students in grades K-8.



KDE Updates

Jennifer Ginn

KDE Director of Communications



Competitive Grants from KDE

FY25 Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP)

- Grant applications due: Monday, Sept. 30 at 4 p.m. ET
- Award Amount: Varies by # of students served.
- Matching Funds Requirement: No

This advertisement is a rebid opportunity from the Kentucky Department of Education to award the remaining funds.

Districts that applied and met the earlier deadline do not need to reapply and have been notified of their award.

More information about grants can be found on the [KDE Competitive Grants webpage](#) or by emailing [Jennifer Bryant](#).

Kentucky Applications Now Open for the 2025 U.S. Senate Youth Program

- The 2025 U.S. Senate Youth Program is a merit-based program that takes the most outstanding high school students from around the country to Washington D.C., for a weeklong study of the federal government and the people who lead it.
- Two Kentucky high school students will be selected this fall as delegates and will each receive a \$10,000 college scholarship.
- High school teachers and principals are encouraged to nominate qualified high school juniors and seniors to apply. [Applications for the 2025 U.S. Senate Youth Program](#) are available online and are due Sept. 30.



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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AARP ESSER Plan Update

Associate Commissioner Kelly Foster
KDE Office of Continuous Improvement and Support

ARP ESSER Plan Updates

- Pursuant to the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act, school districts receiving ARP ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief) funds are required to maintain an up-to-date spending plan that is prominently posted on the district website and on file with the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE).
- Plans must be annually revised and updated. Once updated, districts must submit links to their plans to the KDE using the [ARP ESSER Plan Updates form](#) by Oct. 1.
- Please direct any questions related to this process to [Matthew Courtney](#).

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Office of Finance and Operations Updates

Associate Commissioner Matt Ross
KDE Office of Finance and Operations

HB 6 – School Resource Officers (SROs)

- \$16.5 million in FY 2024-2025 and \$18 million in FY 2025-2026 to assist in funding salaries for SROs
- KDE to reimburse school districts up to \$20,000 for each campus employing at least one on-site full-time certified school resource officer
- Campus list – maintained by the State School Security Marshal – has been updated
- Updated Award Notifications to be posted by Sept. 13
- CDIP report to kdesroreimbursements@education.ky.gov on a quarterly basis.
- Contact Nicole Crosthwaite or Teri Mason at (502) 564-1979.

HB 6 – District Compensation Reporting

- KDE required to provide report to Interim Joint Committee on Education detailing compensation increases to classified and certified staff by Sept. 1
- KDE surveyed districts:
 - 54% provided a percentage rate increase
 - 4% provided a flat amount increase
 - 38% provided a combination of percentage rate and flat amount increase
 - 4% provided no raises
- Manner in which compensation increases were delineated:
 - 63% provided a universal increase.
 - 10% delineated increases by job classification.
 - 27% delineated increases by a combination of universal and by job classification.

Compensation Reporting - Certified Staff

District certified staff salary schedule:

- 77% provided a percentage rate increase.
- 7% provided a flat amount increase.
- 16% provided a combination of percentage rate and flat amount increase.

Average percentage rate or average dollar amount of compensation increases for certified staff:

- The average percentage rate increase was 4.14%
- The average dollar amount increase was \$2,805

Compensation Reporting – Classified Staff

District classified staff salary schedule:

- 51% provided a percentage rate increase
- 20% provided a flat amount increase
- 29% provided a combination of percentage rate and flat amount increase

Average percentage rate or average dollar amount of compensation increases for classified staff:

- The average percentage rate increase was 3.63%
- The average dollar amount increase was \$1,322

Transportation Guidelines

- KRS 158.148, amended in 2024, required KDE create Statewide Student Transportation Services Policy Guidelines and distribute to districts by Aug. 31.
- Similar development process to Student Discipline Policy Guidelines – Consultation with related stakeholders
- Purpose to assist school districts in developing or enhancing current policies to ensure the safety of students, vehicle operators and passengers using district-provided transportation.
- District policies shall be updated at a minimum every two years starting with the 2024-2025 school year.
- Used in conjunction and consistent with district [Student Discipline Policies](#)

ARP Late Liquidation Extension Request

- One request on behalf of KDE and districts submitted by KDE on Aug. 14, 2024
- APPROVED by U.S. Department of Education (USED) on Sept. 10, 2024
- Liquidation Period through March 28, 2026
- Limited to those district projects or purchases that were included in the late liquidation extension request
- Drawdowns of funds require USED approval. KDE will request authorization.

Reimagining Assessment and Accountability Prototype 4.0

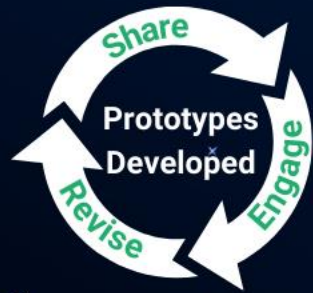
Jennifer Stafford, Director
Office of Assessment and Accountability

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



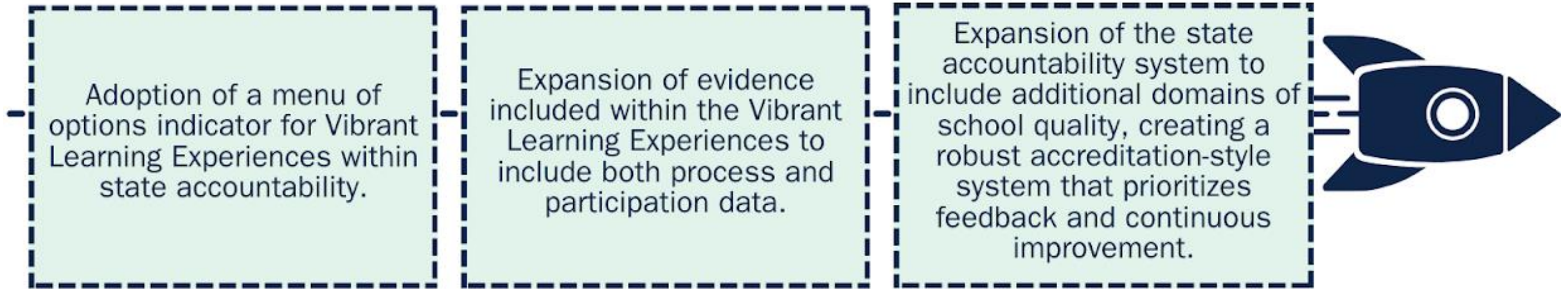
Kentucky
UNITED WE LEARN
COUNCIL

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

Aiming for the Moon - State Accountability

- Long term goal of an accreditation-style model
- Emphasizes transparency and continuous improvement
- Broad set of school quality domains (e.g., Academic Outcomes, Vibrant Learning Experiences, Teaching and Leadership)
- Submission of evidence to an outside evaluator

Flight Path for Sustainable State Change



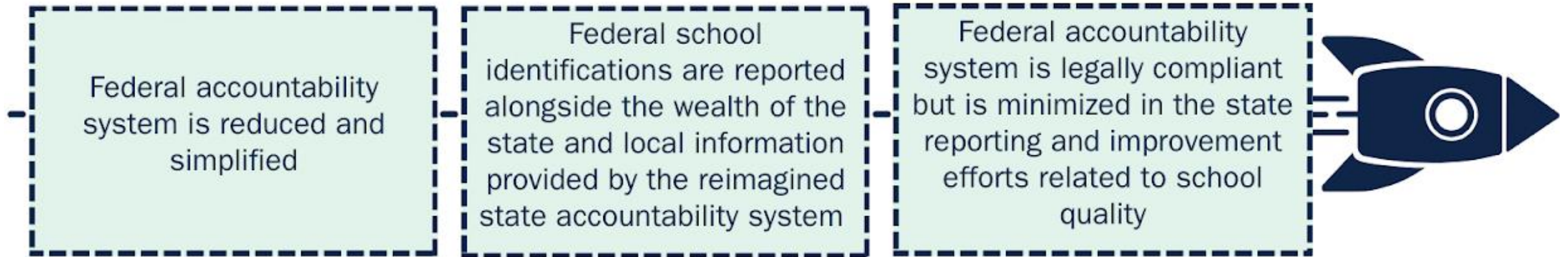
Local Accountability Model

- From stakeholder input, another approach has emerged involving local accountability.
- A local accountability system, as defined by the Kentucky United We Learn Council, is the set of system-management policies, instruments, resources and practices that district leadership uses to engage in school improvement work with their schools. This work generally extends beyond the minimum required to comply with federal accountability mandates and includes broader efforts for school improvement.
- Parental engagement, community partnerships and non-academic considerations of school quality that affect schooling experiences are key components of a local accountability system.
- Local accountability would include common components like vibrant learning experiences and reporting of data by student groups, as well as aspects tailored to the specific needs of the community.
- The federal accountability system would be reduced to minimum reporting features.

Aiming for the Moon - Federal Accountability

- Minimal Footprint:
 - Limited impact on the field
 - Primarily for public reporting on disaggregated data by student groups
- Identification of schools to three categories for support and resources:
 1. Comprehensive Support and Improvement
 2. Targeted Support and Improvement/Additional Targeted Support and Improvement
 3. Meets Requirements.
- Reporting:
 - Federal data requirements reported
 - This would eliminate and replace the state's color-ranking system.

Flight Path for Sustainable Federal Change



Aiming for the Moon - Assessment

- Long term goal of through-year, competency-based assessment system
- Seamless Integration:
 - Integrated into the learning experience
 - Meaningful to students and educators
- Real-Time Feedback:
 - Provides real-time feedback on student learning
 - Enables targeted support throughout the year
- Authentic Demonstrations:
 - Emphasizes authentic demonstrations of learning
 - Allows students to demonstrate competency in essential knowledge and skills
- Alignment with Standards:
 - Articulated through Kentucky's K-12 academic standards

Flight Path for Sustainable Assessment

Replace state social studies and writing assessments with locally-developed performance assessments to build local capacity; state rubrics and supports drive quality

Launch a state through-year assessment system for reading and math, replacing local interim assessments so districts can invest in other instructional priorities

Implement a through-year, performance-based assessment system that satisfies federal and state technical requirements



Aiming for the Moon - Reporting

- Public reporting reflects the values of the state
- Federally Required Data Points: all mandated federal data including data on student demographic groups
- State-Level Data: Alignment with state-specific domains of school quality.

Flight Path for Reporting



Critical Feedback

Input Sought	Next Steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review Version 4.0• Please complete the Version 4.0 Stakeholder Survey• Prototype 4.0 Resource Webpage	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advisory Meetings• Kentucky United We Learn Council Convening, Oct. 21-22• Kentucky Board of Education, Oct. 7-8

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Question and Answer Session

(Submit Questions in Teams)

KDE Leadership

 Kentucky Department of
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Important Dates

Kentucky Board of Education Regular Meeting
Oct. 7-8

Education Professional Standards Board Meeting
Oct. 22