



Guidance for Schools and Districts

Updated: April 16, 2021

Senate Bill 128: Supplemental School Year Program 2.0

On March 24, Gov. Andy Beshear signed into law [Senate Bill 128](#), which creates the Supplemental School Year Program. This emergency legislation allows any K-12 student enrolled during the 2020-2021 school year to use the 2021-2022 school year as a supplemental year to retake or supplement courses the student already has taken.

The intent of the SB 128 supplemental year program is for students to re-take or supplement courses as a result of the prolonged remote instruction and barriers created by the COVID-19 pandemic. SB 128 specifically states that the supplemental year is for students to re-take or supplement courses previously taken during the 2020-2021 year, not to simply gain an additional year in the public school system to explore new coursework. This issue is most pronounced for high school students.

School districts should communicate with parents that students who utilize the 2021-2022 school year as a supplemental year will be enrolled in [coursework](#) the student already has taken or in courses that are so closely related to the content and standards of previous coursework that it is supplementary in nature. The SB 128 supplemental year is not designed for students who intend to move on to the next grade during the 2021-2022 school year and enroll in coursework associated with the next grade level. Students should understand that by utilizing the SB 128 supplemental year, their graduation most likely will be delayed due to postponing progress toward necessary minimum state and local graduation requirements.

Students have until May 1 to submit a request to their local board of education, and the local board has until June 1 to decide whether to accept all requests or no requests. The local board must submit its implementation plan, along with any requests for regulatory waivers, to the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) by June 16. The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) is providing this guidance so districts may provide students, families and school officials with the relevant information as they make their decisions.

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Timeline and Process

Students have until May 1 to submit a request to their local board of education; the local board has until June 1 to decide whether to accept all requests or no requests. These student requests – and the district’s all-or-none decision – apply only to students enrolled in the district on May 1, 2021. If a district elects to participate in the Supplemental School Year Program by June 1, the district may provide access to the program for students who transfer into the district after that



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date, but is under no obligation to do so, and may otherwise treat these students as required by existing policies for students transferring into the district.

All districts will notify the KDE of their Supplemental School Year Program participation status via the GMAP (Grant Management Application and Planning) system. Participating districts will be asked to affirm they will satisfy all listed assurances while districts who decline participation will check the box indicating this decision. The form will be available in GMAP on May 17.

SB 128 allows local school boards to apply to the KBE for waivers from administrative regulations for the Supplemental School Year Program. However, until those waivers are granted, districts must comply with all applicable statutes and administrative regulations. KBE waivers may be limited by applicable federal law. Furthermore, the KBE does not have the authority under SB 128 to waive statutes.

Impact on Assessment and Accountability

Assessments

State and federal statutes establish assessment requirements for reading, mathematics, science, social studies, editing and mechanics, and writing. These assessments provide performance information related to the *Kentucky Academic Standards (KAS)*. Reading and mathematics assessments are required annually in grades 3-8, and once in high school. Science, social studies, editing and mechanics, and writing are required once per grade span. Other required assessments include a college readiness exam in high school, an English language proficiency exam for English learners and a screener for kindergarten students.

Each state and federally required assessment is given at the appropriate grade level. KDE's Office of Assessment and Accountability (OAA) has established policies and procedures that require students who repeat a grade to repeat the assessment at that grade level. Based on the opportunity given to students in SB 128, K-12 students who request a supplemental school year are expected to be assessed in the state required assessments at that grade level. If enrolled students without an approved medical exemption do not test, the lowest score is entered for the student in the school data.

Graduation Rate

SB 128 will negatively impact the [graduation rate](#) of schools where students remain in high school for a supplemental year. The federal definition of the 4-year adjusted cohort graduation rate is defined as the number of students who graduate in four years with a regular high school diploma divided by the number of students who entered high school four years earlier. The OAA calculates the cohort graduation rate using data from Infinite Campus (IC) for first-time 9th grade enrollment and with graduation codes (G-Codes) to identify when students graduate with a diploma and whether they do so within four years.



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In order to monitor the impact on graduation rates, KDE will work with IC on a way to identify students who choose to remain in school for a supplemental year. Students who meet all graduation requirements in Spring 2021, but who choose to remain in school for the supplemental year, should be coded with the appropriate on-time G-Code and receive a diploma. Students who currently are in 9th grade and above who choose to remain in school for a supplemental year will not be on track to be an on-time graduate, which will lower the future graduation rates unless the students complete their diploma requirements in four years.

Currently, schools with a 4-year graduation rate of less than 80% are classified as Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) schools and the combined 4- and 5-year graduation rate is used as the Graduation Rate Indicator in the state accountability system.

Funding

Support Education Excellence in Kentucky (SEEK)

Senate Bill 1 (Special Session 2021) once again froze funding to previous year levels. 2021-2022 Average Daily Attendance (ADA) data will not be submitted to KDE and payments for FY23 will once again be paid based on previous year ADA. Districts will continue to receive funding based on the ADA submitted for the 2018-19 or 2019-20 school year.

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER)

ESSER funds may be used for students retaking or supplementing courses or grades pursuant to SB 128. For ESSER fund guidance, see [“ESSER Relief Fund Guidance for LEAs”](#) and [“Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund II \(ESSER II\).”](#) Additionally, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) became law on March 11, 2021. ARPA contains a third round of ESSER funding (ESSER III). KDE will provide ESSER III guidance at a future date.



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Teaching and Learning

Addressing Student Learning Needs

Guidance on evaluating student learning needs, determining learning gaps, adjusting the local curriculum in order to accelerate student learning and implementing the formative assessment process to take responsive action was issued to schools and districts in the “Evaluating Students” section of the “[KDE COVID-19 Guidance 2.0.](#)” Guidance to assist districts and schools in making decisions regarding promotion and retention also was shared on KDE webpages.

Decisions Regarding Promotion or Retention

Whether or not a local board decides by June 1, 2021, to approve the requests of all students to have 2021-2022 as a supplemental year, students still can be retained pursuant to longstanding promotion and retention guidance. However, no student may be retained without prior consultation with the parents.

Graduated Students

Pursuant to [KRS 158.140\(2\)](#), students who meet all state and local graduation requirements shall receive a high school diploma from the school district. Districts do not have the flexibility of allowing a student to defer a diploma and graduate with a different cohort. Once the student meets all state and local minimum requirements for graduation, the diploma **shall** be issued. Once the diploma is issued, the student’s final grade point average (GPA) should be calculated and cannot be altered at a later date to reflect additional or updated coursework as part of the final GPA or credits toward graduation. High school transcripts must contain an accurate account of the student’s final academic standing at the time the diploma is issued.

SB 128 provides that graduated students returning for a supplemental year “shall not receive any additional credits or certifications as a result of coursework unless the student completes the course and remains enrolled in the program until the completion of such course.” Any credit awarded to an already graduated student, however, cannot be used toward high school graduation or be included in the student’s final GPA, as the student graduated and was awarded a diploma prior to completion of the supplemental course. However, the supplemental coursework and subsequent grades may be included in the student’s transcript for informational purposes at the discretion of the district.

Pursuant to guidance from the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE), graduated seniors who return and wish to take postsecondary coursework during the 2021-2022 year must pursue dual enrollment (defined within [KRS 164.002](#)) rather than dual credit coursework. Furthermore, and pursuant to guidance from the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA), it should be noted that students who graduate from high school during the 2020-2021 year are no longer considered high school students for scholarship purposes and,



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therefore, are not eligible for Dual Credit or Work Ready Dual Credit scholarships during the 2021-2022 year. As such, tuition for courses taken by graduated students will be determined by the postsecondary institution. High school graduates who desire to use their KEES awards for postsecondary expenses must be enrolled at the postsecondary level as regular postsecondary students who are subject to full tuition rates. Please also be advised that this credit cannot be used toward high school graduation requirements and GPA for graduated students.

It is recommended that before students and parents make a decision about whether or not a graduated senior will request 2021-2022 as a supplemental year, they consult guidance provided by the [KHEAA](#), the [CPE](#) and the [Kentucky High School Athletic Association](#).

Supplemental Year Course Access

The Supplemental School Year Program was established for students to “retake or supplement courses or grades the student has already taken.” That is, courses taken during the supplemental year must be those the student previously was enrolled in or bear a reasonable connection to previous courses to be supplementary in nature. Students may not retake or supplement courses from any school year prior to the 2020-2021 school year. The Supplemental School Year Program also was not established for students to explore coursework they otherwise did not have the opportunity to take. Which courses satisfy a reasonable connection to previous courses and are supplementary in nature will be determined by the local district.

When considering course options for retaking or supplementing courses, a good metric for determining if something is supplemental in nature is to look at the course standards previously covered. Considerations should be made regarding what is reasonably connected to that previous course standards coverage. Ultimately, KDE will leave it to the local districts to determine which courses are supplemental in nature and which are not. Once the local board of education has determined to accept ALL student requests for a supplemental year, SB 128 provides that local school districts may establish policies on grades, schedules, classifications, graduation ceremonies and other operational issues in offering the supplemental school year.

Students cannot earn credit for the same required *Kentucky Academic Standards (KAS)* content more than once. They must earn the minimum required 22 credits for graduation pursuant to [704 KAR 3:305](#) and meet any local graduation requirements of their district. If the student failed the course during 2020-2021 school year, the student is eligible for credit due to the prior failure.

For example, a student is not permitted to take a required course for high school graduation (Algebra I, for example) twice, pass both times and earn 2 of the 4 required credits for the same course content. As another example, local schools or districts may decide to give elective credit for a high school math or English language arts (ELA) intervention course, which does cover previously covered KAS content, but they cannot give students an additional required math/ELA credit for intervention courses.



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Pursuant to [KRS 158.142](#) and [704 KAR 3:305](#), the only way for a student to graduate from high school in three academic years or less is through the KRS 158.142 early graduation program (outlined below). However, once a student exceeds three academic years in high school and completes all state and local minimum graduation requirements, the student shall be issued a diploma.

For example, if a high school junior during the 2020-2021 school year (who has completed three academic years of high school at the conclusion of the 2020-2021 year) utilizes the 2021-2022 year as an SB 128 supplemental year, the student should be enrolled in courses during 2021-2022 that he has previously taken during 2020-2021 or are so closely related to the content and standards of courses taken during 2020-2021 that they are supplementary in nature. If the student intends to pursue senior curriculum to graduate at the conclusion of the 2021-2022 year, the SB 128 supplemental year is not appropriate for the student. In any event, once the student successfully completes all minimum state and local graduation requirements, the student shall be issued a diploma by the local board of education, assuming the student has completed four academic years of high school, regardless of the student's classification during those four academic years.

Early Graduation Program

If students want to participate in the [Early Graduation Program](#) established in [KRS 158.142](#) and have 2021-2022 as a supplemental year, the student still would need to meet the requirements of the Early Graduation Program in order to earn the Early Graduation Certificate.

- Students must notify the school principal within the first 30 days of the school year in which they intend to graduate.
- Students must enter the Early Graduation pathway prior to Oct. 1 of the year in which they intend to graduate early.
- Students must graduate in three years or less. Students exceeding three years do not qualify for the incentives identified with Early Graduation. For students enrolled in high school during the 2020-2021 year, utilizing the 2021-2022 year as a supplemental year under SB 128 to re-take or supplement courses will make graduating in three years or less difficult, if not impossible.
- Students must take the state-administered college readiness exam and meet the college readiness exam benchmarks as set by the Council on Postsecondary Education in 13 KAR 2:020 for placement in credit-bearing courses without the need for remediation.
- Students must take and score proficient on all required end-of-course assessments (EOCs). To meet this requirement, the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) will provide EOCs for those students participating in the Early Graduation pathway during the 2021-2022 school year.



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Dual Credit Scholarships

The KHEAA has provided the following guidance regarding Kentucky's Dual Credit and Work Ready scholarship programs:

Dual Credit Scholarship

- The Dual Credit Scholarship program is statutorily limited to two successfully completed dual credit courses. Students in grades 11 or 12 for the 2021-2022 academic year, who have not yet graduated, will be able to use whatever Dual Credit Scholarship eligibility they have remaining at the end of the 2020-2021 year.
 - Students who have only used one Dual Credit Scholarship and achieved a passing grade in the scholarship course will be eligible for their one remaining Dual Credit Scholarship next year *if* they are still in high school and not graduated.
 - Students who have used two Dual Credit Scholarships and achieved passing grades in both scholarship courses have exhausted their eligibility; they will not have any Dual Credit Scholarships available next year.
 - Students who used Dual Credit Scholarship this year and did not successfully complete their course (failure or withdrawal) will be eligible for another scholarship next year *if* they are still in high school and not graduated.
- As a reminder, the Dual Credit Scholarship cannot be used for developmental courses, remedial courses or repeats of the same course.

Work Ready Dual Credit Scholarship

- Students in grades 9-12 who have not yet graduated are eligible to receive two Work Ready Dual Credit scholarships each year for dual credit coursework that is part of a career and technical education pathway. Although the original intent of the Work Ready Dual Credit program was for students to receive two free courses each year of high school for a total of eight, the program's statutory language does not specify eight courses as a limit. This means that students repeating a grade level next year would be eligible for two Work Ready Dual Credit scholarships, the same as students advancing to a higher grade level.
- The same rules apply to Work Ready Dual Credit as Dual Credit Scholarship regarding no funding for developmental, remedial or repeated coursework.

For more information, [email Becky Gilpatrick](#), KHEAA's director of student aid, [or Kiley Whitaker](#), KDE assistant director and dual credit contact.

Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarships (KEES)

- KEES is limited to one base award for grade point average (GPA) per grade level.
- Schools will need to recalculate the annual GPAs of students who repeat a grade next year, just as they would any other year a grade level is repeated. The GPA calculation should include all of the student's work for that particular grade level (even if over two



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academic years), unless the school/district is allowing a course to be repeated with the initial grade being replaced entirely.

- Schools should be aware there *is not* an automated process for recalculating KEES GPAs in this manner. All GPA recalculations will need to be performed manually by the schools and then reported to KHEAA via the KEES portal on the agency's website.
- For additional questions regarding KEES funds and graduated seniors who return for the supplemental year in 2021-2022, [email Becky Gilpatrick](#), KHEAA's director of student aid, or [Roxanne Lewis](#), KHEAA's KEES program coordinator.

Articulated Postsecondary Credit

At this time, it is the KDE's understanding that career and technical education (CTE) students who pass assessments and meet established criteria set forth in statewide and/or local articulation agreements during the supplemental year (regardless of graduate or underclassmen status) shall still be eligible for articulated postsecondary credit. Districts and schools are advised to discuss any utilized articulation agreements with the respective postsecondary institution(s) and to seek guidance on any impact that SB 128 may have on such agreements.

Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB) and Cambridge Coursework

Local school districts may allow students pursuing the supplemental year to retake advanced coursework (i.e., AP, IB and Cambridge courses) and corresponding exams. Local district policies would need to determine the fiscal impact of such decisions and which parties are responsible for payment. Pending availability of funds, the KDE will continue to provide financial assistance for supplemental year students for corresponding AP exam fees. Questions regarding AP, IB and Cambridge coursework and exams should be emailed to KDE Division Director [Micki Ray](#) or KDE Comprehensive School Counseling Coordinator [Damien Sweeney](#).

Industry Certifications and CTE End-of-Program Assessments

Eligible secondary students enrolled in the supplemental year may still pursue industry certifications, credentials and CTE end-of-program assessments. Pending availability of funding, financial assistance for industry certifications for free/reduced price lunch supplemental year students shall still be provided by KDE. More information will be forthcoming from KDE's Office of Career and Technical Education on these matters. For immediate questions regarding CTE certifications and assessments, email KDE Assistant Director [Kiley Whitaker](#).

Special Populations

Special Education

SB 128 (2021) specifies that **any student** enrolled in a Kentucky public school in grades kindergarten through 12 during the 2020-2021 school year may request to use the 2021-2022



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year as a supplemental school year to retake or supplement the courses or grades the student already has taken. This applies to what are known as “grade 14” students, with grade 14 being a term used to reference students enrolled in an ungraded grade. These are students who are participating in the alternate assessment program and already have engaged in grade 12 assessments.

This supplemental year applies only to school year 2021-2022. It does not extend the provision of a free, appropriate public education (FAPE) beyond age 21 (the student’s 21st birthday through the day before the student’s 22nd birthday). Therefore, if a younger student utilizes the supplemental year, the student is not guaranteed an extra year, beyond age 21. It also is important to note that students who will be age 21 or older upon return for the supplemental year are not entitled to a FAPE under the Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This means that the district would not be able to use IDEA funds for the associated costs of the extra year. However, ESSER funds may be used at the discretion of the district.

Compensatory education requires a local district to provide a student with appropriate educational services to compensate for the failure or inability to provide the student with a FAPE. The purpose of compensatory education is to place the student in the position the student would have been in if appropriate services had been provided. Students with disabilities also are entitled to the additional services described in their individual education programs (IEPs). It would be inappropriate to use a recovery program offered to all students to fulfill the duty to provide compensatory education. Retaking a year is completely voluntary and cannot be a substitute for the provision of compensatory education.

Homeless and Foster Care Youth

Homeless and foster care youth have a right to attend their “school of origin,” or the school the student attended when they were permanently housed or the school in which the child was last enrolled. Subtitle VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act requires districts to allow homeless youth to remain in their school of origin and continue attending their school of origin the entire time they are homeless and until the end of any academic year in which they become permanently housed. If a student becomes homeless over the summer, the district must allow them to attend their school of origin for the following school year. When considering whether to create a Supplemental School Year Program, districts should consider the impact of the program on these school of origin provisions and create a plan to facilitate the continued education of homeless and foster care youth.

English Learners



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Title VI of the U.S. Civil Rights Act requires that, to the extent practical, districts communicate information about opportunities and changes to school policies to families in their home language. When considering whether to create a Supplemental School Year Program, districts should consider their capacity to fully communicate the requirements and application procedures to English learners and their families.

Additionally, districts should consider the impact of the Supplemental School Year Program on the English Learner Program Service Plan (PSP). PSP committees will need to meet to discuss and update the individual PSP for students who choose to participate in the Supplemental School Year Program.

Gifted and Talented

Students who elect to participate in the Supplemental School Year Program and previously were identified as “exceptional students” per [KRS 157.200\(1\)\(n\)](#) must continue to have access to the established gifted and talented program.

[KRS 157.200\(1\)\(n\)](#) includes within the definition of “exceptional children” a category of “exceptional students” who are identified as possessing demonstrated or potential ability to perform at an exceptionally high level in general intellectual aptitude, specific academic aptitude, creative or divergent thinking, psychosocial or leadership skills, or in the visual or performing arts. [KRS 157.230](#) requires all school districts to operate programs for resident exceptional children, primary-grade 12. [704 KAR 3:285](#) establishes the requirements for programs for gifted and talented students.

Preschool

SB 128 does not apply to preschool.

SBDM Councils

When considering the creation of a Supplemental School Year Program, districts should consider the impact of the program on the staffing allocation and Section 6 funds distributed and overseen by school-based decision making (SBDM) councils. Pursuant to [702 KAR 3:246](#), final staffing allocations are due to SBDM councils by May 1. In contrast, school districts are not required to make a final determination regarding the implementation of a Supplemental School Year Program until June 1. Staffing allocations are used to determine projected full-time equivalence (FTE). Students who choose to participate in Supplemental School Year Program would impact the amount of Section 6 funding awarded to SBDM councils. Districts should consider and communicate a plan to provide updated staffing allocations to councils once school begins, and by Sept. 15 if there is an increase (or decrease) in enrollment.

Districts are likely to know the accuracy of the projected FTE well before the start of the school year. Districts should consider setting aside other funding sources to supplement the Section 6



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funds in schools where the projected FTE will require additional staff. Schools should be given access to additional staffing funds over the summer to ensure appropriate staffing is in place at the start of the school year.

Additionally, the policies of individual SBDM councils may be impacted by the creation of a Supplemental School Year Program. Policies that govern issues such as class sizes, teacher time and workload, and scheduling and space allocation may be impacted. Districts should solicit feedback from SBDM councils regarding the impact of the Supplemental School Year Program before a district-level decision is made.

Alternative Programs

When considering whether to offer a Supplemental School Year Program, districts should consider the impact of transient students who seek a supplemental school year and interact with alternative programs. As each district has been given the autonomy to determine if it will accept supplemental school year requests, districts should give forethought to how they will direct alternative program students who may move between schools or districts during the school year.

Additionally, districts should consider the impact of the supplemental school year on students enrolled in alternative programs. One key consideration is whether students have been placed in the alternative setting voluntarily or involuntarily. Districts may need to review and amend alternative program policies mandated by [704 KAR 19:002](#) to create procedures for routing supplemental students into or out of alternative programs through voluntary or involuntary means.

Finally, districts should consider the impact of a supplemental school year on the Individual Learning Plan Addendum (ILPA). If a student placed in an alternative setting seeks a supplemental school year, the ILPA must be amended to reflect the impact of the supplemental school year.

Federal Program Eligibility

When considering the impact of the supplemental school year on local budgets, districts should consider whether students will generate funds for federal programs. Some students, due to age, may not be able to be counted for eligibility for some federal programs. Some specific instances are itemized below:

- **Title I Part A** – In part, allocations are based on census estimates of students ages 5-17. Census estimates will not include students over age 17.
- **Title I Part C** – Kentucky allows students through the age of 21 to receive a free appropriate public education. If any qualifying students were enrolled in the Supplemental School Year Program, the student's eligibility for services under this program will end on their 22nd birthday.



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- **Title I Part D** – Once an eligible Title I, Part D student turns 18, the student cannot be counted in the annual child count survey. The annual child count survey is used to generate funds for this program. Districts should consider the impact of returning 18-year-old students on their Title I, Part D allocation.
- **IDEA** – If the supplemental year allows for a student to continue their education beyond age 21 and considers that student to be in a secondary educational program, then that student would be included in the calculations used by the IDEA to determine allocations to local districts. However, IDEA funds would not be allowed to be expended on students who are older than 21.

There may be further unknown impacts to federal program allocations based on the Supplemental School Year Program. This document will be updated as KDE learns of new program restrictions or impacts.

Carl D. Perkins Accountability and Funding

Please be advised that, at this time, there is no known impact on the federal Carl D. Perkins funding and accountability presented by the provisions of SB 128. Districts and schools may spend these funds on career and technical education (CTE) students who return for the supplemental year and these students may be included in all federal reporting and accountability. More guidance and information will be forthcoming from KDE's Office of Career and Technical Education on this matter.

Equitable Services to Non-Public Schools

The amount of dollars generated for equitable services is determined by Title I, Part A allocations, and are based, in part, on the estimated count of students ages 5-17 within districts' boundaries. Students older than age 18 who return for a supplemental school year would not be included in the allocation formula. Non-public schools who accept supplemental school year students may see a decreased per-pupil allocation due to this restriction.

Points of Contact

- **Timeline and Process:** [Meredith Brewer](#)
- **Assessment and Accountability:** [Jennifer Stafford](#)
- **Funding:** [Matt Ross](#)
- **Teaching and Learning:** [Micki Ray](#)
- **Career and Technical Education, Early Postsecondary Opportunities (accelerated coursework, dual credit, articulated credit, etc.):** [Leslie Slaughter](#)
- **Special Education, Gifted and Talented:** [Thomas Williams](#) or [Tracy Goff Herman](#)
- **SBDM, Alternative Programs, Federal Program Eligibility:** [Matthew Courtney](#)