

**MEETING MINUTES ARE DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED AT
MARCH 2024 MEETING**



**KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (KDE)
SCHOOL CURRICULUM, ASSESSMENT AND
ACCOUNTABILITY COUNCIL (SCAAC)
MEETING SUMMARY
NOV. 21, 2023**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Artavia Acklin, Deborah Atherton, Renee Boss, Chuck Fletcher, Jana Beth Francis, Lisa Kear, Brenda McGown, Henry Webb

MEMBERS ABSENT: Heather Aldrich, Houston Barber, Martha Emmons, Leslie Jeffries, Kristin Putnam, Jason Reeves, Allison Tamme, Jenny Urie

SUMMARY: The Nov. 21, 2023, virtual School Curriculum, Assessment and Accountability Council (SCAAC) meeting was called to order at 9 a.m. by Chairperson Jana Beth Francis. Members and guests were welcomed, roll call was taken and Melissa Chandler informed the council of public meeting protocol.

A quorum of members was not reached. The open meeting was recorded and made available for viewing on the [KDE Media Portal](#).

All materials were made available in [SCAAC Members Google Folder](#).

Agenda Item: Approval of July 2023 and September 2023 Meeting Minutes

Presenter: Jana Beth Francis, Chair, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, Daviess County Public Schools

Summary of Discussion: A quorum was not present. Approval of the July 18, 2023, and Sept. 19, 2023, meeting minutes will be added to the March 19, 2024, meeting agenda.

Agenda Item: Greetings

Presenters: Robin Kinney, Interim Commissioner, Office of the Commissioner, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: Kinney welcomed the council members and thanked them for their commitment to SCAAC. She discussed the importance of the work the council is tasked with for

the future of education in Kentucky. Kinney gave a brief summary of her professional background and goals for her time as the Interim Commissioner.

Agenda Item: Proposed Amendments to 704 KAR 3:095 (Use of a Multitiered System of Supports for K-12)

Presenter: Micki Ray, Chief Academic Officer, Office of Teaching and Learning, Kentucky Department of Education; Sarah Peace, Policy Advisor, Office of Teaching and Learning, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: Ray provided a context for proposed amendments to 704 KAR 3:095. Senate Bill 9 (2022), the Read to Succeed Act, amended KRS 158.305 to require the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) to promulgate administrative regulations to further define a multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS). A response to intervention for students in kindergarten through 3rd grade is already established in 704 KAR 3:095, but the changes KDE plans to propose to KBE would broaden the regulation to cover kindergarten through 12th grade with the implementation of Kentucky's Multi-Tiered System of Supports (KyMTSS).

Proposed changes also include a mechanism to monitor and report progress through individual student reports shared with the family of each student that summarize the student's academic skills, behavior and any intervention plans and services being delivered.

In addition, the new regulation would also require districts to submit evidence demonstrating districtwide implementation of MTSS by Oct. 1 of each year.

Feedback: Chair Francis inquired about the number of districts already implementing MTSS and if the proposed amendments will require much additional work for districts. Ray explained that MTSS is something that most districts are already implementing using universal screening and diagnostic assessment to best determine individualized instruction for students. These amendments will simply formalize the process that is already occurring across districts.

Guest, Penny Christian commended the Fayette County MTSS work. She inquired about whether MTSS decisions are made at the school or district level. Ray explained that decisions should be made collaboratively and the regulation only establishes minimum requirements. Francis noted that with the approved amendments, there will likely be more oversight and guidance from KDE about district wide MTSS implementation. She suggested that the District Improvement Plan would be a logical way for districts to document evidence of implementation.

Agenda Item: *Read to Succeed Act* and Implementation of High-Quality Instructional Resources (HQIRs)

Presenter: Christie Biggerstaff, Director, Office of Teaching and Learning, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: Biggerstaff reviewed the *Read to Succeed Act*. The goal of the *Read to Succeed Act* is to support evidence-based early literacy instruction throughout the Commonwealth by investing in teachers to increase student reading success. Requirements include an approved KDE screener and diagnostic assessment along with a Reading Improvement Plan for any student identified as not meeting proficiency in reading. A component of the Reading Improvement Plan includes a Read at Home Family Plan.

Biggerstaff shared the recent amendments to KRS 158.305 related to the adoption and implementation of high-quality instructional resources (HQIRs) for K-3 reading, stating that by July 1, 2024, “each superintendent *shall* adopt a comprehensive reading program...” KDE has developed the Reading and Writing Instructional Resources Consumer Guide to assist districts in evaluation and selection of a tier 1 comprehensive reading program.

Feedback: Member Fletcher inquired about how the implementation of the Read at Home Family Plan is measured, especially with some parents and guardians who may be non-readers. Biggerstaff shared that the Read at Home Family Plan is not something that can be measured but is instead a guide for districts to be able to work with families in support of students.

Member McGown asked for clarification on why the regulation language specifies that “superintendents shall adopt” rather than “school districts shall adopt.” Ray explained that within KRS160.345 there was a language shift to require superintendents to oversee curriculum and instruction across the district, however the goal is still for continued collaboration and communication between the school councils, local board and superintendent.

Christian commented that often adult non-reading parents and guardians will not seek assistance, therefore schools may not be able to properly identify families needing additional support. Christian questioned if the Read at Home Family Plan is available in languages other than English and Spanish. Biggerstaff shared that currently reports are not available in additional languages and that district English learner (EL) departments are making reports accessible with various translation apps.

Fletcher encouraged schools and districts to plan acknowledgments, incentives and rewards for students and families who meet milestones on the Reading Improvement Plan.

Agenda Item: Kentucky United We Learn Convening

Presenter: Karen Dodd, Chief Performance Officer, Office of the Commissioner, Kentucky Department of Education; Penny Christian, Vice Chair, Kentucky United We Learn Council

Summary of Discussion: Dodd provided an update on the Kentucky United We Learn Council which kicked off its second year at the Nov. 2-3 convening. The council is comprised of 55 members led by Chair Audrey Gilbert and Vice-Chair Penny Christian. Three standing committees, Vibrant Learning Experiences, Accelerating Innovation and Bold New Future, have been established and meet monthly.

Christian provided a summary of the work that took place in the November Kentucky United We Learn convening including a journey mapping activity, committee work and a one-year celebration. Christian shared the “moonshot” vision of the work of the council, which was drafted by the members during the convening. The next full council convening will take place in April 2024.

Feedback: Member Boss inquired about the vision of the Accelerating Innovation Standing Committee’s (AISC) proposed accountability model and if the Portrait of a Learner (PoL) is being considered as a potential accountability component. Stafford shared that Accelerating Innovation Standing Committee is still in the idea development phase for a local accountability model. Member Webb shared a caution for making the PoL a requirement and encouraged the committees to allow autonomy for local accountability.

Agenda Item: Assessment and Accountability Updates

Presenter: Jennifer Stafford, Director, Office of Assessment and Accountability, Kentucky Department of Education; Helen Jones, Program Manager, Office of Assessment and Accountability, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: Stafford reviewed the highlights, including terminology, associated with the full implementation of Kentucky’s Accountability System along an overview of how the current system meets both state and federal requirements. Stafford shared how Indicator Performance Ratings and Overall Performance Rating are determined and displayed.

Jones explained the modifications that were made to the School Report Card (SRC) as a result of the incorporation of Change with Status.

Feedback: Webb praised the communications released by the Office of Assessment and Accountability (OAA) and encouraged a continued focus on the communication of Indicator Performance Ratings as compared to Overall Performance Rating.

Francis elaborated on Webb’s comments and added that she would support a 2024 analysis by KDE of schools that kept the same status, went up or down. She acknowledged the efforts of the Kentucky United We Learn Council to innovate assessment but encouraged consistency in the current assessment and accountability system for the next several years.

Fletcher raised a concern about the Alternate Assessment program not being included as part of the graduation rate. Webb shared that with his district’s local accountability model “true graduation rate” is honored to ensure that students participating in the Alternate Assessment Program are included. Stafford shared that KDE has raised similar concerns to no avail as the federal requirements are limiting.

Agenda Item: New SCAAC Member Updates

Presenter: Jana Beth Francis, Chair, School Curriculum, Assessment and Accountability Council

Summary of Discussion: Francis shared that the next SCAAC meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2024. Although several members had terms that expired in October, Francis is requesting that all members consider attending the March meeting as new appointments are still being finalized. Francis and the OAA staff are currently working with the governor’s office to renew memberships and fill vacancies.

A quorum was not reached. A motion to adjourn could not be made. The next SCAAC meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2024.