



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Superintendents Advisory Council (SAC)
SUMMARY
FEBRUARY 21, 2024

ATTENDANCE: Carrie Ballinger, Doug Bechanan, Thom Cochran, Robbie Fletcher, Michael Ford, David Gilliam, Barry Lee, Matthew Madding, Charles Morton, Robert Tuck, Leonard Whalen, Chad Molley, Shari Satterly, Seth Southard, Robin Cochran, Bob Lawson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Buddy Berry, Joe Buerkley, Damian Johnson, Misty Middleton, Marty Pollio, Patrick Richardson, Tim Spencer

Agenda Item: Breakdown of Proposed Budget as it Pertains to Education

Presenters: Brian Perry, Director of Government Relations, Office of the Commissioner; Karen Wirth, Division Director, Division of Budgets and Financial Management, Office of Finance and Operations; Matt Ross, Associate Commissioner, Office of Finance and Operations

Summary of Discussion: Ross broke down what the current legislative budget proposals meant for the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) and school districts.

House Bill (HB) 6, filed by Republican legislative leaders, represents the current working draft of the budget and includes increases to per pupil funding and transportation in the Support Education Excellence in Kentucky (SEEK) formula. Funding for full-day kindergarten is also included. KDE made several additional budget requests representing the priorities of the Kentucky Board of Education to lawmakers, and while some of them – like money for assessments, content standards and educators’ employment liability insurance – were met, others were not included in the current budget proposal.

Perry spoke to the council about the ongoing legislative session. Perry also detailed several pieces of legislation superintendents need to be aware of, including Senate Bill 8, which would make positions on the Kentucky Board of Education subject to local partisan elections rather than gubernatorial appointment. Other bills making their way through the general assembly deal with transportation, numeracy, artificial intelligence and disciplinary matters, among many other subjects.

Agenda Item: Overview of State versus Local Funding in the Support Education Excellence in Kentucky (SEEK) Formula

Presenters: Chay Ritter, Division Director, Division of District Support, Office of Finance and Operations; Krystal Smith, Administrative Branch Manager, Office of Finance and Operations

Summary of Discussion: The SEEK program is a formula-driven allocation of state-provided funds to local school districts for costs, including transportation and help for low-income and special needs students. Ritter said funding typically fluctuates because of changing property assessment and student population data each year. Calculations for the SEEK funding formula also factor in average daily attendance. Attendance data used to calculate SEEK funding had been frozen during the COVID-19 pandemic, but that is no longer the case for this school year and moving forward.

In recent years, lawmakers have discussed potentially reforming the SEEK funding model. House Concurrent Resolution 60 this year would establish the Support Education Excellence in Kentucky (SEEK) Task Force, which would study the various components of the SEEK funding formula and submit any findings and recommendations by Dec. 1.

Next Meeting:

May 15, 2024

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