

BUDGET REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the 2024 Interim

July 17, 2024

Call to Order and Roll Call

The second meeting of the Budget Review Subcommittee on Education was held on July 17, 2024, at 10:30 AM in Room 154 of the Capitol Annex. Senator Matthew Deneen, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Senator Matthew Deneen Co-Chair; Representatives Kim Banta Co-Chair; Bobby McCool Co-Chair; Senators Gerald A. Neal, and Stephen West; Representatives James Tipton, Shane Baker, Tina Bojanowski, Derrick Graham, Scott Lewis, and Killian Timoney.

Guests: Chay Ritter, Director, Division of District Support, Kentucky Department of Education; Rowan Claypool, Founder and Chief Executive Officer; Max Morley, Recruitment Coordinator and AmeriCorps Program Manager; Michael B. Gritton, Executive Director, KentuckianaWorks; Myra Wilson, Director, Cumberland Workforce Board.

LRC Staff: Liz Columbia, Mariah Derringer-Lackey, David Talley, and Amie Elam.

The minutes from June 5, 2024 were approved by voice vote.

Kentucky Department of Education

Chay Ritter, Director, Division of District Support, Kentucky Department of Education discussed the Tier I component of the Support Education Excellence in Kentucky (SEEK) formula. He mentioned the increased threshold of funding provided in the 2024 Regular Session and the impact it would have on local school districts.

In response to a question from Representative Bojanowski, Mr. Ritter explained that as part of the SEEK cycle, at the beginning of the fiscal year, an estimated property assessment is used for each district. Then, on July 25th, when actual property assessments are released by the Department of Revenue, adjustments are made to per pupil funding.

In response to a question from Representative Timoney, Mr. Ritter stated that anomalies in the SEEK formula need to be addressed, but the question is how to remedy the outliers without rewriting the formula that works for the majority of districts.

In response to a question from Senator West, Mr. Ritter agreed to provide the committee

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with estimates on what the result of raising the percentage of Tier I funding would be.

Teach Kentucky

Teach Kentucky representatives provided a brief overview of the organization, covering its programs, funding, and participation rates.

In response to a question from Chair Deneen, Mr. Claypool stated that Teach Kentucky has a retention rate comparable to that of the Jefferson County Public Schools System.

In response to a question from Representative Graham, Mr. Morley explained that Teach Kentucky provides assistance with applications, the hiring process, and onboarding but is not involved in the placement of teachers.

In response to a question from Representative Tipton, Mr. Claypool pointed out that Teach Kentucky stands out as a program that receives civic sponsorship, distinguishing it from national organizations that aim to attract teachers from across the country. The program's particular focus is on bringing teachers to Louisville. Mr. Morley added that the current GPA requirements pose a problem in recruiting some talent that may have struggled in their last semester of college.

KentuckianaWorks

Representatives gave a brief overview of KentuckianaWorks. The presentation included services offered, success rates, and the plan for implementing funding that was received in 2024 Regular Session House Bill 1.

In response to a question from Representative Bojanowski, Mr. Gritton provided examples of the industries for which high school graduates and young adults might receive credentials and training, such as manufacturing and healthcare. He also mentioned that many employers are hiring employees with entry-level credentials and then intentionally helping them progress into higher-level, better-paying jobs.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the subcommittee, the meeting adjourned at 11:34 a.m.