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MEMORANDUM

TO: Education Assessment and Accountability Review Subcommittee  
FROM: Sen. Stephen West and Rep. Scott Lewis, Co-Chairs  
DATE: October 15, 2024

SUBJECT: OEA 2025 Study Agenda

Pursuant to KRS 7.410, the Education Assessment and Accountability Review Subcommittee (EAARS) shall adopt an annual research agenda for the Office of Education Accountability (OEA). The annual agenda may include studies, research, and investigations considered to be significant by the EAARS. In addition to the two studies below, OEA shall prepare the annual District Data Profiles, a one-stop source of comprehensive district-level education data, including comparative data for all districts.

2025 Proposed Study Topics

**Analysis Of Student Discipline Data in Kentucky Schools**

Following the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent school closures, district leaders and teachers in Kentucky have reported an uptick in student behavioral issues. In response, the General Assembly passed HB 538 during the 2023 regular session, which introduced several modifications to student discipline laws. These changes specifically address threats made by students toward staff and peers, outline disciplinary measures for assaults occurring off school property, permit the placement of expelled students in alternative education settings, empower teachers to remove disruptive students from their classrooms, and tackle issues related to chronically disruptive behavior.

This report will analyze trends in student disciplinary behaviors across Kentucky public schools and districts. It will highlight common behavioral incidents based on program eligibility,

race/ethnicity, grade level, type of incident, location, and the numbers and percentages of affected students. It will also look for relationships between discipline data as reported by schools and related issues, such as student behavior and school safety, as reported by Kentucky teachers and students on survey data.

### **Early Childhood Regional Training Centers (RTCs)**

[KRS 157.318](#) establishes a network of regional training centers for preschool services for special education students. OEA should examine:

- Funding – federal special education funding and state appropriations/agency allocations;
- Student populations served (special education and any other students served and how non-special education students are funded); and
- Review of federal program requirements ([20 U.S. Code § 1419](#)) with state enacted policy.