

EDUCATION ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE

Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of the 2026 Interim

September 2, 2026

Call to Order and Roll Call

The third meeting of the Education Assessment and Accountability Review Subcommittee was held on September 2, 2026, at 9:00 AM ET/8:00 AM CT in Room 149 of the Capitol Annex. Representative Timmy Truett, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Representative Timmy Truett, Co-Chair; Senator Matthew Deneen, Co-Chair; Representatives Tina Bojanowski, and Steve Riley.

Guests: Dr. Robbie Fletcher, Commissioner, Kentucky Department of Education (KDE); Dr. Jennifer Stafford, Associate Commissioner, Office of Assessment and Accountability, KDE; Matt Ross, Associate Commissioner, Office of Finance and Operations, KDE; Chay Ritter, Division Director, Office of Finance and Operations, KDE; and Dr. Matthew Courtney, Policy Advisor, Office of Continuous Improvement and Support, KDE.

LRC Staff: Yvette Perry, Lauren Busch, Joshua Collins, Emily Wiley, and Jay Harris.

Proposed Amendments to Kentucky's Accountability System

Dr. Robbie Fletcher, Commissioner, KDE and Dr. Jennifer Stafford, Associate Commissioner, Office of Assessment and Accountability, KDE, presented proposed amendments to Kentucky's accountability system.

Responding to Representative Bojanowski, Dr. Stafford stated the ranges to measure student growth are not set because KDE is still modeling the proposed accountability system.

Responding to Chair Truett, Dr. Stafford stated distinguished scores have not been subdivided in previous years.

Responding to Chair Truett, Dr. Fletcher stated that educational enhancement opportunities are not counted as absences for student attendance.

Responding to Representative Bojanowski, Dr. Fletcher stated that students who are regularly tardy to school in the morning would not be considered chronically absent due to being at school longer than half a day.

Responding to Chair Truett, Dr. Fletcher stated that growth is only measured in reading and math, making them 61% of the weight in elementary and middle school. There are no growth scores for social studies and science.

Responding to Chair Truett, Dr. Fletcher stated that performance and growth are listed as separate scores.

Chair Truett recommended increasing the weight of the reading and math score even if the growth score is lowered.

Chair Truett commended KDE's efforts to support 2026 RS HB 562.

Responding to Co-Chair Deneen, Dr. Stafford stated each academic indicator score is configured by school.

Responding to Representative Bojanowski, Dr. Stafford stated the language in 703 KAR 5:270 is the exact language from the Every Student Succeeds Act (2015).

Responding to Representative Bojanowski, Dr. Stafford stated that 703 KAR 5:270 will go through usual legislative review as part of the administrative regulation process.

Agency Response to Office of Education Accountability Recommendations

Matt Ross, Associate Commissioner, Office of Finance and Operations, KDE, and Chay Ritter, Division Director, Office of Finance and Operations, KDE, presented on specific Office of Education Accountability recommendations made in 2021 and 2023.

Responding to Chair Truett, Mr. Ritter stated that data is being recorded within school districts' MUNIS accounting software.

Chair Truett suggested providing school district spending data that is comparable across districts.

Comprehensive Support and Improvement and Targeted Support and Improvement Update

Dr. Matthew Courtney, Policy Advisor, Office of Continuous Improvement and Support, KDE, presented updates on Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) and Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) status schools.

Responding to Co-Chair Deneen, Dr. Courtney stated there is a challenge for repeatedly low-performing schools from year to year because the accountability system has changed frequently. Dr. Fletcher stated that KDE does not have power to remove principals but can make recommendations to superintendents.

Responding to Co-Chair Deneen, Dr. Courtney stated that KDE has more authority due to recent legislation.

Responding to Co-Chair Deneen, Dr. Fletcher stated principals in identified schools receive intensive support and should improve.

Responding to Representative Bojanowski, Dr. Courtney said school improvement funds are sent to the district for a specific school, and the plans are worked on collaboratively with KDE.

Responding to Co-Chair Deneen, Dr. Courtney stated KDE has good relationships with schools, teacher unions, and stakeholders.

Responding to Chair Truett, Dr. Fletcher stated that KDE serves more as a support for identified schools and districts, but will be a state manager if needed.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned.