

2025 OEA Annual Report

Summary of investigative activity
Summary of research reports and activity

Presentation to the Education Assessment And Accountability Review Subcommittee
By the Office of Education Accountability

July 1, 2026

Office of Education Accountability Investigations And Research Staff

- Investigations
 - Division manager
 - Four investigators
- Research
 - Division manager
 - Four research analysts
 - Graduate fellow

OEA Process For Investigating Complaints

- Preliminary review of submitted complaints
 - Mail, email, fax, online complaint form
 - Staff field many phone calls, but complaints must be written
- Evaluation of whether claims warrant opening a case
 - In some cases, referral to another agency
- Open case assigned to two investigators
 - Conduct onsite interviews; gather additional information as necessary
- Preliminary investigative report issued
 - 2-week review period
- Final investigative report issued

Complaints Received And Investigations Opened, 2025

OEA received 660 written complaints in 2025 (324 were anonymous); of those, it opened 36 investigations.

2025 Investigations

	Opened	Closed	Pending
Investigative	31	24	29
School-based Decision Making (SBDM)	5	3	6
Total	36	27	35

Commonly Received Complaints And Opened Investigations

- Board member eligibility, nepotism, conflict of interest, influence on employment
- Financial improprieties including accounting procedures for outside activity funds
- Improperly certified teachers
- Improper political activity
- Release of confidential student or employee information
- SBDM issues including elections, hiring, and budget
- Improper use of district property for personal benefit

OEA Research Functions

- Conduct studies requested on EAARS-approved OEA Study Agenda
 - Attention to data quality and integrity in all reports
- Fulfill short legislative data requests
 - 13 in 2025
- Generally monitor education meetings and reports
 - State audit committee
 - Kentucky Technical Advisory Committee

2025 Research Agenda

- Kentucky District Data Profiles, 2024
- Early Childhood Regional Training Centers (RTCs)
Recommendations included:
 - KDE review budgets and expenditures for consistency with contractual guidelines, including indirect costs
 - KDE evaluation of effectiveness and efficiency of current RTC model versus other models of support and report to EAARS and IJCE
- Analysis Of Student Discipline Data In Kentucky Schools
Recommendations included:
 - KDE solicit educators' views about any discipline-related challenges for students with disabilities with persistent or severe behaviors; submit report to EAARS and IJCE
 - KDE develop guidance and training about options under federal law
 - KDE and KCSS develop guidance for alternative settings, with attention to elementary schools

2026 Research Agenda

- Kentucky District Data Profiles, 2025
- Kentucky Districts' Implementation Of Statutory Provisions For Early Literacy Grades K-3
- Facilities Funding In Kentucky Public Schools