

# HOUSE BUDGET REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE ON PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

## Minutes of the 4th Meeting of the 2023 Regular Session

March 7, 2023

### Call to Order and Roll Call

The 4th meeting of the House Budget Review Subcommittee on Primary and Secondary Education and Workforce Development was held on March 7, 2023, at 12:00 PM in Room 171 of the Capitol Annex. Representative Kim Banta, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

### Present were:

Members: Representative Kim Banta, Chair; Representative James Tipton, Representative Tina Bojanowski, Representative Scott Lewis, Representative Josie Raymond, and Representative Steve Riley.

Guests: Micki Ray, Chief Academic Officer, Office of Teaching and Learning, Kentucky Department of Education; Christie Biggerstaff, Director of Early Literacy, Office of Teaching and Learning, Kentucky Department of Education.

LRC Staff: Liz Columbia, Seth Dawson, and Amie Elam.

### Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the February 28, 2023 meeting were approved.

### Literacy and Math Programs Overview

Ms. Ray and Ms. Biggerstaff provided a presentation regarding math and literacy programs utilized by the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE).

In response to questions from Representative Tipton, Ms. Ray noted that the objective of

AdvanceKentucky is to expose more students to rigorous Math, Science, and English courses. Ms. Ray stated that two regional educational cooperatives have been approved to start an early literacy program that teachers can use to study the foundations of early literacy. The Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) program is approved by the International Dyslexia Association. Ms. Biggerstaff confirmed that universal screeners assess challenges that students may have including indicators that show which students may be at risk for dyslexia.

In response to a question from Representative Bojanowski, Ms. Ray noted that the KDE is attempting to market the LETRS program by utilizing social media testimonials as well as the Commissioner's Monday Message, which is sent to district level school staff. The KDE is working to communicate with all educators to inform them of the professional learning opportunities that the department offers.

In response to a question from Chair Banta, Ms. Ray confirmed that LETRS is an important foundational step for early childhood literacy, but not a cure all. KDE utilizes EdReports, which is an impartial organization that works with educators and researchers to evaluate the effectiveness of educational resources.

In response to a question from Representative Lewis, Ms. Ray noted that Read to Achieve data would not be available until next year.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the subcommittee, the meeting adjourned at

12:53