

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

Minutes of the 1st Meeting of the 2026 Regular Session

January 13, 2026

Call to Order and Roll Call

The 1st meeting of the House Budget Review Subcommittee on Primary and Secondary Education and Workforce Development was held on January 13, 2026, at 10:00 AM in Room 154 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; Representatives Scott Lewis, Tina Bojanowski, and Mike Clines.

Guests: David Couch, Chief Information Officer/Associate Commissioner, Office of Education Technology, Kentucky Department of Education (KDE); Marty Park, Chief Digital Officer, Office of Education Technology, KDE; Dr. Lauren Graves, Executive Advisor, Office of Career and Technical Education, KDE; Dr. Beth Hargis, Associate Commissioner, Office of Career and Technical Education, KDE; Colonel (Ret.) Tim McDonald, Director of Army Instruction, Office of Career and Technical Education, KDE; and Tom Thompson, Division Director, Office of Career and Technical Education, KDE.

LRC Staff: Liz Columbia, Mariah Derringer-Lackey, David Talley, and Benjamin Thompson.

Kentucky Education Technology (KETS) Increased Funding Request

David Couch, Chief Information Officer/Associate Commissioner, Office of Education Technology, KDE; and Marty Park, Chief Digital Officer, Office of Education Technology, KDE provided information on the need for an additional funding request for the KETS.

In response to Representative Bojanowski, Mr. Couch noted that the current KETS appropriation is \$15.4 million per fiscal year.

Area Technology Center Step and Rank (General Compensation Review for State-Operated Career and Technical Education Staff)

Dr. Lauren Graves, Executive Advisor, Office of Career and Technical Education, KDE; and Dr. Beth Hargis, Associate Commissioner, Office of Career and Technical Education, KDE presented on Career and Technical Education (CTE) compensation and the KDE's additional

budget request for an increase in the salary schedule for CTE staff.

Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) Pilot Program Overview

Colonel (Ret.) Tim McDonald, Director of Army Instruction, Office of Career and Technical Education, KDE; and Tom Thompson, Division Director, Office of Career and Technical Education, KDE provided an overview of Kentucky's statewide JROTC program.

In response to Chair Banta, Mr. Thompson noted that any decrease in funding would necessitate a decrease in staffing.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the subcommittee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 AM.