

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TASK FORCE 2025

Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the 2025 Interim

July 15, 2025

Call to Order and Roll Call

The second meeting of the Artificial Intelligence Task Force 2025 was held on July 15, 2025, at 3:00 PM in Room 171 of the Capitol Annex. Representative Josh Bray, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Representative Josh Bray, Co-Chair; Senator Amanda Mays Bledsoe, Co-Chair; Senators Michael J. Nemes, Steve Rawlings, Reginald L. Thomas, and Gex Williams; and Representatives Tina Bojanowski, Derek Lewis, Suzanne Miles, and J.T. Payne.

Guests: Jeff Gagne, Policy Director, Southern Regional Education Board; Travis Powell, Executive Vice President, Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE); Leslie Sizemore, Vice President for Workforce and Economic Development, CPE; David Couch, Associate Commissioner and CIO, Office of Education Technology, Kentucky Department of Education (KDE); and Marty Park, Chief Digital Officer, Office of Education Technology, KDE.

LRC Staff: Janine Coy, Christian Deeter, Christina Gordley, and Nathan Carter.

Approval of June 26, 2025 Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from June 26, 2025, meeting was made by Representative Lewis, seconded by Senator Rawlings, and approved by voice vote.

Commission on AI in Education: An Overview of the Work to Date

Jeff Gagne, Policy Director, Southern Regional Education Board (SREB), provided an overview of SREB's Commission on Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Education. The commission's charge is to evaluate research, industry data, and expert advice on how to adopt and integrate AI across the region and lead the nation. The commission is in the process of developing recommendations for the use of AI in K-12 and postsecondary education, promoting AI literacy among students, educators, and the workforce, and developing skills and pathways for education to workforce. SREB has published two reports: Skills for an AI-Ready Workforce and Guidance for Use of AI in K-12. SREB has identified three skills for an AI ready workforce: success skills, industry baseline skills, and technical skills.

Representative Bojanowski stated Jefferson County Public Schools' professional

Committee meeting materials may be accessed online at <https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/CommitteeDocuments/393>

development webpage has an introduction to using AI for educators.

Chair Bray mentioned SREB has AI resources available for Kentucky educators.

Kentucky's Postsecondary Institutions AI Initiatives

Travis Powell, Executive Vice President, Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE), testified about postsecondary institutions initiatives on AI. All institutions surveyed reported AI-focused degrees or minors with AI-integrated courses. Examples include Eastern Kentucky University's BS and MS in computer science with AI concentration, Murray State University's BS in computer science with an AI track, Northern Kentucky University's BS in computer science with AI concentration, and other AI majors and minors at the University of Kentucky (UK), University of Louisville, and Western Kentucky University. AI concepts are integrated into general education and across disciplines. Many institutions are pursuing interdisciplinary and grant-funded AI research and using external partnerships for AI projects. These institutions are using AI tools to support campus activities of advising, admissions, assessment, and other student services. Guidance on ethical AI use and training is being developed. CPE is leveraging the Kentucky Regional Optical Network (KyRON) in conjunction with the Commonwealth Office of Technology (COT) to provide AI services to postsecondary institutions and a shared AI infrastructure.

Leslie Sizemore, Vice President for Workforce and Economic Initiatives, CPE, spoke about CPE building a consortium for embedding AI into Kentucky's workforce-building strategies, including curriculum, training, and credentialing for emerging AI use in the labor market. CPE developed Career Ladders in Mental and Behavioral Health (CLIMB), which creates postsecondary pathways for individuals in recovery and/or reentry seeking entry-level employment. An example of AI being integrated into a workforce pathway is CLIMB's Occupational Navigation and Vocational Orientation (CONVO), a ChatGPT bot, which simulates counseling curriculum and credential coursework.

CPE will collaborate with UK to focus on the development of institutional collaboration, innovation, and leadership for AI augmentation and integration. UK has been awarded a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant to create a consortium for AI implementation infrastructure.

In response to Senator Thomas, Mr. Powell explained not all of the universities, including KCTCS, have responded to CPE about AI initiatives, but he will update once CPE receives those responses. Mr. Powell said he believes all the universities are doing some AI coursework.

In response to Representative Payne, Mr. Powell stated CPE has a program review process for programs and degrees that includes a workforce need and whether curriculum is still

relevant. CPE wants programs to be dynamic, so universities are always updating curriculum to meet workforce needs and employment outcomes. AI should be included in this review and approval process.

In response to Senator Williams, Mr. Powell explained CPE receives state funds for administration of KyRON, and universities pay a small fee to use the network to transfer large amounts of data for research. KyRON runs on KentuckyWired.

Senator Mays Bledsoe commented on her 2025 Regular Session SCR 142, regarding the need for an AI consortium between universities and the private sector. The NSF grant funding will be seed money for the framework.

Artificial Intelligence in Kentucky K-12

David Couch, Associate Commissioner and CIO, Office of Education Technology, Kentucky Department of Education (KDE), provided an overview of AI in Kentucky K-12. Mr. Couch spoke about the difficulty of getting a list of all AI products used in K-12 because AI is used behind the scenes and becoming more efficient. AI can help with analyzing data but need to pick the right AI engine to make sure the data is not open to the public. Kentucky is one of the first states to issue AI guidance to K-12 schools. Donnie Piercey, 2022 Kentucky Teacher of the Year, wrote 50 Strategies for Integrating AI into the Classroom. A Gallop Poll found that 60% of teachers use AI nationally. AI can be a time saver for teachers in classwork planning.

Marty Park, Chief Digital Officer, Office of Education Technology, KDE, spoke about specialized AI products used in Kentucky K-12. Mr. Park recommended AI be included in KDE's existing use policies rather than as a stand alone policy. He testified there are two AI races in K-12, the race for technology between vendors and the use race. The use race involves being good digital citizens in using technology responsibly and effectively. Cybersecurity and AI are intertwined in K-12. K-12 leverages partnerships with Microsoft, Google, Adobe, and Infinite Campus for using AI products with lessons and lesson plans. KDE will be partnering with five other states to create a professional learning series in the KY Learning Hub. KDE created GoTeachKY.com, an AI system for teacher recruitment and retention.

In response to Senator Williams, Mr. Park stated schools need to understand the tool being used and whether AI is a component of that tool. Mr. Couch emphasized the importance of bringing together the experts on these tools and understanding the difference between traditional AI and generative AI.

Senator Mays Bledsoe agreed with Mr. Couch that AI comfort level is individualized and personal. Parents comfort level will be a challenge and important for students.

Representative Bray recommended CPE and KDE work together as a consortium with the NSF grant funds to use AI initiatives for college and job readiness. Mr. Couch and Mr. Park agreed.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.