

# EDUCATION ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE

## Minutes

June 1, 2021

### Call to Order and Roll Call

A meeting of the Education Assessment and Accountability Review Subcommittee was held on Tuesday, June 1, 2021, at 3:05 p.m., in Room 129 of the Capitol Annex. Senator Max Wise, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Senator Max Wise, Co-Chair; Representative Brandon Reed, Co-Chair; Senator Mike Wilson; Representatives Tina Bojanowski, Regina Huff, and Steve Riley.

Guests: Marcia Seiler, Interim Deputy Director, Office of Education Accountability (OEA); Dr. Bart Liguori, Research Division Manager, OEA; Bryan Jones, Investigations Division Director, OEA; Todd Allen, General Counsel, KDE; Kelly Foster, Associate Commissioner, Office of Continuous Improvement and Support, KDE; and Matthew Courtney, Division of School and Program Improvement, KDE.

LRC Staff: Lauren Busch, Joshua Collins, and Maurya Allen.

Approval of the minutes was tabled until a quorum was present.

### Office of Education Accountability Annual Report

Marcia Seiler, Dr. Bart Liguori, and Bryan Jones, were present to discuss the 2020 OEA Annual Report.

Ms. Seiler began their presentation stating that this year marks the thirtieth year of the Office of Education Accountability's overseeing public education for the General Assembly. During that time, OEA has had four directors and continues to carry out the duties codified in KRS 7.410(2)(c). There are two main divisions to OEA, one which performs investigations and one which performs research.

Mr. Jones spoke of the effect the pandemic had on investigations performed by OEA in the last year. There were fewer complaints last year, a total of 236 complaints in 2020 compared to 414 in 2019. This may be a function of schools not being open so there would be less friction between individuals. Additionally, staff were unable to travel to the districts to perform investigations in person. To accommodate the need to investigate complaints, rather than let cases sit unanswered, staff made phone calls. While not ideal, it was the best

option to move cases forward. Now that restrictions are being relaxed, staff are traveling to districts again to perform in-person interviews and investigations. Safety protocols are still in place to allow for masking and social distancing, and the option is provided to anyone who is concerned to have a phone-based interview rather than in-person.

Dr. Liguori briefly outlined the composition and purpose of the research division of OEA. They are an award winning staff, receiving two NCSL Notable Document awards in 2020 for their 2018 Homeschooling in Kentucky report and for the 2019 report on teacher shortages and supports for new teachers. Studies performed by OEA's research division are presented to the committee throughout the interim and in 2020 those consisted of the 2019 District Data Profiles and the Overview of Facilities Needs and Funding in Kentucky. Both of these reports are available on the LRC website. The studies approved for 2021 are the annual district data profiles, a review of nontraditional instruction programs, and a study of the Support Education Excellence in Kentucky (SEEK) program which is used to calculate school funding in the state.

There were no questions on this item. Senator Wilson made a motion to accept the report, seconded by Representative Reed. The motion passed by voice vote.

### **OEA Report: District Data Profiles**

Dr. Liguori presented the annual District Data Profiles report to the committee. He began stating that this report received a Notable Document Award from NCSL in 2012, and this is the thirteenth year of the report. He also cautioned members when comparing certain measures within the report because of the changes over time in data collection and in the data points themselves, for example the changes between CATS and KPREP testing models. This report is designed to provide easy access to commonly used education data and to allow quick reference and comparison between districts and the state as a whole. The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) and the Kentucky Center for Statistics provide the bulk of the data, much of which is also found on the KDE school report cards.

The District Data Profiles are available online and in print. The print version contains a data dictionary and identifies the sources of the data. It lists all the districts in alphabetical order, followed by a profile for the state as a whole and several tables for comparing districts and seeing where districts rank statewide. The online version is interactive and mobile friendly. There are three visualizations: the district data profiles, heat maps of selected variables, and 10-year trend data. The visualizations are divided into five tabs: demographic profile, staffing data, finance, performance, and accountability (in the 10-year trend data only). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some data were delayed or not collected, including kindergarten readiness data, assessment and accountability data. As a consequence of waivers granted to the state to not administer assessments in spring of 2020, that field will be reported as "N/A" in the print version, and in the digital version will be left blank.

Dr. Liguori highlighted select features of the digital report. Heat maps display data about a geographic area and make quick visual comparisons. New for this year, there is an inset for northern Kentucky school districts. On the Finance tab, he pointed out the legend of the map and colors changed to accommodate the new measure. Also, new this year, all separate variables for facilities nickels levied by districts for school construction have been combined into a single variable “facilities nickels.” Hovering over a district on the map results in additional information being displayed in a pop-up field. The last visualization shows the average daily attendance 10-year trend data. Something to note is that different districts can be compared to each other or to the state on the graph.

Finally, he directed members’ attention to the accountability tab. The same districts selected earlier remain selected on this tab, but variables can be changed as desired. Not all variables from the print edition are included in the online edition. And after this year, there will be a gap in the visualization to account for state assessments not being administered in 2020. All visualizations in the online edition can be exported as a picture, a .pdf file, or as a PowerPoint slide for direct inclusion into a presentation. He reminded members there is an abundance of data in the profiles. However, some districts may be statistical outliers, especially smaller districts. To access the definitions or any material from the print edition, you can click on any link in the notes to be taken directly to the .pdf version.

There were no questions for this item. Representative Reed made a motion to accept the 2020 District Data Profiles report. Senator Wilson seconded the motion and it passed by voice vote.

### **Review of Administrative Regulation**

Todd Allen, Kelly Foster, and Matthew Courtney were in attendance to present the regulation, 703 KAR 5:280 regarding school improvement procedures. Chair Wise directed members’ attention to the staff suggested amendment and a proposed agency amendment for consideration. Representative Reed made a motion to accept the staff amendment, seconded by Senator Wilson. The motion passed by voice vote. There was no discussion of the agency amendment. Representative Reed made a motion to accept the amendment as presented, seconded by Senator Wilson. The motion passed by voice vote.

### **Approval of November 12, 2020 Minutes**

As a quorum had been met, Chair Wise returned to the approval of minutes for the November 12, 2020, meeting. Senator Wilson made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Representative Reed. The motion passed by voice vote.

### **Election of House Co-Chair**

As a quorum of House members was in attendance, Representative Riley nominated Representative Reed to serve as House co-chair. Representative Bojanowski seconded the

motion. With no other nominations, Representative Reed was elected as House co-chair by voice vote.

Election of Senate co-chair was tabled until the next meeting. With no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 3:31 p.m.