

EDUCATION ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE

Minutes of the 1st Meeting of the 2022 Interim

June 7, 2022

Call to Order and Roll Call

The 1st meeting of the Education Assessment and Accountability Review Subcommittee was held on Tuesday, June 7, 2022, at 3:00 p.m., in Room 131 of the Capitol Annex. Representative Brandon Reed, 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, and Steve Riley.

Guests: None.

LRC Staff: Joshua Collins and Maurya Allen.

Approval of November 15, 2021 Minutes

Representative Riley made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2021, meeting. The motion was seconded by Senator Wilson and passed by voice vote.

Presentation: Office of Education Accountability Annual Report

Marcia Seiler, Deputy Director, Office of Education Accountability (OEA) was present with Bryan Jones, Investigation Division Manager, OEA, and Dr. Bart Liguori, Research Division Manager, OEA, to present the Annual Report.

Mr. Jones briefly discussed the investigations of the OEA. The division has reached full staffing through recent hirings, bringing the division up to four active investigators. In 2021, 22 investigations were opened and 27 were closed. During 2020, the COVID pandemic resulted in an increase in complaints, but only resulted in an average number of investigations being opened. Many complaints are filed anonymously. However, many were baseless resulting in fewer investigations being opened compared to filed complaints. In addition, many, complaints pertain to matters outside the jurisdiction of the OEA, such as personnel matters, which are referred to local principals or superintendents. Allegations about testing violations are referred to the Kentucky Department of Education, as are complaints regarding special education, as they have specialists in those fields that are better equipped to deal with those investigations.

If a complaint is in regards to potential or pending litigation, the OEA does not get involved because the office and investigators are not equipped to deal with those situations. This does not mean that investigations do not sometimes result in litigation, but frequently the OEA is not involved by that point. Regarding the recent change to statute transferring authority for principal hiring and curriculum decisions from site-based decision making bodies to superintendents, Mr. Jones does not anticipate that it will have much impact on their investigations.

Following the presentation, Representative Riley made a motion to accept the report, seconded by Senator Wilson. The motion passed by voice vote.

Presentation: 2021 District Data Profiles

Dr. Bart Liguori, Research Division Manager, OEA, was present to highlight the 2021 District Data Profiles. This annual report is compiled and presented to the committee to give a full demographic illustration of all districts in the state to inform legislators and the public. The report received a notable document award in 2012 and gives easy access to commonly used district data.

Data is compiled from the KDE and the KY Center for Statistics pertaining to each district's enrollment, test scores, school safety, and much more. The print version of the report includes a data dictionary with sources of the data and presents the data for individual districts. It also includes data for the state as a whole and various comparisons in the appendices. Dr. Liguori thanked Albert Alexander from the OEA for his efforts gathering the data and compiling it into the print version.

Next, Dr. Liguori presented the online version of the District Data Profiles found at <https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/lrc/publications/interactive/DistrictData2021.html> or <http://bit.ly/oea-ddp2021>. The report is separated as tabs for data on demographics, staffing, finance, and performance. Most components of state accountability were dismissed during 2020 due to the pandemic and were not available for incorporation in this report. While the federal government did require some testing during 2021, participation was lower and more sporadic, resulting in lower quality data. This should be taken into account when comparing student performance between 2021 and previous years.

Heat maps were used to display geographic data and make some comparisons about different areas of the state. Dr. Liguori illustrated the heat maps using demographic data on the number of students in districts that receive free or reduced price lunch. On the staffing data tab, he illustrated how the map changed automatically to illustrate teacher experience and turnover. A 2019 OEA report on teacher shortages (LRC Research Report 463) was incorporated into the district data profiles.

The last visualization Dr. Liguori illustrated was a ten-year trend graph to illustrate average daily attendance. Average daily attendance has remained stable until 2021. In 2021, there was an increase in average daily attendance, but a decrease in average daily membership. This represents the change to all-day kindergarten. While all-day kindergarten students have always been represented in membership, they are only recently being fully included in the average daily attendance data. Districts can be compared directly with the trend maps, and selected districts are maintained when the variable is changed. Some variables included in the print copy are not included in the interactive digital version, and there is a lack of data for 2020 due to the pandemic. Dr. Liguori reminded members to always take into account the possibility of outliers when comparing districts and to consult the print copy for data definitions.

As there were no questions from members, Representative Riley made a motion to accept the report. The motion was seconded by Senator Wise and passed by voice vote.

Chair Reed informed members that the next anticipated meeting of the committee would be in October. With no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 3:25 pm.