

EDUCATION ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE

Minutes

July 14, 2025

Call to Order and Roll Call

The first meeting of the Education Assessment and Accountability Review Subcommittee was held on July 14, 2025, at 10:00 AM in Room 131 of the Capitol Annex. Senator Matthew Deneen, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Senator Matthew Deneen, Co-Chair; Representative Timmy Truett, Co-Chair; Senators Gerald A. Neal, Lindsey Tichenor, and Stephen West; and Representatives Kim Banta, Tina Bojanowski, and Steve Riley.

Guests: Dr. Bryan Jones, Acting Deputy Director, Office of Education Accountability (OEA); Dr. Deborah Nelson, Research Division Director, OEA; Sabrina Smith, Research Analyst, OEA; Cassie Trueblood, Policy Advisor and Counsel, Office of Educator Licensure and Effectiveness, Kentucky Department of Education (KDE); Todd Allen, Deputy Commissioner and General Counsel, KDE.

LRC Staff: Yvette Perry, Lauren Busch, Joshua Collins, Peter Wright, Emily Wiley, and Jay Harris.

Election of Co-Chairs

Representative Riley nominated Representative Truett as House Co-Chair, seconded by Representative Bojanowski. Representative Truett was elected as House Co-Chair by voice vote.

Senator Tichenor nominated Senator Deneen as Senate Co-Chair, seconded by Senator West. Senator Deneen was elected as Senate Co-Chair by voice vote.

Approval of November 8, 2024 Minutes

The motion was made by Rep Truett, seconded by Representative Bojanowski, to approve the November 8, 2024, minutes. The motion passed by voice vote.

Office of Education Accountability Annual Report

Dr. Bryan Jones, Acting Deputy Director, OEA, and Dr. Deborah Nelson, Research Division

Manager, OEA, provided an overview of OEA's Investigations Division. The division opens cases as either a school-based decision matter or an investigative matter. Cases can pertain to a number of issues, including board members, certification of staff and teachers, surplus of unused property, and residency.

Responding to Senator West, Dr. Jones said OEA would either notify the school district about a sexual misconduct complaint or, if pursuant to KRS 620.030, make a report to the Cabinet for Health and Family Services' hotline.

Responding to Senator West's follow up question, Dr. Jones stated there was nothing the General Assembly could do to improve the OEA at this time. Efficiency and the overload of cases seems to be the only issue.

Dr. Nelson, discussed the 2024 OEA Annual Report.

Responding to Senator Neal, Dr. Nelson stated the Research Division was created around 2005.

Responding to Senator West, Sabrina Smith, Research Analyst, OEA, stated OEA will continue to print paper copies of the OEA Annual Report.

Office of Education Accountability District Data Profiles, School Year 2024

Dr. Nelson and Ms. Smith, testified on 2024 data on student attendance, students with disabilities eligible for special education services, starting teacher salary, state revenue trends, Teacher's Retirement System (TRS), and staffing data.

Responding to Representative Truett, Ms. Smith testified that when starting its online school, if all students captured were included in the Cloverport Independent staffing data, their data would have been incomplete due to the staff being contracted and not employed by the district. This would inflate the data to a point where it would be incomparable to any other year. Due to this reason, the data was withdrawn.

Responding to Senator West, Ms. Smith said the Starting Teacher Salary Chart included salary and not pensions or benefits, along with the TRS State General Fund Contributions. Additional revenue from 2022 to TRS was from a one-time appropriation by the General Assembly.

Responding to Senator Tichenor, Ms. Smith testified that administrative pay and superintendent pay is not included because there is not room. Bullying and harassment events are reported through infinite campus and do not include outcomes. Dr. Nelson stated science scores are blanked out for some districts because the size is so large and

similar that someone could guess an individual student's score, so FERPA requires that data to be blanked out. The state total can be reported but the district cannot.

Acceptance of Office of Education Accountability Annual Report

The motion was made by Representative Truett, seconded by Representative Riley, to accept the OEA Annual Report. The motion passed by voice vote.

Acceptance of Office of Education Accountability District Data Profiles, School Year 2024

The motion was made by Representative Truett, seconded by Senator Tichenor, to accept the report. The motion passed by voice vote.

Update from the Education Professional Standards Board

Cassie Trueblood, Policy Advisor and Counsel, Office of Educator Licensure and Effectiveness, KDE, and Todd Allen, Deputy Commissioner and General Counsel, KDE, provided an Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) update, including a disciplinary case overview.

Responding to Representative Bojanowski, Ms. Trueblood said there is not a number available for cases of predatory behavior occurring outside of school districts.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:08 AM.