

INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Minutes of the 5th Meeting of the 2024 Interim

October 15, 2024

Call to Order and Roll Call

The fifth meeting of the Interim Joint Committee on Education was held on October 15, 2024, at 11:00 AM in Room 154 of the Capitol Annex. Representative James Tipton, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Senator Stephen West, Co-Chair; Representative James Tipton, Co-Chair; Senators Shelley Funke Frommeyer, Jimmy Higdon, Stephen Meredith, Robert Stivers, Reginald Thomas, Lindsey Tichenor, Gex Williams, Mike Wilson, and Max Wise; Representatives Shane Baker, Jared Bauman, Tina Bojanowski, George Brown Jr., Emily Callaway, Josh Calloway, Steven Doan, Kevin Jackson, Candy Massaroni, Bobby McCool, Marianne Proctor, Felicia Rabourn, Steve Rawlings, Josie Raymond, Steve Riley, Killian Timoney, Timmy Truett, and Lisa Willner.

Guests: Dr. Robbie Fletcher, Commissioner, Kentucky Department of Education (KDE); Rhonda Sims, Associate Commissioner, KDE; Jennifer Stafford, Division Director of Assessment and Accountability Support, KDE; Dr. Stephen Pruitt, President, Southern Regional Education Board (SREB); Ivy Coburn, Division Director, Education and Workforce, SREB; Dr. Brian Perry, Director of Government Relations, KDE; and Todd Davis, Division Director, Office of Educator licensure and Effectiveness, KDE.

LRC Staff: Yvette Perry, Lauren Busch, Emily Wiley, and Rachel Hartley.

Approval of Minutes – September 17, 2024

Representative Jackson made a motion, seconded by Senator West, to approve the minutes. The motion passed by voice vote.

Assessment and Accountability Data

Dr. Robbie Fletcher, Commissioner, Kentucky Department of Education (KDE); Rhonda Sims, Associate Commissioner, KDE; and Jennifer Stafford, Division Director of Assessment and Accountability Support, KDE, discussed the methodology used to assess school districts and the determinations of district eligibility for additional support. Ms. Sims highlighted a slight trending rise in student testing performance in mathematics

and reading. She noted a slight decrease in student performance in science and social studies. Ms. Sims proposed multiple focus areas that could improve Kentucky academic performance measures including content area support, teacher shortage reductions, and KDE's chronic absenteeism campaign addressing truant students.

In response to a question from Representative Tipton, Dr. Fletcher spoke to the importance of providing teachers with professional development training that clearly outlines standards to be evaluated and providing students with early exposure to topics that will be tested.

Responding to Representative Bojanowski, Ms. Sims provided the achievement levels required for a given district to meet, maintain, or exceed National Assessment of Educational Progress evaluations.

In response to Representative Jackson, Dr. Fletcher called for a transition to value student cohort growth, as opposed to year-over-year change of grade specific performance measures.

Responding to Representative Truett, Dr. Fletcher defined proficiency as a measure of whether a student is performing above the standard as it relates to the grade level content being taught.

In response to Senator Higdon, Dr. Fletcher testified schools will perform higher when a bar of performance is established.

Responding to a question from Senator Funke Frommeyer, Dr. Fletcher said a continued investment in numeracy and literacy, as well as providing access to high quality instructional materials, will greatly improve student performance across all districts.

In response to a question from Representative Massaroni, Dr. Fletcher called upon school districts to adequately educate students in the areas of reading and writing to prepare graduates for success in higher education and workforce settings.

Responding to a question from Representative Rawlings, Dr. Fletcher testified the decline in student proficiency trends may be due to an increase in multi-lingual learners. He further suggests providing educators with high quality preparation materials for reading instruction. Ms. Sims added systems, funding, and measurements for accountability have changed in recent years.

In response to Representative Willner, Dr. Fletcher testified culture and climate surveys are included in the current accountability model.

Artificial Intelligence

Dr. Stephen Pruitt, President, Southern Regional Education Board (SREB), and Ivy Coburn, Division Director, Education and Workforce, SREB, highlighted sectors of education that will be most impacted by AI's introduction including policy, instruction, and development. SREB will begin with drafting the skills needed for students and educators to become AI literate, a review of current guidelines from other entities using AI in K-12 instruction, conducting interviews with educators to understand AI's current use in the classroom, and drafting a guidance document for implementing AI in instruction. Ms. Coburn stated 25 percent of daily tasks across all sectors will be replaced by automation or an AI product.

In response to Senator Thomas, Dr. Pruitt testified SREB's first set of AI findings and recommendations will be presented to the Special Committee on Artificial Intelligence in November.

Responding to Senator Williams, Dr. Pruitt expressed the importance of having a goal driven plan when implementing AI into the educational sector. Verification of results and accountability of supplied funds will clarify the value AI brings to education.

In response to Representative Massaroni, Dr. Pruitt testified SREB's role is to investigate the ethical implications of the integration of AI, calling for each state and locale to investigate the rules and responsible use of AI.

Kentucky Educator Placement Service

Dr. Fletcher; Dr. Brian Perry, Director of Government Relations, KDE; and Todd Davis, Division Director, Office of Educator licensure and Effectiveness, KDE, shared information regarding Kentucky Educator Placement Service data. They outlined requirements for filling school district job vacancies, the current hiring system's limitations, Kentucky educator shortages, educator certification shortages, bus driver shortages, and mitigation strategies for addressing vacancies. Dr. Fletcher testified a substantial number of district leaders felt the quality of 2024-2025 applicant candidates were lower quality than previous years. Recommendations from KDE included funding a statewide job posting system, requiring districts to update postings when filled, and conducting annual surveys regarding district vacancy data.

In response to a question from Representative Callaway, Dr. Fletcher said a future survey would need to be conducted in order to investigate the turnover rate for administrators

leaving schools. He added districts have individual policies and guidance for times that educators can complete planning periods.

Responding to Representative Rabourn, Dr. Fletcher noted providing educators with additional funding for the completion of planning outside of normal work hours may cause issues for other school programs in need of funds.

Consideration of Referred Administrative Regulations

704 KAR 8:130 - *Proposed*

Required Kentucky Academic Standards for Visual and Performing Arts.

704 KAR 3:313 – *Proposed*

Repeal of 704 KAR 3:303.

702 KAR 3:320 - *Proposed*

Finance officer certification requirements.

16 KAR 9:100E - *Emergency*

Alternative Route to Certification Institute.

16 KAR 9:080E - *Emergency*

University-based alternative certification program.

16 KAR 9:030 - *Proposed*

Professional and provisional certificate for college faculty.

16 KAR 9:010E – *Emergency*

Provisional and professional certificate for exceptional work experience.

16 KAR 7:011 – *Proposed*

Repeal of 16 KAR 7:010.

16 KAR 2:030E – *Emergency*

Substitute teachers.

16 KAR 1:030E – *Emergency*

Procedures for educator certificate surrender, revocation, suspension, reinstatement, and reissuance, and for application denial.

No action was needed on these items at this time.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 1:21 PM.