

INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of the 2025 Interim

August 18, 2025

Call to Order and Roll Call

The third meeting of the Interim Joint Committee on Education was held on August 18, 2025, at 11:00 AM in Room 154 of the Capitol Annex. Representative Scott Lewis, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Representative Scott Lewis, Co-Chair; Senator Stephen West, Co-Chair; Representative James Tipton, Co-Chair; Senators Danny Carroll, David P. Givens, Jimmy Higdon, Stephen Meredith, Gerald A. Neal, Steve Rawlings, Aaron Reed, Reginald L. Thomas, Lindsey Tichenor, Gex Williams, Mike Wilson, and Max Wise; and Representatives Shane Baker, Kim Banta, Tina Bojanowski, Emily Callaway, Adrielle Camuel, Mike Clines, Jennifer Decker, Steven Doan, Daniel Grossberg, Vanessa Grossl, Kevin Jackson, Candy Massaroni, Bobby McCool, Marianne Proctor, Steve Riley, Rachel Roarx, Sarah Stalker, Timmy Truett, and Lisa Willner.

Guests: Micki Ray Marinelli, Chief Academic Officer, Office of Teaching and Learning, Kentucky Department of Education (KDE); Chrystal Rowland, Director of the Division of Program Standards, KDE; Sarah Medley, Policy Advisor, Office of Teaching and Learning, KDE; Dr. Monica A. Beane, NBCT, Head of Educational Partnerships, Educational Testing Service (ETS); Lisa D. Hedrick, Director, Educational Partnerships, ETS; Allison Ball, Auditor, Auditor of Public Accounts (APA); Lorrان Ferguson, Chief of Staff, APA; and Alex Magera, General Counsel, APA.

LRC Staff: Yvette Perry, Joshua Collins, and Jay Harris.

Approval of July 14, 2025 Minutes

Motion was made by Representative Massaroni, seconded by Representative Callaway, to approve the minutes of the July 14, 2025, meeting. The motion was passed by voice vote.

Kentucky Academic Standards for Reading and Writing

Micki Ray Marinelli, Chief Academic Officer, Office of Teaching and Learning, KDE; Chrystal Rowland, Director of Program Standards, Division of Academic Program Standards, KDE; and Sarah Medley, Policy Advisor, Office of Teaching and Learning, KDE, testified on Kentucky's standards for reading and writing and the standards process review timeline.

Responding to Co-Chair Tipton, Ms. Marinelli discussed the alignment of standards with curriculum via the Kentucky Summative Assessment (KSA) and the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP).

Responding to Representative Truett, Ms. Marinelli discussed improving textbooks by following standard crosswalks along with protocols that would equip districts with resources.

Responding to Representative Bojanowski, Ms. Marinelli stated that foundation standards along with assessments help to identify what support students need to perform at certain reading standards.

Responding to Representative Grossl, Ms. Marinelli said collaborations and alignments are already in place.

Math Improvement Committee Report

Ms. Marinelli, Ms. Rowland, and Ms. Medley presented on the status of the strategic plan for improving mathematic achievements in Kentucky.

Responding to Senator Thomas, Ms. Marinelli said teachers go through a process of continuous learning and the process should specifically align with the teacher's classroom instruction.

Responding to Co-Chair Tipton, Ms. Marinelli said by introducing a K-5 teacher course in collaboration with the Kentucky Center for Mathematics, KDE has been able to help teachers and administrators learn more on high quality mathematics.

Representative Jackson commented on the disciplinary and mental health issues of students, and the situations teachers and administrators are dealing with during the first few weeks of school.

Responding to Representative Truett, Ms. Marinelli said KDE can share some educational testing resources to the committee.

Responding to Representative Callaway, Ms. Rowland shared how community partnerships are supporting student math achievement. Ms. Marinelli stated partnerships and internships can help students interested in mathematics with real life work experience.

ETS Praxis Exam

Dr. Monica A. Beane, NBCT, Head of Educational Partnerships, ETS; Lisa D. Hedrick, Director, Educational Partnerships, ETS, testified on the Praxis test for teacher certification, including

an overview of how those tests are developed.

Responding to Representative Bojanowski, Ms. Hedrick, stated Praxis test cut off scores are decided based on a multi-state standard setting panel, and are provided to the states. Each state uses that information to determine their cut score.

Responding to Representative Willner, Dr. Beane explained Praxis scores were never meant to determine whether the test taker would be a good teacher, only whether they had the knowledge necessary to teach.

Representative Clines introduced poll responses he received from teachers regarding the effectiveness of the Praxis exams.

Responding to Representative Camuel, Ms. Hedrick provided statistics on where Kentucky ranks nationally on Praxis exams.

Responding to Representative Grossberg, Ms. Hedrick said ETS could conduct research on why there is significant pass rate differences between certain years.

Responding to Representative Tichenor, Dr. Beane stated test score data for institutions is available and can be requested from KDE.

Co-Chair Tipton commented on how teacher shortages are putting school districts in tough situations when trying to provide high quality teachers.

Responding to Representative Grossl, Dr. Beane said the Praxis exam will be free once an applicant has attempted a Praxis exam three times.

KDE Performance Review Data

Allison Ball, Auditor, APA; Lorrان Ferguson, Chief of Staff, APA; and Alex Magera, General Counsel, APA, provided an update on the KDE performance review.

Responding to Co-Chair West, Auditor Ball stated there were no specific discrepancies in finances other than the Support Education Excellence in Kentucky (SEEK) funding. Auditor Ball said they did find some issues with procedures.

Responding to Representative Roarx, Auditor Ball stated the strategic plan did not address individual learning plans and individual education programs. There were deficiencies in areas that would help prepare students with disabilities to be work force ready.

Responding to Senator Thomas, Auditor Ball stated the first step is to determine if Kentucky

preschools are performing at their highest level and ensure they are before adopting universal preschool education.

Responding to Representative Banta, Auditor Ball stated their review did not dive into construction or the use of architects. The review did include possible ways to reform the facility formula. Mr. Magera shared where facility improvement funding can be located within the report.

Responding to Representative Callaway, Auditor Ball stated that legislative changes are needed to allow Career and Technology Centers and Area Technology Centers to go through different procurement processes than the state procurement process.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 12:57 PM.