INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Minutes of the 5th Meeting of the 2026 Interim

October 6, 2026

Call to Order and Roll Call

The fifth meeting of the Interim Joint Committee on Education was held on October 6, 2026, at 11:00 AM ET/10:00 AM CT 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: Representative James Tipton, Chair; Senator Stephen West, Co-Chair; Representative Scott Lewis, Co-Chair; Senators Danny Carroll, Jimmy Higdon, Stephen Meredith, Gerald A. Neal, Steve Rawlings, Aaron Reed, Lindsey Tichenor, Gex Williams, Mike Wilson, and Max Wise; and Representatives Tina Bojanowski, Steve Bratcher, George Brown Jr., Emily Callaway, Josh Calloway, Adrielle Camuel, Beverly Chester-Burton, Mike Clines, Ken Fleming, Daniel Grossberg, David Hale, Kevin Jackson, Candy Massaroni, Bobby McCool, J.T. Payne, Jason Petrie, Marianne Proctor, Steve Riley, Sarah Stalker, Aaron Thompson, Timmy Truett, and Lisa Willner.

Guests: Representative Joshua Watkins; Dr. Aaron Thompson, President, Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE); George Eklund, Education and Advocacy Director, The Coalition for the Homeless; Auditor Allison Ball, Auditor of Public Accounts, (APA); Alex Magera, General Counsel, APA; Bryan Morrow, Executive Director of the Office of Special Examinations, APA; Dr. Brian Yearwood, Superintendent, Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS); Dr. Corrie Shull, Board Chair, JCPS; Micki Ray Marinelli, Chief Academic Officer, Kentucky Department of Education (KDE); Chrystal Rowland, Director of the Division of Program Standards, Office of Teaching and Learning, KDE; and Sarah Medley, Policy Advisor, KDE.

LRC Staff: Yvette Perry, Lauren Busch, Emily Wiley, and Jay Harris.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Senator Carroll and seconded by Representative Chester-Burton to approve the amended minutes of the August 4, 2026, meeting. The amended minutes were approved by voice vote without objection.

A motion was made by Representative Clines and seconded by Senator Wilson to approve the minutes of the September 1, 2026, meeting. Minutes were approved by voice vote without objection.

Addressing Homelessness on College Campuses

Representative Joshua Watkins, Dr. Aaron Thompson, President, CPE; and George Eklund, Education and Advocacy Director, The Coalition for the Homeless, presented on homelessness on college campuses.

Responding to Representative Camuel, Representative Watkins stated there is no budget request for his proposed legislation because the universities plan to absorb the added costs. President Thompson stated this cost is essential for the universities to be student-ready.

Responding to Senator Carroll, President Thompson stated that different campuses have different capacities to support homeless students and financial aid alone is insufficient to cover the necessary costs.

Jefferson County Public School District Special Examination

Auditor Allison Ball, APA; Alex Magera, General Counsel, APA; and Bryan Morrow, Executive Director of the Office of Special Examinations, APA, presented on the 2026 Special Examination of JCPS.

Responding to Chair Tipton, Auditor Ball suggested increasing the number of teachers in designated content areas.

Responding to Representative Bojanowski, Auditor Ball agrees that JCPS's high rate of preschoolers with disabilities creates unique challenges for the district.

Responding to Senator Neal, Auditor Ball stated financial waste exists in the district and allocated funds could have been directed in a more efficient way.

Responding to Representative Grossberg, Auditor Ball provided examples of duplicative spending by JCPS.

Responding to Representative Stalker, Auditor Ball described how the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds were spent in the district.

Responding to Co-Chair West, Auditor Ball presented findings on the use of ESSER funds for one-time expenditures that became recurring, which contributed to the financial waste.

Dr. Brian Yearwood, Superintendent, JCPS and Dr. Corrie Shull, Board Chair, JCPS, presented on JCPS's response to the special examination and corrective action plan.

Responding to Chair Tipton, Dr. Shull suggested that school board members could use additional financial training.

Responding to Representative Bojanowski, Dr. Yearwood stated JCPS is following KDE budget guidelines.

Responding to Representative Callaway, Dr. Yearwood stated JCPS is focusing on training for teachers and those responsible for assessments. In regard to bus disruptions, there are now monthly reports that identify repeat offenders.

Responding to Chair Tipton, Dr. Yearwood described his efforts to reduce staff members' fear of retaliation described in the special examination.

Responding to Co-Chair West, Dr. Yearwood detailed his 5-year plan to improve low-performing schools within JCPS.

Responding to Co-Chair West, Dr. Yearwood described the district's efforts to de-escalate campus violence.

Responding to Senator Neal, Dr. Yearwood stated financial stabilization is the key for education stabilization.

Kentucky Academic Standards for Mathematics

Micki Ray Marinelli, Chief Academic Officer, KDE; Chrystal Rowland, Director of the Division of Program Standards, Office of Teaching and Learning, KDE; and Sarah Medley, Policy Advisor, KDE, presented on the Kentucky Academic Standards for Mathematics.

Responding to Representative Bratcher, Ms. Rowland stated that real-world math is used by KDE's delta standard, which supports local coursework and pathways.

Responding to Representative Bratcher, Ms. Marinelli explained that financial literacy is now required.

Consideration of Referred Administrative Regulations
702 KAR 003:220 Proposed
Guidelines for waiver of school fees.

Actions: Motion was made to adopt the agency amendment by Senator West and seconded by Representative Bratcher. The agency amendment was adopted by voice vote without objection.

Adjournment
With no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned.