

MAKE AMERICA HEALTHY AGAIN KENTUCKY TASK FORCE

Minutes of the 4th Meeting of the 2025 Interim

September 17, 2025

Call to Order and Roll Call

The fourth meeting of the Make America Healthy Again Kentucky Task Force was held on September 17, 2025, at 3:00 PM in Room 169 of the Capitol Annex. Representative Matt Lockett, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Senator Shelley Funke Frommeyer, Co-Chair; Representative Matt Lockett, Co-Chair; Senators Donald Douglas, Craig Richardson, and Phillip Wheeler; and Representatives Emily Callaway, Robert Duvall, Adam Moore, and Marianne Proctor.

Guests: Senators Stephen Meredith, Lindsey Tichenor, and Gary Boswell; Representative Steven Doan; Matt Ross, Associate Commissioner, Office of Finance and Operations, Kentucky Department of Education (KDE); Lauren Moore, Division Director, Office of Finance and Operations, KDE; Katie Embree, Child Nutrition Program Manager, Division of Community and School Nutrition, KDE; Dana Feldman, Executive Director, Office of Consumer and Environmental Protection, Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA); Heather Becker, General Counsel, KDA; and Jamie Sparks, Executive Director, Kentucky SHAPE.

LRC Staff: DeeAnn Wenk, Logan Bush, Cameron Franey, and Becky Lancaster.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the August 20, 2025, meeting was made by Senator Douglas, seconded by Representative Proctor, and approved by voice vote.

2025 RS HB 439 AN ACT relating to school nutrition.

Representative Doan discussed the origins of 2025 RS HB 439, the intent of the bill, and the food ingredients or additives prohibited by the bill.

In response to Chair Lockett, Representative Doan discussed chemical abstracts service numbers and replicating the list of food ingredients or additives from bills passed in other states such as Arizona and California.

In response to Representative Callaway, Representative Doan stated there is no fiscal impact statement at this time. The bill would not apply to summer meal programs but would apply to fundraisers while on school grounds during instructional time.

In response to Representative Duvall, Representative Doan stated it would be hard to prohibit high-fructose corn syrup because it is in so many products.

In response to Senator Wheeler, Representative Doan stated the bill is targeting the elimination of junk food.

In response to Co-Chair Funke Frommeyer, Representative Doan stated the bill is a way to get fresher and locally grown foods into schools.

In response to Senator Tichenor, Representative Doan stated the bill remained in the House Standing Committee on Education during the 2025 Regular Session.

School Meals and Nutrition

Matt Ross, Associate Commissioner, Office of Finance and Operations, KDE, discussed the number of National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), and summer program meals served, and the funds reimbursed.

Lauren Moore, Division Director, Office of Finance and Operations, KDE, discussed program operator reimbursement rates, Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) eligibility for schools, national school lunch and breakfast meal patterns and standards, smart snack requirements, local purchasing efforts, and other grant opportunities available.

In response to Chair Lockett, Ms. Moore discussed the procurement requirements set by local boards, the need to exceed state model procurement allowances, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) food buying guide, and modeling healthy eating at home to get children to eat healthier at school.

In response to Representative Moore, Katie Embree, Child Nutrition Program Manager, Division of Community and School Nutrition, KDE, discussed preschool meal pattern differences. Ms. Moore stated there is an impact on program eligibility for schools if families are or are not directly certified as eligible.

In response to Representative Callaway, Ms. Moore discussed meal patterns set by the USDA, additional requirements added to the food policy for school districts, direct certification for eligibility, and school decisions to participate. Ms. Embree stated schools with an identified student percentage of 62.5 percent eligible for free lunch have all

meals reimbursed at the free rates. Ms. Moore discussed local wellness policy guidelines for physical education and the requirement for schools to set their own physical education goals.

In response to Co-Chair Funke Frommeyer, Mr. Ross stated KDE sets standards for physical education classes but not the need for breaks for movement, quality staff has a large impact on how healthy and tasteful the options are for children, and the challenge of finding the right incentive for districts to take the extra step to locally source foods. Ms. Moore discussed the need for more vendors to increase local products for schools.

Food Nutrition and Distribution to Local Schools

Dana Feldman, Executive Director, Office of Consumer and Environmental Protection, KDA, discussed KDA's school nutrition and distribution programs, the success of the Local Foods for Schools Cooperative Agreement, and barriers for schools when purchasing locally.

In response to Chair Lockett, Ms. Feldman discussed meal prep for schools.

Heather Becker, General Counsel, KDA, discussed the restrictive and extensive state and local laws regarding procurement, dietary guidelines, storage, and reimbursement that schools must follow; school nutrition officers; intentional policies KDA is working on for local procurement; collaborative and support programs; and stakeholders to ease the burden of local purchasing.

In response to Representative Duvall, Ms. Becker stated KDA would like to work with him on his credit for donating left over food bill.

In response to Representative Callaway, Ms. Becker stated more availability for local processors would be helpful and there are state and federal barriers to increasing processing production.

In response to Co-Chair Funke Frommeyer, Ms. Becker stated the KDA Commissioner is on a state tour to promote agriculture and food education in schools.

School Physical Activity and Brain Health

Jamie Sparks, Executive Director, Kentucky SHAPE, discussed the Kentucky SHAPE program; need to focus on sufficient self-knowledge of the student's own mental and physical wellness; statutes regarding physical activity policies and reporting; best practices in physical education; skills-based health instruction; and recommendations to the task force.

In response to Chair Lockett, Mr. Sparks discussed the challenges of students having or not having cell phones at school and barriers within some schools if more physical education class time is required.

In response to Representative Moore, Mr. Sparks discussed incorporating movement and physical education with kinesthetic learning for better all-around student development and pathways to physical education teaching certification.

In response to Senator Douglas, Mr. Sparks stated curriculum depends on what is tested and measured by the state requirements.

In response to Senator Tichenor, Mr. Sparks stated there is not a balanced approach to mental and physical wellness in schools because there are more standards than instructional time.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:48 PM.