

MEETING MINUTES

Approved by the Committee on June 22, 2026

Who: Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education
Meeting Type: Committee on Educational Opportunities
Date: April 28, 2026
Time: 1:00 p.m. ET
Location: ZOOM Teleconference

CALL TO ORDER

The Committee on Educational Opportunities (CEO) met Tuesday, April 28, 2026, at 1:00 p.m., ET. The meeting occurred by ZOOM teleconference. Chair Elaine Walker presided.

ROLL CALL

There was a quorum of 7 voting committee members in attendance.

- Rev. CB Akins – attended
- Whitney Allen – attended
- Dr. Rochelle Brown – attended
- David Carpenter – did not attend
- Robert Croft – attended
- Dr. Kellie Ellis – attended
- Elaine Walker - attended

Dr. Dawn Offutt, Executive Director for Student Access, served as recorder of the meeting minutes.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the January 26, 2026, meeting were approved as distributed.

WELCOME/CPE UPDATES

CPE President Aaron Thompson provided an update on Kentucky's enrollment, retention, and persistence rates, noting that the state is currently less than 5% away from reaching its 2030 educational attainment goal. Dr. Thompson reported that an increasing number of students are graduating with little to no debt and emphasized that the state's dual credit policy is successfully accelerating the academic pipeline for all students, particularly those who are underresourced. He addressed the critical need to focus more intently on closing achievement gaps among specific student populations, noting that the committee would play

a vital role in this effort while strictly adhering to the law. Dr. Thompson concluded his remarks by summarizing the work of the Commonwealth Education Continuum and prompting the committee to consider how K-12 and postsecondary partners can collaborate more effectively to improve student access and transitions.

Following his update, Dr. Thompson introduced Mr. Travis Powell, Executive Vice President and General Counsel, who provided an overview of the legislative session. Mr. Powell discussed key updates regarding the higher education budget, investments in asset preservation, and a bill establishing a prison education program. He also outlined the Council's upcoming oversight role for Kentucky State University (KSU) as it transitions into a Polytechnic institution with a select liberal arts focus. He noted that KSU received dedicated funding for both asset preservation and the expansion of its online programs. Finally, Mr. Powell highlighted House Bill 307 (the My Kentucky Future Act), which addresses proactive admissions, and stated that additional information on the act would be provided in the near future.

ADMISSIONS REDESIGN

Ms. Stephanie Cheung, Associate Director of the Kentucky Student Success Collaborative, gave an overview of the Great Admissions Redesign Implementation Plan. She discussed the plan's objectives which are: to foster a culture of collaboration, build capacity for leading change and, measure gains in student success. The overview included the vision, landscape, strategic priorities, as well as the implementation timeline. Ms. Cheung shared data specific to the dual credit discovery project in the plan and walked the CEO members through the student journey mapping process.

DUAL CREDIT

Dr. Robin Hebert, Senior Fellow, shared general information regarding Kentucky's dual credit system, highlighting relevant data and the state's 2030 dual credit attainment goal. Dr. Hebert outlined the types of courses available to students within the system, specifically distinguishing between general education courses and career and technical education (CTE) pathways. Additionally, she detailed the specific academic and financial benefits experienced by students who participate in dual credit programming.

NEXT STEPS

Dr. Offutt provided a summary of the topics presented during previous meetings and proposed the committee's next steps. These upcoming activities include institutional campus visits and presentations, alongside the introduction of the KyNextED Initiative. This initiative aims to connect K-12 and postsecondary professional networks to provide strategic insights on eliminating barriers to postsecondary education for underresourced populations. Additionally, the initiative is designed to increase student transitions from K-12 to

postsecondary institutions by delivering future-focused, innovative, next-level recommendations to the CEO for smoother student pathways.

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 2:15 p.m. ET.