

KENTUCKY COUNCIL ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION WORK SESSION, CAMPUS SPOTLIGHT & TOUR



June 11, 2026 – 2:00-7:30 p.m. ET

University of the Cumberlands, Grace Crum Rollins Fine Arts Center, Williamsburg

I. Work Session (2:00-4:45 p.m.)

Location: Kohn Theater

Livestream access at: <https://bit.ly/4scM6LS>

- A. Leading with Excellence: Continuing Education Session
- B. CPE Horizon: Aligning Mission and Message
- C. Horizon Series, Part 1: Connect the Path

II. Campus Spotlight Session & Tour (5:00-6:15 p.m.)

Location: Varies – campuswide

III. Networking Reception and Dinner (6:15-7:30 p.m.)

Location: Lobby, Fine Arts Center



Leading with Excellence: Continuing Education Session

Council on Postsecondary Education

June 12, 2026

Topics of Discussion

Revamping Statewide Board Training Project

Fiduciary Duties & Effective Leadership

Open Meetings and Open Records

CPE Committee Structure

New Member Education & Orientation

- Must be developed to complete the requirements electronically or in person.
- Board members must complete the orientation within one year of appointment or election.
- CPE must provide a report to the legislature listing all new board members who do not complete the required orientation.
- Governing board members of private colleges and universities licensed by CPE must be invited to participate.
- Additionally, HB 15 requires CPE to review and approve all existing board orientation programs at the public universities and KCTCS.

<https://cpe.ky.gov/ourwork/boardtraining.html>

Board Training Refresh Project

Purpose: To modernize the Board Training, ensuring every module, activity, and assessment is current, engaging, and measurably effective for Board members and organizational goals.

Timeline:

- Phase 1 – Dec 2025→July 2026
- Phase 2 – Mar 2026→Dec 2026

COURSE #1: HIGH PERFORMANCE GOVERNANCE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Module No. & Title		Purpose
1	Welcome & Your Role as a Trustee	Orient members, establish tone, and reinforce the seriousness of board service.
2	Foundations of Effective Board Leadership	Establish the core responsibilities, boundaries, and fiduciary mindset required for effective higher education board service
3	Legal Responsibilities of Board Members (Kentucky-Specific)	Ensure compliance, reduce risk, and build confidence.
4	National Issues & Emerging Governance Challenges	Broaden perspective beyond state law.
5	Course Wrap-Up & Certification	Reinforce accountability and confidence

COURSE #2: KY’S POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION SYSTEM & STATEWIDE AGENDA

Module No. & Title		Purpose
1	Understanding Kentucky’s Postsecondary Education System	Ground trustees in the legal and governance framework of Kentucky higher education
2	The Statewide Agenda—Purpose, Structure, and Accountability	Explain why the statewide agenda exists and how trustees are expected to use it
3	Kentucky’s Attainment Goal—60x30	Help trustees understand the state’s defining goal and their role in advancing it.
4	Strategic Priorities of the Statewide Agenda	Provide a consistent, repeatable framework for understanding each priority.
5	The Trustee’s Role in Advancing the Statewide Agenda	Bring it all together in a practical, trustee-centered way.
6	Course Wrap-Up & Key Takeaways	Reinforce accountability and confidence

Continuing Education Courses in Development

- Higher Education Budget and Financial Governance
- Navigating Academic Program Approval
- Strategic Enrollment Management and Institutional Sustainability
- Tuition and Fee Setting: Policy, Process, and Governance

Next steps...

The Three Fiduciary Duties



Duty of Care

Acting with the diligence of an "ordinarily prudent person."

- Doing your homework
- Reading the board book
- Asking probing questions.



Duty of Loyalty

Putting the institution first.
Hanging "other hats" at the door

- Disclosing conflicts
- Maintaining boardroom confidentiality
- Prioritize the mission.



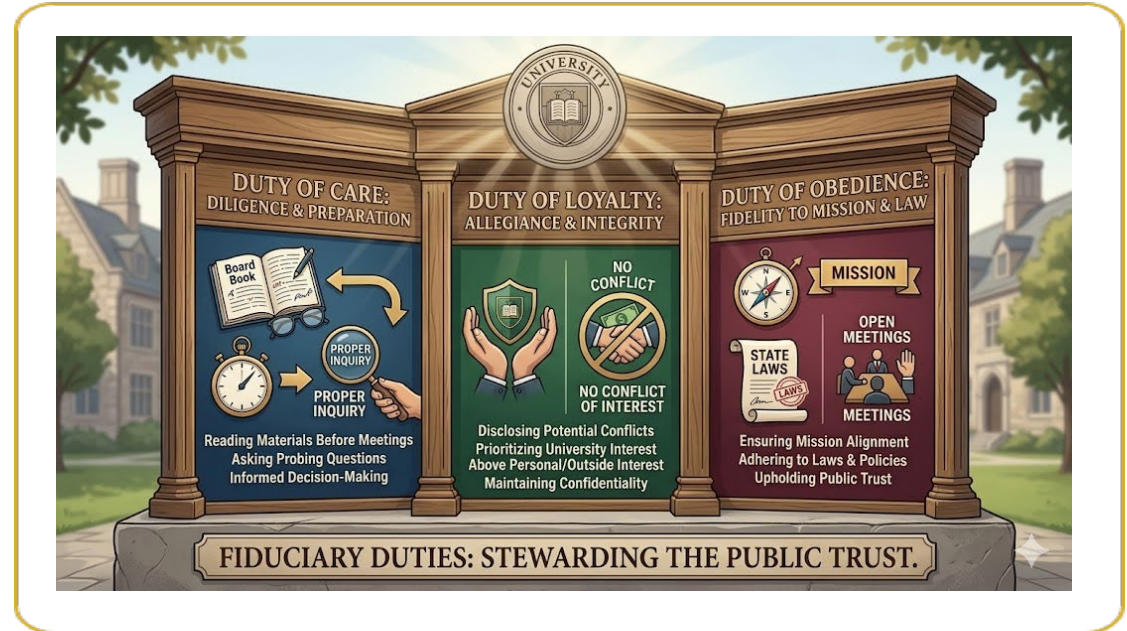
Duty of Obedience

Guardian of the mission.
Ensuring resources serve stated goals.

- Mission Fidelity
- Legal compliance
- Public Trust

Consequences of Failure

- ✓ **Legal Liability:** Risk of personal lawsuits for "gross negligence" or self-dealing.
- ✓ **Legislative Oversight and/or removal from office**
- ✓ **Loss of public trust**



Specific to institutions:

- ✓ **Accreditation:** Negligent boards can devalue every degree the university issues.
- ✓ **Financial Risk:** Chaos leads to lower bond ratings and increased borrowing costs.
- ✓ **Reputation:** Donors and top-tier talent avoid unstable, Meddling boards.

If a decision the Council made today appeared on the front page of the newspaper tomorrow, would you feel confident that you acted with care, put Kentucky's institutions first, and stayed true to the mission?

Quick Quiz #1

The Scenario

The Council is responsible for submitting a biennial budget recommendation for four-year and two-year campuses. You have missed the last two meetings that discussed the progress of staff development and negotiation with the campuses. For the final vote, you arrive on time but haven't read the materials that explain the budget recommendation. You vote "Yes" based on the staff's presentation which included only a brief overview and summary of the materials provided.

**Have you performed your Fiduciary Duty of Care?
(True/False)**

Quick Quiz #1 - Answer

Correct Answer: FALSE

Rationale: Duty of Care requires "proper inquiry." Relying solely on a brief overview for a significant comprehensive financial recommendation falls below the standard of personal diligence.

Open Meetings and Open Records



Open Meetings Act

Quorum for CPE Board:

- Committees: A majority of appointees.
- Full board: 8 members

Regular Sessions: Must follow a pre-filed, publicly available schedule.

Special Sessions: Require 24-hour written media notices with an immutable agenda.

Virtual Meetings

State transparency models allow digital attendance, provided strict safeguards are preserved:

- Full video and audio streaming must be active for all members.
- The public must have access to a clear, uninterrupted live feed.
- Any technical disconnect that drops a quorum pauses the meeting.



Closed Sessions & Records

Executive/Closed Session

- ✓ Pending Litigation
- ✓ Personnel Matters
- ✓ Real Estate (Sale/Purchase)

Meeting Minutes

The board's "official memory." Must be a record of all votes and actions taken.

Minutes must be available immediately following the next meeting at the latest.

Potential Hazards to Compliance

- ✓ Smaller meetings of less than a quorum discussion board business.
- ✓ Email or text communications with fellow members.
- ✓ Closed sessions: Stay on topic and no final decisions.
- ✓ Virtual meetings: If you are participating, leave your camera on.

Quick Quiz #2: Spot the Flaw

Five Council members are standing together at a legislative reception. One member brings up an item coming up on the agenda the next week and says: "Senator ABC really wants to see that new online doctorate track at University XYZ. I know there is talk about program duplication, but if we don't look completely unified on expanding these high-demand credentials, we may feel the impact later on down the line. Two other members nod in agreement, turn to you, and ask: "What's your take? Can we count on you to vote with us to send a strong message?"

Quick Quiz #2 - Answer

Correct Response: "There are five of us here. This could be considered a quorum talking about a formal agenda item. Let's save this for the meeting next week."

Special note: "Serial meetings" (chain communications) count as violations too!

Kentucky Open Records Act

The public has a right to examine public records, regardless of physical form. This includes your texts/emails regarding board business.

- ✓ **5 Business Days:** Standard response time.
- ✓ **Transparency:** Default setting for all communications.



Council Committee Structure

Three Standing Committees



Executive Committee

Reviews agency budget, financial audits, Kentucky State University matters, licensure, evaluates President and recommends compensation



Academic & Strategic Initiatives

Oversees statewide Strategic Agenda & KPIs, academic quality, program approvals, workforce and industry



Finance Committee

Reviews biennial budget requests, tuition setting, capital projects, asset preservation, endowment match, performance funding, other finance matters

Other Committees



Nominating Committee

Nominates slate of officers for the upcoming calendar year



Committee on Educational Opportunities

Reviews and makes recommendations regarding access to postsecondary education



Other opportunities

- KET board – 2 positions
- Healthcare Workforce Investment Fund Advisory Committee
- AERO Act Advisory Committee

Current Committee Assignments

<https://cpe.ky.gov/aboutus/committees.html>

Academic & Strategic Initiatives

- Jai Bokey
- Kellie Ellis
- Meredith Figg
- Sean Garber
- Karyn Hoover, chair
- Dennis Repenning
- LaDonna Rogers
- Kevin Weaver
- Michael Wheeler

Nominating Committee (2026)

- Kevin Weaver, chair
- Jacob Brown
- LaDonna Rogers

Finance Committee

- Jacob Brown, chair
- Lindsey Case
- Jennifer Collins
- Kellie Ellis
- Dennis Repenning
- Madison Silvert
- Elaine Walker
- Michael Wheeler

Committee on Education Opportunities

- Elaine Walker, chair
- Kellie Ellis
- CB Akins

Executive Committee

- Madison Silvert, chair
- Elaine Walker, vice chair
- CB Akins
- Jacob Brown
- Kellie Ellis
- Karyn Hoover

Other Committees

- HWIF – LaDonna Rogers, Chair
- AERO – Lindsey Case
- KET – Kevin Weaver, Karyn Hoover

Reflection

Does your current committee assignment(s) still align with your expertise and the Council's needs?

CPE Horizon: Aligning Mission and Message

June 11, 2026

Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education

Objectives of the Project

- Develop a unified communication strategy that aligns CPE's policy, research, and programmatic work with its strategic agenda.
- Enhance transparency and collaboration across agency units, breaking down silos.
- Streamline internal processes for board agenda setting and stakeholder communication.
- Engage board members, legislators, and external partners with clear, impactful messaging.
- Establish measurable outcomes to evaluate the strategy's success.

Alignment Questions?



What are we required to do?



What are we saying we are doing?



What are we actually doing?



Do they align?

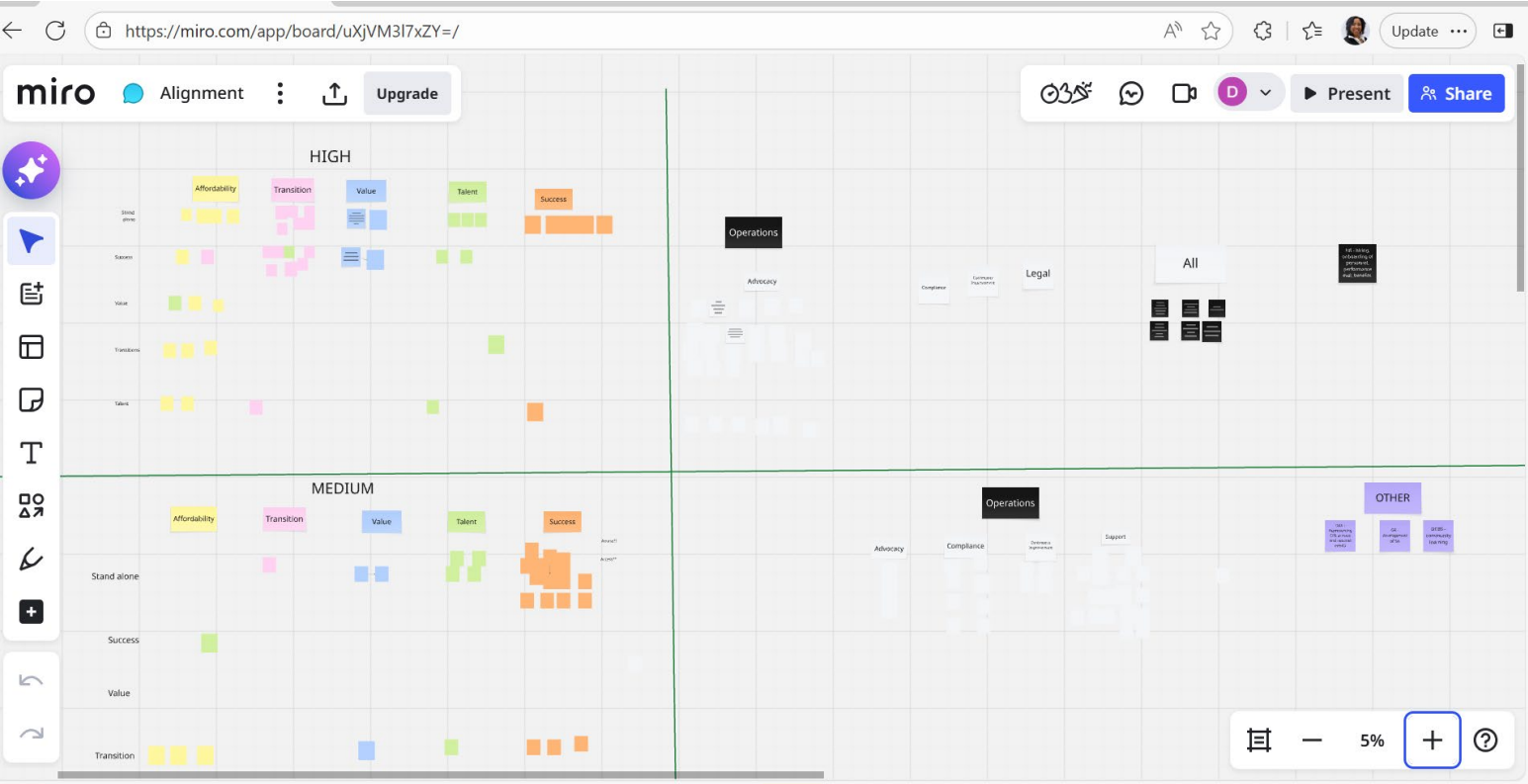


How do we get the message out?

Alignment Process

	A	C	E	F	I	K	N	P	Q
1	Activity Overview					Strategic Alignment		Any Additional Notes	
2	Unit Name	Activity Name	Objective of Activity	Target Audience(s)	Key Deliverables and Intended Outcomes	Impacted Stakeholders	Challenges or Risks		
100	Academic Excellence	Create KYVL data warehouse and dynamic UI	Make data accessible and interactive	KYVL staff, librarians	Ability to efficiently and dynamically generate meaningful ROI for KYVL and member institutions	KYVL staff, librarians, stakeholders, funders			
101	Academic Excellence	OE Week Symposium	Promote OER / OAR uptake and development across KY higher education.	postsecondary faculty, staff, and administrators	synchronous virtual event (March 3); session recordings on ALKY website	Faculty, Students' Staff / Administration			
102	Academic Excellence	Student Textbook Survey	Understand and raise awareness about the impacts of the costs of textbooks and course materials on KY's postsecondary students.	postsecondary faculty, staff, & CAOs; CPE leadership	Survey report of statewide results; individual institution overviews	Students, Institutions, Faculty			
103	Academic Excellence	KY Open Ed Successes	Celebrate and share approaches to OER / OAR uptake, development, and / or tracking that have worked at KY institutions to facilitate the borrowing or adaptation of those methods at other institutions.	postsecondary faculty, staff, & CAOs; CPE leadership	Statewide presentations and an ALKY website feature.	Faculty, Staff, Institutions			
	Student Access & Success	Advising & Academic Preparation	* Expand Personalized Advising and Mentoring: Ensure every GUK student receives an annual individual or small-group advising aligned with ILP and state advising frameworks. Strengthen Family Engagement in Postsecondary Planning: Equip families with tools and knowledge through workshops, campaigns, and communication resources that reinforce student advising	GUK FSC and PSC cohort students & families	*Increased educational expectations *Improved knowledge of postsecondary options, preparation, and financing *Increased FAFSA Completion, Improved SAT scores, Increased Algebra 1 completion by 9th grade, Increased completion of dual credit/AP courses *Increased college application rates *Increased postsecondary enrollment *Increased postsecondary persistence	GUK staff, students, families and school/district staff, KAA, Mainstay, KHEAA			

Alignment Process



Alignment Process



Alignment Process



3 Content Areas for work:

Policy: required by legislation, legislators, or leadership

Program: initiative that directly aligns with the Strategic Agenda

Information Support: resources, tools, research, materials, etc, that support initiatives that are directly aligned with the Strategic Agenda



13 audience groups

Observations

- Initiatives are mostly aligned with Strategic Agenda
- Collaboration opportunities between units were identified
- Opportunities identified to streamline communications for specific audiences

Observations

- Inconsistencies among Strategic Agenda category definitions
- Inconsistencies with Strategic Agenda process and statute

Objectives of the Project

- **Develop a unified communication strategy that aligns CPE's policy, research, and programmatic work with its strategic agenda.**
- Enhance transparency and collaboration across agency units, breaking down silos.
- Streamline internal processes for board agenda setting and stakeholder communication.
- **Engage board members, legislators, and external partners with clear, impactful messaging.**
- Establish measurable outcomes to evaluate the strategy's success.

Historic Communications Barriers

Changing Media Landscape

- Stories need to drive engagement
- Fewer education beat reporters
- Audiences get news from non-traditional sources

Digital and Social Media Prevalent

- Algorithms suppress social media content
- Content is up against lots of competition

Audiences only remember small portions of info

- Attention span for headlines is about 10 seconds

Low brand recognition

- CPE is scarcely recognized outside of Frankfort or the postsecondary community

**New strategies,
platforms and tools
help us break these
barriers.**

Communications Strategies

Breaking the Barriers

- Attention grabbing headlines
- Less technical language in news releases
- Personal outreach to key reporters
- Social media across multiple accounts
- Different strategies for different platforms
- Using Futuriti as the student/family voice
- Digital ad campaigns
- Brand refresh
- Repetition of messages in varying forums

All messaging aligned to priority areas:

- Affordability
- Transitions
- Student Success
- Value
- Talent

External Audiences

Postsecondary Administrators
Postsecondary Faculty/Staff
Workforce partners
Legislators
Campus Boards
Executive Branch

K- 12 Staff
K- 12 Students
Families
Postsecondary Students

Internal Audiences

CPE Staff
CPE Board

Vehicle



Key Messages for Repetition Across Channels



State and institutional financial aid are making postsecondary more affordable for Kentuckians of all income levels. **Six out of 10 Kentucky college completers graduate debt-free.**



Strong college and career advising helps students make informed decisions about their futures and successfully transition into postsecondary pathways, **leading to higher matriculation and successful transitions.**



Wraparound supports from mental health, to food security and childcare options, **are crucial for helping students persist and succeed through graduation.**



Kentucky's postsecondary system strengthens the state's talent pipeline by helping students earn the credentials, essential skills and real-world experiences needed to **meet workforce demands and drive economic growth.**



Postsecondary education delivers lasting value by helping **Kentuckians build essential skills, increase lifetime earnings, achieve greater economic mobility** and strengthen the Commonwealth's workforce, communities and future prosperity.

Can you repeat that?



Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE)

3,797 followers
3w •

More Kentucky students are graduating on time, earning credentials, and graduating debt-free. CPE's newly released 2026 Progress Report shows the state's progress on key metrics and the needed work ahead to keep higher education affordable. <https://lnkd.in/gc7BjGIX>

#HigherEd #StudentSuccess #EducationProgress

"When institutions focus strategically on student success, it works. Our public and private universities, and our 2-year colleges are making great strides in implementing innovative and holistic services that support both our students and state goals. That's exactly what the strategic agenda is designed to drive."

Aaron Thompson, CPE President



CPE: 6 out of 10 Kentucky college students are graduating debt-free

January 29, 2026

Six out of 10 Kentucky undergraduate students are now graduating debt-free, according to a new report by the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE). This is up from 2019-20, when four out of 10 students were graduating debt-free. The percentage of debt-free graduates from community and technical colleges is now 74%, and 46% for public university graduates.

"With the national media focused on ballooning student loan debt and rising tuition, I'm extremely proud that Kentucky has a different story to tell," said Dr. Aaron Thompson, president of CPE. "Significant increases in state and institutional grants and scholarships over the last five years made college affordable for thousands of Kentuckians, to the extent that many avoided student loans altogether."

Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education



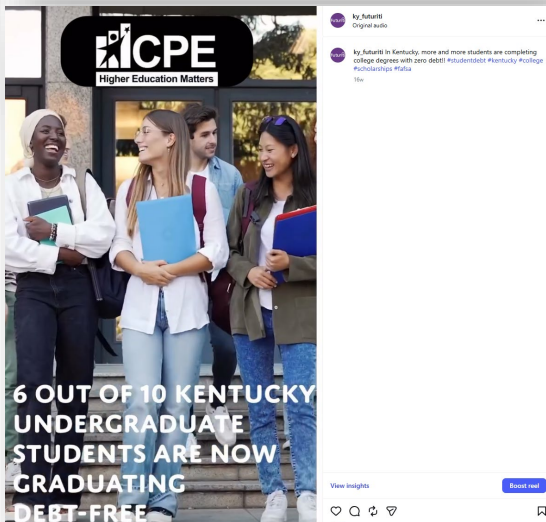
Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE)

3,797 followers
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Day 1 of The 2026 Student Success Summit has begun with 400+ higher education leaders in attendance.

CPE President Aaron Thompson delivered the opening keynote, emphasizing the tools higher ed leaders need to foster academic and workforce excellence. Dr. Thompson discussed strides the state is currently taking to make high quality education more affordable, and celebrated the fact that 6 out of 10 undergraduate students graduate debt free.

Stay tuned for other Summit updates today and tomorrow!



President's Message

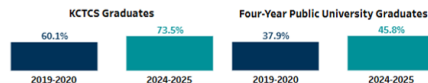


Kentucky's Momentum in College Success—and the Work Ahead to Reach 60x30

Although Kentucky is making strong gains in postsecondary enrollment, persistence, retention, credential production, and student debt reduction, we still have significant work ahead to meet the state's 60x30 attainment goal over the next four years.

Through aligned policy and practice, we are strengthening Kentucky's talent pipeline—helping more residents earn credentials that lead to higher wages and meet employer demand. Our initiatives such as the [Kentucky Advising Academy](#), [Futuriti](#), and [GEAR UP Kentucky](#) help students plan for education and training after graduation and connect those goals to real opportunities.

Percentage of graduates from Kentucky public institutions with zero debt



SPECTRUM NEWS 1

LOUISVILLE (CHANGE) > | JUNE 4, 2026

EDUCATION

Report shows more Kentuckians are graduating college without debt

BY LAYA GILPIN | KENTUCKY
PUBLISHED 2:30 PM ET JAN. 29, 2026



FRANKFORT, Ky. — A [new report](#) from the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education shows six out of 10 Kentucky undergraduates are now graduating debt-free.

What You Need To Know

- A report from the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education shows six out of 10 are now graduating debt-free
- The report said that this is up from 2019 to 2020, when only four out of 10 students
- The report also found that average loan balances are shrinking

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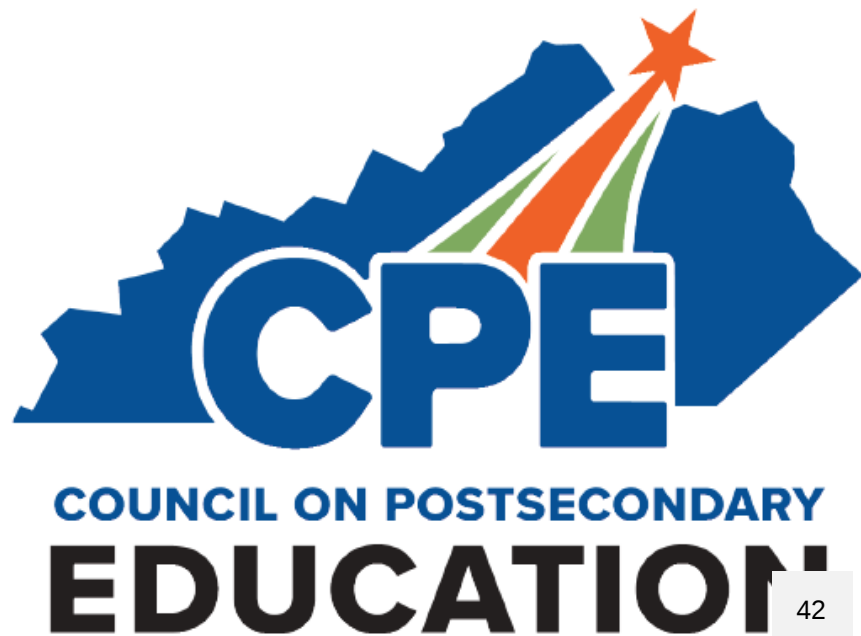
ergraduates
t-free

Brand Refresh Aimed at Increasing Visibility

Brand Identity

Primary Logo

The CPE “Pathways” identity system reflects opportunity, aspiration and statewide connection. The Kentucky silhouette reinforces the organization’s leadership role across the Commonwealth, while the pathway/star element symbolizes education, progress and forward movement.





Brand Voice

CPE's voice reflects its role as a trusted, forward-thinking leader in Kentucky postsecondary education. The tone balances authority with approachability – ensuring communications feel positive and action-oriented.

Across all channels, CPE's voice communicates commitment to transforming lives and Kentucky's workforce through higher education, high-impact instruction and programs and clear pathways to credentials.

Discussion

From Access to Achievement: The CPE Pathway



**Connect
the Path**



**Chart
the Path**



**Continue
the Path**



**Complete
the Path**

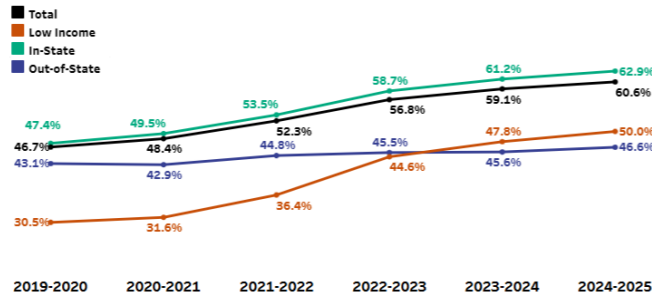


**Climb
the Path**

- Policy
- Programs
- Data and Research



Figure 1. Percent of all undergraduate completers (from two-year and four-year public institutions) who graduate debt-free, by student type



164.020 Powers and duties of council.
 The Council on Postsecondary Education in Kentucky shall:
 (1) Develop and implement the strategic agenda with the advice and counsel of the Strategic Committee on Postsecondary Education. The council shall provide for and direct the planning process and subsequent strategic implementation plans based on the strategic agenda as provided in KRS 164.0203;
 (2) Revise the strategic agenda and strategic implementation plan with the advice and counsel of the committee as set forth in KRS 164.004;
 (3) Develop a system of public accountability related to the strategic agenda by evaluating the performance and effectiveness of the state's postsecondary system. The council shall prepare a report in conjunction with the accountability reporting described in KRS 164.095, which shall be submitted to the committee, the Governor, and the General Assembly by December 1 annually. This report shall include a description of contributions by postsecondary institutions to the quality of elementary and secondary education in the Commonwealth;
 (4) Review, revise, and approve the missions of the state's universities and the Kentucky Community and Technical College System. The Council on Postsecondary Education shall have the final authority to determine the compliance of postsecondary institutions with their academic, service, and research missions;
 (5) Establish and ensure that all postsecondary institutions in Kentucky cooperatively provide for an integrated system of postsecondary education. The council shall guard against inappropriate and unnecessary conflict and duplication by promoting transferability of credits and easy access of information among institutions;
 (6) Engage in analyses and research to determine the overall needs of postsecondary education and adult education in the Commonwealth;
 (7) Develop plans that may be required by federal legislation. The council shall for all purposes of federal legislation relating to planning be considered the "Postsecondary Education Planning Agency" as that term may be used in federal legislation. The council shall require additional representation on the Planning Agency as may be required by federal legislation.

April 2026

Beyond Participation:

How Dual Credit Delivery Influences the Likelihood of Postsecondary Enrollment

Horizons: The CPE Pathway Series

Purpose of the Series

- Create a shared understanding of Kentucky's pathway from education to workforce success
- Connect CPE strategies, policies, research, and initiatives into one cohesive framework
- Engage board members in strategic discussions tied to measurable outcomes and policy direction

Work Session

Each session will:

- Concentrate on one part of the learner pathway from education to career
- Highlight related CPE strategies and initiatives
- Examine statewide key performance indicators and outcomes
- Include student-centered perspectives and real-world examples
- Connect policy discussions to workforce and economic impact

Key Questions for Every Meeting

1. What challenge are we solving?

Understanding barriers and statewide needs

2. What strategies are in place?

Connecting initiatives, partnerships, and policy work

3. How will success be measured?

Reviewing KPIs, outcomes, and statewide impact

Expected Outcomes for the Board

Shared Understanding

- A clearer view of how initiatives align across the continuum

Strategic Alignment

- Stronger connection between board priorities and statewide goals

Improved Communication

- A more unified narrative around CPE's impact and strategic agenda

Actionable Direction

- Identification of policy, investment, and advocacy priorities

From Access to Achievement: The CPE Pathway



**Connect
the Path**



**Chart
the Path**



**Continue
the Path**



**Complete
the Path**



**Climb
the Path**

Kentucky's attainment goals begin before enrollment. Students, of any age, must be able to see a clear, supported pathway into postsecondary education.



What challenge are we solving?

Barriers Kentucky students face moving into postsecondary education.

1 Awareness & Navigation

Students and families often don't know the full range of options—or the steps to get there.

2 Academic Readiness

Students below statewide benchmarks in English, reading, and math need corequisite or developmental courses first.

3 Cost Transparency

Rising unmet financial need and unclear up-front costs make enrollment harder.

4 Complex Aid Process

FAFSA completion sits at 61.4%, below the 70% goal, leaving available aid unclaimed.

5 College-Going Momentum

The immediate college-going rate (47.5%) has not returned to pre-pandemic levels.

6 Early College Access

Dual credit completion (47.5%) and AP access remain uneven across regions and groups.

7 Access and Reach

Rural, low-income, first-generation, and adult learners face the steepest transition barriers.

Lived Experiences

"I feel like it was a little overwhelming the first time opening a college application and seeing how much stuff we actually had to fill out on it." - College Freshman

"I recently have been meeting online with my school's admissions counselor talking about what the process was going to be.... It was very fun, I enjoyed it, and I'm looking very forward to going to college." -High School Senior

"Communication is key. Kids are not aware and parents are not aware of everything that is available, so get the information out as much as possible."- K-12 Parent

"The one thing that I wish had more transparency in college was probably the cost up front instead of like hidden charges that maybe that you don't know about." –College Freshman

What strategies are in place?

Programs and Policies

- My KY Future Act-Proactive Admissions
- GEAR UP KY
- KY Advising Academy
- Dual Credit
- KY Virtual Learning and Open Resources
- Healthcare Workforce Investment Fund
- CLIMB 2.0
- Futuriti.org

Partnerships

- Postsecondary Institutions
- Kentucky Department of Education
- Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority
- Kentucky K-12 School Districts
- Kentucky Education and Labor Cabinet
- Commonwealth Education Continuum-KY P-20 Council
- Committee on Educational Opportunities
- Workforce Advisory Committees

Products and Services

- Policies-Dual Credit
- Resources-College and Career Resources for potential students
- Scholarships-GEARUP KY and Healthcare Workforce Initiative Fund
- Convening-Student Access Summit
- Funding-Summer Bridge Programs
- Collaboration-Kentucky Advising Academy
- Coordination-Proactive Admissions

How will success be measured?

Transition and affordability indicators tracked toward Kentucky's 2030 goals.

Undergraduate Enrollment

KPI · Transitions

2030 Goal: 222,000

The total unduplicated number of students enrolled in an undergraduate program during an academic year, full- or part-time. Reached 227,582 in fall 2025—up 17.3% since 2021.

Immediate College-Going Rate

KPI · Transitions

2030 Goal: 62%

The share of recent Kentucky public high school graduates who enroll in a postsecondary institution the summer, fall, or spring after graduation. Currently 47.5% (class of 2024).

FAFSA Completion

Context Metric · Transitions

2030 Goal: 70%

The proportion of public high school graduates who complete the FAFSA by June 30. Rebounded to a five-year high of 61.4% in 2025.

Unmet Financial Need

KPI · Affordability

2030 Goal: \$5,000

Cost of attendance minus the Student Aid Index and all non-loan aid—the out-of-pocket burden for first-time, in-state students. Rose to \$7,048 in 2024-25 as costs climbed.

How is data used to inform the path?

CPE research studies turn statewide data into evidence that shapes how students move into postsecondary education.

2025

Admissions Redesign in Kentucky

KYSSC recommendations to simplify and improve the college admissions process.

2026

Beyond Participation

How dual credit delivery shapes college-going—participants enroll at 72% vs. 53% for non-participants.

2024

Commonwealth Education Continuum

Workgroup findings on early postsecondary opportunities and successful transitions.

2025

Supporting Adult Learner Engagement

Ithaka S+R guidance on removing holds and past-due balances for adults entering or returning.

2023

The Financial Tipping Point

How unmet financial need affects whether first-year students continue to a second year.

2026

Student Debt in Kentucky

Debt trends for undergraduates at public institutions—who carries debt and how much at graduation.

Discussion

What information was most encouraging?

What concerns you most about the information presented?

What is the single most important action Kentucky should take to ensure more learners successfully access postsecondary education and career opportunities?