

MEETING MINUTES

Approved on August 25, 2026

Who: Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education
Type: Postsecondary Education Working Group on Performance Funding
Date: July 31, 2026
Time: 10:00 a.m. ET (9:00 a.m. CT)
Location: CPE Offices, 100 Airport Road, Frankfort, KY – Conf Rm AB

CALL TO ORDER

The Postsecondary Education Working Group on Performance Funding met Friday, July 31, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. ET. The meeting took place at the Council offices in Frankfort, with an option to attend virtually. The meeting was livestreamed to the CPE YouTube page. Chair Aaron Thompson presided.

ATTENDANCE

There was a quorum of 20 members in attendance.

- Dr. Aaron Thompson, Chairman – in person
- Dr. Koffi Akakpo – in person
- Representative Chad Aull – in person
- Senator Mays Bledsoe - virtual
- Dr. Gerry Bradley – in person
- Representative Josh Bray – in person
- Dr. Tim Caboni - virtual
- Angie Martin, designee for Dr. Eli Capilouto – in person
- Senator David Givens – in person
- John Hicks – in person
- Representative Bobby McCool – in person
- Senator Chris McDaniel – in person (left at 12:00 p.m.)
- Dr. David McFaddin – in person
- Dr. Jay Morgan – in person
- Senator Gerald Neal – in person (left at 12:00 p.m.)
- Dr. Ron Patterson – in person
- Representative Steve Rudy – did not attend
- Todd Kilburn, designee for Dr. Ryan Quarles – in person
- Dr. Cady Short-Thompson - virtual
- Representative James Tipton – in person
- Senator Steve West – virtual (attended 10:10 a.m.-12:00 p.m.)

The following CPE staff members facilitated and presented at the meeting:

- Adam Blevins, Executive Director of Finance Policy & Programs
- Dr. Bill Payne, Vice President of Finance Policy & Programs
- Greg Rush, Associate Vice President of Finance Policy & Programs

Brent Floyd, Senior Associate of Finance Policy & Programs, served as recorder of the meeting minutes.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION (CONTINUATION OF JUNE 25 MEETING)

Mr. Blevins provided background information regarding the prior meetings of the Postsecondary Education Work Group.

- In 2020, the group established a ground floor, discontinued stop-loss carveouts, and required that general fund appropriations be recurring to the performance fund, not the institutions. For the University model, the 2023 convening increased the premium for low-income bachelor's degrees, decreasing the course completion component as a result, added an adult learner metric, eliminated degree efficiency weighting, increased small school adjustments for Kentucky State and Morehead State Universities, and increased the weightings for nonresident credit hours earned.
- For the KCTCS model, the 2023 convening added a new adult learner metric and the use of a Community Needs Index, reduced the weighting of progression and credential metrics, increased the weighting of URM, underprepared, low income, and transfer metrics, merged overlapping metrics, and implemented a 3-year average for most data points.
- The 2024 convening met with the sole purpose of defining "underrepresented students" as first-generation college students and slightly adjusted some of the metrics to accommodate this change.

Mr. Blevins also provided an overview of how performance funding allocations have been distributed since its inception as well as information on funding parity as it relates to historical state funds for educating students.

Finally, Mr. Blevins provided the parameters of the current model as well information regarding year-over-year changes in distributions. The Performance Funding Scorecard was presented, which gives an overview of which sector outcomes an institution has been above the sector average or not. Mr. Blevins discussed the alignment between outcomes and funding, recognizing that the changes in funding have been very gradual.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Dr. Gary Ransdell, President Emeritus of Western Kentucky University, presented on the impetus behind adopting the original performance fund model, the development process,

and how consensus was reached among the original members. Following the presentation, he answered the following questions:

- Representative Tipton asked about adding a workforce metric, for which Dr. Ransdell stated it may be difficult to obtain data to support a robust metric.
- Representative Tipton next asked about removing weightings and noted that doctoral degrees are being increasingly added to comprehensive institutions. Dr. Ransdell stated if weightings are removed, he believes it is time to add a graduate degree metric, adding that as a former university president he would see this as a charge to focus on those areas. Senator Givens noted that adding a graduate degree metric may shift focus from bachelor's degrees to graduate degrees for all institutions.
- Senator Givens asked what other states with models are doing wrong or right. Dr. Thompson stated consultants will be at a future meeting to answer this question.

2026 FUNDING MODEL WORK GROUP

Mr. Rush reviewed the charge of the working group and presented to the proposed future meeting dates:

- Tuesday, August 25, 1:00-3:00 p.m. ET
- Tuesday, September 22, 1:00-3:00 p.m. ET
- Tuesday, October 27, 1:00-3:00 p.m. ET
- Tuesday, November 10, 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. ET

MOTION: Representative Aull moved the working group to adopt the proposed meeting dates. The motion was seconded by Dr. McFaddin.

VOTE: The motion was approved.

Following the vote, Mr. Rush introduced Mr. Will Carroll, Principal of State Policy and Finance at HCM Strategists. HCM Strategists will provide consultation services and identify and report interstate challenges that are related to performance funding.

Finally, Chair Thompson requested action be taken regarding rules and procedures for the meetings of the working group.

MOTION: President Bradley moved the working group adopt the Roberts's Rules of Order to conduct meetings, with the clarification that a majority of work group members (11) is required for any motion to carry, regardless of how many members are in attendance. Representative Tipton seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Dr. Payne reviewed the current principles of the work group. He further reviewed survey responses provided by institutional presidents regarding proposed changes to those guiding principles.

Following that, a robust discussion was held regarding which principles should be kept, changed, removed, or adopted moving forward. Comments and remarks in this discussion included:

- President Thompson stated that there would ideally be 4-6 principles.
- Senator McDaniel acknowledged that only institutions were given a survey, while the legislators were not. It was clarified that staff did not initially provide the survey to legislators due to many of the questions being institution-focused, but it was decided to share the results of the survey so that legislators may formulate their own suggestions for principles and goals for the next meeting.
- Representative Tipton reminded members that they need to approach the principles and goals from the perspective of what the Commonwealth wants to achieve with higher education, which was echoed by Senator Givens.
- Senator Givens also reminded the legislators that their proposed principles may be more policy focused than those the campuses propose.

President Thompson stated the working group will revisit this subject at the next scheduled meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m. ET.