



TEAM KENTUCKY PRE-K FOR ALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 13, 2025, MEETING

- I. The regular meeting of the Team Kentucky Pre-K for All Advisory Committee was called to order by Sam Flynn, Executive Director of the Pre-K for All Program, on August 13, 2025, at approximately 4:06 PM. The members met virtually via Zoom.

Committee Members Present:

Jamie Link
Leslie Sizemore, Proxy for Aaron Thompson
Alice Forgy Kerr
Brent Cooper
Carrie Ballinger
Derrick Graham
Felicia Cumings Smith
Jamie Rodgers
Jason Slone
Jeff Noel
Jeni Ward
Joel Wolford
Mary Elizabeth Bailey
Pamela Morehead-Johnson
R. Travis Brenda
Robbie Fletcher
Ron Bunch
Ruth Ann Palumbo
Sarah Davasher-Wisdom
Scott Davis
Sharon Price
Lesa Dennis, Proxy for Steven Stack

Committee Members not Present:

Alvin Garrison
Colby Hall
Greg Terry
Laura White-Brown
Maddie Shepard



Rudy Spencer

Additional Attendees:

Kelsey Turley, Director, Head Start Collaboration, Education and Labor Cabinet
Andrea Day, Director, Division of Childcare, Department of Community Based Services, Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Sam Flynn, Executive Director, Pre-K for All Program
Malaya Rivers, Executive Administrator, Pre-K for All Program
Georgiana K. Ledford, Executive Advisor, Pre-K for All Program
Ben Weathers, Outreach Coordinator, Pre-K for All Program
Cali Mills Arnold, Legislative Liaison, Education and Labor Cabinet
Nick Therrell, Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor
Sarah Hail, Deputy Executive Director, Governor's Office of Legislative Affairs
Sophia Voskuhl, Policy Intern, Pre-K for All Program
Gretta Hylton, Associate Commissioner, Kentucky Department of Education
Jeana Ross, Alabama State House District 27, former Secretary, Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education
W. Steven Barnett, Ph.D, Founder and Senior Co-Director of the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER), Graduate School of Education, Rutgers University
Members of the Public

II. Old Business

The Committee voted on the approval of the July 15, 2025, regular meeting minutes. Ms. Price made a motion to approve the minutes, and Secretary Bailey seconded. The motion carried 22-0.

III. New Business

a. Report from Executive Director

Mr. Flynn provided an update on the Program and discussed Pre-K for All's recent events and outreach efforts.

Mr. Flynn also introduced guest speakers, Dr. Seven Barnett, Founder and Senior Co-Director of the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER), and Alabama State Representative Jeana Ross, former Secretary of the Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education.

b. Program Presentation: Lessons from Other States



Ms. Turley and Ms. Day gave a presentation on Pre-K for All programs or initiatives in other states. They highlighted five (5) states: Alabama, Georgia, Iowa, Oklahoma, and West Virginia, and discussed the selection approach used when choosing which states to cover.

They also discussed the seven (7) key elements used to explore other states' approaches to Pre-K for All and discussed each element in relation to the five (5) highlighted states.

c. Guest Speaker: W. Steven Barnett, Ph.D, Founder and Senior Co-Director of the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER), Graduate School of Education, Rutgers University

Dr. Barnett gave a presentation on the outcomes-based research of high-quality Pre-K programs and what aspects are important to consider when building an effective Pre-K system. Dr. Barnett also discussed New Jersey's Pre-K Program, including background, detailed implementation, pushback and gathering public/political will, and the strong academic outcomes of children who attend.

d. Guest Speaker: Representative Jeana Ross, Alabama State House District 27, former Secretary, Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education

Representative Ross discussed Alabama First Class Pre-K (FCPK). She provided background on FCPK, such as what key steps Alabama took to launch the program and what obstacles the program faced along the way. She highlighted the broader legislative process and discussed dissenting opinions and how those were addressed. Representative Ross also discussed the impact of the program and the difference it has made for the lives of families and children in Alabama.

IV. Comments and Announcements

Dr. Barnett and Representative Ross took questions and comments from the Committee members and the Pre-K for All Program staff.

Secretary Link announced that the next Town Hall event will be August 20, 2025, at the Kentucky State Fair and the next regular meeting of the Advisory Committee will be August 26, 2025.

V. Adjournment

There being no further business, Ms. Davasher-Wisdom moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Slone seconded, and the motion carried 22-0 (approximately 6:16 PM).

Pre-K for All
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TEAM
KENTUCKY


Secretary Jamie Link
Committee Chair