

# Evidence-based literacy bill green-lit by House committee

SUBMITTED

Literacy curriculum similar to the “Mississippi Miracle” may be coming to elementary school classrooms across Kentucky by 2029.

Rep. James Tipton, R-Taylorsville, and Rep. Tina Bojanowski, D-Louisville, are the primary co-sponsors of House Bill 253. Tipton presented the legislation to the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee on Wednesday, Feb. 4.

Tipton said Mississippi implemented new literacy curriculum in 2013 that has transformed the state’s literacy rates. Other states inspired by Mississippi’s success have begun to implement similar curriculum.

Under HB 253, the three-cuing system teaching model for reading would be banned in Kentucky public schools by the 2029-30 school year.

“We have seen research recently that shows that it is not nearly as productive as the Science of Reading’s five essential components of reading: phonetic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency and comprehension,” Tipton said. “In fact, there is a detriment to using the three-cuing method.”

Under the three-cuing method, students memorize what words look like instead of developing the ability to understand letter sounds and decode language, Tipton said.

“If you teach a student to memorize what 10 words look like, they will know 10 words,” Tipton said. “But if you teach them 10 sounds through phonetics, they will be able to speak thousands of words.”

In 2022, the general assembly passed Read to Succeed Act. Since then, 7,000 teachers have completed the KY LETRS program through the Kentucky Department of Education, which is a two-year intensive training initiative for Kentucky teachers on the Science of Reading, Tipton said.

Under HB 253, the department would offer several training programs on the Science of Reading,



David Michael Hargis

**Rep. James Tipton, R-Taylorsville, explains why Kentucky needs to end the three-cuing system teaching model of reading in schools through House Bill 253. The discussion was part of last Wednesday’s House Primary and Secondary Education meeting.**

including LETRS. One program would be about 50 hours, Micki Marinelli, chief academic officer for the department, said.

An earlier version of HB 253 called for an immediate ban on the three-cuing system. Rep. Josh Calloway, R-Irvington, asked Tipton why the bill now delays the implementation to 2029.

“The concern was if we just stopped cold turkey immediately, that a lot of teachers have had no training at all in the Science of Reading,” Tipton said, while adding that 19,000 more teachers need to complete LETRS training.

Marinelli told Calloway the department hopes that as more teachers complete Science of Reading training, they will see the curriculum is an evidence-based approach and in the best interest of the students.

Rep. Adrielle Camuel, D-Lexington, told Tipton and Marinelli she’s been talking to teachers and reading specialists in her districts who use structured literacy programs that include the three-cuing system. Camuel asked what enforcement of a ban on the curriculum would look like.

“If it’s prohibited from being utilized, what does enforcement look like? Are you going to put a whole prohibition on teachers using the tools that they know help students?” Camuel asked.

Tipton said the legislation would require KDE to

counsel school districts who are not in compliance with the law.

Marinelli said enforcement of the three-cuing ban would not be about punishment.

“It would be about support,” she said. “Everything that we’re doing around Read to Succeed is about making an investment in educators for the benefit of students, and so we would want to be in conversation with them.”

The House Primary and Secondary Education Committee voted unanimously to advance HB 253 to the House floor. Camuel was the lone pass vote.

“I have a lot of reservations,” she said while explaining her vote, adding she has concerns about prohibiting tools that have shown success with certain students.

Bojanowski, who serves as the ranking minority member on the committee, said she’s completed the LETRS training and has seen firsthand with her own students how the three-cuing system is not beneficial. She said having students guess the words is not helping her students become stronger readers.

“I support this bill,” Bojanowski said.

# AAA: Slight rise at the pump In Kentucky

SUBMITTED

Gas prices in West Central Kentucky are two cents higher this week at \$2.532 per gallon, according to AAA East Central’s Gas Price Report.

## NATIONWIDE TRENDS:

The month of February is bringing slightly higher gas prices as the national average for a gallon of regular is up three cents from last week to \$2.90. Gasoline demand is down, as fewer drivers hit the road during the recent winter storms. But this is the time of year when pump prices start nudging higher, as spring approaches and refineries start making the switch to summer-blend gasoline production. Current prices remain below what they were this time last year when the national average was \$3.12.

According to new data from the Energy Information Administration (EIA), gasoline demand decreased last week from 8.75 million barrels per day to 8.15 million. Total domestic gasoline supply increased from 257.2 million barrels to 257.9 million. Gasoline production decreased last week, averaging 9.0 million barrels per day.

At the close of last Wednesday’s formal trading session, West Texas Intermediate rose \$1.93 to settle at \$65.14 a barrel. The EIA reports crude oil inventories decreased by 3.5 million barrels from the previous week. At 420.3 million barrels, U.S. crude oil inventories are about 4% below the five-year average for this time of year.

The national average per kilowatt hour of electricity at a public EV charging station remains at 38 cents.

## WEST CENTRAL KENTUCKY AVERAGES

Today- \$2.532

One Week Ago - \$2.516  
One Year Ago - \$2.785  
Record Price Date - 6/13/2022  
Record Price - \$4.742

## THE AVERAGE PRICE OF UNLEADED SELF-SERVE GASOLINE TODAY IN VARIOUS AREAS

\$2.420 Bowling Green  
\$2.460 Elizabethtown  
\$2.616 Louisville  
\$2.510 Owensboro  
\$2.655 Paducah

## QUICK GAS AND ELECTRICITY STATS

**Gas**  
The nation’s top 10 most expensive gasoline markets are Hawaii (\$4.40), California (\$4.39), Washington (\$3.97), Nevada (\$3.51), Oregon (\$3.49), Alaska (\$3.46), Washington, DC (\$3.09), Arizona (\$3.08), Pennsylvania (\$3.08), and Illinois (\$3.03).

The nation’s top 10 least expensive gasoline markets are Oklahoma (\$2.36), Arkansas (\$2.44), Texas (\$2.45), Mississippi (\$2.45), Kansas (\$2.47), Louisiana (\$2.49), Missouri (\$2.50), Tennessee (\$2.50), Iowa (\$2.54), and Alabama (\$2.55).

**ELECTRIC**  
The nation’s top 10 most expensive states for public charging per kilowatt hour are West Virginia (51 cents), Alaska (48 cents), Hawaii (45 cents), Louisiana (45 cents), New Hampshire (43 cents), California (42 cents), South Carolina (41 cents), New Jersey (41 cents), Alabama (41 cents), and Tennessee (41 cents).

The nation’s top 10 least expensive states for public charging per kilowatt hour are Kansas (25 cents), Wyoming (27 cents), Missouri (27 cents), Nebraska (29 cents), Delaware (31 cents), Utah (31 cents), Maryland (31 cents), Iowa (32 cents), Vermont (32 cents), and Michigan (33 cents).

# U.S. Postal Service to observe Presidents Day, Feb. 16

Self-service options are available in many retail lobbies when Post Offices are closed

SUBMITTED

The U.S. Postal Service will observe Presidents Day on Monday, Feb. 16. All Post Office locations will be closed. Regular mail delivery and retail services will resume on Tuesday, Feb. 17.

Customers are reminded that

when Post Offices are closed, they can still access many postal products and services through usps.com and self-service kiosks available in select lobbies nationwide. These kiosks feature:

- Postage printing for Priority Mail, Priority Mail Express and international shipping;
- Stamps for purchase;
- Ability to weigh and mail packages; and
- Package tracking information.

As USPS modernizes its retail locations, more self-service options are becoming available at more locations and may include:

- Rapid Dropoff Stations for

customers who have already created and printed labels online;

- An option for customers to print shipping labels from a merchant-provided QR code; and
- USPS Smart Lockers that allow customers to both drop off and pick up packages.

Many self-service kiosks are available 24/7, offering customers flexibility and convenience even when Post Offices are closed.

For more information on USPS services, visit [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com).

YOUR CUSTOMER JUST READ THIS AD. ADVERTISE WITH US.



**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
The Hardinsburg Municipal Utilities has completed the 2025 Consumer Confidence Report and is available online at: [www.tapwaterinfo.com/hardinsburg](http://www.tapwaterinfo.com/hardinsburg). This publication conforms to the regulation under Safe Drinking Water Act requiring water utilities to provide detailed water quality information to each of their customers annually. Copies of this report are also available for your review at Hardinsburg City Hall, Breckinridge County Courthouse, Hardinsburg Post Office, Harned Post Office, and Garfield Post Office.



**PUBLIC NOTICE INVITATION FOR BIDS**  
The Breckinridge County Fiscal Court is currently accepting sealed bids for the removal and disposal of debris at the Breckinridge County Road Department until 4:00 p.m. Friday, February 13, 2026. The bids will be opened at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, February 16, 2026 at the Fiscal Court Meeting. Any questions or to view the debris please call the office at 270-756-2269. Bids can be mailed to the County Judge’s Office at P.O. Box 227, Hardinsburg, KY 40143 or delivered to the office at 208 S. Main Street, Hardinsburg, KY 40143. Sealed bids must be marked “debris removal.” The Breckinridge County Fiscal Court reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids. We are not responsible for bids that are not delivered on time.



**STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION**  
Brandenburg Telephone Company is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the State or local Agency that administers the program or contact USDA through the Telecommunications Relay Service at 711 (voice and TTY). Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at <https://www.usda.gov/oascr/how-to-file-a-program-discrimination-complaint> and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Mail Stop 9410, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

Signed: /s/ Allison Willoughby Allison Willoughby President



**COMMISSIONER’S SALE**  
FEBRUARY 16, 2026 AT 1:00 P.M. CENTRAL TIME  
OLD BRECKINRIDGE COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
FRONT DOOR  
208 SOUTH MAIN STREET  
HARDINSBURG, KENTUCKY  
BRECKINRIDGE CIRCUIT COURT, DIVISION I CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-CI-00053  
MTAG AS C/F MGD-KY, LLC PLAINTIFF  
VS. NOTICE OF SALE  
DARRELL COMPTON AKA DARRELL T. COMPTON, ET. AL DEFENDANTS

By virtue of a Judgment and Order of Sale entered December 3, 2025, the Master Commissioner will on February 16, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. or thereabouts, offer for sale the property described below. The property be offered at public auction to the highest bidder on terms of TEN (10%) PERCENT down in the form of cash, cashier’s check or certified check, and the balance on a credit of thirty (30) days, secured by a bond with sufficient surety, and bearing interest at the accruing rate of 12.00% per annum from date of sale until the purchase price is paid. A lien will be retained on the property sold until the purchase money is fully paid. Please contact the Master Commissioner’s office prior to the date of sale to ensure that you have all information necessary to qualify to bid. Health and safety measures will be required.  
**Property Address: 9700 E Hwy 144, Stephensport, Kentucky 40170**  
**Parcel Identification Number: SP 5-5**  
The real estate will be appraised. The purpose of the sale is to satisfy a judgment in the amount of \$4,025.14 plus interest and costs. However, bids will not be required to meet or exceed the appraised value. The real estate has been adjudged to be indivisible and will be sold as a whole. It will be sold free of liens of all the parties hereto except for real estate taxes for 2025 and thereafter, and will be subject to all restrictions and easements of record.

**HERBERT M. O’REILLY**  
MASTER COMMISSIONER  
POST OFFICE BOX 539  
HARDINSBURG, KENTUCKY 40143  
PHONE: (270) 756-2882



**COMMISSIONER’S SALE**  
MARCH 2, 2026 AT 11:00 A.M. CENTRAL TIME  
OLD BRECKINRIDGE COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
FRONT DOOR  
208 SOUTH MAIN STREET  
HARDINSBURG, KENTUCKY  
BRECKINRIDGE CIRCUIT COURT, DIVISION I CASE NO. 25-CI-00082  
GERARDO JAIME PLAINTIFF VS. NOTICE OF SALE  
ESTATE OF CATHERINE WHEATLEY, ET AL DEFENDANTS

By virtue of a Judgment and Order of Sale entered December 18, 2025, the Master Commissioner will on March 2, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. or thereabouts, offer for sale the property described below. The property be offered at public auction to the highest bidder on terms of TEN (10%) PERCENT down in the form of cash, cashier’s check or certified check, and the balance on a credit of thirty (30) days, secured by a bond with sufficient surety, and bearing interest at the accruing rate of 12.00% per annum from date of sale until the purchase price is paid. A lien will be retained on the property sold until the purchase money is fully paid. Please contact the Master Commissioner’s office prior to the date of sale to ensure that you have all information necessary to qualify to bid. Health and safety measures will be required.  
**Property Address: 280 Wilson Wilderness Lane, Westview, Kentucky 40178**  
**Parcel Identification Number: 77-5**  
The real estate will be appraised. The purpose of the sale is to satisfy a judgment in the amount of \$3,572.88 plus interest and costs. However, bids will not be required to meet or exceed the appraised value. The real estate has been adjudged to be indivisible and will be sold as a whole. It will be sold free of liens of all the parties hereto except for real estate taxes for 2025 and thereafter, and will be subject to all restrictions and easements of record.

**HERBERT M. O’REILLY**  
MASTER COMMISSIONER  
POST OFFICE BOX 539  
HARDINSBURG, KENTUCKY 40143  
PHONE: (270) 756-2882



**COMMISSIONER’S SALE**  
FEBRUARY 23, 2026 AT 12:30 P.M. CENTRAL TIME  
OLD BRECKINRIDGE COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
FRONT DOOR  
208 SOUTH MAIN STREET  
HARDINSBURG, KENTUCKY  
BRECKINRIDGE CIRCUIT COURT, DIVISION I CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-CI-00128  
CARRINGTON MORTGAGE SERVICES, LLC, PLAINTIFF VS.  
LETITIA REID DEERE & COMANY DEFENDANTS

By virtue of a Judgment and Order of Sale entered April 2, 2025, and by order entered January 15, 2026, the Master Commissioner will on February 23, 2026, at 12:30 p.m. or thereabouts, offer for sale the property described below. The property will be offered at public auction to the highest bidder on terms of TEN (10%) PERCENT down in the form of cash, cashier’s check or certified check, and the balance on a credit of thirty (30) days, secured by a bond with sufficient surety, and bearing interest at the accruing interest rate of 3.250% per annum from date of sale until the purchase price is paid. A lien will be retained on the property sold until the purchase money is fully paid. Please contact the Master Commissioner’s office prior to the date of sale to ensure that you have all information necessary to qualify to bid. Health and safety measures will be required.  
**Property Address: 103 Carolyn Lane, Hardinsburg, KY, 40143**  
**Parcel Identification Number: HB 3-1-7C**  
The real estate will be appraised. The purpose of the sale is to satisfy a judgment in the amount of \$ 128,620.30 plus interest and costs. However, bids will not be required to meet or exceed the appraised value. The real estate has been adjudged to be indivisible and will be sold as a whole. It will be sold free of liens of all the parties hereto except for real estate taxes for 2025 and thereafter, and will be subject to all restrictions and easements of record.

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MASTER COMMISSIONER  
POST OFFICE BOX 539  
HARDINSBURG, KENTUCKY 40143  
PHONE: (270) 756-2882



**COMMISSIONER’S SALE**  
FEBRUARY 23, 2026 AT 11:30 A.M. CENTRAL TIME  
OLD BRECKINRIDGE COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
FRONT DOOR  
208 SOUTH MAIN STREET  
HARDINSBURG, KENTUCKY  
BRECKINRIDGE CIRCUIT COURT, DIVISION II CIVIL ACTION NO. 25-CI-00001  
KENTUCKY HOUSING CORPORATION PLAINTIFF vs. NOTICE OF SALE  
SCOTT MILLS CASAOPCO SUB A TRUST COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY, DIVISION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE  
IDA L. MILLS DEFENDANTS

By virtue of a Judgment and Order of Sale entered May 9, 2025, and by revised order to reschedule sale entered January 8, 2026, the Master Commissioner will on February 23, 2026, at 11:30 a.m. or thereabouts, offer for sale the property described below. The property will be offered at public auction to the highest bidder on terms of TEN (10%) PERCENT down in the form of cash, cashier’s check or certified check, and the balance on a credit of thirty (30) days, secured by a bond with sufficient surety, and bearing interest at the accruing interest rate of 4.375% per annum from date of sale until the purchase price is paid. A lien will be retained on the property sold until the purchase money is fully paid. Please contact the Master Commissioner’s office prior to the date of sale to ensure that you have all information necessary to qualify to bid. Health and safety measures will be required.  
**Property Address: 206 West Caroline Street, Irvington, KY 40146**  
**Parcel Identification Number: IR 2-16-3**  
The real estate will be appraised. The purpose of the sale is to satisfy a judgment in the amount of \$ 43,327.52 plus interest and costs. However, bids will not be required to meet or exceed the appraised value. The real estate has been adjudged to be indivisible and will be sold as a whole. It will be sold free of liens of all the parties hereto except for real estate taxes for 2025 and thereafter, and will be subject to all restrictions and easements of record.

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