

FORMAT

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teams for their regular-season performance.

First-round matchups would include No. 1 vs. No. 16, No. 8 vs. No. 9, No. 5 vs. No. 12, No. 4 vs. No. 13, No. 6 vs. No. 11, No. 3 vs. No. 14, No. 7 vs. No. 10, and No. 2 vs. No. 15.

Each of the eight first-round games would be hosted by the higher-seeded team. The winners of those matchups would then advance to the Corbin Arena, where the tournament would continue with the quarterfinals, semifinals, and championship game to determine the region champion.

A Super Regional format would bring several advantages, especially for a competitive area like the 13th Region where there are many schools and strong programs. Some of the biggest benefits include:

More teams get a post-season opportunity.

Instead of only district finalists qualifying for the regional tournament, a Super Regional would allow all schools in the region to participate, ensuring that strong teams from deep districts are not eliminated before reaching regional play.

Rewards regular-season performance.

Higher seeds would host early-round games on their home courts, which gives teams an incentive to perform well during the regular

season. It also creates a true advantage for top seeds rather than forcing everyone into a neutral-site bracket from the start.

Creates more excitement and fan engagement.

Early-round games at local gyms would generate strong crowds and community interest. Schools hosting postseason games often draw packed houses, which can create a playoff atmosphere across the region before the tournament even reaches the arena.

More meaningful games and storylines.

With additional rounds and matchups, the format would produce more compelling storylines—upsets, rivalry games, and deeper tournament runs that build excitement heading into the arena rounds.

Maintains the traditional regional championship atmosphere.

Once the field is trimmed to eight teams, the tournament would move to the arena for the quarterfinals, semifinals, and championship, preserving the big-stage environment that fans and players expect from regional tournament play.

Overall, a Super Regional format blends home-court excitement early with the traditional neutral-site championship feel, while also giving more schools a chance to compete for a regional title.

Total degrees and credentials up 15 percent since 2019-20, CPE says

BY TOM LATEK
KENTUCKY TODAY

FRANKFORT, Ky. (KT) — The Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) announced during their November board meeting that total degrees and credentials in 2024-25 were up 5 percent from the previous academic year and 15.1 percent since 2019-20.

The CPE says this includes undergraduate and graduate awards at both public and private institutions across Kentucky.

“At a time when more and more jobs require some education or training after high school, I am extremely encouraged by the positive momentum in degree production,” said Dr. Aaron Thompson, CPE President. “Behind every percentage-point gain are hundreds of students better prepared

to meet the challenges of Kentucky’s rapidly evolving job market.”

Degrees and credentials showed gains at every degree level and sector from 2023-24 to 2024-25:

— At public universities, total undergraduate degrees and credentials increased by 3.5 percent, while graduate and professional degrees grew by 2.9 percent.

— In the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS), associate degrees were up 7 percent, and certificates were up 3.9 percent.

— At independent institutions, undergraduate degrees and credentials rose 1.9 percent and graduate credentials increased by 16.5 percent.

A more detailed report including degrees conferred to low-income,

first-generation and adult students is expected to be released next month.

In other action, the board approved a new master’s degree in sports analytics at Kentucky State University (KSU), as well as two new bachelor’s degrees at the University of Kentucky (UK) — one in applied economics and one in artificial intelligence. The board also approved the final report analyzing KSU’s performance under the management im-

provement plan required by HB 250, enacted in the 2022 Regular Session. The report includes the following recommendations to improve KSU’s financial health:

— Require the creation of a financial stability plan.

— Continue quarterly fiscal monitoring for an additional two years.

— Forgive the \$23 million loan made by the General Assembly to cover KSU’s cash shortfall for FY 2021-22.

PUBLIC NOTICES

3.11.2026

Laurel County Board of Education will be accepting bids for the School Picture bid

The Laurel County Board of Education will be accepting bids until 2:00 pm, Thursday, March 19, 2026 for the School Picture Bid. Copies of bids can be picked up at Central Office,

718 North Main Street, London, KY weekdays 8:00 am-4:00 pm. Bids will be awarded at 5:00 pm Monday, March 23, 2026. The Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

A request has been filed with the Laurel County Fiscal Court to open, establish and/or alter a public road and/or establish a school bus turnaround

Pursuant to KRS 178.080 and KRS 179-290(2) a request has been filed with the Laurel County Fiscal Court to open, establish and/or alter a public road and/or establish a school bus turnaround as a part of the county road system; and a committee of viewers having filed a report recommending the projects, and: The proposed public road project being described as follows:

- Big Sky Road
- Bozeman Road

A public hearing will be held

on the proposed projects for the purpose of receiving public comments and in addition; to address the following specific questions:

Has the existing road been a public road for at least the past fifteen (15) years and does the proposed project(s) serve a purpose?

Date of hearing: Monday, March 23, 2026

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Location: Laurel County Courthouse --3rd floor

The Sixth Circuit Judicial Council received applications from people interested in appointment to the bankruptcy judge position

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGESHIP EASTERN DISTRICT OF KENTUCKY AT LEXINGTON

The Sixth Circuit Judicial Council received applications from people interested in appointment to the bankruptcy judge position. A Merit Selection Panel considered all applications received and recommended the following candidates: Adam M. Back, Katherine A. (Katie) Bell Dames,

Ellen Arvin Kennedy, Megan R. Seliber, and David J. Treacy.

Full public notice is available at www.ca6.uscourts.gov. Any person may now submit written comments for consideration by the Judicial Council and the Court of Appeals. Public comments must be received by March 30, 2026. Please contact Marc Theriault, Circuit Executive, (513) 564-7200 for further information.

A partition action has been filed against the property that is the subject matter of Laurel Civil Action Number 25-CI-679

Notice is hereby given that I, Attorney Jason Scott Kincer, have been appointed by the Laurel Circuit Court to notify all persons having a claim or interesting in real property located in Laurel County that is subject to Laurel Circuit Court Civil Action Number 25-CI-679.

A partition action has been filed against the property that is the subject matter of Laurel Civil Action Number 25-CI-679. This property will be sold on the Courthouse steps or other location as posted or designated by the Laurel County Master Commissioner. The property subject to this action was originally acquired by Jake Burkhart and his wife, America Burkhart, also known as American Burkhart Proffit and is described in Deed Book No. 78, at Page 581, in the records of the Laurel County Clerk’s Office, London, KY. Jake and America Burkhart, also known as America Burkhart Proffit, had

four children, Nancy Burkhart, Bertha Burkhart, Birdie Burkhart and Sherman Burkhart. If you are an heir, descendant, spouse, heir of or descendant of a spouse to any of the aforementioned individuals you may have an interest in the real property subject to this action. If you feel you have an interest in the real property subject to the above described legal action please contact my office at 606-330-0833 or by mailing correspondence to P.O. Box 3435, London Kentucky, 40743, to be received by no later than March 15st, 2026, so I may properly inform you of this action.

Jason Scott Kincer
Warning Order Attorney for Laurel Circuit Court Civil Action Number 25-CI-00679

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