

COMMUNITY

Legislative Update

SESSION REVIEW: BILLS BECOME LAW

DC program at MCTC expands in-person opportunities



The Criminal Justice Program at Maysville Community and Technical College is now offering in-person courses to Dual Credit students in the service area.

Two of the courses in the program are eligible for in-person attendance, including Intro to Criminal Justice and Criminal Investigations. Both courses count toward an associate degree in the field and are transferable to any of MCTC's four-year university partners.

"Offering these courses in-person is a great opportunity for high school students to be introduced to criminal justice early and get a better understanding of the scope of the field, and what careers it can lead to," remarked Dallas McKinney, program coordinator and associate professor in the Criminal Justice Program.

A typical class session for these courses will be held 2 days a week, one being a lecture and the other focusing on crime scene investigations.

"The Dual Credit program at MCTC provides students with a powerful head start on their academic journeys by allowing them to earn college credits while still in high school. This opportunity not only accelerates degree completion but also reduces the overall cost of higher education. By experiencing college-level course-

work early, students build confidence, sharpen skill sets, and transition more smoothly into postsecondary education and the workforce," said Alisha Plummer, director of Dual Credit at the college.

Overall, the courses offered to Dual Credit students give them a broad overview of careers in the field and a chance to meet professionals in law enforcement, corrections, investigations, and crime lab work.

"I hope students can come away from these courses with a better understanding of how different the field of criminal justice can be and how to better work with their communities," McKinney said.

For more information on the Criminal Justice Program, visit <https://maysville.kctcs.edu/education-training/program-finder/criminal-justice.aspx>.

About MCTC
Maysville Community and Technical College is a two-year college that has been serving the region since 1968. As part of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System, MCTC provides education and training close to where people live and work. To learn more about the programs of study at MCTC, visit www.maysville.kctcs.edu.

Representative Matthew Koch

April 20, 2026 - The 2026 General Assembly has adjourned until January 5, 2027. We wrapped up a busy 60-day session on April 15, but work will continue during the interim starting in June, as legislators review new laws and prepare for next session. Before I share information about the results of this session, I want to share how grateful I am for the opportunity to serve our community and be part of this important work.

The state budget and other spending plans dominated our agenda before we ultimately came to agreements on measures that include a \$32.4 million, two-year budget for executive branch agencies and programs (HB 500), nearly a billion dollars in funding for the judicial branch (HB 504) and \$182 million in allocations for the legislative branch budget (HB 503). The legislature also passed a \$7 billion operating budget for the Transportation Cabinet (HB 501); a \$4.6 billion road construction and maintenance plan (HB 502); and \$70 million in funding for local road projects (HJR 76).

Other bills include: HB 1 would opt Kentucky into the Education Freedom Tax Credit, established under the federal House Resolution 1 (HR 1), and give Kentucky families access to privately-funded scholarships for primary and secondary education. Vetoed. Overridden.

HB 2 would align Kentucky's Medicaid program with federal changes to improve health outcomes and ensure eligibility, as well as improve program management.

HB 3 would ensure pharmacists are paid for providing routine, preventive, and chronic-care services they are already delivering every day, particularly in rural and underserved areas.

HB 4 would define and criminalize behavior commonly referred to as "grooming." Under provisions of HB 4, grooming refers to the manipulative and deceptive process by which a predator builds a relationship with a vulnerable person, such as a child, to gain trust and access for abuse or exploitation.

HB 5 would expand prison-based education and job-training programs proven to reduce crime by developing a model vocational campus at a state prison, offering intensive education and workforce training while individuals complete their sentences.

HB 6 expands safe, affordable child care for working parents, removes barriers for children with disabilities, and promotes community-based innovation. It strengthens the Child Care Assistance Program, enhances quality ratings, improves transparency, and permanently establishes the CCAP income exclusion - creating a more accessible, high-quality system that supports families and children statewide.

HB 7 would allow school districts to use camera monitoring systems on school buses to enforce a civil penalty against drivers that are recorded passing a school bus with a deployed stop arm and allow school districts to contract with a private vendor to do so.

HB 10 would strengthen accountability, transparency, and continuity of government during gubernatorial transitions in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

HB 36 would allow Kentucky to join interstate compacts for respiratory care, athletic trainers, and licensed dietitians, which would expand patient access to care, promote license portability, and address workforce shortages.

HB 253 would phase out the use of the "three-cueing" reading method in Kentucky schools and prohibits school districts from entering into nondisclosure agreements when misconduct involving a minor or student occurs.

HB 307 would create a proactive postsecondary admissions program requiring KDE to share all incoming seniors with state universities. Colleges and universities must adopt a common application with minimum admis-

sion standards and notify every Kentucky senior of their KEES award, eligible institutions, and application instructions.

HB 398 would protect consumers from rate spikes by allowing utility companies to recover the future costs of decommissioning, removing, and salvaging electric generating plants, as well as depreciation expenses, through rates spread over the asset's useful life rather than when the plant is retired.

HB 510 would establish a standardized "pause in procedure" process that must be followed when concerns arise during organ procurement that could affect a patient's medical status or eligibility.

HB 518 would update statute to require the development of standardized electronic forms for net profits, gross business receipts, and payroll occupational taxes by a broad advisory committee representing local governments, tax professionals, and business organizations to develop uniform forms

and instructions, ensuring consistency and clarity for businesses operating in multiple tax districts.


HB 778 would strengthen child welfare by barring foster, relative, or adoptive placements in homes with registered sex offenders, improving information sharing with schools and agencies, and enhances child fatality reviews, ensuring children in state custody are placed in safe, supportive environments tailored to their needs.

HB 781 would expand the education and training requirements within the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to promote stronger workforce participation and employment outcomes.

As always, I can be reached anytime through the toll-free message line in Frankfort at 1-800-372-7181. You can also contact me via email at Matthew.Koch@kylegislature.gov and keep track through the Kentucky legislature's website at legislature.ky.gov.

ALL YOU CAN EAT

pancake breakfast



Sausage, bacon, coffee, milk and juice

Sponsored by Bethel/Sharpsburg Volunteer Fire Department

April 25, 2026

7:00 am – 11:00 am

@ Sharpsburg Station

\$8.00/person

Selling chances on a Henry Golden Boy .360 Buckhammer caliber rifle

\$5.00/ticket or 6 for \$25.00 Drawing Aug. 8, 2026

Call 859-473-0968 for tickets

City of Carlisle 2025 Delinquent Property Taxes		
On April 13, 2026 the City of Carlisle will file a lien with the Nicholas County Clerk on all unpaid property taxes for 2025. Anyone paying before the above date will have their name stricken from the list.		
Bill #	Name	Amount
17	Allen Heirs	\$11.98
19	Allife Inc	\$14.98
35	Angulo Pacheco	\$74.87
51	Joseph Bealer Est. C/O Gary Williams	\$3.00
52	Joseph Bealer Est. C/O Gary Williams	\$3.00
54	James Bean Est	\$164.72
55	Joe Beatty IV & Madalyn	\$199.15
65	Earl Bills	\$191.66
73	Allison Boone	\$74.87
98	Alice Buckler Est	\$143.75
101	David Bumpase	\$101.82
120	Paul Capio	\$38.19
147	Centurion Fides Farm	\$149.74
166	William Clark Est	\$131.77
167	William Clark Est	\$41.93
168	William Clark Est	\$763.67
172	Cheyenne Clifford & Breanna Baker	\$44.93
221	Rodney & Naomi Dale Est C/O Rodney D Dale	\$125.78
228	James Davis C/O William & Kristy Nelson	\$149.74
300	Darrell Finch	\$104.82
382	Wesley Grant	\$80.86
485	Bryan Hurst	\$269.53
492	Jade Inc	\$1796.85
538	Jones Lee Est C/O Gary Williams	\$22.46
546	Alex & Judith Kazunas	\$119.79
547	Alex & Judith Kazunas	\$119.79
548	Alex & Judith Kazunas	\$254.56
581	Licking Valley Internal Medicine	\$19.92
599	Bessie Mann Est	\$161.72
623	James McClurg C/O Dylan Sparks	\$58.39
624	James McClurg C/O Dylan Sparks	\$17.97
645	Millennial Ventures	\$163.22
784	Clark & Peggy Ring Est	\$133.27
851	Alex & Jasper Simpson Est C/O Joyce Jackson	\$5.99
879	Southern Investments	\$56.91
897	Noreen Stevens Est C/O Nora Stevens	\$14.98
949	Mary Tinchler Est	\$155.73
970	Transaction Network Ser.	\$9.28
979	Donnie Tucker	\$176.70
1042	Gary Williams	\$11.98
1043	Gary Williams	\$14.98
1071	Scott Zornes	\$59.90

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed bids will be received by the Nicholas County Board of Education for the New Central Office in Carlisle, Kentucky, until 2:00 p.m. ET on 13 May 2026, at the office of the Board of Education, 395 West Main Street, Carlisle, KY. Bids will be opened and read aloud.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held on 29 April 2026 at 2:00 p.m. ET at the Nicholas County BOE Office. **Attendance by potential bidding contractors is recommended.**

Copies of the Bidding Documents may be obtained at Lynn Imaging (lynnimaging.com), 328 Old Vine Street, Lexington, KY 40507, 800-888-0693. There will be no cost to bidders for digital copies. Costs for printed copies and shipping will be bidders' responsibility, and are nonrefundable.

Successful low bidder will be required to provide 100% Performance and Payment Bond for contract signing for all labor and materials (including DPOs - Materials purchased directly from suppliers) as part of this contract. Bid Security equal to 5% of Base Bid will be required, in the form of a Bid Bond, Cashier's Check, or Certified Check.

Questions or requests for clarification shall be directed to the Architect. Documents may be viewed at the following locations:

G. Scott & Associates, Architects PLC 314 Wilkinson Street Frankfort, KY 40601 Phone: 502-875-2290 Fax: 502-875-1307 Contact: Gary Scott E-mail: mail@gscottarch.com	Nicholas County Board of Education 395 W Main Street Carlisle, KY 40311 Phone: 859-289-3770 Fax: 859-289-3777 Contact: Doug Bechanan Email: doug.bechanan@nicholas.kyschools.us
Builders Exchange of Louisville 2300 Meadow Dr. Louisville, KY 40218-1372 Phone: 502-459-9800 Fax: 502-459-9803 Contact: Treva Masters E-mail: tmasters@bxkentucky.com	Construction Connect 30 Technology Parkway S- Ste 100 Norcross, GA 30092 Phone: 800-364-2059 Fax: 866-570-8187 Contact: Ryan Cahill Email: content@constructconnect.com
Dodge Data & Analytics 4300 Beltway Place, #180 Arlington, TX 76018 Phone: 817-375-2942 Fax: 347-620-4319 Contact: Lori Bachman E-mail: lori.bachman@construction.com	Builder's Exchange 4350 Glendale-Milford Rd, #120 Cincinnati, OH 45242 Phone: 866-907-6300 Fax: 866-907-6304 Contact: Cyndi Thornton Email: CThornton@bxohio.com
Shrout Tate Wilson Consulting Engineers (Mech/Elec) 628 Winchester Road Lexington, KY 40505 Phone: 859-277-8177 Fax: 859-277-8372 Contact: Jeff Frohlich E-mail: jeff.frohlich@stweng.com	MLH Civil Engineers, PLLC 3320 Clays Mill Road Lexington, KY 40503 Phone/Fax: 859-219-1066 Contact: John W. Hunt Email: john@mlhcivil.com
RAI Engineering (Struct) 539 West Market St, Suite #200 Louisville, KY 40202 Phone: 502-589-2212 Fax: 502-589-2240 Contact: Anthony Ehlers E-mail: anthony@raengineering.com	

The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids or to waive any informalities in the bidding. No bid may be withdrawn without the consent of the Owner or forfeit of Bid Security for a period of thirty (30) days subsequent to the date for receipt of bids.

Doug Bechanan, Superintendent
Nicholas County Board of Education

Published in the Carlisle Mercury on 04.22.26