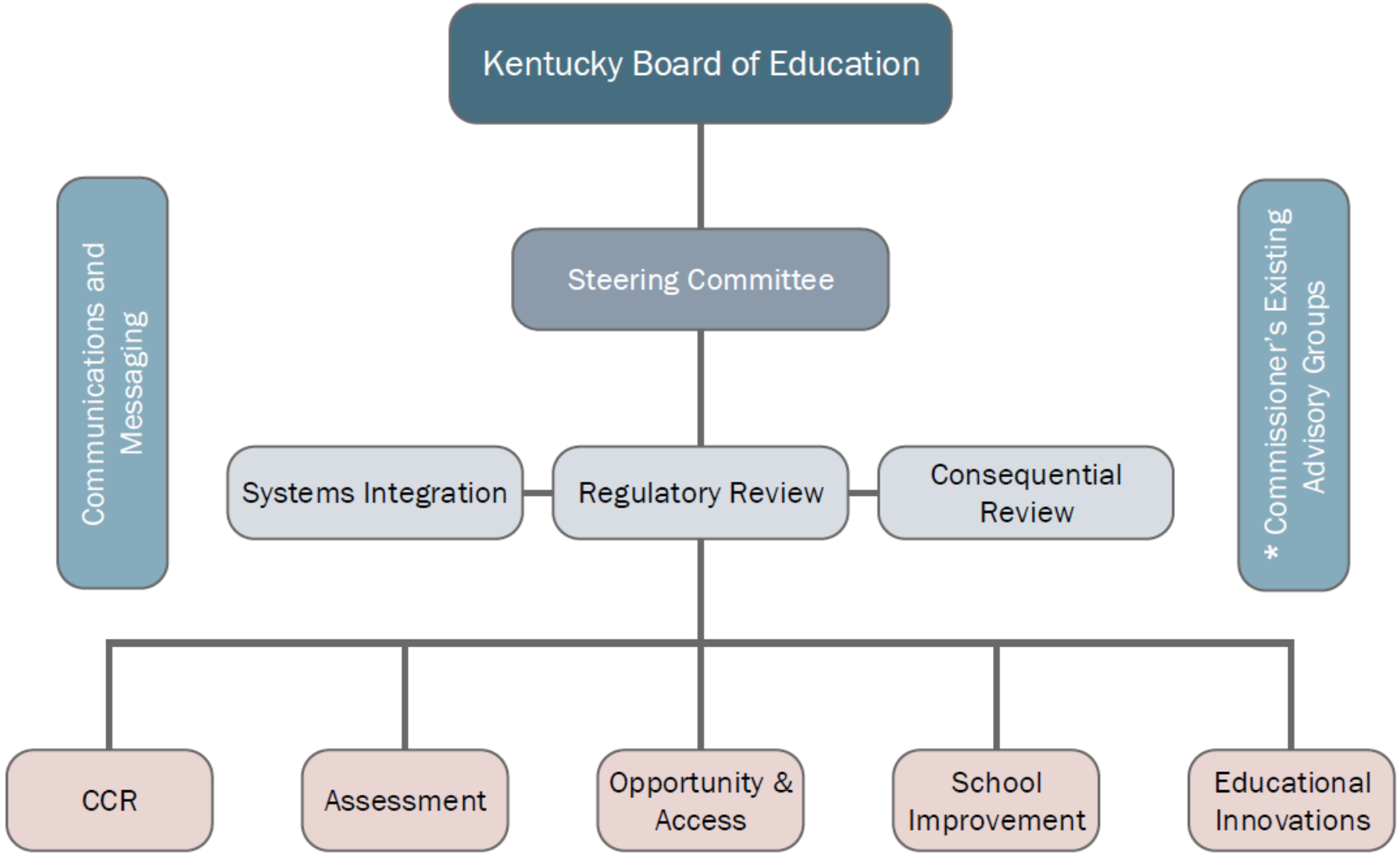
Kentucky Department of
Our
Children,
Our
Commonwealth
Education

Commissioner's Accountability Steering Committee

Preparing to Make Decisions

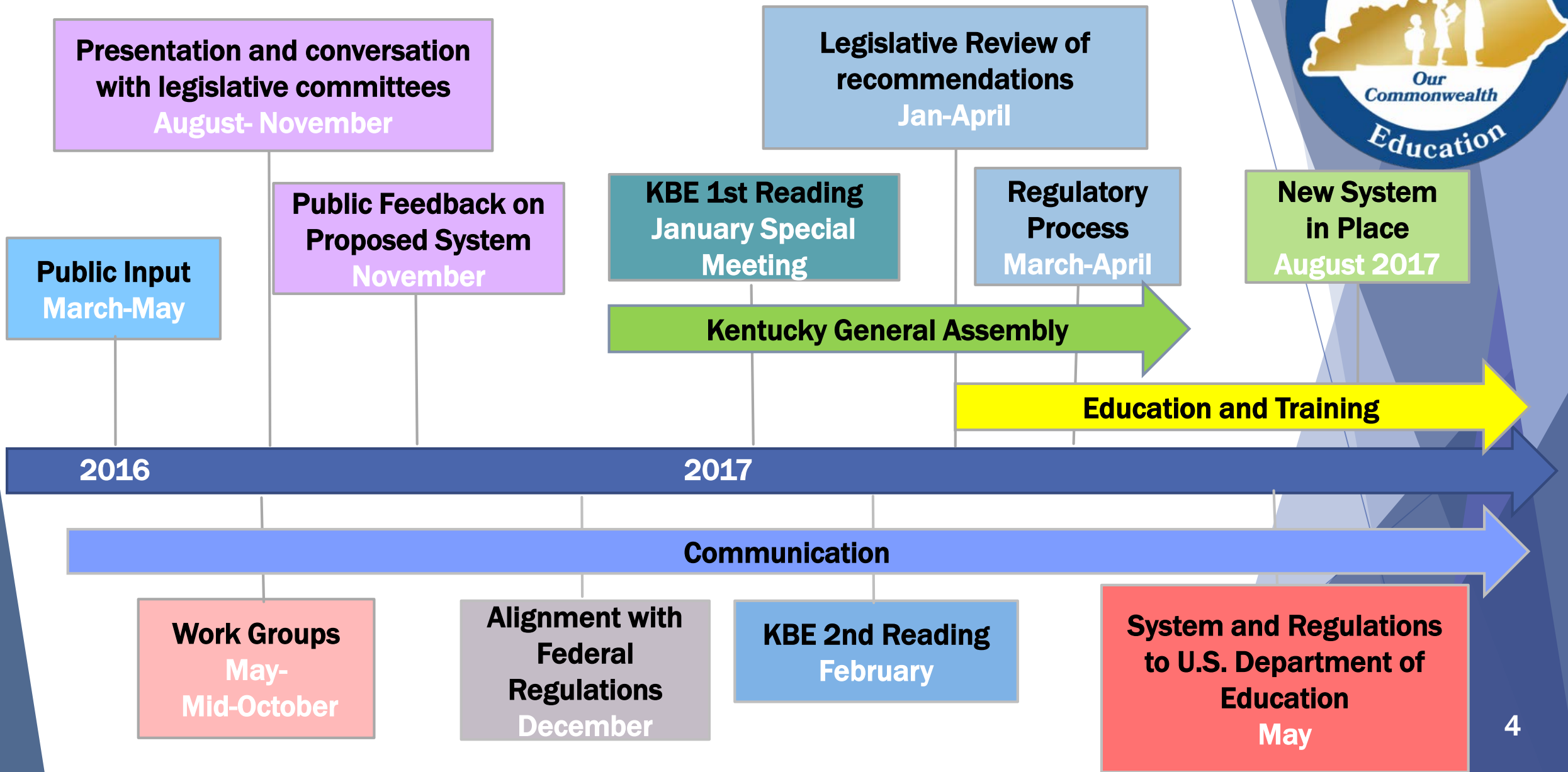
September 16, 2016

Developing Kentucky's Accountability System



* Commissioner's existing advisory groups will be updated regularly on progress and asked for input.

Draft Timeline



Next meetings/work schedule

- Sept. 16: Steering Committee (framework)
- Oct. 4: Systems Integration Work Group (work with recommendations from 5 Work Groups)
- Oct. 11: Systems Integration Work Group
- Oct. 12: Steering Committee (consider recommendations from Systems Integration)
- Nov. 30-Dec. 1: Steering Committee (create recommendations for Commissioner)
- November 2 (New additional date added after September 16 meeting)

Steering Committee framework

- Guiding Principles
- Theory of Action
- Process for Making Decisions

Accountability Steering Committee Guidance for the New System

- The system should
  - be focused on the welfare of all students and promote good decision making for their benefit.
  - promote a holistic and quality education for all students.
  - reflect the Kentucky Department of Education's guiding principles of equity, achievement and integrity.
  - be simple and easy to understand.
- Data should be reported in a dashboard that better illustrates school/district progress or deficits than a single number.

Theory of Action

- What do you want to achieve?

  What do you want to avoid?
- How will it happen?
  - What leads to what?
  - How will it be different than before?

  (Who, what, why, how, when)

What do you want to achieve?

In 20 years, if we improve or revise the accountability system, what will Kentucky experience?

- Post-secondary outcomes
- Secondary outcomes (in terms of what students know, can do, are; relative performance between student groups; relative improvement over time)
- Transformed instructional/educational systems
- Better assessment systems (inclusive, individualized, matched to educational models)
- Better quality accountability systems (internal, respected, useful)

Post-secondary outcomes

- Top per-capita income
- 90% of high school graduates are self-sufficient
- World-class workforce (including strong soft skills)
- Equality between college and career ready (future ready)
- Attached/successful postsecondary for all students
- All students graduate with options to succeed in college or a career
- The accountability system must drive a systematic change in our work in a way that will enhance the economic vitality of Kentucky.

Secondary/primary school outcomes

- Opportunity to learn
- Global competence
- Assess the soft skills needed for college and careers in the 21st century
- Closing gaps
- Improved literacy rates
- Improved kindergarten readiness

Transformed instructional/ educational system

- Individual learning plans for all students: lower performing, higher performing
- Competency-based education
- A well-rounded education must include focusing on growing strengths and deficiencies of children (including all, from special education through gifted and talented) in areas outside of reading and math

Better assessment systems

- Assessment system is valid for all students
  - reassess the allowable testing accommodations for ELs
  - explore adaptive assessments to accurately assess without a ceiling high performing and gifted and talented students
- Assessment system supports competency-based education—competency-based assessment
  - Opportunities for learning must be available to any child who is capable of learning at higher levels. Our new accountability model must include language that supports children of exceptional abilities without constructing barriers such as age or grade level in our elementary, middle, and high schools.

Better accountability system

- System is intuitive and easy to understand

- Students value accountability, can see progress
- Educators use accountability system to improve
  - Local boards of education could be given a stake in the accountability for their district by assuming the responsibility to develop a customized “growth goal” and then use the data or "leading and lagging indicators" to demonstrate movement toward that goal
- Community respects accountability system and high school diploma
  - Teachers are experiencing fatigue with implementation. How to build common message and excitement? Need to promote urgency. Why, as a teacher, parent, principal, superintendent, community member, should I be concerned?
- Accountability measures success, not driving it
- The system must foster internal motivation. We need to find a way within accountability to take the focus away from testing and put the focus on learning.

Theory of Action

- What do you want to achieve?

  What do you want to avoid?
- How will it happen?
  - What leads to what?
  - How will it be different than before?

  (Who, what, why, how, when)

Theory of Action

- What do you want to achieve?

  What do you want to avoid?
- How will it happen?
  - What leads to what? (If it hasn't been happening, why?
  - How will it be different than before?

    (Who, what, why, how, when)
  - What should the accountability system do? (What should be done by other systems?)

One general theory of action

We need to:

- identify what students should know and be able to do upon graduation
- structure a learning environment that will facilitate the achievement of outcomes (This means time and place probably need to go.);
- develop a curriculum aligned with outcomes;
- develop appropriate assessment and reporting; and
- Implement appropriate accountability (“good enough” and consequences)
- We have supposedly done this, but…

Our theory of action

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Process for Future Decisions

- Recommendations from Work Groups
- Guiding Principles and Theory of Action
- How will Steering Committee make recommendations to Commissioner?
  - Requests to Work Groups
  - Formats for Recommendations
  - Decision-making process (e.g., formal voting? consensus/minority positions?)

Next Steps

- Future meetings
- October 12: Steering Committee (consider recommendations from Systems Integration)
- November 2 (New additional date added after September 16 meeting)
- November 30-December 1: Steering Committee (create recommendations for Commissioner)