



## KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### NEWS RELEASE

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## **PRUITT TO HOST TOWN HALL MEETINGS ON DEFINING SCHOOL SUCCESS**

(FRANKFORT, Ky.) – Kentucky Education Commissioner Stephen Pruitt today announced he will host a series of regional Town Hall Meetings across the Commonwealth to gather feedback from Kentuckians on how they define school success.

The ideas and suggestions collected at the meetings will be used by the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) to inform the development of a new and more effective accountability system, something Pruitt has listed among his priorities since the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) hired him last fall.

“It is my goal to collaborate with legislators, educators, students and the public to produce a system that is fair, reliable, valid and easier to understand than what we have now,” Pruitt said.

The work also is being driven by Congress’ recent reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, now known as the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). ESSA shifts much of the oversight and responsibility for schools from the federal government to the state – including how accountability is determined and how to define and improve low performing schools.

“The new federal law gives us an incredible opportunity here in Kentucky to bring all shareholders to the table to create a system that not only holds schools and districts accountable for students’ education, but also celebrates good things happening in our schools,” said Pruitt.

“The Town Hall Meetings are critical to this effort, and I hope parents, community members, teachers, students, legislators, business owners and concerned citizens will come to these meetings ready to share their thoughts and ideas,” he added. “Together we will create a new system that will ensure we do the very best for all our kids and provide them with a well-rounded education that will prepare them to be successful, productive citizens of the Commonwealth.”

The first Town Hall Meeting will be on March 14 at 6:30 p.m. local time in Shelbyville. In all, 11 Town Hall Meetings are scheduled. A Virtual Town Hall Meeting also is being planned, with details to be released at a later date.

(more)

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The full listing of Town Hall Meeting dates, locations and times follows.

<b>EDUCATION TOWN HALL MEETINGS:                      How does Kentucky define school success?                      All meetings are 6:30 – 8 p.m. local time.</b>		
Date	City	Location
<b>Monday, March 14</b>	Shelbyville	The Blair Center @ Southside Elementary 728 Ginkgo Drive Shelbyville, KY
<b>Tuesday, March 22</b>	Campbellsville	Campbellsville University – Gheens Recital Hall 210 University Drive Campbellsville, KY
<b>Tuesday, March 29</b>	Owensboro	Daviess Co. High School Auditorium 4255 New Hartford Road Owensboro, KY
<b>Thursday, March 31</b>	Hazard	Kentucky Valley Educational Cooperative 412 Roy Campbell Drive Hazard, KY
<b>Thursday, April 7</b>	Lexington	Kentucky High School Athletic Association 2280 Executive Drive Lexington, KY
<b>Monday, April 11</b>	Corbin	Southeast/Southcentral Educational Cooperative – Corbin Center 222 Corbin Center Drive Corbin, KY
<b>Monday, April 18</b>	Ashland	Kentucky Educational Development Corporation – Ashland Conference Center 904 Rose Road Ashland, KY
<b>Thursday, April 21</b>	Louisville	Seneca High School Magnet Career Academy – Stickler Theatre 3510 Goldsmith Lane Louisville, KY
<b>Monday, April 25</b>	Northern Kentucky	Northern Kentucky University James C. and Rachel M. Votruba Student Union – Ballroom Kenton Drive Highland Heights, KY
<b>Wednesday, April 27</b>	Bowling Green	GRREC Offices and Training Center 230 Technology Way Bowling Green, KY
<b>Thursday, April 28</b>	Murray	Murray Middle School Auditorium 801 Main Street Murray, KY

Additionally, those who are unable to attend the meetings, will still have the opportunity to submit their suggestions and comments at: [KyEdListens@education.ky.gov](mailto:KyEdListens@education.ky.gov).

KDE will provide updates on the meetings on its Facebook page and Twitter account @KyDeptofEd. A dedicated hashtag, #KyEdListens, also has been created for the events.

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