



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

NEWS RELEASE

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NEXT TOWN HALL MEETING ON SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY IN LOUISVILLE **MARCH 22; ELIZABETHTOWN LOCATION CHANGED FOR MEETING APRIL 18**

(FRANKFORT, Ky.) – On Wednesday, March 22, Kentucky Education Commissioner Stephen Pruitt will host a Town Hall Meeting in Louisville to gather feedback from Kentuckians on a new accountability system that has been under development for the past year. The event runs from 6:30 to 8 p.m. ET and will be held in the auditorium at the Kentucky School for the Blind, 1867 Frankfort Ave. in Louisville.

The first of 10 Town Hall meetings was held this week in northern Kentucky.

“Generally the feedback was positive,” Pruitt said. “But I want to stress that from the beginning, Kentucky’s new accountability system has been and continues to be developed through a collaborative process. It is important for people to tell us what they think – what they like about it and where there may be room for improvement.”

Feedback collected will be taken to the accountability steering committee for consideration.

Under the as yet unnamed system, schools would be evaluated on how well they perform on five indicators: Proficiency, Achievement Gap Closure, Student Growth (elementary and middle school only), Transition Readiness and Opportunity and Access. Each indicator includes multiple measures. Some will be reported only; others will figure into a school’s overall accountability rating. Data will be reported online in a dashboard format that better illustrates school/district progress or deficits than a single number. Data will be reported by student group where available to create more transparency on where gaps may exist.

The work was driven by the congressional reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, 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.

Approximately 3,500 Kentuckians, including superintendents, principals, teachers, parents, business and community members and education partners have participated in the accountability system’s development thus far, either through Town Hall Meetings, by providing online feedback or by serving on one of the groups that worked on drafting the system.

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“This is Kentucky’s system, developed by a broad spectrum of shareholders,” Pruitt said. “It is unlike any others that we know of across the country, and places great value on educating the whole child, closing achievement gaps and ensuring opportunity and access to high-quality learning experiences for all Kentucky students regardless of the district in which they live, their family income, race, ethnicity, the language they speak or whether they have a disability.”

Nine more Town Hall Meetings are scheduled through May 1. A Virtual Town Hall Meeting also is planned, with details to be released at a later date.

The Town Hall Meeting scheduled on Tuesday, April 18 in Elizabethtown now will be held at a different location than originally published. It will start at 6:30 p.m. local time at John Hardin High School, 384 W.A. Jenkins Road in Elizabethtown. A full listing of the remaining Town Hall Meeting dates, locations and times follows.

| TOWN HALL MEETINGS | | |
|---|---------------|---|
| Kentucky Education Listens: Accountability Development | | |
| All meetings are 6:30 – 8 p.m. local time. | | |
| Date | City | Location |
| Wednesday, March 22 | Louisville | Kentucky School For the Blind Auditorium 1867 Frankfort Avenue Louisville, KY |
| Monday, April 10 | Paducah | McCracken Co. High School Auditorium 6530 New Highway 60 West Paducah, KY |
| Thursday April 13 | London | Laurel County Schools Center for Innovation – Main Presentation Room 1100 East 4 th Street London, KY |
| Monday, April 17 | Morehead | Rowan County Senior High School – Performing Arts Center 499 Viking Drive Morehead, KY |
| Tuesday, April 18 | Elizabethtown | John Hardin High School 384 W.A. Jenkins Road Elizabethtown, KY |
| Thursday, April 20 | Glasgow | Glasgow High School Auditorium 1601 Columbia Avenue Glasgow, KY |
| Tuesday, April 25 | Lexington | Bryan Station High School Auditorium 201 Eastin Road Lexington, KY |
| Thursday, April 27 | Prestonsburg | Mountain Arts Center 50 Hal Rogers Drive Prestonsburg, KY |
| Monday, May 1 | Henderson | Henderson County Schools Professional Development Center 631 North Green Street Henderson, KY |

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Those planning to attend a Town Hall Meeting and requiring interpretive services for the deaf or hard of hearing are asked to contact Susan Palmer at the Kentucky Department of Education, susan.palmer@education.ky.gov or by phone at (502) 564-3141, ext. 4805, at least a week prior to the meeting to request services.

Kentuckians who are unable to attend the meetings, still have the opportunity to submit their feedback on the draft proposal of the accountability system. Details can be found on Kentucky's ESSA webpage, <http://bit.ly/KYAccountability>.

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

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