



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Education Continuation Task Force

SUMMARY

MEETING DATE: MAY 18, 2020

ATTENDANCE:

Jon Akers, Melissa Biggerstaff, Rhonda Caldwell, Eddie Campbell, Tonya Crum, Jim Evans, Jim Flynn, Brooke Gill, Ronda Harmon, Jeff Hawkins, Nancy Hutchinson, David Johnson, Eric Kennedy, Brian Lovell, Leon Mooneyhan, Martin Monson, Ronnie Nolan, Stephen Pruitt, Amy Razor, Mary Pat Regan, Mary Ruble, Kerri Schelling, Julian Tackett, Benjamin Wilcox

SUMMARY:

Agenda Item: Welcome

Presenters: Kevin C. Brown, Interim Commissioner
Karen Dodd, Chief Performance Officer
Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion:

Interim Commissioner Brown welcomed the group and reviewed the agenda.

- Reopening guidance document – Additional guidance documents will be released in the upcoming weeks as new information becomes available.
- Designing high-quality learning experiences – We may have to rely on non-traditional instruction (NTI) for portions of the next school year.
- Career and technical education (CTE) dual credit and industry certifications – Information to help students complete requirements

Brown reminded the group to provide feedback and not worry about sharing controversial opinions.

Feedback:

None.

Follow-up Required:

None.

Agenda Item: Reopening Guidance

Presenter: Dr. Kelly Foster, Associate Commissioner
Office of Continuous Improvement and Support, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion:

Dr. Kelly Foster presented an overview of the [reopening guidance document](#) that was released on Friday, May 15.

- Additional guidance documents will be released over the next several weeks. The first three topics that will be covered in more detail are alternative learning experiences, health and safety considerations, and social and emotional learning.
- The four buckets covered in the document are health and safety for all, maintaining quality teaching and learning, support for exceptional learners, and school and district operations. Guiding questions and identified risk factors are provided for each topic.
- The document contains recommendations for district and school reopening teams along with information about each type of opening the governor has asks districts to consider.

Guiding Question: What concerns are you hearing about the re-opening of schools?

Questions and feedback were addressed.

Questions: Is personal protective equipment (PPE) required for students and adults? How will schools accommodate P.E. classes and recess? If lunch is served in the classroom, will teachers get a duty-free lunch?

Answer: School districts should start by identifying the types of PPE needed in various scenarios throughout the school day. KDE is working with the Department for Public Health (DPH) on questions about capacity concerns, but districts should also work with their local health departments. Additional guidance will be released as more information becomes available.

Question: The governor has issued guidelines that school buildings remain closed until June 30 and that childcare centers may reopen on June 15. When childcare operates within school buildings, which guideline should districts follow?

Answer: DPH has responded that childcare centers within the school can open on June 15.

Feedback:

- A concern has been shared about the use of the word "ensure" in this document. Districts don't want this to be mistakenly seen as having the force of law or as having created legal rights or duties that do not exist.
- The resources have been very helpful and provided quickly despite the time challenges.
- This is overwhelming, but maybe it's good for the public to see how hard education is and how much work goes into the services provided for students and families
- Provide information about coordination options to avoid duplication of efforts.
- Issues to address are emergency drills and managing the traffic flow around the school building if more students are driven to school by their families.

Follow-up Required:

None.

Agenda Item: Designing High Quality Learning Experiences Regardless of Delivery Model

Presenter: David Cook, Division Director, Office of Continuous Improvement and Support

Dr. Marty Park, Chief Digital Officer, Office of Education Technology

Misty Higgins, Program Consultant, Office of Teaching and Learning

Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion:

David Cook, Dr. Marty Park and Misty Higgins discussed the issues and questions surrounding professional development this summer.

- The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding could have an impact on how professional learning is delivered and what the content will be.
- Educators were not prepared for the transition from traditional classroom methods to digital learning, so that will be the focus this summer.
- Flexibility is needed as teachers design and present content to students. Best practice shows that students are better off if instructional design for NTI and face-to-face instruction looks the same.
- How to give effective feedback has been a struggle.
- Educators need professional development about how to integrate technology into regular classroom instruction so the transition to digital learning is more seamless.
- Digital readiness has been part of the KETS Master Plan for several years. One of the most impactful strategies districts can implement is assigning a [digital learning coach](#).

Guiding Question: What do teachers and leaders need most to be prepared for the possibilities of varying instructional delivery models (e.g., in-person, NTI, hybrids with some kids at home and some at school)?

Questions and feedback were discussed.

Question: There has been a lot of conversation about digital learning, but districts report that about 20% of students do not have internet access. What is being done to consider how to address those student needs?

Answer: KDE's data shows that depending on the district, 8-15% of students do not have internet access. That group remains as a critical focus. As work is done to expand internet access, learning experiences must be designed so they are not dependent on access.

Question: How do we collectively work together as a state to provide equitable access for students and staff?

Answer: This is one of the challenges we face and there are some strong practices in communities across the state. In some cases, affordability is an issue, but sometimes the access issue is due to limited availability. CARES Act funding can be used to "reach the last mile," through hotspots installed in homes.

Question: Are there exemplars across grade levels? Digital learning may lead to more students working independently at home, which may be OK for high school and some middle school students, but what about elementary aged students?

Answer: Several elementary teachers have designed high-quality learning experiences for students as young as kindergarten. These teachers have worked to engage their students in developmentally appropriate ways and engage families in ways they can help.

Question: How can we help districts evaluate the effectiveness of their current NTI program and make improvements for the future?

Answer: KDE encourages districts to examine current practices in three tiers.

- Tier 1 – Understanding adoption of tools and resources and who is using it
- Tier 2 – Cost of ownership
- Tier 3 – Understanding impact

Question: Can someone speak more to the hotspot initiatives at the cooperatives?

Answer: Some of the education cooperatives have hotspots available and will place them for districts. Additionally, there are different kinds of hotspots. Ideally, students would have access

to those that go in the home, so people don't have to gather in close quarters. There is also a filtering service, so internet access is restricted to appropriate school uses.

Question: Could we offer learning opportunities in this area for parents?

Answer: The KY Collaborative for Families and Schools can assist with parent training opportunities.

Feedback:

- Collectively, we need to advocate for broadband access for all as an essential utility for every household.
- Many teachers have contract days for the current year available for this kind of professional learning.
- Our districts are reporting around 20% in our area of the state. Some of our districts are expressing concern about offering summer programs because it may cause a larger gap for students who do not have access to digital learning.
- Some families have internet access, but still opt for paper packets.
- Many faculty and staff struggle with limited internet access.
- As a short-term solution, if districts are considering a hybrid approach, they might prioritize in-person instruction for students who have limited internet access.
- Access to internet and devices is the first barrier, but some families have resources and are not able to use them effectively. There has been some confusion when schools and districts use multiple online learning platforms.
- Issues to address with districts are screen time and bandwidth in the home.

Follow-up Required:

None.

Agenda Item: CTE Dual Credit and Industry Certification Completion

Presenters: David Horseman, Associate Commissioner, Office of Career and Technical Education and Student Transition, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion:

KDE has been working with the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS), Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority and the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education to develop options for students who need to complete lab-based completion of industry certifications and dual credit lab courses. Additional guidance will be released this week.

KCTCS will offer facilities and instructors for dual credit course labs.

- The plan relies on the governor's approval and Healthy at Work protocols will be followed.
- This applies to 2019-2020 seniors only.
- The goal is to complete this work by June 30.
- There must be evidence of willingness by students and families to participate. Students under 18 must have a waiver signed by their parent/guardian; students 18 and over are encouraged to notify their parent/guardian.
- Students will be provided with the appropriate PPE, including masks.

- A lot of coordination will need to take place between the high school teachers and KCTCS instructors. Dual credit coordinators at all 16 KCTCS locations will contact high school principals and dual credit coordinators to obtain lists of participating students.

The option being considered for industry certifications is for students to fulfill the requirements at a secondary facility.

- The plan relies on the governor's approval and Healthy at Work protocols will be followed.
- Students will be provided with the appropriate PPE, including masks.
- The work will likely have to start after June 30.
- There must be evidence of willingness by students and families to participate. Students under 18 must have a waiver signed by their parent/guardian; students 18 and over are encouraged to notify their parent/guardian.
- Districts and area technology centers are encouraged to give graduating seniors the priority.

There are special requirements for the State Registered Nurse Aid Assessment.

- Controlled by the Department of Medicaid Services. They will temporarily permit the completion of the supervised clinical experience, which is 16 hours, to take place in a hospital or simulated clinical setting. It normally occurs in a long-term care facility.
- The training provider will verify the clinical hours and retain documentation for testing purposes.
- The individual providing clinical oversight must be an RN or LPN.
- In a hospital, there must be a signed MNA Facility Agreement.
- There must be evidence of willingness by students and families to participate. Students under 18 must have a waiver signed by their parent/guardian; students 18 and over are encouraged to notify their parent/guardian.
- After the clinical experience, KCTCS has several sites where students can complete testing throughout the state. A qualified instructor must complete the COVID-19 roster and schedule the test at the facility.

Guiding Question: What considerations do think are appropriate for lab-based dual credit next year?

Feedback:

- Appreciate the work to accommodate our current students!

Follow-up Required:

None.

Task force members shared information relevant to the group.

Julian Tackett, Commissioner, Kentucky High School Athletics Association (KHSAA)

- A guidance document from the national federation was released over the weekend for each state regarding when and how organized sports may begin. This provides a draft of opportunities to get kids out and active.
- The use of school facilities is prohibited through the end of May.
- KHSAA will submit a plan to the lieutenant governor's office and DPH outlining how local districts could begin to use sports facilities. The plan will be drafted and submitted for review next week.

- The governor issued a guideline that low contact, outdoor youth sports may resume on June 15, but youth sports means below middle school.
- Paper money is used at many events, but health concerns may lead districts to consider electronic alternatives. Superintendents, district finance officers and KDE will get information about vendors who are vetted and reputable.

Tonya Crum, Senior Director of Education, Kentucky Educational Television (KET)

- KET is willing to consider the broadcast of high school graduation ceremonies for Kentucky public and private high schools on KET KY (KET's Kentucky channel) and online. Guidelines and details can be found here: <https://www.ket.org/education/2020-graduation-ceremonies-editorial-guidelines/>
- Schools must submit a letter of intent by end of May, but the videos can be submitted by end of June.

Agenda Item: Review and Adjournment

Presenter: Kevin C. Brown, Interim Commissioner of Education

Summary of Discussion:

A link to the exit slip was sent via chat to gather feedback that may not have been shared during the meeting, as well as asking for topics we need to discuss.

The task force was reminded that new reopening guidance will be issued as more information becomes available. Feedback from this group is needed to get it right.

The graduation videos and parades are online. Kentucky's celebration of our 2020 graduates will stream in several places at 7 p.m. ET on Saturday night.

Commissioner Brown thanked everyone for their participation on this task force and for their work to support their groups. The next meeting is scheduled for June 1, 2020, 1-3 p.m. ET. Group members should send feedback or questions to [Commissioner Brown](#) or [Karen Dodd](#).

Feedback:

- More information is needed about special education and compensatory services such as how districts should make those determinations and possible relief measures to protect districts from unnecessary lawsuits. Guidance is also needed for reimbursable expenses through FEMA and other emergency funds.
- Thanks for the work, leadership and advocacy for our students, schools and districts! We face extremely complicated decisions moving forward and I appreciate everyone working together to help navigate these issues.