



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Commissioner's Parent's Advisory Council

SUMMARY

JUNE 10, 2020

ATTENDANCE: Katie Bentley, Krista Hall, Mandy Sapp, Lauren Mitchell, Cyndi Wrenn, Lauren Vassil, Misty Higgins, Hannah Poquette, Kevin Brown, Leslie Spears, Jeanna Gonzales, Rhonda Logsdon, Lisa Meiman, Sarah Brown, Brigitte Stacy, Kelly Foster, Tom Haggard, Robin Kinney, Megan West, Melissa Goins, Erica Tipton, Donna Melton, Lucy Heskins, Shasta Hensley, Rachel Noyes, Laura Beard, Karen Dodd, Angela McDonald, Emily Meade, Kathy Smiley

MEMBERS ABSENT: Brooke Gill, Judith Bradley, Carol Cecil, Carie Kizziar, David Weisenhorn, Kristen Brown, Mary Ann Jennings, LaMonique Mason, Sarah Ruth, Stacie Strotman

SUMMARY:

Agenda Item: Re-Entry Guidance: Teaching and Learning State 1

Presenter: Krista Hall and Misty Higgins

Summary of Discussion:

Purpose of re-entry guidance is to provide support for teachers in analyzing content that was taught during the 2019-2020 school year to informed decisions for their curriculum to inform decisions during the 2020-2021 school year. Helping to anticipate where the gap will be and plan to prepare what is necessary to address.

Stage 2 is upcoming. Guidance focusing on Formative Assessment ~~will be completed~~ to be used by teachers will be available in July 2020. This guidance will assist educators in determining where their students are academically and the amount of instructional time particular concepts may need.

KDE is currently developing plans (through the use of waivers and upcoming emergency orders from the Governor) to address attendance issues and needs of all students.

Feedback:

Special Needs children and children with disabilities need to be enabled quality access to academics. Districts need to provide steps and work with other agencies to reach all students. Need strategies developed to meet the needs of all students.

Offer teachers and students both guidance to utilize all resources.

Districts and schools must have the full support of the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE).

If we go back to school with virtual classes and kids must go to babysitters during the day, some parents can't help their students with their schoolwork, and since they are having to complete it after school hours, the teachers aren't available either? – Districts recognize this issue and are working on a process to address. Updating across the board.

Follow-up Required:

Q: If we go back to school with virtual classes and kids have to go to babysitters during the day, some parents can't help their students with their schoolwork, and since they are having to complete it after school hours, the teachers aren't available either?

Agenda Item: Family Needs Sensing Survey

Presenter: Hannah Poquette

Summary of Discussion:

Purpose of survey was to gain an understanding of the educational challenges and needs for families due to the COVID-19 crisis. Ensure that KDE's work is aligned to the needs and prioritized effectively. Survey audiences include superintendents, principals, teachers, and families.

Current survey includes questions regarding equipment availability and what electronic equipment the student(s) have access to and access to reliable internet availability.

Student challenges from the spring include, but are not limited to, using technology, navigating online platforms, availability of learning materials, maintaining daily schedule, completion of assignments on time, keeping engaged in schoolwork, managing stress, and keeping positive behavior.

Adult challenges from the spring include, but are not limited to, availability of technology and internet, navigating online platforms, receiving IT support, supporting students' learning of content, communication with school and/or teacher, establishing expectations, maintaining schedule, time to support schoolwork, keeping students focused, finding time for children to have physical activity.

Additional questions were raised from survey regarding childcare needs and transportation challenges.

Feedback:

Need to keep in mind what kind of learning the child prefers, and have the child and parent participate in the decision of in person or online learning.

Survey needs to check on the number of devices students currently have access to as well.

For those without access to internet, centralized locations with internet access are critical.

In our household, we must run off a cell phone hotspot because DSL isn't available, which can slow the internet down. We have three children (upcoming grades 5, 6, and 7) and all three using the internet bogs it down. Are they looking at businesses expanding internet capability? – Currently working with businesses on this issue – will not be complete before start of the school year.

Ensure children with Individualized Learning Plans (ILP) accommodations received extra time for assignments when needed. Set in stone online due dates violate some ILP's.

Hands on guidance is a necessity.

All students need to be accommodated when in need.

Agenda Item: School Health Update

Presenter: Angela McDonald

Summary of Discussion:

One on one assistance and resources for students will continue as needed.

School health care staff will always wear personal protective equipment .

School health care staff requests parents and educators to voice their opinions.

Health staff starting prepping for return to school in March and are developing guidance they will be releasing regarding mask wearing, social distancing, and other guidance as needed.

Enforcement of mask wearing will be an issue, and students with disabilities or special needs will not be required to wear a mask.

Feedback:

Is there a plan to take all students temperatures on their way into the school building?

Currently in discussion, no exact answer right now.

Will the students be expected to wear a mask for sports practices and games?

Yes, at this time it will be required.

You can't wear a mask while eating lunch or in band class, what will be expected?

Prepping guidance at this time, will be sent out when complete.

Will students eat lunch in the cafeteria or classroom?

It does lesson the exposure rate to isolate groups of students together and have classes stay together for the day. Discussing with districts and the Department of Public Health to develop easier guidelines for cafeteria and lunchroom eating.

Follow-up Required:

Q: If students cannot or will not wear masks during school sports practices or games, what happens then?

A: Districts should follow the KHSAA guidelines as well as seek guidance from their local health department as they best know how prevalent Covid is in their area.

Q: If we can know ahead of time which schools and districts will offer the hybrid learning option or virtual learning option, we would be able to assist families better. Is this possible?

Q: Janitorial services go hand in hand with the health of the school. What is being done to ensure that all schools have enough help to keep the schools sanitized?

A: The Kentucky Department of Public health is currently finalizing their guidance for Healthy at School. This will address cleaning needed for schools as well as what types of cleaners should be used.

Agenda Item: Feedback from Superintendent Webcast

Presenter: Robin Kinney and Dr. Kelly Foster

Summary of Discussion:

Department for Public Health Commissioner Stack recently attended the Superintendents Webcast and made recommendations on the following guidelines:

Transportation: accommodating guidelines and needs, how social distancing, masks, and temperature taking will be handled is currently being discussed. Additional monitors and staff will be needed for buses. Still determining if social distancing will be required with students wearing masks. Balanced solutions need balanced guidelines.

Food Service: still determining how in-building food service will happen. Superintendents still discussing how to feed the remote learning students with a drive through option or utilizing buses to deliver meals.

Childcare: Emphasized to the Department of Public Health the importance of choice and flexibility as it makes it hard to staff schools. Currently developing guidance with Superintendents.

Funding: KDE is working to ensure funding does not incentivize or disincentivize districts carrying the hybrid learning option. Developing guidance to be able to do both types of learning and accomplish goals. Working with Superintendents to accomplish this goal together.

Additional Remediation and Intervention will be needed in the upcoming school year.

Releasing guidance for the potential fall closures next week, to be prepared if needed.

In the next few weeks, KDE will be releasing more guidance on transportation, food services, social distancing, parent drop-offs, teaching and learning, emergency drills, performance-based instruction, career and technical education on opening area technology centers, exceptional learners and Health at School.

Feedback:

How feasible is all this to roll out? Looking at all areas, how do we make it happen? What is the likelihood of a fall start date?

School will look different than ever before. The hope is for a fall start date for schools. Likelihood of further issues arising is high and will take a lot of work from everyone.

How will achievement gaps be addressed this year? Will we be cancelling K-prep testing again?

Discussing with federal department of education and statewide agencies about next years K-Prep testing. Districts need to and will be doing testing during the 2020-2021 school year. MAP testing will be used when students return to the classroom to determine needs.

Follow-up Required:

Q: When a district does both in-person and virtual learning options for students, how do you feed all students?

A: Each district will need to determine their plan for food service based upon the needs in their community. It is important to note that receiving reimbursement through the Federal Child Nutrition Programs is dependent upon meeting the requirements of those programs. Although the USDA has allowed flexibilities through nationwide waivers up to this point, the waivers do not currently extend into the next school year. Specifically, the waiver for non-congregate meal distribution is set to expire on August 31, 2020. Additional flexibility from the USDA would be necessary for districts who participate in the Federal Child Nutrition Programs to continue receiving reimbursement for meals distributed to students who are not physically attending school. The Division of School and Community Nutrition will continue to advocate for and distribute flexibilities as they become available.