



**KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
FAMILY PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL (FPC)  
SUMMARY**

**SEPT. 8, 2022**

**ATTENDANCE:** Grace Absher, Elizabeth Bruce, Brooke Gill, Melissa Goins, Tom Haggard, Rhonda Logsdon, Natasha Lucas, Lauren Mitchell, Jennifer Skidmore, Kathy Smiley, Mona Smith

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Catara Catlett, Julia Staton, Angie Wright

**SUMMARY:** The Kentucky Department of Education's (KDE's) Family Partnership Council (FPC) discussed family engagement and the council's core beliefs. FPC serves in an advisory role to KDE and provides input regarding topics of interest to families, such as ways that families and communities can assist schools in ensuring a higher level of achievement for all students. The council also voted on a list of agreements and shared ways to encourage relationship building among educators, families and communities.

**Agenda Item:** Education Updates

**Presenter:** Jason E. Glass, Ed.D., Commissioner of Education and Chief Learner, Kentucky Department of Education

**Summary of Discussion:** Received updates from Commissioner Glass regarding back-to-school efforts in eastern Kentucky. He said Letcher County and Jenkins Independent now have start dates planned within the next few weeks. Perry County is back in school and Breathitt County students have been moved to the Lees College Campus of Hazard Community and Technical College System because of the extensive damage to Breathitt's Area Technology Center. Schools are struggling with low attendance numbers, being the first year using average daily attendance. Low attendance numbers can cause worry about funding for next year. The 2022 legislative session passed statutory changes that include how school curriculum decisions are made. Local school boards and the district's superintendent now have that responsibility instead of the school-based decision making (SBDM) council who must be consulted on curriculum decisions. There also was a passing of the Teaching American Principles Act that fundamentally establishes a set of concepts or documents that students need to be exposed to during their education. Legislature also passed a law that requires KDE to establish regulations around transgender athletes.

**Agenda Item:** FPC Member Updates

**Presenter:** Mona Smith, Parent, Central Kentucky Educational Cooperative  
Tom Haggard, Director, Kentucky Out of School Alliance  
Melissa Goins, Director, Family Resource Youth Service Center (FRYSC)

**Summary of Discussion:** Smith spoke about the suggestion from the previous meeting of using the Kentucky Teacher Intern Program (KTIP) to address the issue of family engagement and family partnership not being a part of teacher pre-service and how can the Family Partnership Council get this information to the teachers prior to them leaving the prep program. Although that program is not currently funded and some districts are implementing their own similar programs, that need is still there, and the program is extremely beneficial to new teachers. Commissioner Glass said that with the COVID-19 funds KDE will temporarily be able to fund the KTIP program. These federal funds are time limited, and KDE needs a more sustainable solution.

Haggard spoke about a new initiative rolled out by the U.S. Department of Education called [Engage Every Student](#), a call to action to provide high-quality out-of-school learning opportunities for every child who wants to participate. He also spoke about multiple initiatives with agencies like the Kentucky School Board Association to bring awareness of the need for out of school time and summer programming for students and to make a program available to every student in every area that desires one.

Goins spoke about the focus on non-academic barriers of learning for students. FRYSC is constantly discussing PACES (Positive and Adverse Childhood Experiences). In response, FRYSC talks a lot about protective factors. FRYSC is working with the Kentucky Strengthening Families framework to receive professional development around it and FRYSC has embedded it into their new coordinator orientation. FRYSC also works with a program called Parent Café. Parent Cafés are a low cost, high impact activity and is one way that FRYSC puts protective factors into place.

**Agenda Item:** Equity Playbook

**Presenter:** Nicole Fields, Ed. D., Community Engagement Coordinator, Office of Teaching and Learning, Kentucky Department of Education

**Summary of Discussion:** The council discussed KDE's new [equity playbook](#), which provides district and school leaders with personalized coaching on evidence/research-based practices, content and resources to address opportunity gaps in one or more of the following areas: student achievement; utilization of funding and resources; disproportionality relative to student discipline; culture and climate; and highly effective staff and high-quality instructional resources.

Fields sought feedback from the FPC on what resources can be added to the playbook and how schools/districts can better serve and engage with families and said she would take the feedback from FPC members to the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging team to discuss how the ideas could be implemented into the playbook. Council members suggested parent-oriented newsletters to go along with phone calls and emails home.

**Agenda Item:** Kentucky United We Learn Council

**Presenter:** Karen Dodd, Chief Performance Officer, Office of the Commissioner, Kentucky Department of Education

**Summary of Discussion:** Dodd shared updates about the [Kentucky United We Learn Council](#), which is currently being formed. She also gave a background on how the United We Learn vision was created, which started last spring during the Commissioner's Listening Tour which focused on empathy interviewing. In June of 2021, KDE established the Kentucky Coalition for Advancing Education to dig into the information from the town halls and do more empathy interviewing to create the [United We Learn report](#). The United We Learn vision was launched at The Kentucky Education Summit, held in November 2021, and focuses on the future of education in the Commonwealth. Over two days, the event helped to begin a discussion about how to build a stronger education system with high standards. The Kentucky United We Learn council will be composed of three standing committees: Creating Vibrant Learning Experiences: support local communities to transform the student learning experience and learn from what is happening in the education field, especially related to deeper learning, project-based learning and KDE's Local Laboratories of Learning; Accelerating Innovation: Support scaling of innovations within and across communities through changes in assessment and accountability; and Building a Bold New Future with Communities: Build the policy framework that is responsive to the needs coming from communities that support a bold, new future for education.

FPC members suggested newsletters and communication apps like Remind when asked how they can spread the word about the United We Learn vision and what outlets can be used for sharing the [United We Learn Council membership application](#) and informational documents. Members were encouraged to share the information and application broadly.