



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

**MARCH 9, 2023**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Grace Absher, Elizabeth Bruce, Brooke Gill, Tom Haggard, Rhonda Logsdon, Lauren Mitchell, Jennifer Skidmore, Kathy Smiley, Mona Smith, Julie Staton

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Melissa Goins, Natasha Lucas

**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 Glass about the short legislative session that is currently in progress. Priority issues for the session include parent rights and student discipline. Glass also gave a brief overview of the Kentucky United We Learn three big projects, which include a deeper learning network and Project Based Learning (PBL) Works, Assessment and Accountability Innovation, and Connection and Collaboration with Communities. Kentucky Department of Education is hoping to have one third of all teachers in the state trained in PBL works by the end of next school year.

**Agenda Item:** United We Learn Update

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

**Summary of Discussion:** Karen Dodd spoke about the development and background of the Kentucky United We Learn Council, which started meeting in November 2022. She also

discussed how the 75 council members were split into three standing committees: Vibrant Learning Experiences, Accelerating Innovation, and Bold New future. All three councils have monthly meetings.

All three committees met in March 2023 and discussed the election of a chair and vice chair for the Kentucky United We Learn Council, site visits. Other topics discussed include The Canopy Project, which is a national database containing innovative learning experiences across the states, and ensuring the work of the council aligns with the spirit and vision of the themes in the [United We Learn Report](#). Monthly newsletters are provided with updates on the [Kentucky United We Learn webpage](#).

**Agenda Item:** Senate Bill (SB) 9 (2022) Read at Home Guidance

**Presenter:** Micki Ray, Chief Academic Officer, Kentucky Department of Education; Christie Biggerstaff, Director of Early Literacy, Office of Teaching and Learning, Kentucky Department of Education

**Summary of Discussion:** Ray and Biggerstaff discussed new guidance for the “Read at Home” plans the department has started rolling out to support schools and districts. “Read at Home” guidance came about as part of Senate Bill 9 (2022), the Read to Succeed Act, which requires KDE to provide supports around “Read at Home” plans, among several other reforms to help with reading proficiency.

Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, if a student’s rate of progress toward proficiency in reading needs accelerated interventions (as demonstrated by the results of an approved universal screener and reading diagnostic assessment), the local school district shall provide the families of such identified kindergarten through grade 3 students with a “Read at Home” plan ([KRS 158.305](#)).

To help districts effectively implement “Read at Home” plans in collaboration with families, KDE has partnered with the Kentucky Collaborative for Families and Schools to develop the guidance for ensuring high-impact, research-based family engagement best practices for relationship-building and two-way communications. The guidance can be found in the [Read At Home Plan Guidance document](#). More information regarding Kentucky academic standards and family resources can be found on [KDE’S KYStandards.org website](#).

Staff are currently creating a Read at Home plan for parents to use as a resource. This will all be implemented for the 2023-2024 school year.

**Agenda Item:** Family-School Partnerships in Special Education

**Presenter:** Shasta Hensley, Office of Special Education and Early Learning, Kentucky Department of Education

**Summary of Discussion:** Hensley gave an overview of how her office and division are improving the outcomes of children with disabilities by partnering with districts, families and community agencies/Interagency.

District partnerships can include direct technical assistance (TA), monthly Directors of Special Education (DoSE) meetings, multiple annual conferences, issuing guidance documents, hosting webinars and multiple web resources.

Family Partnerships include direct technical assistance, multiple annual conferences, issuing guidance documents, hosting webinars, and Indicator 8 (State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report Indicator 8: Parent Engagement).

Community/Interagency partnerships include The Technical Assistance Network, State Advisory Panel for Exceptional Children (SAPEC), Special Olympics Kentucky, Unified Champion Schools Program, and the Kentucky Governor’s Office for Early Childhood. Also included are regional partnerships, such as the Special Education Regional Technical Assistance Centers (SERTACs) and the Early Childhood Regional Training Centers.

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