



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (KDE)
Family Partnership Council (FPC)
SUMMARY
JUNE 18, 2024

ATTENDANCE: Marsha Vanhook, Laura Beard, Britney Faulkner, Elizabeth Ashley Bruce, Tara Truckor, Leah Marcum, Amy Nickerson, Amity Kukla, Stephanie Barker, Rhonda Logsdon, Erin Weaver

MEMBERS ABSENT: Alisha Miller, Melissa Goins, Chris Medley

Agenda Item: Legislative Update

Presenters: Matthew Courtney, Ed.D., Policy Advisor, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: Council members heard updates from Matthew Courtney on 2024 legislative bills.

- House Bill 6 will increase funding for all public schools and will require each school to post on their website (at the top of the page in banner form) the percentage of students that scored proficient and distinguished in reading and math.
- House Bill 142 will require local boards of education to adopt policies that penalize students for possessing alternative nicotine products, tobacco products or vapor products and lists penalties; requires school districts to report annually to the Kentucky Department of Education the number of nicotine-related behavior incidents in schools and the number requiring medical intervention, which is subsequently reported to the Legislative Research Commission; requires schools to provide evidence-based age-appropriate nicotine prevention and cessation information to all students at the beginning of the school year and access to materials throughout the school year.
- House Bill 829 will allow each local board of education, each board of directors of a public charter school, and the governing body of each certified nonpublic school to establish policies related to the use of medicinal cannabis by a pupil who is a registered qualified patient on school property by Dec. 1, 2024, and to establish basic standards for school policies related to medicinal cannabis. One of the standards will allow a location where other students cannot witness cannabis administration.
- House Bill 162 requires students in grades 4 through 8 needing to make accelerated progress in mathematics to receive intervention.
- Senate Bill 167 will include cursive writing as a course of study for students in all elementary schools beginning in the 2025-2026 school year.

- House Bill 377 is to establish the Teacher Recruitment Student Loan Forgiveness Pilot Program fund, to establish the Student Teacher Stipend Program; defines eligibility for the program, to direct the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority to administer the program, and to provide an award of up to \$5,000 to an eligible student teacher.
- House Bill 446 will require school district discipline guidelines that will require the Kentucky Department of Education to create a model transportation services policy, to detail required provisions of local board transportation services policies, to create process for operators of transportation to report, be heard during proceedings and receive a response regarding misconduct by students aboard transportation and by parents or guardians, to permit revocation of transportation privileges based on failure to acknowledge transportation services policy.

Agenda Item: Private and Homeschool Attendance Data House

Presenters: David Millanti, Assistant Director, Division of School and Program Improvement, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: In the state of Kentucky, parents are allowed to make educational decisions for their child that includes private or homeschooling. Private and homeschools are not required to provide any demographic data according to KRS 159.030 or through the Declaration of Participating reporting. Private and homeschools are only required to track attendance, grades and instructional subjects such as English, science and social studies. The five top reasons families choose private or homeschool is because of religious-based education, better fit for the families or individual child, disconnect with public district or extracurricular opportunities, and tuition scholarship opportunities.

Agenda Item: Chronic Absenteeism

Presenters: Florence Chang, Ph.D., Educational Program Consultant, Division of Student Success, Kentucky Department of Education; and Judi Vanderhaar, Ph.D., Educational Program Consultant, Division of Student Success, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: Florence Chang spoke about the rising chronic absenteeism issue that students in Kentucky are experiencing and needs parents involved to help resolve. At the school level pre-pandemic, 5% of students had chronic absenteeism and post-pandemic 75% of students had chronic absenteeism. Almost every county in Kentucky has been affected by chronic absenteeism. Grades K-1 students have significantly higher rates than any other primary/elementary grade. High school chronic absenteeism levels increased 40% in 2022-2023. Chang was able to engage with the student advisory council to seek suggestions on how to help increase student attendance. The student advisory council suggested message campaigns that emphasize the importance of attending school, appropriate use of technology that engages students, family engagement, intentional scheduling options to promote student engagement and peer support.

Agenda Item: An Update on the Family Partnership Council's Recommendations to the Kentucky Department of Education

Presenters: Marsha VanHook, Full-Service Community Schools Manager and Council Chair

Summary of Discussion: The group discussed recommendations on how the Family Partnership Council can help families and communities assist schools to increase all students' achievements.

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The first recommendation included KDE creating an electronic questionnaire to gather promising and innovative engagement practices from districts and schools statewide. The second recommendation was for KDE to hire a full-time, full-service community schools (FSCS) manager which is fully funded by the Prichard Committee through December 2027. This role is to support on-going training for family engagement strategies with state, and district/school family engagement coordinators. For the third recommendation, FPC will make recommendations to local educational agencies (LEAs) and other state organizations on one or more tools that will support families in navigating educational options. The last recommendation, FPC will assist in the implementation of the three previous goals and support many more schools' adoption of the Kentucky Family and School Partnership Guide.

Next Meeting:

Sept. 24