Kentucky United We Learn Regional Town Halls

The Future of Assessment and Accountability in Kentucky

January 2025

Welcome

Robbie Fletcher, Commissioner of Education

"To build a prosperous Kentucky, we will launch an accountability system that is meaningful and useful to all learners."

KUWL Moonshot Statement (01/24/2024)

Three "BIG" Ideas

- Vibrant Learning

- Accelerating Innovation (in Accountability)

- Collaboration with LOCAL Communities (and with other school districts)

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Kentucky Department of EDUCATION

The Flight Path

Where have we been?

- 2021
  - Listening Tour
  - Kentucky Coalition for Advancing Education (KCAE)
  - Local Laboratories of Learning (L3)

- 2022 -2023
  - Kentucky United We Learn Council
  - Accountability Focus

- 2024
  - 4 Prototypes
  - 2 Model Frameworks with an Ongoing Study Phase for Input

Where are we going?

- 2025
  - Town Halls
  - Finalized Model Framework

- 2026
  - Recommendation to the General Assembly

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Accountability :
Two Parts of the Whole

Federal/State

- Streamlining to fill the required "buckets"

- Identifying Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI), Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI), Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI) schools

- Providing timely instructional data

Local

- Allowing flexibility to assess learning

- Customizing to meet community needs

- Collaborating with multiple groups

Regional Town Hall Agenda

- Welcome and Introduction

- What is Vibrant Learning?

- What is Local Accountability?

  - One School District's Story

- Model Framework 2.0

- Question and Answer Session
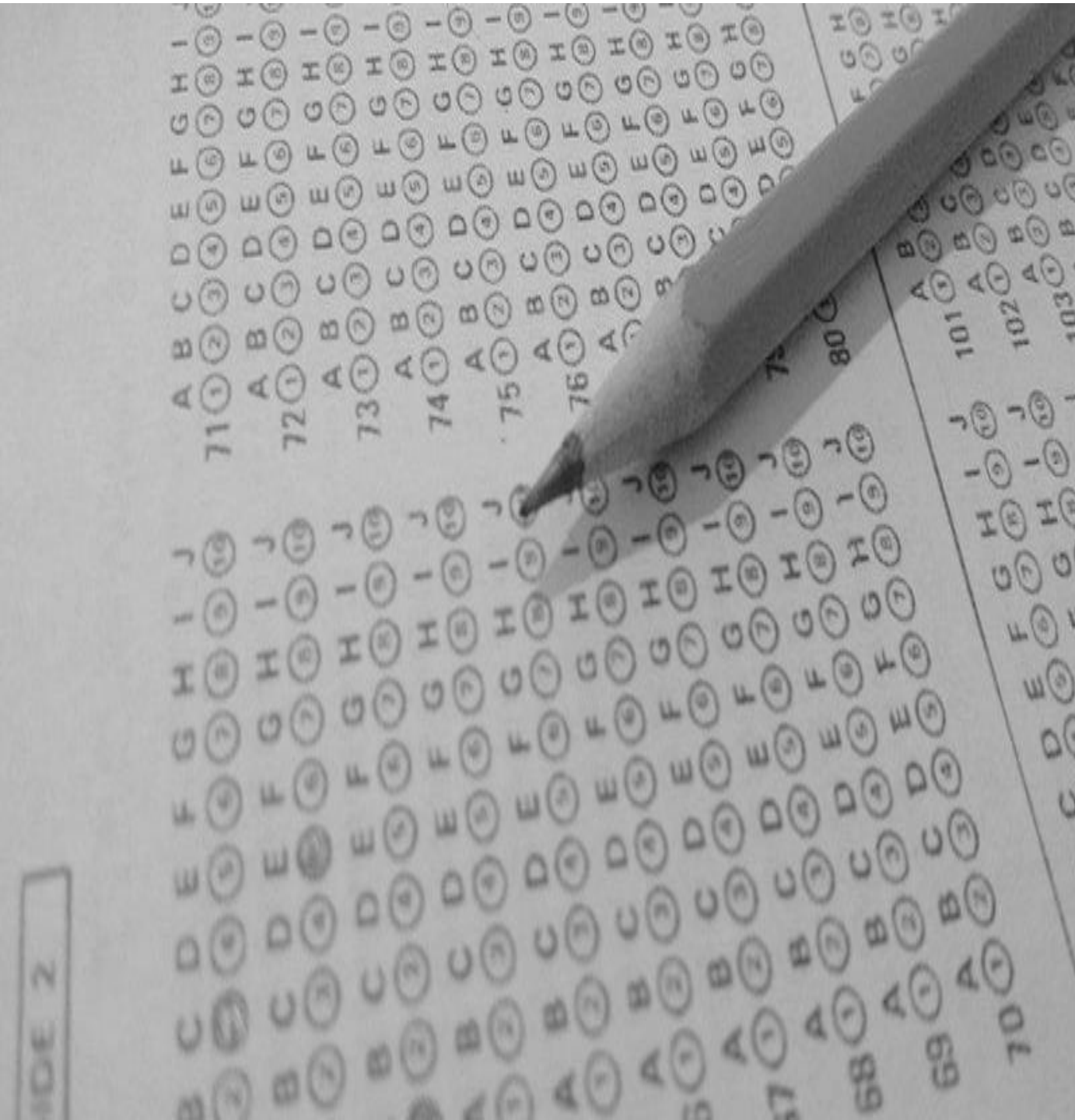
What is Vibrant Learning?

Kalli Colley,
Kentucky Department of Education (KDE)
Representative

Think about a student in your life......

Pull up a photo on your phone of a child/youth you love. As you think about this child, ask yourself:

- What kind of learner are they?
- What kind of learning experiences do you want for them?

Pollinator - Traditional

In a traditional classroom students read a textbook chapter about pollinators and complete a worksheet identifying the dangers pollinators face and their importance to plants and animals.

Students draw a diagram of a pollinator and label its parts. For assessment, learners take a quiz that includes multiple-choice questions about pollinators.

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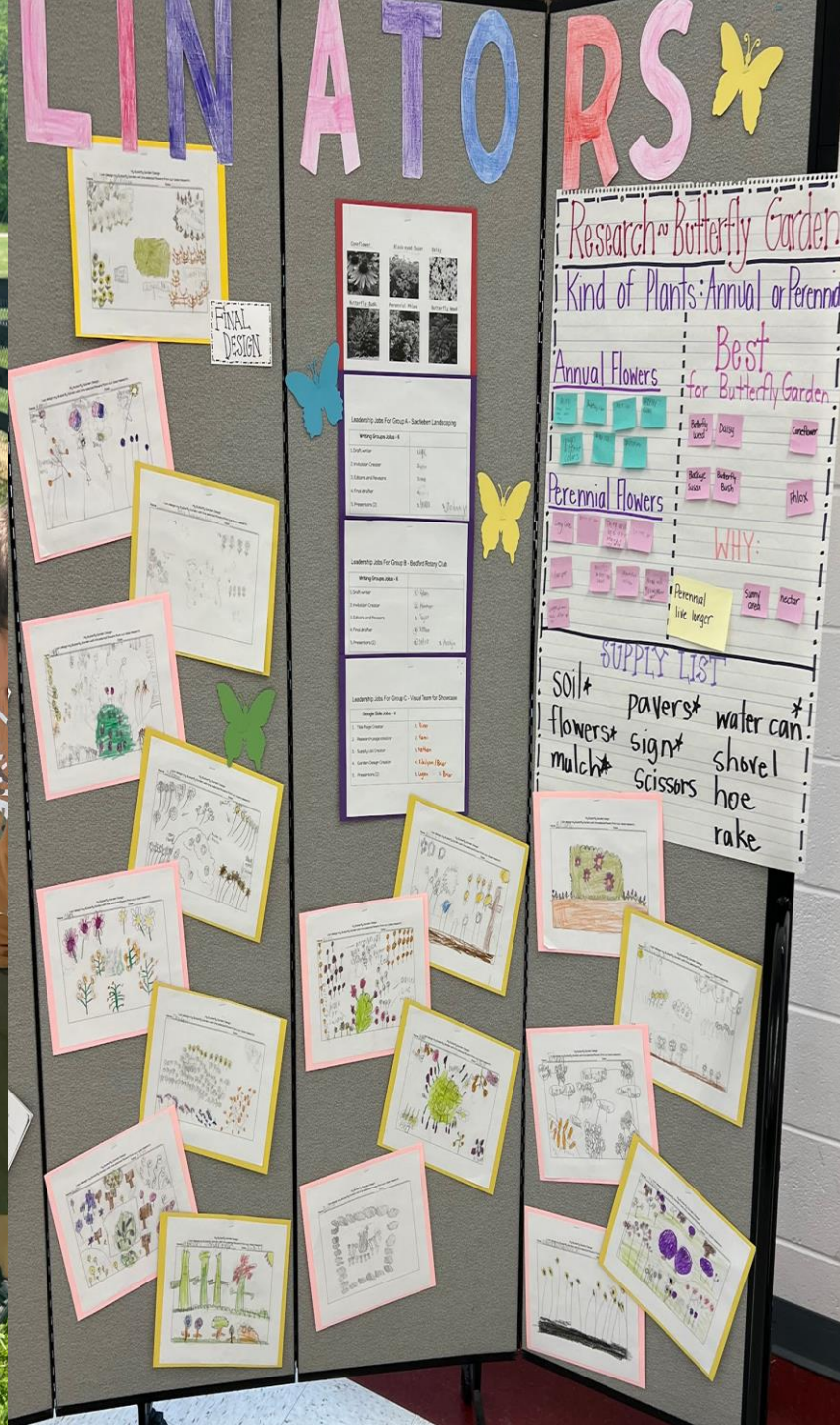
Pollinator - Vibrant

However, in this example from the commonwealth, learners are driven by the question, "How can we inspire others to protect and support pollinators?" They research pollinators and apply their knowledge to design a pollinator garden, collaborating with local businesses for materials and expertise. They share their learning with the community through visual aids, such as scientific drawings or slides, and by creating items like seed packets or bracelets to inspire action

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Human Body Systems Traditional

Traditionally, students learn about body systems by reading assigned textbook chapters on the major body systems (e.g., circulatory, digestive, respiratory) and taking notes on the key organs, structures, and functions. They will complete a worksheet with labeled diagrams, key term definitions, and questions about how each system works and interacts with others. After reviewing the material, students summarize their understanding through a short-written report or presentation.
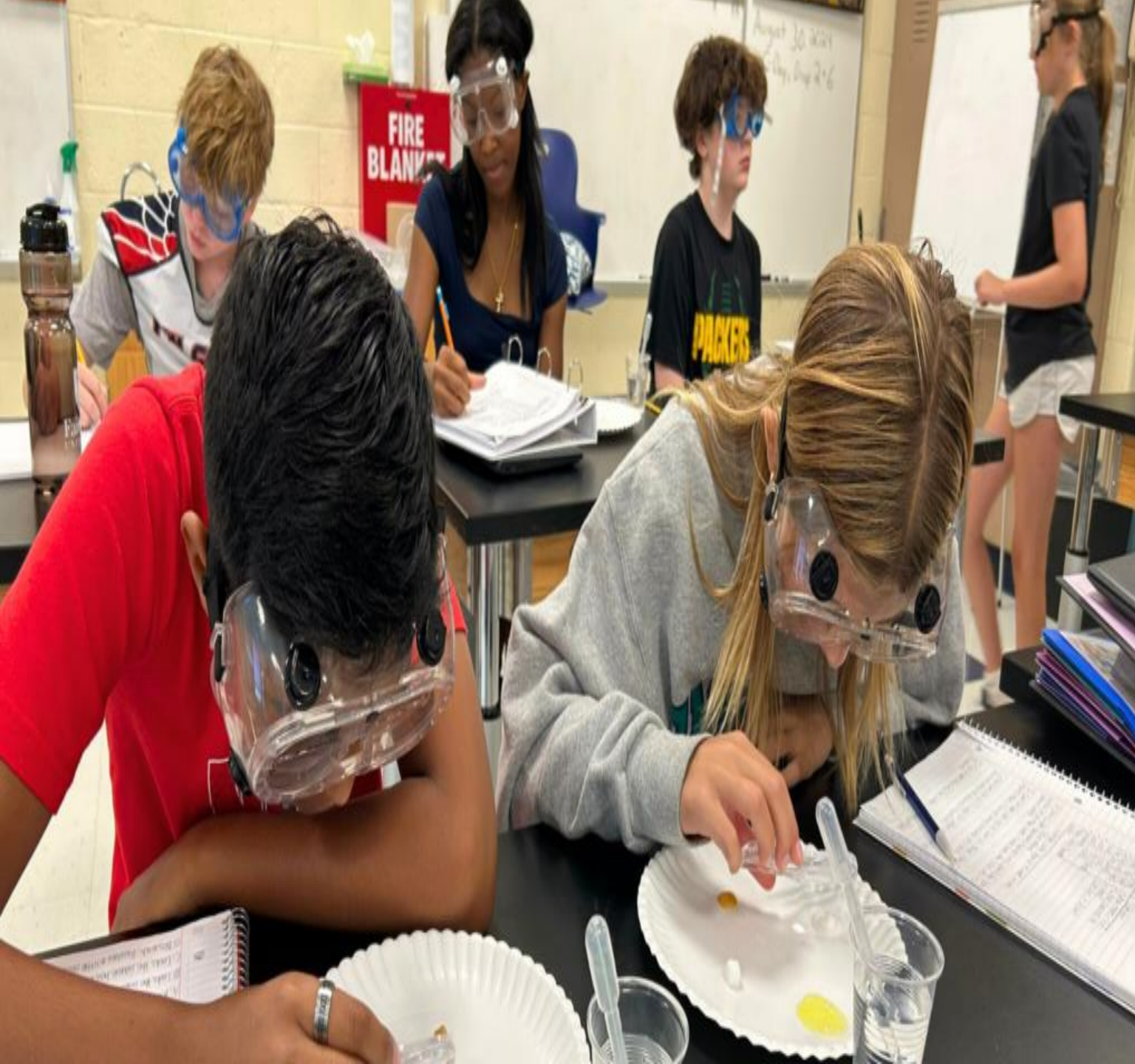
Human Body Systems Vibrant

In this example from the Commonwealth, Learners take on the role of a medical investigator to solve a real case of a sick middle school girl to answer the question, "What is going on in M'Kenna's body that is making her feel the way she does?" Through a series of investigations learners curate evidence that will inform their final presentation of learning. In their medical teams, learners choose how they will present their findings and diagnosis to a panel of community members from the medical field.

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To Kill a Mockingbird Traditional

I bet we have all read the novel To Kill a Mockingbird and write an essay defending their position on whether or not the character Atticus is a hero using evidence from the text.

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To Kill a Mockingbird Vibrant

In this example from the Commonwealth, Learners consider "What makes someone a hero?" They explore this question through the lens of the Jim Crow South using a curation of teacher and learner chosen fiction and informational texts about the time period. Collaboratively, students create a video for the schools' Activism Week sharing their shared definition of a hero supported by fictional and real examples from the Jim Crow South. Their video also provides actions their fellow students can take to stand up to injustice in their own world today based on what they learned from the past.

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Vibrant Learning Experiences - *As defined by the Kentucky United We Learn Council*

"Learning that matters to students"

In partnership with families and communities, students are agents of their own learning, engaged in relevant, authentic and joyful learning opportunities. Vibrant learning honors students' cultural wealth, gifts and interests. Vibrant learning culminates in the application of knowledge and skills demonstrated through personalized products.

Student Reflection on Vibrant Learning

"I like to build things. I like to experiment with things and see how it works in real life. When I first heard about our [dream house project], I was like "yes!" I've always loved math, but I didn't understand how [building a house] would become math. I'm an art person. I like to make it creative, not just write something down on a piece of paper and be done with it. This [project] helped me because I could learn math by converting everything and still get to do it my own way."

- *Spencer County Middle School Student*

Kentucky Portrait of a Learner

- The knowledge, skills, and competencies students should know and exhibit upon graduation
- Combines academic knowledge with personal traits and skills
- Honors a wider set of student passions and experiences
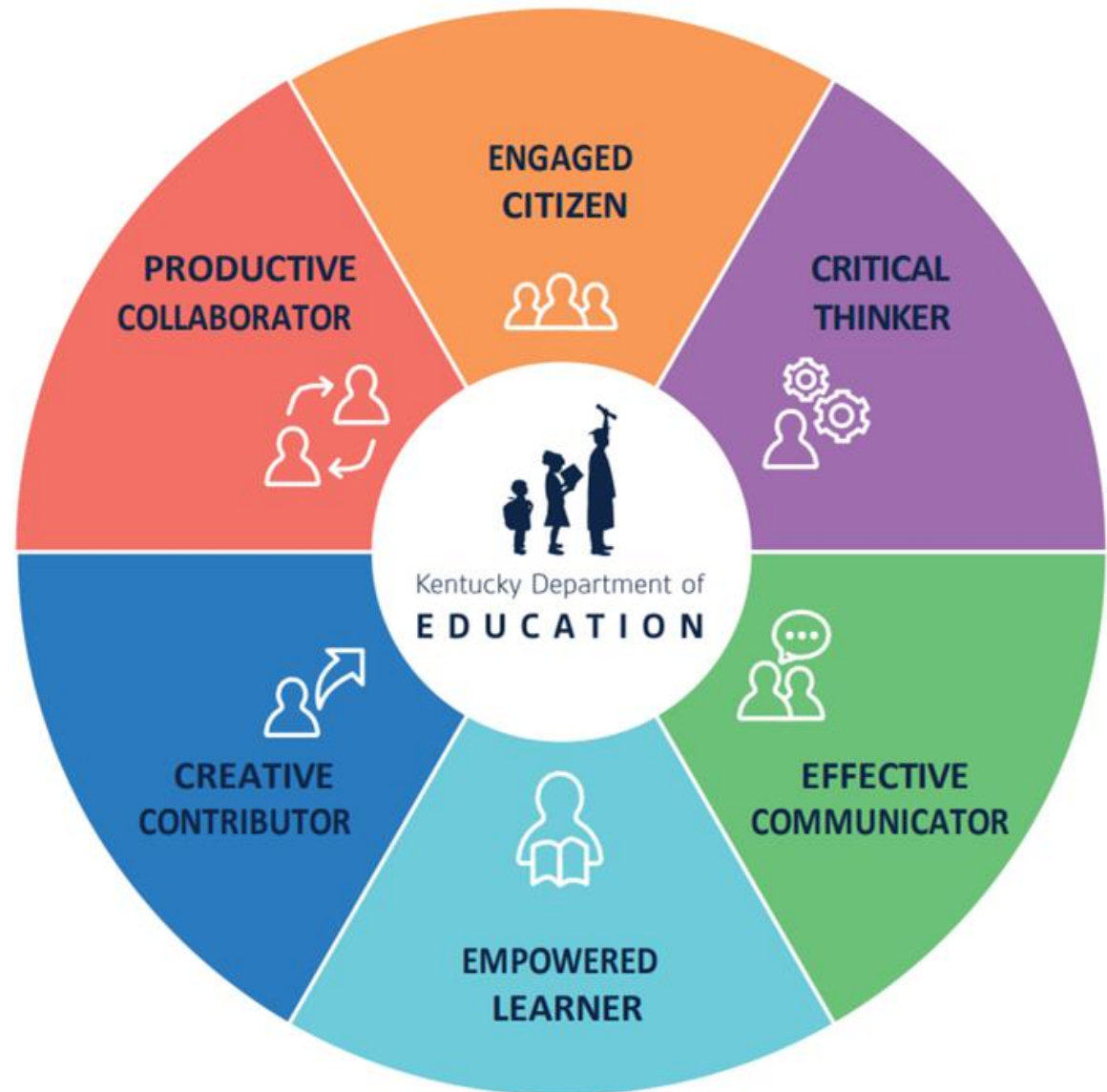
Speaker Notes on Previous Slide

Currently, over 140 out of the 171 Kentucky districts are developing or have developed a Portrait of a Learner.

Many districts are creating Performance Assessment systems to measure the agreed-upon competencies through authentic experiences and exhibitions of learning.

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"To build a prosperous Kentucky, we will launch an accountability system that is meaningful and useful to all learners."

KUWL Moonshot Statement (01/24/2024)

What is
Local Accountability?

"Local accountability is a system designed by the people it serves, for the people it serves.
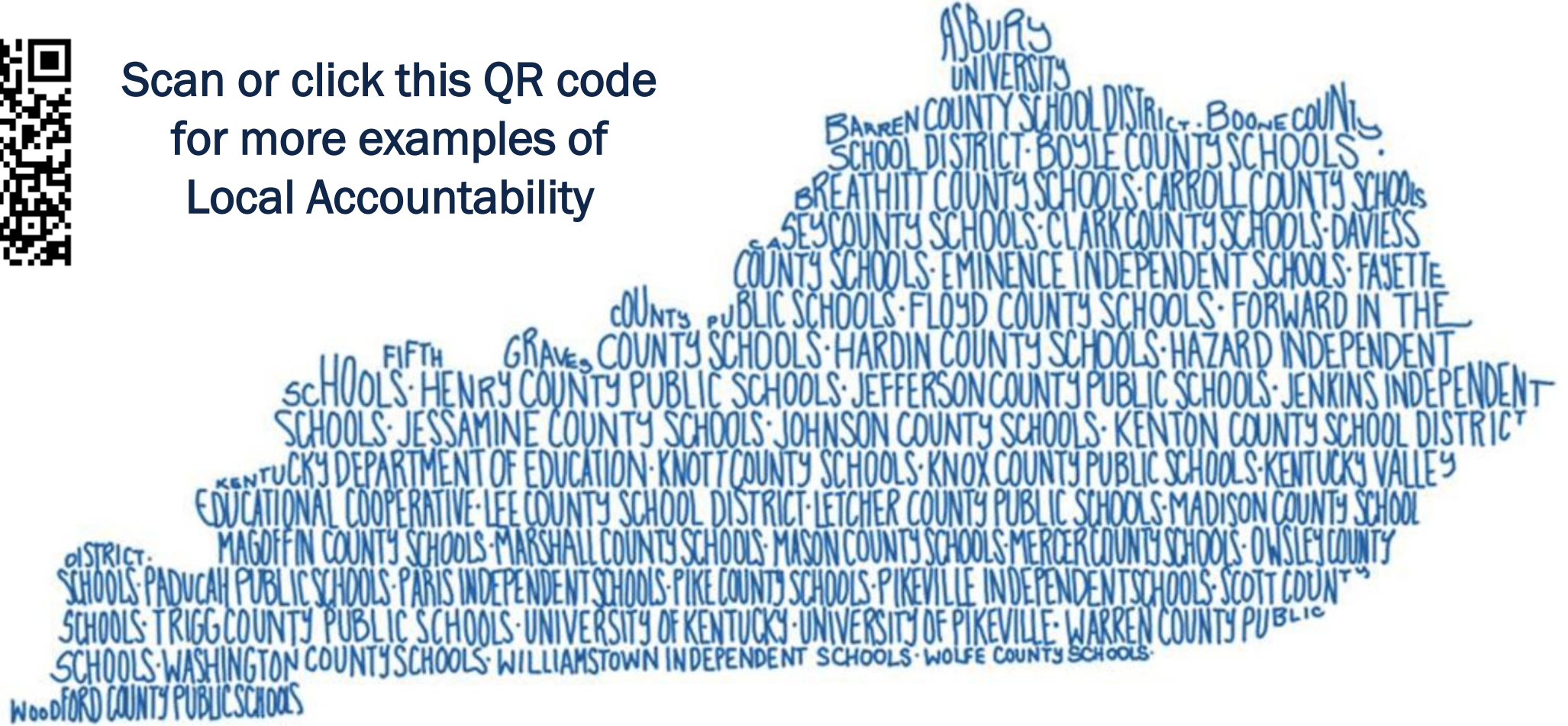
When implemented effectively, it is not only impactful but transformative, reshaping the learning process.

Furthermore, it restores and strengthens the bonds and partnerships between school districts and their communities, prioritizing student-centered, authentic, joyful, and personalized learning."

- Brian Creasman, Superintendent
Fleming County Schools

ASBURY UNIVERSITY · BARREN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT · BOONE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT · BOYLE COUNTY SCHOOLS · BREATHITT COUNTY SCHOOLS · CARROLL COUNTY SCHOOLS · CASEY COUNTY SCHOOLS · CLARK COUNTY SCHOOLS · DAVIESS COUNTY SCHOOLS · EMINENCE INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS · FAYETTE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS · FLOYD COUNTY SCHOOLS · FORWARD IN THE FIFTH · GRAVES COUNTY SCHOOLS · HARDIN COUNTY SCHOOLS · HAZARD INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS · HENRY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS · JEFFERSON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS · JENKINS INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS · JESSAMINE COUNTY SCHOOLS · JOHNSON COUNTY SCHOOLS · KENTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT · KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION · KNOTT COUNTY SCHOOLS · KNOX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS · KENTUCKY VALLEY EDUCATIONAL COOPERATIVE · LEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT · LETCHER COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS · MADISON COUNTY SCHOOL · MAGOFFIN COUNTY SCHOOLS · MARSHALL COUNTY SCHOOLS · MASON COUNTY SCHOOLS · MERCER COUNTY SCHOOLS · OWSLEY COUNTY SCHOOLS · PADUCAH PUBLIC SCHOOLS · PARIS INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS · PIKE COUNTY SCHOOLS · PIKEVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS · SCOTT COUNTY SCHOOLS · TRIGG COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS · UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY · UNIVERSITY OF PIKEVILLE · WARREN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS · WASHINGTON COUNTY SCHOOLS · WILLIAMSTOWN INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS · WOLFE COUNTY SCHOOLS · WOODFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

We find ourselves in the midst of a movement.

Local Accountability in Action:

Kadi Ralston

Christian County Public Schools

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EDUCATION

A **C**ommunity **C**ommitted to **P**henomenal **S**chools

Christian County Public Schools

Christian County High School
Hopkinsville High School
Gateway Academy to Innovation and Technology (CTC)
*August 2026: Christian County High School,
Home of the Tigers

Christian County Middle School
Hopkinsville Middle School

Crofton Elementary
Freedom Elementary
Indian Hills Elementary
Millbrooke Elementary
Pembroke Elementary
Sinking Fork Elementary
South Christian Elementary

MLK, Jr. Early Learning Center

Virtual Learning Academy
Bluegrass Learning Academy
Cumberland Hall
Christian County Day Treatment Center

The mission of CCPS is to ensure *meaningful learning experiences* that empower ALL students IN reaching their fullest potential in a changing world. We will provide the tools for *preschool to post-graduation success* by uniting all shareholders to support diverse academic and social-emotional needs.

CHRISTIAN COUNTY
— PUBLIC SCHOOLS —

Local Accountability Support

- Prichard Committee Full Service Community Schools
- High school transformation model: Career Academy model
  - Master Planning
  - Impact Teams: Co-Leads are district and community leaders
  - Academies of Christian County High School Steering Committee
  - Career Expo
- Profile of a Graduate
- Advisory Groups: Student Advisories at all schools, Parent and Teacher Advisory Councils, Freshman Academy Advisory Council

"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members." **-** Coretta Scott King

PROFILE OF A GRADUATE

Career- and/or Work-Ready Professional
Works with or without supervision, displays professionalism, and values teamwork.

Accountable Self-Starter
Accepts responsibility for outcomes, seeks out feedback, and begins projects independently.

Adaptable Learner
Willingly pursues knowledge for personal or professional growth outside of formal schooling and adjusts understanding with new information.

Innovative Critical Thinker
Generates ideas, examines information, and evaluates the impact of solutions.

Empathetic Communicator
Effectively expresses oneself verbally and in writing, actively listens, and interacts meaningfully with those from all backgrounds and cultures.

Collaborative Problem Solver
Establishes and maintains a shared responsibility to analyze situations and find answers.

CHRISTIAN COUNTY
— PUBLIC SCHOOLS —
A **C**ommunity **C**ommitted to **P**henomenal **S**chools

24-25 District Expectations

• Every teacher will teach the Profile of a Graduate competencies through *vibrant learning experiences*.

• All 5th, 8th, and 12th grade students will experience an exhibition (5th) and or a defense (8th and 12th).

• Schools will engage community partners in Exhibitions, Defenses, and/or learning experiences centered around the Profile of a Graduate.

Vibrant Learning In Action

- Vibrant Learning: Promoting a joy for learning through
  - Engagement in relevant topics,
  - Productive struggle with rigorous tasks, and
  - Mastery of learning goals.
- Enhanced when learning is shared and artifacts produced have an authentic place in the lives and concerns of the local community and perhaps beyond.
- Ensuring access and opportunity for all students.

Vibrant Learning Experience Examples

CHRISTIAN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Christian County Public Schools
5d · 🌐

🌟 **Student Voices Matter!** 🌟

The Superintendent's Student Advisory Council, made up of juniors and seniors from both high schools, meets monthly to discuss topics that matter most to them. From Project Graduation and prom to instructional insights and overall student experience, their voices help shape the future of CCPS.

Each year, the advisory council also takes a college and an industry tour, exploring opportunities available after graduation. 🎓

#StudentVoiceMatters #CCPSallin #InspireEngageSucceed #thisisCCPS

CCPS Student Life
3d · 🌐

Our Body Structures class recently took a hands-on approach to learning by labeling the muscles of the human body! 💪 This vibrant activity not only deepened their understanding of the muscular system but also showcased how Gateway Academy is helping students embody the Profile of a Graduate — from becoming Accountable Self-Starters to Career-Ready Professionals.

🔗 Read more about how this project is shaping future healthcare professionals here: https://ccpsstudentlife.com/2025/01/19/gateway-academy-students-embody-vibrant-learning-with-hands-on-healthcare-education/

#FutureHealthcareLeaders #VibrantLearning #GatewayAcademy #ProfileOfAGraduate #CareerReadyStudents

Vibrant Learning Experience Examples Continued

Christian County Public Schools
Dec 11, 2024 · 🌐

🌟 **Vibrant Learning Spotlight!** 🌟

Ms. Hodge's 3rd graders at Freedom Elementary took science to the next level with a hands-on genetics lesson! 🧬✨ Students created offspring creatures out of clay, observing the traits inherited from Parent 1 and Parent 2 based on their "genetic instructions." 👫➡️🦄

This creative activity brought learning to life and had everyone engaged and excited about exploring heredity.
Great job, 3rd graders! 🎨📚 #EngagedLearning #ScienceInAction #thisisCCPS #CCPSallin #inspireengagedsucceed

👍❤️ Susan McLain + 11   3 shares

👍 Like   💬 Send   ➡️ Share

Christian County Public Schools
Dec 12, 2024 · 🌐   •••

🌟 **VIBRANT LEARNING SPOTLIGHT** 🌟

4th-grade students from Mrs. Coats' class became empathetic communicators today as they presented their research on animals to 1st and 2nd graders! 🐾📚

What a great way for older students to share their knowledge with primary students. Engaged minds and meaningful connections make for truly vibrant learning! 💡✨

South Christian Elementary

#VibrantLearning #EmpatheticCommunicators #StudentLeadership #thisisCCPS #CCPSallin #inspireengagesucceed #acommunitycommittedtophenomenalschools

CHRISTIAN COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Next Steps:
Transformation That Enriches Students and the Community

- Strengthen classroom experiences for students into authentic learning that is vibrant, meaningful, and joyful
- Journey to the high school transformation: Career academy model for post-secondary readiness (authentic learning in every class, work-based learning, industry certifications, dual credit)
- Profile of a Graduate: competencies for life readiness in all grades; refine processes for exhibitions/defenses
- Enable community-connected learning experiences: Advisory Councils, High School Steering Committee, Project-Based Learning, Profile of a Graduate

Framework 2.0 Overview

Jennifer Stafford, KDE

In the past, systems prioritized...

Standardization
- Standardized tests for all subjects
- Instruction developed around testing offers little variance

Comparison
- Limited collaboration across districts or within communities
- Schools rated using the color system

State Control
- The state decides all measures used for accountability
- The same state accountability system for all schools

Compliance
- Accountability system designed to "meet requirements" in state and federal law
- Local improvement efforts align to requirements

Going forward, systems will support more...

Vibrant Learning
- Students have agency to demonstrate knowledge and skills in a variety of ways
- State tests meet students where they are

Collaboration
- Districts collaborate in partnership with communities
- The state supports networks of peer districts
- No more color ratings

Local Innovation
- Districts engage with communities to design custom accountability systems reflecting local values
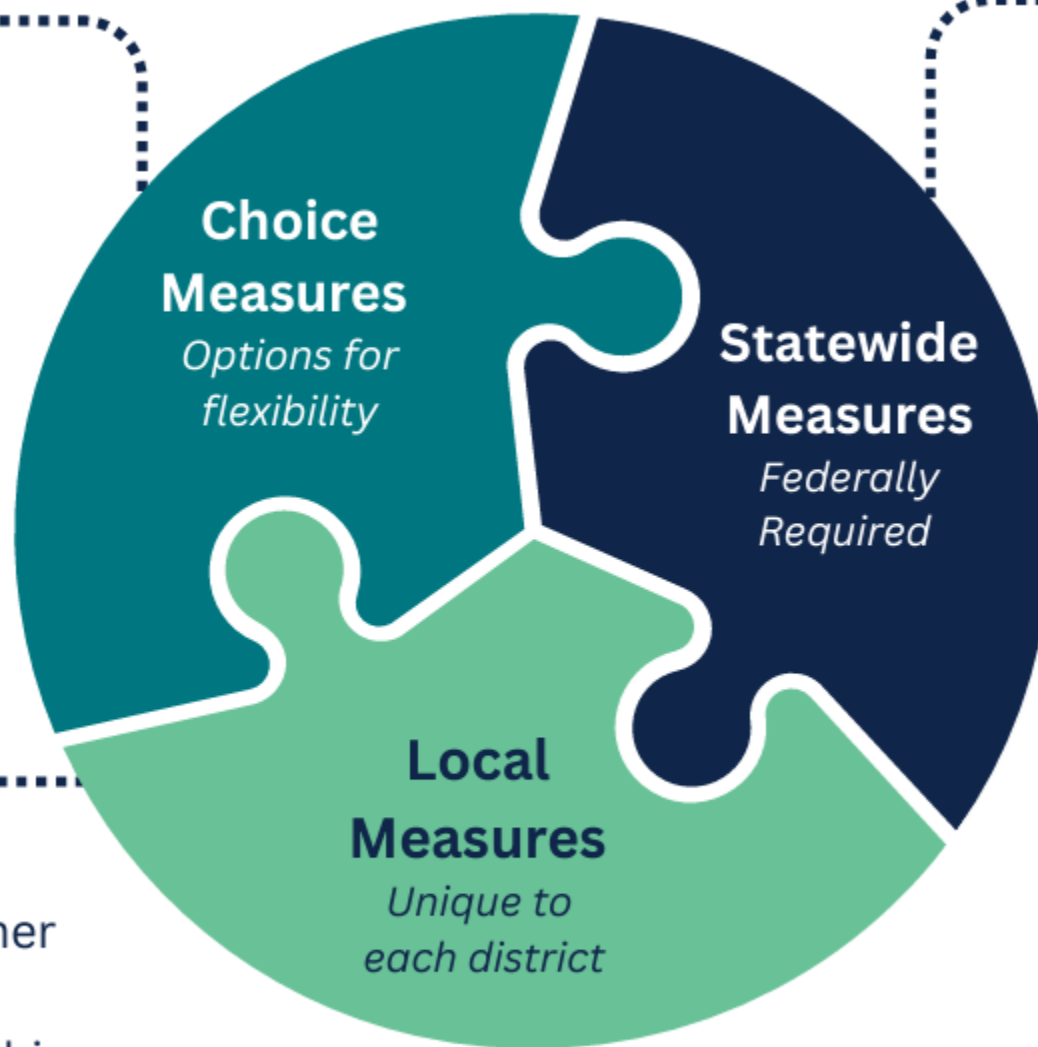- Some state requirements allow local choice

Feedback and Support
- All schools receive peer and expert external feedback to support improvement
- Local flexibility and data lead to customized support

- Social Studies & Writing
- Vibrant Learning Experiences
- Interim Assessments

Choice Measures
Options for flexibility

Statewide Measures
Federally Required

Local Measures
Unique to each district

- Portrait of a Learner
- Engagement
- Culture & Leadership

- Reading and Math
- Individual Student Growth
- Transition Readiness & Graduation Rate
- English Language Progress
- Climate and Safety Survey
- *Science Assessment -*

Students must be tested in science using a common statewide measure. However, districts may choose to include it in local accountability and add additional competency based measures.

Scan or click for more details.

Districts will design and implement local accountability systems - with state and peer support - on a timeline that sets everyone up for success.

1

Pilot Phase

Continue with a representative pilot group of districts to design and implement local accountability systems. This phase focuses on testing key components, gathering feedback, identifying challenges, and refining processes.

2

Expansion Phase

Expand local accountability systems to more districts, applying lessons from the pilot. State invests in high-quality professional learning systems and strong communities of practice for local system design and stakeholder engagement.

3

Sustainability Phase

Local accountability systems are scaled across the state with active networks for shared learning, system review, and continuous improvement.
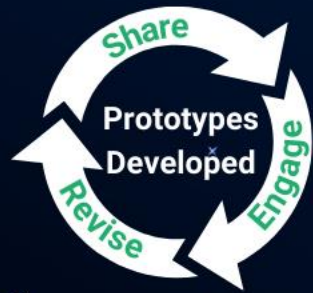
Reminder:
Think about a student in your life……

Pull up a photo on your phone of a child/youth you love. As you think about this child, ask yourself:

- What kind of learner are they?
- What kind of learning experiences do you want for them?

How can I stay engaged?

Scan or Click the QR code to find out how you can stay engaged.

Thank You!

Kentucky
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COUNCIL

Scan or click this QR code to submit any additional questions or comments.

You can also hand your question card to any KDE representative.

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