A Collage-and-Career Ready Workforce Toolkit

The American Youth Policy Forum (AYPF) and the College & Career Readiness & Success (CCRS) Center at AIR are pleased to share with you a new resource entitled: Developing a College-and Career-Ready Workforce: An Analysis of ESSA, Perkins V, IDEA, and WIOA. This toolkit includes:

• A brief to help state and local agencies understand where opportunities exist to align and leverage policies, programs, and funding across laws to support the education-to-workforce pipeline;

• A workbook that further examines alignment opportunities in the context of state plans as they relate to ESSA, Perkins, IDEA, and WIOA; and

• An interactive tool to help state and local agencies develop a plan that maximizes opportunities for college and career readiness alignment while adhering to state and local legal requirements.

Persistence to Graduation Summit Registration Open!

The 2019 Persistence to Graduation Summit: Safe and Supportive Learning will be held July 9-10 at the Lexington Convention Center. The summit will feature peer-led interactive breakout sessions, keynotes by Hamish Brewer (2017 NAESP Nationally Distinguished Principal and Virginia Principal of the year, Prince William County Public Schools 2019 Principal of the Year) and Marietta Watts (Executive Diversity Liaison for the Office of Institutional Diversity and leader of Unconscious Bias Initiative at the University of Kentucky), and networking opportunities to deepen your knowledge of dropout prevention and re-engagement strategies. Summit topics will include well rounded educational opportunities, safe and supportive learning environments, effective use of education technology, student transition and re-engagement strategies, and alternative education. EILA credit and CEUs for social workers will be available.

Registration for the summit will be free on a first come, first serve basis. All attendees are responsible for registering themselves. Use the discount code PTG2019 in order to attend at no charge when you register. You must use this discount code to avoid being charged a registration fee.

A block of rooms has been reserved for the summit at the Hyatt Regency Lexington. All guests making reservations should call 1-800-233-1234 and identify themselves as part of the AdvancED Conference Room Block to receive the special rate. Reservations must be received by the cut-off date of 6/10/19. Any reservation requests received after the cut-off date will be
subject to availability and prevailing rates. Reservation requests for dates before and/or after the confirmed room block dates will also be subject to availability and prevailing rates.

Please direct all payment-related questions (purchase orders, etc.) to the reservations phone number listed above. If you have questions regarding registration, please contact Betsy Owen/888-413-3669, ext. 5783 at AdvancED.

**Trauma Informed Practices for Everyone!**

Many districts have been rolling out training to teachers and staff about the impact of trauma and ways schools can support trauma exposed students through the University of Kentucky Center on Children and Trauma Professional Learning Collaborative. Check out this recent story in The Kentucky Teacher about how one Kentucky district is approaching implementation and including bus drivers and bus monitors in their efforts!

**KDE’s Best Practices Website Taking Submissions**

The Kentucky Department of Education’s Best Practices and Sustainability website is open for submission of best practices from schools and districts. The website is designed to serve as a clearinghouse to promote practices that motivate, engage and provide measurable results in student learning, achievement and school/district processes. Any aspect of a school system that can impact student outcomes through improved instruction or operations can be submitted as a best practice.

Best practices should be submitted to the Best Practices database by May 1 to be considered for acknowledgement at the Continuous Improvement Summit in September. For additional information, please feel free to contact Natasha Napier.

**Relevant Research, Practice Tips, and Briefs**

**Applying Social Emotional Learning (SEL) in High School:** This article from Edutopia highlights ways to make SEL more relevant for adolescents. Related, ASCD published a brief article about the imperative of SEL to help students navigate unjust realities, and provides several strategies for teaching fearless SEL. You can also sign up for this ASCD on demand webinar title “All Learning Is Social and Emotional” which is 1 hour and 17 minutes long.

**Nine Ways to ensure your Mindfulness Teaching Practice is Trauma Informed:** Check out this article by MindShift about the important relationship between mindfulness and trauma that provides nine guidelines for teachers to ensure that mindfulness practice with trauma exposed youth is helpful.

**Sensory Rooms Serve Students in Crisis:** Read this very brief article describing the purpose, characteristics and setup of sensory rooms to support students who are struggling.

**Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Funding Opportunity:** Check out this opportunity for comprehensive school based approach to youth violence and victimization.
Building Equitable, Safe and Supportive Schools: This [white paper](#) *Trauma and Culturally Sensitive Practices for Guidance* provides practical phases for implementation and ready-to-use resources.

The Science of Happiness Podcast: Check out this [podcast](#) from the Greater Good Science Center on all things happiness!

Community Based Strategies vs. Juvenile Incarceration: A [new report](#) from the Urban Institute offers guidance for local jurisdictions on how to repurpose juvenile detention facilities, as well as how to “capture and redirect” savings from reduced reliance on incarceration, while maximizing state and federal funding streams to create a “continuum of care” for youth and families in their own communities.

SEL Playbook to Support Practitioners – a Tool from CASEL: This [resource](#) provides activities for introducing and broadening the use of three signature SEL practices in classrooms, schools, and workplaces. The playbook addresses welcoming inclusion activities, engaging strategies, and optimistic closures to help practitioners create safe, productive spaces for students and adults. For more school team resources, visit the CASEL [school guide](#).

**Upcoming Professional Learning Opportunities**

Webinars

The Role of Family in Mentoring: The National Mentoring Partnership will present “Family Matters: Family Engagement as a Strategy in Strengthening Mentoring Relationships.” This [webinar](#) will focus on the role caregivers and families can play in supporting youth in mentoring relationships and will take place on April 18 from 1:00-2:15 pm ET.

SEL Resource Discussion: CASEL’s free district resource center has new tools and resources. This free online resource can help districts whether they are just beginning to implement social and emotional learning (SEL) or looking to sustain and improve their efforts. Sign up today to attend this [webinar](#) which will take place on April 24 from 12:00-1:00pm ET. If you are not able to attend you can still sign up to receive the recording.

Skills to Succeed: The Skills to Succeed Academy is a free online, highly interactive learning platform that builds the skills and confidence of young people so they can make career choices, find and get a job, and be successful at work. In this webinar you will learn about how high schools, colleges, non-profits, and government agencies are using the Skills to Succeed Academy to improve their workforce development offerings. This [webinar](#) will take place April 30 from 2:00-3:00 ET.

Supporting Students and Staff in the Aftermath of Crisis and Loss: The National Center for School Crisis and Bereavement is hosting a webinar to help school professionals learn basic skills in how to talk with and support individual students or an entire class/school as they struggle to understand and cope with a crisis or loss in their lives. This [webinar](#) will take place on April 23 from 3:00-4:30 ET.
A Mindful Approach to School Site Leader and Teacher Collaboration for Whole School Wellness: Join the Teaching Well and staff from diverse school site roles to share ways they have collaborated to create healthy and sustainable school climates. Participants will hear firsthand accounts of the personal and professional benefits when school staff make wellness a central focus in their work plans, relational strategies, and overall school culture. This webinar will take place on May 16 from 3:00-4:00 ET.

Solutions to the Dropout Crisis Webcasts: Solutions to the Dropout Crisis webcasts are always offered free of cost, and no registration is required. Tune in the second Tuesday of each month at 3:30 PM ET for new Solutions to the Dropout Crisis, where you can also find recordings of previous webcasts.

Conferences and Activities

Arts & Trauma-Informed Education (July 9-12 in Hazard): Open to teachers, FRYSC staff, and school counselors, this Academy will explore ways in which the arts can help create safe and supportive classroom and school cultures, and how the arts and art educators can work more effectively with trained mental health professionals in helping to support the needs of students struggling with the effects of trauma in their lives. Preference will be given to teachers who participated in Academies in 2017 (Leadership and the Arts) and 2018 (Arts and Wellness), and additional participants will be selected from the applicants. The Kentucky Center Arts Academies have two other opportunities this summer for teachers: 1) Arts Integration Academy: Arts, Spanish Language, and Cultural Studies (June 17-19 in Danville), and 2) Arts Assessment & Videography Academy (June 24-28 in Lexington). Dates and Academy offerings subject to change. Request an email to receive announcement when the applications have been posted.

Kentucky Alternative Education Summit: Registration is now open for the 18th Annual Kentucky Alternative Education Summit. The summit will be held July 30-31 at the Embassy Suites in Lexington, KY.

Elevating Evidence: Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) staff will be hosting several workshops throughout Kentucky to introduce attendees to ESSA’s evidence-based provisions and facilitate conversations about common issues in educational research. As part of this training, participants will evaluate a study that is relevant to their local setting and will leave with a completed study analysis that meets KDE compliance expectations. While all school and district leaders are welcome, this workshop is designed for principals and teacher leaders who want a deeper understanding of ESSA’s evidence-based practice provisions.

Three-hour morning and afternoon sessions will be offered at each location. To register, select the link below or visit KDE’s Evidence-based Practices website. Space is limited. EILA credit is available for this workshop. You can register for one of the following training sessions:

- July 9: Elizabethtown, Regional Postsecondary Education Center, Elizabethtown Community and Technical College
- July 11: Hazard, Hazard Community and Technical College
July 25: Florence, Gateway Community and Technical College
July 30: Grayson, Rocky Adkins Pavilion, Ashland Community and Technical College

**Victory over Violence Conference:** This conference addresses the safety and well-being of the whole child in the school and community by addressing social and emotional development issues and family engagement. Workshops are applicable for FRYSCs and all other youth- and family-focused professionals. The Victory over Violence conference will be held July 15-17, 2019 at the Northern Kentucky Convention Center.

**Behavior Institute:** Registration for the 2019 Behavior Institute is now open! The Institute will be held June 13-14 at the KY International Convention Center in Louisville, KY. There will be over 100 sessions with many national and local speakers.

**Promoting Literacy, Social Emotional Learning and Equity for ALL:** The 2019 Bridging the Gap conference will be held June 11-12 in League City, Texas. This conference is designed to empower educators with the principles and practices that support literacy and language development, social emotional needs of students as well as teachers. If you are interested in presenting at this conference, proposals are being accepted through April 15.

**National Dropout Prevention Conference:** The 2019 conference hosted by the National Dropout Prevention Center will take place October 5-8 in Denver, CO. The conference includes preconference sessions, keynote sessions, breakout sessions and networking opportunities. Registration is now open.

**We are grateful for you and the hard work you do every day for our students!**

If you would like to contribute any information (resources, celebrations, etc.) to this enews, please email judi.vanderhaar@education.ky.gov. Also, please share this link with your colleagues who might be interested in subscribing to the Persistence to Graduation listserv (right click to subscribe)