



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Family Partnership Council
SUMMARY
MARCH 19, 2025

ATTENDANCE: Laura Beard, Elizabeth Ashley Bruce, Leah Marcum and Amy Nickerson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Britney Faulkner, Tara Truckor, Alisha Miller, Elizabeth Delaney, Melissa Goins, Stephanie Barker, Rhonda Logsdon, Erin Weaver and Chris Medley

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes of the November 6, 2024, meeting was made by Ashley Bruce and seconded by Laura Beard.

Agenda Item: Current State and/or Local Policies Regarding the Use of Artificial Intelligence or Machine Learning in Schools

Presenters: David Couch, Associate Commissioner, Office of Education Technology, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: Associate Commissioner David Couch (from the Office of Education Technology) provided a comprehensive update on the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) within Kentucky's K-12 educational framework. The presentation addressed the evolving state and local policies surrounding AI in schools, highlighting the proactive stance of the Office of Education Technology and referencing legislative presentations by industry experts from Microsoft and Google. To support schools in navigating this emerging landscape, the office has developed and disseminated an [AI guidance Brief](#), ensuring stakeholders have access to current information. Mr. Couch also shared valuable insights gathered from the Chief of Information Officer summit and ongoing monthly webcasts, reflecting the concerns and perspectives of Kentucky's K-12 educational technology leaders. Key themes included the pervasive impact of AI, the necessity for clear boundaries, and the development of responsible use policies. He recommended reviewing the CIO summit webcast and summary documents for detailed insights. Practical applications of AI within common software, such as the Microsoft Office Suite, were demonstrated, emphasizing the importance of continuous learning and adaptation to the evolving AI landscape for both educators and students. Attendees were encouraged to review the AI guidance document and related resources on the Office of Education Technology website, access the CIO summit materials, and remain informed about legislative presentations and evolving state policies regarding AI in education.

Agenda Item: Career and Education Website

Presenters: Jessica Fletcher, Program Director, Council on Post Secondary Education

Summary of Discussion: Jessica Fletcher presented Futuriti.org, a newly launched online platform designed to guide Kentuckians through career exploration and educational advancement. Leveraging four years of development and Kentucky-specific data, Futuriti consolidates existing resources into a user-friendly interface, catering to individuals across all life stages, from middle school students to adults seeking career transitions. The platform provides a comprehensive suite of tools, including career quizzes and aptitude assessments for personalized recommendations, and the Future Finder database, which offers detailed information on over 700 careers, including wage data and educational requirements. Furthermore, Futuriti highlights high-demand career sectors like healthcare and manufacturing, offering insights into job security and growth potential, and provides essential resources for financial aid, scholarships, and job application preparation. Fletcher underscored the direct correlation between educational attainment and earning potential in Kentucky, emphasizing the importance of continued education. In addition to current features, Futuriti offers lesson plans aligned with Individual Learning Plan (ILP) requirements and has plans to develop a scholarship database and budget calculator, further enhancing its utility for users.

Agenda Item: Strengthening Family Leadership in Kentucky

Presenters: Laura Beard, The Prichard Committee, Director of the Commonwealth Institute for Parent Leadership

Summary of Discussion: Laura Beard provided an update to the Family Partnership Council on the Prichard Committee's initiatives to bolster family leadership and engagement in education. Recognizing the need for families to be active decision-makers, not just passive participants, the committee has implemented programs to foster this. To address the desire for open dialogue, a monthly family forum has been established, offering a platform for families across Kentucky to share concerns and insights without a structured agenda. Additionally, the committee provides consultation and training for schools and districts through the Community Schools initiative, facilitating learning exchanges that unite families, schools, and community members. The Centre for Information Policy Leadership program, with its 30-year history, continues to empower parents to take on leadership roles, culminating in the Groundswell Summit where fellows highlight projects benefiting students. This year's summit, to be held in Paducah on June 9th and 10th, will feature school displays and tours of innovative educational spaces, offering a unique opportunity for families, schools, and communities to learn together. The committee also announced the commencement of recruitment for a new fellowship cohort in the fall, encouraging participation and wider dissemination of this opportunity.

Agenda Item: An Update on the Family Partnership Council's Recommendations to the Kentucky Department of Education (School Success Stories)

Presenters: Marsha VanHook, Full-Service Community Schools Manager and Council Chair, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: Marsha presented a series of compelling success stories highlighting innovative family engagement practices across Kentucky schools. Notable examples included

Floyd County's mobile preschool classroom, designed to extend early childhood education into the community; Bracken County's "dinner table project," which fostered meaningful family interactions; and Rowan County's "Viking ambassadors" initiative, which effectively integrated student leadership with family outreach.

Next Meeting:

May 21, 2025

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