



**KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
**Family Partnership Council**  
**SUMMARY**  
**MAY 21, 2025**

**ATTENDANCE:** Marsha Vanhook, Laura Beard, Britney Faulkner, Elizabeth Ashley Bruce, Tara Truckor, Leah Marcum, Melissa Goins, Stephanie Barker, Rhonda Logsdon, Autumn Neagle, Amy Nickerson, Elizabeth Delaney and Erin Weaver

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Alisha Miller

**Approval of Minutes:** Elizabeth Ashley Bruce (motion to approve), Tara Truckor (seconded) and all council members approved.

**Agenda Item:** Accountability Model

**Presenters:** Robbie Fletcher, Ed.D., Commissioner of Education, Kentucky Department of Education

**Summary of Discussion:** Fletcher shared information about Kentucky's new accountability model, underscoring a shift towards local accountability and enhanced district collaboration. He emphasized the critical roles of personalized learning and deep community involvement in shaping student success. The new model moves beyond traditional standardized approaches, advocating for local accountability that empowers districts to tailor frameworks to their unique community needs. This includes vital input from parents, business leaders, teachers and students. A core tenet is personalized learning, which allows students to demonstrate knowledge through diverse methods beyond conventional state tests, aiming for more meaningful and useful assessments. Fletcher also highlighted the essential role of community involvement, stressing that strong partnerships among districts, parents and local businesses are fundamental to supporting student achievement. To illustrate these principles, Fletcher shared successful examples of local accountability from districts like Logan County and Shelby County, showcasing their innovative approaches to student well-being and community partnership.

**Agenda Item:** Universal Preschool

**Presenters:** Melody Cooper, Policy Advisor, Office of Special Education and Early Learning, Kentucky Department of Education

**Summary of Discussion:** Melody Cooper discussed universal preschool, defining it as providing access to early education for all 4-year-olds, aiming to serve at least 70% of a community's eligible children based solely on age. The benefits of this program are substantial, including fostering economic development, enhancing school readiness and securing long-term positive outcomes for children, with research indicating that low-income children particularly benefit from universal rather than targeted approaches. However, the path to statewide implementation faces significant challenges. Key hurdles include establishing sustainable funding streams, recruiting and retaining qualified educators, ensuring sufficient classroom availability, and mitigating potential negative impacts on existing childcare services. Despite bipartisan legislative efforts in Kentucky, including budget requests and proposed bills, securing adequate funding remains the primary barrier to making universal preschool a reality across the state.

**Agenda Item:** Kentucky Community School Initiative Successes and Challenges with Family Engagement

**Presenters:** Marc Mavigliano, Kentucky Community School Initiative Director, McCracken County Schools

**Summary of Discussion:** Mavigliano provided an update on his district's community schools initiative, emphasizing its successes and ongoing challenges in supporting student development. The key element of the initiative is its robust mentorship program, aiming to connect every student with an adult mentor for guidance and support throughout their academic journey. The initiative also places a strong focus on post-secondary readiness, linking students with local industries for internships and job shadowing opportunities to equip them with essential skills for future success. These efforts are supported by crucial community partnerships, as McCracken County Schools collaborate closely with local businesses and organizations to offer real-world experiences and support educational goals. Despite these achievements, the initiative faces hurdles in coordinating diverse stakeholders, maintaining consistent student support, and overcoming practical barriers like transportation and resource access. Mavigliano explained the profound impact of these efforts through the story of a student named Kenny, whose success underscored the initiative's vital role in addressing barriers and creating opportunities through community support and mentorship.

**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:** VanHook recently provided an update on the Family Partnership Council's recommendations, which center on several initiatives. First, the council is developing a one-stop webpage designed to be a comprehensive hub for parents and families offering crucial information on parental rights, school-based decision-making, legislative updates and specific educational resources. Second, to complement this, the council is actively gathering success stories from various districts. These narratives will showcase effective practices and

positive outcomes, serving as both inspiration and an informative guide for other communities, and will be prominently featured on the new webpage. The Family Partnership Council is working closely with KDE leadership to implement these recommendations successfully, with the goal of creating a user-friendly platform that will significantly simplify access to vital information and support for Kentucky's families and students.

Next Meetings:

To Be Determined

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