



## KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### Family Partnership Council

#### SUMMARY

March 18, 2026

**ATTENDANCE:** Laura Beard, Britney Faulkner, Elizabeth Ashley Bruce, Tara Truckor, Leah Marcum, Amy Nickerson, Melissa Goins, Kathleen Kelly, Rhonda Logsdon, Autumn Neagle

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Alisha Miller, Elizabeth Delaney, Jeremy Cole

**Agenda Item:** Access to Multi-tiered System of Supports (MTSS) for Students and Families

**Presenter:** Melissa Wainwright, Ed.D., Division of Academic Program Standards, Office of Teaching and Learning, Kentucky Department of Education

**Summary of Discussion:** Melissa Wainwright provided an overview of Kentucky's Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS), explaining its proactive, data-driven approach to supporting students' academic, behavioral and social-emotional needs. The three tiers of support were reviewed, including an emphasis on the importance of strong family partnerships and clear, ongoing communication through tools such as phone calls, emails, Infinite Campus Messenger, conferences and family events. Melissa also clarified how universal screeners are used across multiple domains and noted that districts select their own evidence-based tools to identify student needs early. She introduced a new family conversation guide and gathered feedback from council members, who suggested adding questions about non-academic barriers, resource links and more accessible language. Several MTSS resources were shared, and councilmembers discussed the possibility of the creation of an early childhood version of the guide.

**Agenda Item:** Artificial Intelligence in Schools

**Presenters:** David Couch, Associate Commissioner, Office of Educational Technology, Kentucky Department of Education Marty Park, Chief Digital Officer, Office of Educational Technology, Kentucky Department of Education

**Summary of Discussion:** An overview of how artificial intelligence (AI) is being integrated into Kentucky schools, highlighting its transformational impact on teaching and learning was presented. The difference between using AI and creating AI, the rapid growth of AI adoption and the importance of safe, secure and responsible use supported by strong professional learning for educators was discussed. Data from Kentucky's digital readiness work showing high teacher comfort levels, growing student experimentation and intentional district efforts to guide safe AI use, emphasizing the value of including student voice in technology decisions. The need to teach digital citizenship and maintain human oversight, particularly for students with disabilities and in foundational learning areas was shared. Marty recommended the Southern

Regional Education Board (SREB) family resource kit and the Kentucky Department of Education's (KDE's) guidance brief as trustworthy resources for families, noting the importance of understanding data privacy in digital tools.

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

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

**Summary of Discussion:** Marsha provided an update on the Family Partnership Council's four key recommendations to KDE, including ongoing work to strengthen family engagement webpages, the hiring of a community schools manager, the launch of the Parent and Family Connection Hub and support for the Kentucky Family and School Partnership Guide. She shared that questionnaires and success stories are being developed to encourage districts and schools to build family and community engagement webpages using the four C's framework. Marsha noted that although federal funding for the community school's manager position was not renewed, the work continues through the Prichard Committee and remains embedded in statewide school improvement planning. She also announced the official launch of the Parent and Family Connection Hub in November 2025, which offers parent-facing resources and has been shared with advisory groups and at regional events. Additionally, Marsha highlighted the Kentucky Family and School Partnership Guide and Digital Playbook, which provide structure, evaluation tools and opportunities for schools to celebrate strong family partnerships.

Next Meeting:

May 27, 2026