KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Family Partnership Council
Summary
Sept. 15, 2026

ATTENDANCE: Ashlee Valentine, Autumn Neagle, Kellie Keaton, Melissa Goins, Oliver Comstock, Rhonda Logsdon, Ryessia Russell, Wendy Wilson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Britney Faulkner, Jeremy Cole, Julia Hutchinson, Kathleen Kelly, Laura Beard, Molly Adams, Molly Ann Gawareki.

Agenda Item: Updates On Assessment and Accountability
Presenter: Robbie Fletcher, Commissioner of Education, Office of the Commissioner of Education
Summary of Discussion: Commissioner Robbie Fletcher discussed the upcoming assessment and accountability updates from the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE). In October, KDE plans to announce the next vendor for the statewide college admissions exam, following legislative direction to rebid the assessment after the state's initial SAT administration. While the fall 2026 accountability results will maintain the current evaluation system, spring 2027 marks the official implementation of House Bill 257. The updated framework replaces the former change metric with an individual student growth measure that recognizes incremental progress, such as a student advancing from novice to apprentice. Additionally, districts may establish tailored local accountability models addressing well-being, essential skills and extracurricular engagement, supported by a KDE implementation toolkit and a $15,000 cost offset. Finally, standalone writing and mechanics testing will be discontinued in favor of writing across the curriculum and chronic absenteeism will be integrated into the state formula pending final metrics from the Kentucky Board of Education.

Agenda Item: Chronic Absenteeism
Presenters: Christina Watford, Program Consultant, Division of Student Success, Kentucky Department of Education
Ashley Gates, Program Consultant, Division of Student Success, Kentucky Department of Education
Summary of Discussion: Christina Watford and Ashley Gates briefed the council on Kentucky's chronic absenteeism data and intervention strategies. Serving 630,000+ students across nearly 1,500 schools with a 1.1% dropout rate, Kentucky saw chronic absenteeism drop from 30% to 25% in 2024–2025, targeting 15% by 2029. The presenters noted that chronic absenteeism involves missing 10% of school for any reason, whereas truancy measures unexcused absences

specifically. To support reduction goals, KDE relies on Infinite Campus tracking tools, the Kentucky School Report Card, the "You Belong—Attendance Matters" campaign and a Student Technology Leadership Program (STLP) competition. KDE is also partnering with Regional Educational Lab Appalachia (REL) and five Eastern Kentucky districts (Harlan, Montgomery, McCreary, Wayne, and Wolfe) to create a statewide attendance playbook. The discussion also emphasized school connectedness through strong relationships, peer belonging, safe environments, and relevant learning. Commissioner Robbie Fletcher highlighted that basic safety, and individual needs must be met before academic progress can occur, with KDE's Persistence to Graduation team offering implementation training. Finally, the presenters discussed subgroup data for students with disabilities and home-education transitions, while recommending Family Resource and Youth Service Center (FRYSC) staff be included on attendance teams with Infinite Campus data access.

Agenda Item: Individual Learning Plan (ILP) Showcase
Presenters: Michelle Sircy, Program Coordinator for Comprehensive School Counseling, Office of Teaching and Learning
Summary of Discussion: Michelle Sircy presented Kentucky's Individual Learning Plan (ILP) Video Showcase, explaining that ILPs serve as essential tools to guide counseling, course selection, and postsecondary planning. The framework allows Kentucky students to customize their graduation pathways around specific interests, career goals and chosen areas of study. Building on the state's history with ILP implementation since a 2009 national investigation and the adoption of Career Cruising starting in sixth grade, KDE is seeking direct student input to shape future system development. The showcase invites students to create short commercial videos demonstrating what an ILP is and how they use it to explore careers, set educational goals, and connect current learning with future plans. Sircy requested that council members share the opportunity across their networks, noting that while middle and high school students are the primary audience, elementary submissions are also welcome.

Agenda Item: Questions and Additional Feedback
Presenters: Marsha VanHook, Program Specialist and Council Chair, Division of School and Program Improvement, Kentucky Department of Education
Summary of Discussion: Marsha opened the follow-up discussion by highlighting the key actions the council should take towards chronic absenteeism. She asked members to complete the meeting feedback survey and explore the Parent and Family Connection Hub, noting any resources that may need to be added. She also encouraged the council to revisit its chronic-absenteeism work and bring clear next steps to the Nov. 24, 2026 meeting, focusing on connectedness, individual barriers, student and family voice and community partnerships. These tasks will help shape the council's next recommendations to KDE.

Next Meetings:
Nov. 24, 2026
March 16, 2027
May 18, 2027