



**Kentucky Department of Education
Family Partnership Council (FPC) Summary
September 24, 2024**

ATTENDANCE: Marsha VanHook, Laura Beard, Elizabeth Ashley Bruce, Tara Truckor, Leah Marcum, Amy Nickerson, Stephanie Barker, Rhonda Logsdon, Erin Weaver and Melissa Goins

MEMBERS ABSENT: Chris Medley, Britney Faulkner and Liz Delaney

Agenda Item: Chronic Absenteeism

Presenters: Judi Vanderhaar, Ph.D. & Christina Watford
Educational Program Consultant
Division of Student Success
Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: Judi Vanderhaar and Christina Watford discussed tiered approach strategies that focus on attendance and chronic absenteeism. The first multi-tiered system support strategy discussed was creating a sense of belonging, safety and connection to all students. This includes welcome letters, texts, emails, family nights, positive phone calls, relationship mapping and hands-on activities. The second support strategy discussed communication with chronically absent students that miss 10%-20% of school. Scheduling home visits, making personalized positive phone calls, celebrating accomplishments and checking in on students helps create a supportive and engaging relationship with students and families. The third support strategy discussed is to create a system for homeless, foster care and missing children with extreme absenteeism – those missing 20% or more of school. To support these students, they are provided community-based interventions which include community field trips like visiting the YMCA and providing kids opportunities they do not get to experience often. The presenter noted that having mentors/advocates also has a positive impact. Students with mentors are 52% less likely to miss school and 37% are less likely to skip class.

Agenda Item: District Financials and School Funding

Presenter: Chay Ritter, Division Director
Office of Finance and Operations
Division of District Support
Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: Chay Ritter provided an overview of the SEEK (Support Education Excellence in Kentucky) funding formula. He explained where the federal,

state and local funding comes from to help council members have a better understanding of how to support student programs paying for transportation and teachers. Ritter also discussed the critical role of attendance in ensuring both student success and adequate school funding. He highlighted the significant impact of chronic absenteeism, emphasizing the connection between attendance rate and financial support.

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

Presenter: Marsha VanHook
Full-Service Community Schools Manager and Council Chair

Summary of Discussion: Marsha VanHook updated the Family Partnership Council on the recommendations the council suggested to build better relationships with the schools and families.

- Recommendation #1: Addresses schools developing local web pages for better communication between schools and families.
- Recommendation #2: Hire a full-service community school manager at KDE, has been approved.
- Recommendation #3: Recommend tools that education agencies and other state organizations can use to support families in navigating Kentucky's educational system.

These are currently being developed. One tool, introduced by VanHook, supports effective family engagement strategies. This tool is for collecting stories related to family and school partnerships, aiming to gather and share innovative practices that positively impact students, families and communities.

Upcoming Meetings

November 6, 2024

March 26, 2025

May 21, 2025