

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Family Partnership Council

SUMMARY

NOV. 6, 2024

ATTENDANCE: Marsha Vanhook, Amy Nickerson, Ashley Bruce, Elizabeth Delaney, Britney Faulkner, Laura Beard, Leah Marcum, Rhonda Logsdon, Erin Weaver, Alicia Miller and Tara Truckor

MEMBERS ABSENT: Chris Medley, Alisha Miller, Melissa Goins, Stephanie Barker

Agenda Item: Kentucky United We Learn Council Update

Presenters: Karen Dodd, Chief Performance Officer Strategic Planning and Research, Office of the Commissioner

Summary of Discussion: Karen Dodd discussed the importance of fostering strong relationships with all stakeholders, including students, parents, teachers and community members in Kentucky. This builds trust for creating a collaborative and supportive learning environment. It also explores the potential benefits of a new accountability system that would prioritize student growth and development over standardized test scores. This approach will empower schools to focus on individualized learning plans and tailor instructions to meet the unique needs of each student. Additionally, this will allow schools to set their own goals and develop strategies that align with their specific needs and priorities.

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

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

Summary of Discussion: Marsha VanHook updated the Family Partnership Council on the recommendations they had proposed to strengthen the bond between schools and families. One key recommendation was to equip local education agencies and other state organizations with tools that would empower families to make informed decisions about their children's education. Brian Benjamin, Kentucky Community Schools Initiative district director for Owensboro Independent School, shared insights into the strategies he employs to foster strong relationships with families. One of his most successful innovations is the "Homework Diner," an event that brings families together for a shared meal and homework session. This initiative has not only strengthened the school-family connection but has also fostered a sense of community among families.

Agenda Item: Early Warning: A Powerful Data Tool to Support Dropout Prevention Efforts

Presenters: Judi Vanderhaar, Ph.D., Educational Program Consultant, Division of Student

Success, Kentucky Department of Education

Florence Chang, Ph.D., Educational Program Consultant, Division of Student Success, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: Florence Chang and Judi Vanderhaar highlighted a range of data tools accessible to districts and school leaders, such as the Early Warning Tool and Insights. They illustrated how these tools can effectively identify students who may be at risk of academic or social challenges, providing actionable data to inform targeted interventions. Vanderhaar also discussed House Bill 142; a legislative initiative focused on addressing the issue of vaping among students. The bill seeks to provide prevention and support resources, implement a graduated response approach, and engage school counselors and mental health professionals in addressing this critical issue.

Next Meeting:

March 19, 2025

May 21, 2025