

**Council on Postsecondary Education  
September 16, 2007**

## **Local P-16 Councils**

In March 2001, the Council on Postsecondary Education, with the endorsement of the State P-16 Council, began funding the development of local P-16 councils to create a seamless system of education meeting the needs of students and the Commonwealth. These partnerships of school districts, universities and community and technical colleges, adult education providers, early childhood educators, employers, and civic groups carry the agenda of the State P-16 Council to the level of individual institutions, school districts, chambers of commerce, and workforce/economic development organizations.

Local councils support significant local high school and GED-to-college and workplace transition initiatives (including dual enrollment; early diagnostic assessment; curriculum alignment; and business support of professional development opportunities for P-12, postsecondary, and adult educators). The results of their work have informed development of state-level P-16 programs. Kentucky's state and local P-16 councils are nationally recognized, particularly in Kentucky's participation in the American Diploma Project. Representatives from Kentucky have been invited to assist other states in their P-16 council efforts. Twenty local or regional councils serve approximately two-thirds of the Commonwealth (see attached map).

Local councils received limited funding in the budget of the 2002 General Session, but since that session the amount has been reduced and no additional state funding has been allocated. Continued support has come from limited funding provided by the Council and Kentucky Adult Education. The most successful councils are those having the support of at least one half-time staff person designated to run the operations of the council, seek external grants and funding, direct local initiatives, and convene regular meetings of local stakeholders. The State P-16 Council has discussed how additional funding would allow the State P-16 Council to convene the network of local councils more frequently and support and monitor local initiatives linked to the Commonwealth's educational and economic agenda of increased postsecondary completion and workplace readiness.