

Discussion

Over several meetings, State P-16 Council members have reviewed reports and updates on several national P-16 initiatives in which Kentucky is engaged, including:

- GEAR UP Kentucky and several individual GEAR UP partnerships, a federal program to provide resources and support activities to ensure that all students have access to, and participate in, early intervention activities beginning in the seventh grade (*\$60+ million, including federal funds and match, since 1999*).
- Kentucky Scholars Initiative, part of the State Scholars Initiative, a national public-private partnership that encourages middle and high school students to take the types of courses that will best prepare them for the changing expectations of today's higher education and work environments. The Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education serves as the federal sponsor of State Scholars programs (*\$500 thousand in federal, state, and private funding since 2004*).
- Project Lead The Way®, a middle and high school problem-based contextual curriculum cited in The National Academies report, *Rising Above the Gathering Storm*, as a model pre-engineering program (*\$1 million in state funds, plus district match, since 2006*).
- Advance Kentucky, part of the National Math and Science Initiative, a partnership funded by private donors led by ExxonMobil, designed to increase the number of students taking and scoring three or higher on the College Board Advanced Placement examinations in mathematics, science, and English (*\$13.2 million in private funding since 2007*).
- Appalachian Math and Science Partnership, a National Science Foundation initiative to strengthen and reform pre-K through grade 12 mathematics and science education and improve student achievement in participating districts in Kentucky, Tennessee, and Virginia. The AMSP program seeks to demonstrate improved student achievement in mathematics and science (*\$22 million awarded by the NSF to the University of Kentucky since 2003*).

A map is attached locating these programs by district.

Each of these initiatives brings to the state and to schools and districts a significant sum of federal, state, or private funding or a combination thereof. In the case of GEAR UP, federal dollars require a state match. Their combined presence in Kentucky also brings to light several policy questions for the P-16 Council:

1. How could the impact of each program be magnified through greater coordination and collaboration at state and local levels?

2. Should representation of the State P-16 Council and of local P-16 councils be included in the planning, implementation, or advisory oversight of these initiatives at the state and local levels, respectively?
3. How can measurable P-20 indicators, such as student performance data, including EPAS assessments, as well as statewide accountability data such as high school completion, college-going, reduced remediation rates, college degree attainment, and workforce outcomes be used to assess the individual or collective impact of these initiatives and Kentucky's P-16 councils and guide their work?