

BACKGROUND ON THE STATE P-16 COUNCIL AND LOCAL P-16 COUNCILS

**P-16 Council
Agenda Item V
September 19, 2007**

As the membership of Kentucky's State P-16 Council has changed considerably over the past year, the staff have been asked to prepare an overview of the development of the state and local councils as background and orientation.

The State P-16 Council

The State Pre-Kindergarten-16 (P-16) Council was created in 1999 by mutual agreement of the Kentucky Board of Education and the Council on Postsecondary Education to advise the KBE and the CPE on the preparation and professional development of teachers, the alignment of competency standards, and the elimination of barriers that impede successful transitions from preschool through college. Following the establishment of the Education Professional Standards Board as a separate agency, the P-16 Council was expanded to include EPSB representation. As the Council's agenda became more clearly articulated, membership was expanded to include early childhood and adult education. To date, over 20 states have some form of a state-level cross-sector council, designated as P or K-16 (or 20) or similar variants.

In June 2004, the state P-16 Council elected to expand its membership to include a broader representation of education and workforce development stakeholders: the secretary of the Education Cabinet (nonvoting), the commissioner of Technical Education, the commissioner of Workforce Investment, the CPE vice president for Adult Education, a business representative, a labor representative (designees of the Kentucky Workforce Investment Board), a representative of the local P-16 councils, and the executive director of the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority.

During its first eight years, the P-16 Council and its partner agencies undertook several collaborative projects to raise the level of student achievement and the level of educational attainment in the Commonwealth, including sponsoring state P-16 alignment teams in English and mathematics; drafting a white paper on the policy and practical implications of a single, rigorous high school curriculum; and overseeing Kentucky's participation in phase one of the American Diploma Project. This work led to the development of statewide postsecondary placement standards in English and mathematics; raising Kentucky's high school graduation requirements (with its accompanying revision of the Core Content for Assessment and the Program of Studies standards); and the revision of the Kentucky Adult Education curriculum (still in progress). The ADP also provided a basis for Senate Bill 130, which requires diagnostic assessment of all eighth- and tenth-graders using the ACT Educational Progress Assessment System, administration of the ACT to all eleventh-graders, and the administration on a volunteer basis of three WorkKeys components of the Kentucky Employability Certificate (reading for information, locating information, and applied mathematics). These assessments evaluate students' readiness for high school, college, technical school, and the workplace; provide

appropriate and timely intervention; and further reflect alignment of standards and expectations across sectors.

Increased collaboration among the partner agencies of the State P-16 Council has led to a series of successful initiatives at the state and national level. In 2006, the General Assembly awarded funding to the CPE for the adoption of the Project Lead The Way® pre-engineering curriculum by over 13 districts across the Commonwealth. The KDE administers district participation, and the University of Kentucky was selected competitively to serve as the PLTW affiliate university. Following House Joint Resolution 14, also of the 2006 legislative session, the CPE and the EPSB worked closely together on a task force addressing the redesign of education leadership and master's programs and the establishment of a principals' academy. Kentucky's P-16 Council and its participation in the ADP formed the background for Kentucky's approval as a State Scholars state and led to several joint proposals in national grant competitions.

The P-16 Council is developing performance indicators to reflect and focus the agenda of its partner agencies and to address the transition areas between early child care and education, P-12, adult education, postsecondary education, and the skilled workplace and to show progress toward the ultimate outcomes of a raised level of educational attainment and an improved standard of living for all Kentuckians. To this end, the partner agencies are designing a P-20 data system to enable partner agencies to exchange student-unit information across sectors—from pre-school through postsecondary and workforce participation. This information will help inform the development of policies and adoption of programs that lead to higher levels of educational attainment and workforce preparation in the Commonwealth (see agenda item X).

The State P-16 Council has no statutory status and receives no line-item budget appropriation.

Local P-16 Councils

The State P-16 Council also has sponsored, through funding from the CPE and Kentucky Adult Education, the formation of local and regional P-16 councils across the state.

In March 2001, the CPE approved an allocation of \$100,000 from the Technology Trust Fund for the development of local P-16 councils and issued a request for proposals statewide to provide \$10,000 each in start-up funding to interested groups. The staff of the CPE, the Kentucky Department of Education, and the EPSB reviewed proposals. In 2001-02, the following local p-16 councils were formed under these terms: Northern Kentucky Council of Partners in Education, Owensboro Regional Alliance, Purchase Area P-16 Council, Murray State Regional P-16 Council, Central Kentucky Area P-16 Council, Bluegrass P-16+ Council, and Henderson Area P-16 Council.

In 2002, the Go Higher Public Communications Campaign designated 10 Go Higher Communities and allocated \$20,000 to each to conduct needs assessments for education and workforce development needs. Additional communities were so designated in 2003, and that year the two processes were merged, with a new RFP drafted (Attachment A). The following local councils received this funding: Lincoln Trail Area P-16 Council, Madisonville Area P-16

Council, Kentucky River P-16 Council, Pulaski Area P-16 Council, Greater Louisville Workforce Educational Initiative, Warren Area P-16 Council (Warren and Barren Counties), and Pike County, as well as the Northern Kentucky Council of Partners in Education and the Owensboro Regional Alliance. The Pennyriple Area P-16 Council and the Maysville Area Partners for School Success also were formed at this time. Most recently, the Whitley Area P-16 Council received start-up funding. Prior to the CPE funding process, Morehead State University took the lead in forming the Appalachian Regional P-16+ Council in its extended service region. Throughout this time, the staffs of the partner agencies have traveled extensively across the state to communicate the priorities of the state's P-16 agenda of seamless access to education across sectors.

In February 2003, local councils met and formed an association of councils, electing a chair and executive board. The chair of this group serves on the State P-16 Council.

At each State P-16 Council meeting, the members have heard in-depth reports from one or more of the local councils on their most effective initiatives to create a seamless system of education. Two concerns consistently expressed by local council representatives are (1) the need for data collection tailored to local council needs and progress assessment and (2) adequate funding for at least part-time staff at the local council level. As an initial response to the first need, the CPE is tailoring the High School Feedback Report for the class of 2006 to cover the geographical range of each local council. These are expected to be completed by the end of September 2007.

Local councils formed a line-item in the budget of the 2002 General Session but since that session, no state funding has been allocated. Continued support has come from CPE and Kentucky Adult Education funding.

Where to Go From Here

Kentucky now has 20 local or regional P-16 councils linking all levels of education with workforce and economic development needs (Attachment B). Development of local P-16 councils has brought about greater local communication between educational leaders from all sectors, along with workforce leaders.

State P-16 Council members would like to develop closer connections between the local councils and the statewide council to gain a better understanding of local and regional needs, communicate statewide needs more effectively, and pursue a more interactive process between local P-16 councils and the statewide council regarding future work.

State and local council representatives remain concerned about increasing state support (personnel and budgetary), providing statewide coordination, and creating infrastructure to improve communication and enhance the P-16 agenda. Among the issues to be addressed are the following:

- **Funding:** Limited funding exists for start-up and ongoing project support. What can be done at the state level both to encourage local fund-raising initiatives and to provide long-range

sustainability and staffing of local P-16 councils? Would state funding increase the accountability of local councils to meet the needs of their regions and, therefore, statewide goals?

- **Data:** Challenges faced by local and regional councils regarding data collection and reporting fall into two main categories: (1) lack of systematic cross-sector data sharing and analysis makes it difficult to track key relationships among the various education sectors, the workplace, and the economic environment and (2) great regional variation across the Commonwealth requires that data communication be tailored to local and regional councils. How can local councils gain access to state-collected data to identify local and regional needs accurately, determine priorities appropriately, and show accountability at the local, regional, and state levels?
- **Structure and status:** The lack of a formal, state-mandated structure has allowed maximum flexibility for local councils to pursue agendas best suited to their needs. What formal procedures, if any, are needed at the state level to guide local councils regarding the collective needs of the Commonwealth while encouraging locally driven initiatives? How can communication be effected between the state and local councils and among local councils to foster and disseminate best practices statewide? Should the State P-16 Council convene local councils on an annual basis?

A “Frequently Asked Questions” sheet and a review of the first eight years of Kentucky P-16 collaboration will be distributed at the P-16 Council meeting.

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