



KY ILN Letter of Commitment **2023-2024 School Year**

I. Statement of Purpose

The Kentucky Innovative Learning Network (KY ILN) is a partnership between local school districts and the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) to provide a space for sharing innovative educational strategies, improving local learning systems, and leveraging the power of school districts to create a future of learning in Kentucky that fulfills Kentuckians' *United We Learn* vision by creating vibrant learning experiences for every student, by accelerating innovation (especially in assessment), and by building a bold, new future through collaboration with communities. The KY ILN leverages KDE's relationships with national networks and peer states to advance models of learning that can best prepare all students for postsecondary success and transform our education system.

II. On "Innovation"

Definition of Innovation

Per the [Kentucky Personalized Learning Glossary](#), **Innovation** is defined as a new or creative alternative to existing instructional and administrative practices intended to improve student learning and performance of all students. **Innovation** is a process of seeking a new approach to education with the goal of better results.

Operationalizing Innovation in the KY ILN

KDE recognizes that innovation is a term that is relative to the context of the school districts seeking new approaches to improve student learning, experiences, and outcomes. Innovative practices will ultimately help realize the Three Big Ideas of Kentuckians' *United We Learn* vision: **vibrant learning experiences for every student, innovation in assessment and collaboration with communities.**

To support KY ILN districts in their efforts to be truly innovative, the following traits are essential components of any work that seeks to innovate and improve the educational

experience for students. These innovative traits include work that is *learner-centered, collaborative, competency- and/or performance-based, personalized and authentic*. The following habits also underscore innovative work: *empathy, reciprocity, co-creation and inclusion*.

This list is not exhaustive or prescriptive but serves to provide guidance as districts begin or continue their journey to build a bold new future for education in Kentucky.

III. **Mutual Commitments**

Benefits of Joining the KY ILN

KDE believes that the greatest benefit of participation in the KY ILN is the opportunity to network, collaborate and learn with other Kentucky districts, trailblazing schools, organizations and thought-leaders outside of the state, and to share best practices and learning. In addition, KDE commits to the KY ILN districts by providing:

- Access to competitive grant funding for travel to model sites and innovative professional learning conferences
- A platform to showcase educational innovation happening in Kentucky schools through study tours, district spotlights and events like network presentations of learning
- Partnerships and professional learning opportunities with national thought-leaders, vendors and resources
- Ongoing technical assistance, support and continued coordination from KDE and its partners
- Opportunities for intentional collaboration and partnerships with fellow KY ILN districts to support initiatives and innovative practices
- Opportunities to pilot [KDE-supported initiatives](#) to advance education
- Access to the Kentucky Innovative Teacher Cohort opportunity for district teachers

Expectations for Members

Participating districts indicate a commitment to the work of the KY ILN, which can be demonstrated by:

- Consistent attendance and active engagement of district representative(s) during virtual and in-person convenings
- Willingness to serve as a thought partner and resource to share learning with other district leaders
- Participation in KY ILN initiatives of interest to the district as opportunities arise; this may include pilot programs, educational research efforts, work groups, the Innovative Teacher Cohort, etc.

- Provide ongoing feedback to KDE staff to improve the KY ILN experience, ensuring relevance and quality of member experience
- Submit an annual Letter of Commitment (LoC) to maintain membership and eligibility for competitive grants and other opportunities

IV. **Contact Information**

District Name: Boone County Schools

Superintendent Name and Email Address: Mr. Matt Turner

matt.turner@boone.kyschools.us

KY ILN Point(s) of Contact Name, Title, and Email Address:

Dr. Jim Detwiler

Deputy Superintendent

James.detwiler@boone.kyschools.us

Mr. Bill Hogan

Director of Innovative Programs

Bill.hogan@boone.kyschools.us

V. **District Innovation Reflections and Plans**

- A. Reflecting on the previous year, how has your district worked to innovate by implementing new or creative alternatives to existing instructional or administrative practices to improve student learning, experiences, and outcomes?

Boone County Schools worked to develop a system of defense of learning for students in grades 5,8, and 12. This school year we will begin implementation of the defenses. As part of the Deeper Learning Grant work, Boone County trained 240 staff members on vibrant learning experiences and making small shifts to have big impact on our students. We have asked the teachers to work within their PLC structures to develop vibrant learning experiences that will allow students to engage in deeper learning.

This work will be developed to incorporate our Portrait of a Graduate competencies in their evidence for learning. This system will be scored on a one-point rubric to illustrate to our community how Boone County Schools is helping students grow in skills needed for employment in an ever-changing work environment.

- B. Plans of Action: Looking ahead to the upcoming school year, how does your district plan to support innovative practices and systems that promote ***vibrant learning experiences for every student, innovation in assessment and collaboration with communities?***

Boone County Schools will continue to develop opportunities for teachers to engage in professional learning around vibrant learning experiences. We will also be working with teachers to begin transformation of our assessment practices. These practices will be used to engage students in assessment that is more problem based, which will allow them to demonstrate mastery of content while using their skills from the Portrait of a Graduate.

We will also be continuing our work with the Local Laboratories of Learning to engage the community in development of an innovative accountability model for Boone County. We have been working for two years in the development of this model, and we feel we are in a good position to implement our accountability model.

We will be implementing learning labs for teachers who participated in the summer training around deeper learning. This will continue to help teachers provide their colleagues with actual practices to engage students in deeper learning at a system level.

- C. Learning Goal(s) or Inquiry Question: In your district teams, determine a learning goal or inquiry question that will guide deeper exploration and learning in the 2023-2024 school year. The KY ILN will use these goals and/or inquiry questions to guide partnerships, professional learning opportunities, cross-district consultancies and more.

- a. Note: Your learning goal or inquiry question should be specific and focused on a need/challenge that ties to one or more of the Three Big Ideas: ***vibrant learning experiences, innovation (especially in assessment) and collaboration with communities.***

How do we develop authentic assessment for students that allow them to demonstrate their knowledge of key academic standards while showing their ability to meet the competencies of the Portrait of a Graduate?

VI. **Agreement**

This Letter of Commitment (LoC) establishes a partnership between the Kentucky Department of Education and the named district, effective for the 2023 - 2024 school year.

KDE and the KY ILN districts agree to the principles and commitments described above and agree to work together in good faith to advance both collective and district

commitments, with the intent that this work will be sustained and spread over time It is mutually understood that this agreement in no way restricts the district in participating in similar activities with other organizations.

Amendments to the innovation priorities may be made at any time by agreement of the parties, and either party may terminate this agreement through written notice. Early termination may result in the loss of Network support, grant opportunities, and awards outlined above.

Required Signatories

KY ILN participating district superintendent or designee

Date



Rob Collins, KDE Division of Innovative Learning, Innovative Program Consultant
(KDE designee)

Return this Letter of Commitment via email to:

Rob Collins

Innovative Program Consultant
Division of Innovative Learning
Office of Continuous Improvement & Support

Phone: (502) 564-4201, ext. 4071

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