



Report on Town Hall Meetings

Kentucky Board of Education

June 8, 2016



Background

- ▶ Passage of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) ends No Child Left Behind and the federal waiver process.
- ▶ States have a current opportunity to revise their accountability systems to meet ESSA.
- ▶ Input from Kentuckians is the critical first step to revision.



Town Halls By the Numbers

- ▶ 7 weeks
- ▶ 2,225 miles traveled
- ▶ 11 public meetings
- ▶ 3,000 attendees
- ▶ 262 public speakers
- ▶ 207 comments via email



Guiding Questions

- ▶ What do you expect from our schools?
- ▶ What school characteristics are most important?
- ▶ How should we measure student and school success?
- ▶ How do we ensure all students and schools are successful?
- ▶ How should we celebrate school success?



Who Attended

- ▶ Teachers
- ▶ Administrators
- ▶ Parents
- ▶ Students
- ▶ Legislators
- ▶ Student support service staff
- ▶ School board and council members
- ▶ Community members
- ▶ Education partners



Who Spoke



Town Hall Site (Date)	School and District				Student Support		Total
	Teachers	Administrators	Parents	Students	Services	Other	
Shelbyville (3/14)	6	1	3	0	3	10	23
Campbellsville (3/22)	7	4	3	0	1	4	19
Owensboro (3/29)	5	3	4	3	0	7	22
Hazard (3/31)	6	3	3	6	2	5	25
Lexington (4/7)	10	2	4	2	2	6	26
Corbin (4/11)	7	8	3	0	1	3	22
Ashland (4/18)	7	5	1	8	1	3	25
Louisville (4/21)	6	1	7	13	3	3	33
Highland Heights (4/25)	8	1	9	16	1	1	36
Bowling Green (4/27)	4	2	1	2	0	8	17
Murray (4/28)	2	1	2	2	3	4	14
Total	68	31	40	52	17	54	262

Overarching Themes

“The Big Ideas Heard ”

- ▶ Our children must be at the heart of the system.
- ▶ A well-rounded education is important and necessary.
- ▶ All subjects, both tested and non-tested, need to be valued.



Overarching Themes

“The Big Ideas Heard ”

- ▶ Access and opportunity for students are critical.
- ▶ An emphasis on teaching is needed.
- ▶ Collaboration instead of competition among schools and districts needs to be the focus.



Capturing the Feedback

- ▶ Audio and/or video recordings were made.
- ▶ Hope Street Group teachers were note takers.
 - *Both available on the KDE website.*
- ▶ Notes were coded and analyzed qualitatively.
- ▶ Themes and sub-themes emerged and were recorded.
- ▶ Themes and sub-themes discussed in this report are ranked in order of the number of times mentioned in the notes.



Organizing Themes

Comments were grouped into 5 themes:

1. Students need a well-rounded education.
2. Goals were verbalized for the new accountability system.
3. The opportunity for improvement in the current assessment and accountability system exists.
4. There needs to be an emphasis on teaching.
5. External factors exist that need to be considered in education.



Well-Rounded Education

- ▶ More/better course offerings are necessary; there were vocal participants supporting the Arts, Career and Technical Education (CTE), early childhood and physical education.
- ▶ Students with special needs need better services.
- ▶ Students need access to music and arts courses as part of their curriculum.



Well-Rounded Education

- ▶ Student health and well-being should be emphasized (either through physical education, more recess, or school nurses).
- ▶ Students need a well-rounded education.
- ▶ Students' cultural backgrounds need to be respected.
- ▶ Career pathways are important.
- ▶ There needs to be an emphasis on early childhood education.



Well-Rounded Education

- ▶ Extra-curricular opportunities are important.
- ▶ School curricula should emphasize practical learning for students.
- ▶ The whole child approach is needed.
- ▶ More publicity is needed to highlight achievement.
- ▶ More counselors should be made available to students.
- ▶ There needs to be a student leadership focus.



Goals of the New Accountability System

- ▶ Future success of students is key.
- ▶ Higher emphasis on achievement/student success/high standards is needed.
- ▶ Student engagement is important.
- ▶ Less competition, more collaboration is critical.
- ▶ Simplicity is needed in the accountability system.



Goals of the New Accountability System

- ▶ Customization of district accountability should be available.
- ▶ Socio-emotional learning is important.
- ▶ More than one way to reach benchmarks is needed.
- ▶ Positive use of the program reviews is needed.
- ▶ Project-Based Learning is important.



Goals of the New Accountability System

- ▶ Measures throughout the year are desirable.
- ▶ More realistic goals are needed.
- ▶ Novice reduction should be a focus.
- ▶ Student achievement should be recognized in the system.



Opportunity for Improvement of the Current System

- ▶ Too much emphasis on testing exists now.
- ▶ The system does not measure student growth.
- ▶ The achievement gap needs to be closed.
- ▶ The program review process needs to be improved.
- ▶ More than just math and reading need to be emphasized.



Emphasis on Teaching

- ▶ We must invest in teachers.
- ▶ Better teacher working conditions need to be created.
- ▶ We must support innovative teaching.
- ▶ Caring teachers need to be encouraged.
- ▶ Teacher effectiveness must be improved.
- ▶ We must build a culture of teacher collaboration.
- ▶ We need better communication with teachers.

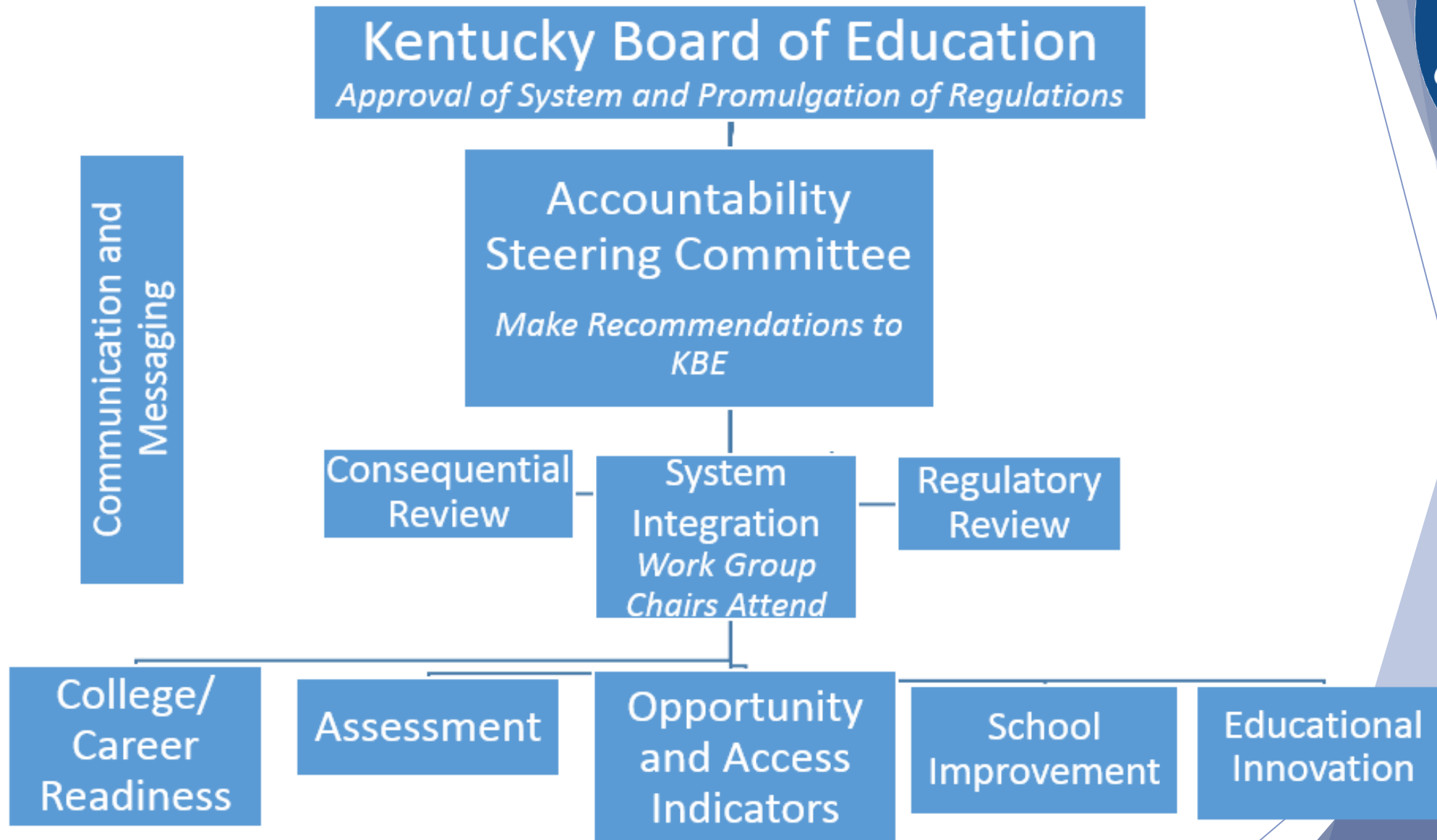


External Factors

- ▶ Community involvement
- ▶ Parental involvement
- ▶ School safety
- ▶ Business community involvement
- ▶ Class size
- ▶ Lack of male role models for students



The Work Begins



Accountability Steering Committee Membership List

K Groups

KEA
Stephanie Winkler

KASA
Wayne Young

KASS
Tom Shelton

KY PTA
Cherie Dimar

KAPE
Donna House

KASC
Ronda Harmon

KSBA
Mike Armstrong

Community Groups

Bill Farmer,
United Way of Lexington

Sadiqa Reynolds,
Louisville Urban League

Community Members

Josh Santana,
Attorney in Lexington

Advocacy Groups

Prichard Committee
Brigitte Blom Ramsey

Partnership for Successful Schools
Carolyn Witt Jones

KY Chamber of Commerce
David Adkisson

iLead Academy
Leon Mooneyhan

Teachers

Elementary
Tiffany Gruen,
Covington Ind.

Middle
Jami Martinez-Reynolds,
Hardin County

High
Chris Thomas,
Larue County

Gifted & Talented
Tatiana Adams,
Marshall County

ELL
Skip Clevenger,
Warren Ciunt

Arts
Jackie Thompson,
Perry Central High

Special Ed
Annie Conner,
Pulaski County HS

Superintendents

JCPS
Donna Hargens

Fayette
Emmanuel Caulk
Dayton Ind.
Jay Brewer

Lawrence
Rob Fletcher

Webster
Rachel Yarbrough

Adair
Alan Reed

Principals

Elementary
Wendy Madden,
Letcher County

Middle
Cathy Gibbs,
Jefferson County

High
Tim Schlosser,
Simpson County

Higher Ed. Groups

UK
Mary John O'Hair

U of L
Ann Larson

WKU
Sam Evans

EPSB
Jimmy Adams

CPE
Robert King

Elected Officials

Rep. Graham

Additional General
Assembly Member

Draft Timeline

