

The background of the slide is a composite image. The top left shows a line of yellow school buses with "SCHOOL BUS" written on their sides. The bottom left shows a classroom with blue walls, desks, chairs, and colorful balloons. A large white diagonal shape cuts across the image from the top left to the bottom right.

# Kentucky United We Learn Council Update

Karen Dodd, Chief Performance Officer

Sarah Hatton, Ed.S.  
Accelerating Innovation Standing Committee Chair

Kathy Y. Stovall, Ed.D.  
Accelerating Innovation Standing Committee Co-Chair

David Cook, Director Division of Innovation



# Purpose of the Kentucky United We Learn Council

The council was created to give a broad stakeholder voice to the process of learning in Kentucky. This will go along with the Kentucky United We Learn work already underway in the field, and the council will evaluate and recommend strategic practice, policy and investment ideas to state policymakers and the citizens of Kentucky. The state commissioner of education and the council's chair will work with Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) staff, Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) and if necessary the Kentucky General Assembly to respond to the Kentucky United We Learn Council's recommendations.

# Council Makeup

- United We Learn Council is made up of 75 members who meet collectively twice a year
- Audrey Gilbert, interim chair
- Standing committees meet monthly
  - Vibrant Learning Experiences
  - Accelerating Innovation
  - Bold New Future

# Vibrant Learning Experiences – March 6

- The Vibrant Learning Experiences chair, Justin Dunning, presented the committee with nomination and voting information regarding the election of a new Kentucky United We Learn Council chair and vice chair.
- The committee also discussed site visits, the group's most requested method of learning about vibrant student experiences. Members of the committee will have the opportunity to participate in site visits to Marshall County and Eminence Independent.
- In response to requests by committee members to also learn from national organizations, Sarah McCann, the project manager for The Canopy Project, joined the meeting to introduce members to The Canopy Project database as a resource for exploring innovative schools and practices across the U.S.
- The committee will next meet in-person at the convening April 25th and 26th

# Bold New Future – March 7

- Chair Caleb Bates led the meeting, which focused on a general overview of the work required under various grants, specifically Competitive Grants for State Assessment (CGSA), and the role that partners such as KnowledgeWorks and statewide Kentucky partners have played and will play in this work.
- The meeting then transitioned to a discussion of the United We Learn report's themes and recommendations. Committee members discussed the importance of honoring the work that went into developing the report and ensuring that the committee's work aligns to the spirit of its vision.
- The committee will meet again at the next Kentucky United We Learn council convening on April 25.

# Accelerating Innovation – March 8

- The committee charter was finalized and adopted in a unanimous vote. Committee members presented information they collected on assessment and accountability systems from inside and outside Kentucky.
- Following presentations, committee members considered design principles that originated from the research and discussed non-negotiables to be reflected in any future recommendations from the committee. Finally, members discussed the four habits of the Kentucky United We Learn Council, reciprocity, inclusion, empathy and co-creation.
- The committee will meet again at the next Kentucky United We Learn Council convening on April 25.



## **Sarah Hatton, Ed.S.**

Sarah Hatton's 22-year public education career includes 15 years of classroom teaching experience at both the elementary and middle school levels, plus school and district administration. Passionate about providing meaningful learning for every child, every day, Hatton focuses on increasing opportunities for student agency, particularly through engagement of local community support. She resides in Bowling Green, her husband and their four children.

**Committee: Accelerating Innovation**







## **Kathy Y. Stovall, Ed.D.**

Kathy Y. Stovall has worked in education for over 27 years. Her experiences in education have included working in public education and for non-profits. She is committed to ensuring that each day a student is in the classroom, that student will experience a healthy educational environment that brings excitement and a love for learning. Her expertise includes family literacy, early childhood, family engagement, and elementary and middle school education. Stovall is a resident of Louisville.

**Committee: Accelerating Innovation**







# Accelerating Innovation Committee Members

- 21 Members
  - Chair - Sarah Hatton, Ed.S.
  - Co-Chair - Kathy Y. Stovall, Ed.D.
- Stakeholder Representation (some members represent multiple stakeholder groups)
  - 9 Community
  - 15 Educators
  - 8 Family
  - 2 Students



# Accelerating Innovation Committee Purpose

The primary purpose of this standing committee is to identify assessment and accountability systems that support successful implementation of innovative programs that result in vibrant learning experiences for all Kentucky students across all communities.





# Six-Month Goal

Conduct local, national and international information-gathering via historical review, research, learning from local laboratories of learning (L3s) and other districts, and understanding existing models/frameworks in order to generate a report on what works and what has not worked in innovative approaches to assessment and accountability. This report will support planning for strategic site visits and surveys, leading to an analysis to support recommendations in Year 2.



# Short-Term Goals

Our near-term goal includes summarizing findings with our draft design principles and creating selection criteria for site-visits to L3 and other innovative districts. Utilizing a framework to gather information, we will identify any additional research needed, and synthesize the data for reporting.





# Long-Term Goals

At the April convening, the Accelerating Innovation Standing Committee will create goals in line with the Competitive Grants for State Assessment application: to build a system that creates stronger structural coherence, technical quality, practical utility, and long-term sustainability across Kentucky’s state “system of Assessment and Accountability (A&A) systems.” Some of these long-term goals include:

- Evaluate the technical comparability of information from A&A systems to support statewide reporting requirements, and generate a list of solutions for any gaps
- Specify data engineering requirements for integrating, analyzing and sharing comparable local A&A data across the state
- A bank of high-quality, scalable A&A systems for Competency Based Education with supporting resources and documentation for implementation that can be effectively used and managed within the state “system of systems”



# Recap of Monthly Meetings

The committee has met three times via Zoom from 4 - 6 p.m. (Jan. 9, Feb. 6, and March 8).

**January** - Voted on a co-chair, discussed charter, developed six-month work plan, and coordinated two workstream groups,

1. Learning from within Kentucky.
2. Learning from outside of Kentucky.

**February**- Reviewed final committee charter, shared resources and learned within the workstream groups by reporting to each other.

**March** - Workstream groups reported to full committee, drafted design principles and related to the habits of the Kentucky United We Learn Council.





# Next Steps

- Synthesize the information that has been gathered and write a report with recommendations for next steps.
- **Articulate the committee's next six-month goal.**
- Suggest improvements to our committee and council processes.

# Communication and Next Steps

- Monthly newsletter
- Webpage  
<https://education.ky.gov/UnitedWeLearn/Pages/United-We-Learn-Council.aspx>
- Spring Convening - April 25-26 in Shelby County