

The background of the slide is a composite image. The top left shows a line of yellow school buses with "SCHOOL BUS" written on the front. The bottom left shows a classroom with blue walls, desks, chairs, and colorful balloons. A white diagonal line separates the two images.

Kentucky United We Learn Council Update

Karen Dodd, Chief Performance Officer
**Susan Strange, Strategic Program Manager, Office of the
Commissioner**

Council Makeup for Year 2

- ~55 members who meet collectively at least twice a year
- Penny Christian, council chair
- Jim Flynn, council vice chair

Action Taken – April Convening



- Council charter approved
- Jim Flynn elected as council vice chair
- Reviewed Roadmap
- Reviewed Design Principles
- Formed workgroups



KENTUCKY UNITED WE LEARN COUNCIL'S: JOURNEY TO THE MOON

Goal:
Approved Reimagined
Accountability System

SUMMER 2026

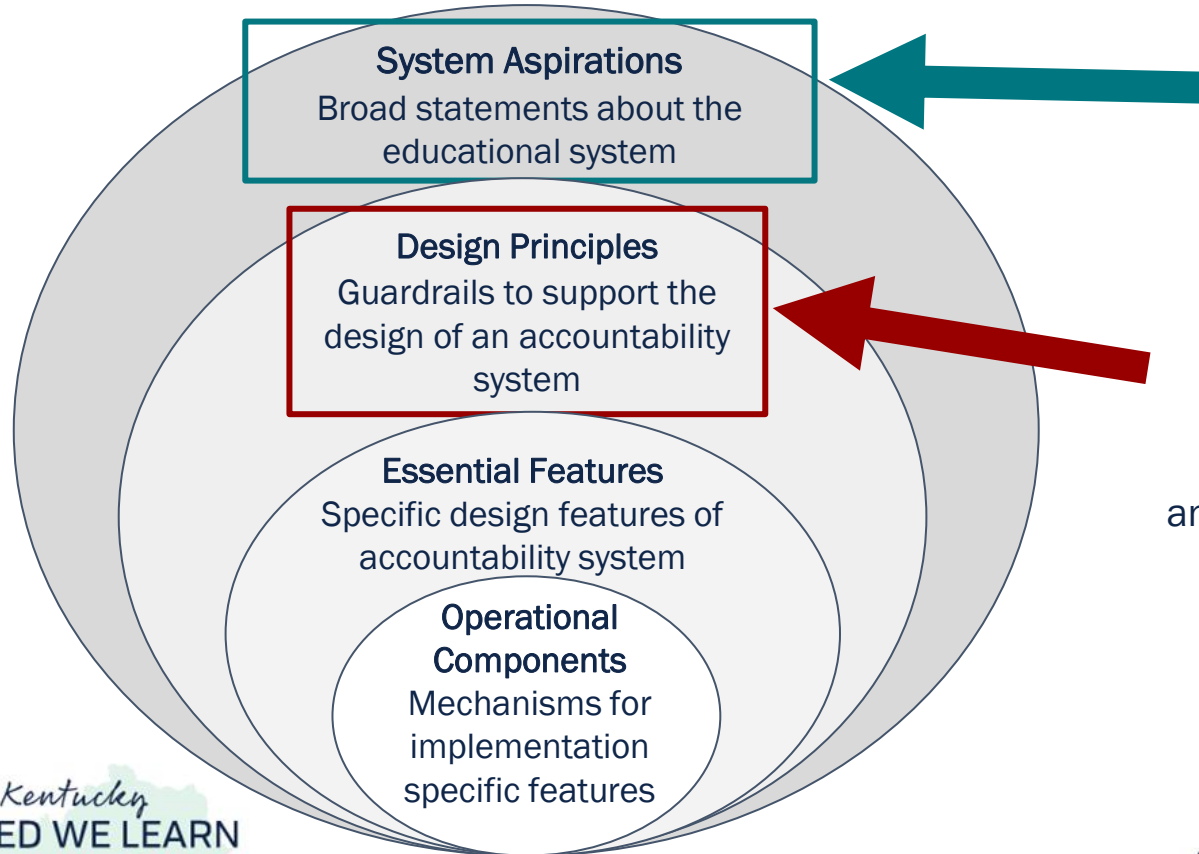
"To build a prosperous Kentucky, we will launch an accountability system that is meaningful and useful to all our learners."



*KDE - Kentucky Department of Education

**KBE - Kentucky Board of Education

Design Principles in Context



**Moonshot and the
Kentucky United We
Learn Report**

Design Principles help us
connect and align our
aspirations to the selection
and design of each component
of the Accountability and
Assessment system

Workgroups Formed

- Menu of Options
- Learning with Local Districts
- District Supports for Quality
- Engaging and Communicating with Communities



Menu of Options

We used the design principles to guide our discussion on shaping the overall accountability system. Here are a few key takeaways.

- Valuing diverse student professions.
- Aligning federal and state requirements.
- Balancing student growth from assessments with authentic performance-based evaluations.
- Supporting a local system that values a broad range of subjects.
- Providing accreditation-like feedback based on district-assembled evidence.
- Allowing local districts to innovate and test their own systems.
- Ensuring transparency without labels, rankings, or public shaming.
- Offering real-time feedback to improve outcomes.
- Prioritizing deeper learning indicators.

Learning with Local Districts

Working on a tool to support districts while they consider designing their local assessment and accountability systems for key practices being explored in the menu of options to prime and connect districts with each other.

- Mock-up to share with districts to get input and feedback.
- Balance agency guidance and district models.
- Tool that compliments top-down and ground-up.
- Planning an in-person work day to finalize the mock-up and discuss a sharing/testing plan.



District Supports for Quality

Finalize proposed work plan:

- Query the field for what resources are needed.
- Study the innovative districts that have share-worthy resources.
- Landscape analysis of existing resources and identify the gaps.



Engaging and Communicating with Communities

- Keep message paced with roadmap - empathy interview questions will change accordingly.
- Identified stakeholder groups that need to be reached.
- Generated ideas for a plan to continue collecting voices.
- Coordination with other workgroups is essential to ensure we are in the loop as work progresses in order to pivot with our empathy interviews.



Next Steps for the Kentucky United We Learn Council

- KDE staff and expert partners will work on deliverables between convenings.
- Menu of Options Workgroup meeting in June.
- Meeting with L3s tentatively scheduled for July.
- Summer convening (Menu of Options work session) scheduled for late July.
- Prototypes will be shared with advisory groups and education partners in late summer or early fall.
- Fall convening scheduled for October.



Questions?



Kentucky Department of
EDUCATION