Kentucky United We Learn Regional Town Halls

The Future of Assessment and Accountability in Kentucky

January 2025

In the past, systems prioritized...

Standardization
- Standardized tests for all subjects
- Instruction developed around testing offers little variance

Comparison
- Limited collaboration across districts or within communities
- Schools rated using the color system

State Control
- The state decides all measures used for accountability
- The same state accountability system for all schools

Compliance
- Accountability system designed to "meet requirements" in state and federal law
- Local improvement efforts align to requirements

Going forward, systems will support more...

Vibrant Learning
- Students have agency to demonstrate knowledge and skills in a variety of ways
- State tests meet students where they are

Collaboration
- Districts collaborate in partnership with communities
- The state supports networks of peer districts
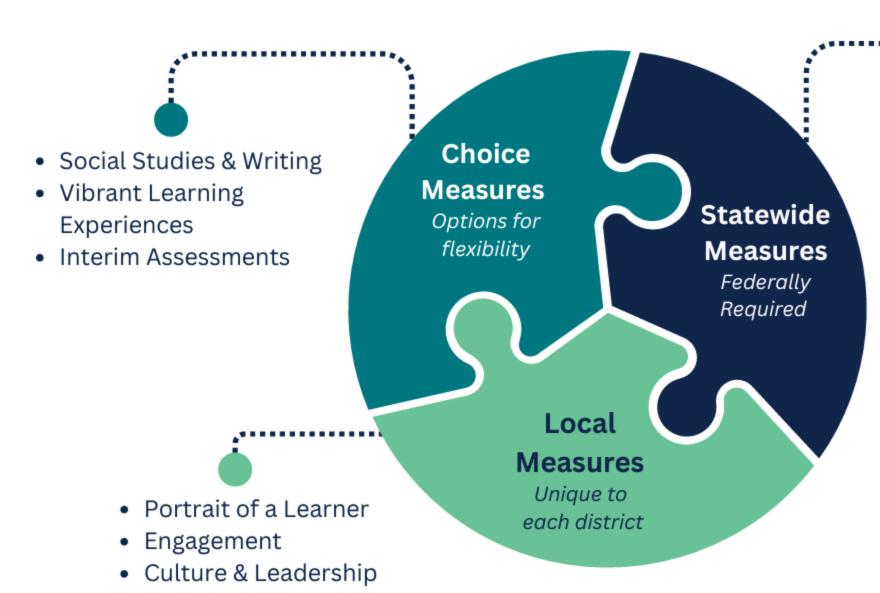- No more color ratings

Local Innovation
- Districts engage with communities to design custom accountability systems reflecting local values
- Some state requirements allow local choice

Feedback and Support
- All schools receive peer and expert external feedback to support improvement
- Local flexibility and data lead to customized support

Choice Measures
Options for flexibility

- Social Studies & Writing
- Vibrant Learning Experiences
- Interim Assessments

Statewide Measures
Federally Required

- Reading and Math
- Individual Student Growth
- Transition Readiness & Graduation Rate
- English Language Progress
- Climate and Safety Survey
- *Science Assessment -*

Students must be tested in science using a common statewide measure. However, districts may choose to include it in local accountability and add additional competency based measures.

Local Measures
Unique to each district

- Portrait of a Learner
- Engagement
- Culture & Leadership

Scan or click for more details.

Districts will design and implement local accountability systems - with state and peer support - on a timeline that sets everyone up for success.

1

Pilot Phase

Continue with a representative pilot group of districts to design and implement local accountability systems. This phase focuses on testing key components, gathering feedback, identifying challenges, and refining processes.

2

Expansion Phase

Expand local accountability systems to more districts, applying lessons from the pilot. State invests in high-quality professional learning systems and strong communities of practice for local system design and stakeholder engagement.

3

Sustainability Phase

Local accountability systems are scaled across the state with active networks for shared learning, system review, and continuous improvement.

Completed Town Halls

- Jan. 15 – Central Kentucky Educational Cooperative: Featuring Woodford County; ~95 attendees

- Jan. 16 – Kentucky Valley Educational Cooperative: Featuring Floyd County; ~40 attendees

- Jan. 21 – Green River Regional Educational Cooperative: Featuring Hardin County; ~90 attendees

- Jan. 27 – Spanish in Bowling Green: Featuring Shelby County

- Jan. 29 – Ohio Valley Educational Cooperative: Featuring Bullitt County

- Jan. 30 – West Kentucky Educational Cooperative: Featuring Christian County

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Still to Come!

- Feb. 4 – Southeast South-Central Educational Cooperative; Featuring Rowan County

- Feb. 12 – Northern Kentucky Cooperative for Educational Services; Featuring Greenup County

- Feb. 27 - (tentative) Kentucky Educational Development Corporation; Featuring Fleming County

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Town Hall Structure

- Welcome – Commissioner of Education Robbie Fletcher

- What is Vibrant Learning – Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) Staff

- Local Accountability in Action – District Staff

- Framework 2.0 - Jennifer Stafford, KDE Division Director, OAA

- Wows and Wonders!?

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Town Hall Observations

- Participants have been very engaged

- Material is well received

- Lots of media coverage

- KDE team has been well prepared for all the questions thanks to the diligent work of the Kentucky United We Learn Council

- Social Studies teachers are showing up

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Town Hall Themes to Date - WOWs

- **Focus on Local Flexibility:** Flexibility to develop and showcase programs that are important to their communities, such as arts programs.

- **Emphasis on Preparing Students for a Prosperous Kentucky:** There is a strong focus on preparing students to thrive in a global economy by ensuring they are ready for industry. Local workforce partnerships are highlighted as a means to prepare students for both local and global markets, which is a step forward in aligning education with future job market demands.

- **Support for Diverse Learning Needs:** The new accountability system aims to provide opportunities for all students, including those who do not test well and special needs students, to demonstrate their knowledge and skills in various ways. This inclusive approach can help ensure that all students have the opportunity to succeed.

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Town Hall Themes to Date - WONDERS

- **Equity and Consistency in Local Accountability and Content Area (particularly social studies):** The issue of equity was raised, particularly in ensuring that local accountability systems contain consistent review across different districts and content areas. There is a concern for the lack of state level accountability for content areas (i.e., social studies and writing).

- **Implementation and Practicality:** Questions were shared about how the new systems would be achieved. The need for clear models and plans from the state to help districts implement changes effectively.

- **Support for Teachers/Leaders:** Concerns were expressed about the additional paperwork and administrative burden. Ensuring that teachers have the necessary resources, training and support to implement new systems effectively is crucial.

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