

**KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (KDE)  
STAFF NOTE: REVIEW ITEM**

**Topic:** Local Accountability Design Guide & Toolkit Implementation

**Date:** June 2026

**Action Requested:** Review   Action/Consent   Action/Discussion

**Held In:** Full Board   State Schools   United We Learn

**SUMMARY OF PRESENTATION:**

This presentation provides an introduction and overview of the [Local Accountability Design Guide and Toolkit](#), which is designed to help Kentucky districts transition toward locally developed indicators of quality. The session will focus on highlighting how districts across Kentucky are defining, designing, and demonstrating success at both the student and district levels.

The presentation is structured around the Guide's six core action areas and highlights specific examples of district implementations. This framework ensures a balanced, parallel approach by mirroring the individual student experience with the district-level system.

- The Learner Journey (Actions 1-3): How districts define success for students via Portraits of a Learner, design vibrant learning experiences, and demonstrate growth through authentic performance assessments.
- The District System (Actions 4-6): How districts define local indicators, design interactive reporting tools, and demonstrate institutional success to their communities.

We will share data and narratives from several key support initiatives including:

- Russell County Schools' development of a locally-owned Portrait of a Learner
- Hardin County Schools' project/problem-based instructional model aligned with HQIRs
- Bracken County Schools' strategic plan to scale defenses and exhibitions of learning
- Grant County Schools' community dashboard and three standards of district success

The presentation will also share how the new KDE webpage "[How It's Working in Districts](#)" serves as a living library for spotlights and videos from our districts, providing ongoing access to Kentucky's innovation stories.

**CONTACT PERSON(S):**

Kelly Foster, Associate Commissioner  
Office of Continuous Improvement and Support  
Email: [kelly.foster@education.ky.gov](mailto:kelly.foster@education.ky.gov)  
(502) 564-5130



**Commissioner of Education**

**GOALS/PRIORITIES:** Indicate all applicable options.

- Foster Educational Innovation Through Vibrant Learning Experiences**
- Advance Educational Excellence Through Continuous Professional Improvement**
- Cultivate Collaborative Partnerships**
- Legislation**
- Commissioner's Management**