



Kentucky Collaborative for Families and Schools

The Prichard Committee

Family Engagement in Education Terms

- **Family Engagement** should be culturally responsive and sustaining to individuals' ways of being. Culturally Responsive and Sustaining Family Engagement focuses on families and schools working in partnership to develop programs, policies, and practices that empower students' learning, while honoring the lived experiences of all students, but especially students of color, Emergent Bilingual students, students with disabilities, and economically disadvantaged students. Families and schools are equal partners in decision making, curriculum planning, policy and resource development to uplift the voice/stories, assets, and needs of students and their families. The goal is to establish a trusting/authentic relationship, where families' are viewed as the experts on their lives and their children's lives. In this form of engagement, outreach to families should be active and personal as much as possible.
- **Educational Options** is providing families with information on learning options, opportunities, and rights as a parent, so they have the knowledge to make informed decisions about how to individualize their children's learning and development.
- **Family Involvement** is families gaining resources/ tools or learning information but not having to engage in a 2-way conversation with school and/or child. (Examples: Social media hits, receiving a book in the mail, newsletters, orientation night for all families, interest surveys sent home.)
- **Family Leadership** includes both public and at-home practices. Public leadership is creating space for parents to authentically lead and empowering families with resources, networks, and information to lead in school, community, and other public spaces. At-home leadership is providing families with resources, networks, and information to continue to support their child's learning and development, including acknowledging and honoring families' existing private practices used to ensure their children's educational futures.
- **Family Decision-Making** is families influencing or leading change at the school or community level. Examples: SBDM, PTA, parent lead school events, parent co-training workshops, parent councils, school walkthroughs, school and district committees.

COVID Related Education Terms

- **Home schooling:** Removing the child from the public school and teaching a child at home. In Kentucky, parents who wish to home school must notify the local superintendent that their child will be attending a private school (in the home), teach the general subjects of study and include the same number of six-hour days of instruction per year required of the public schools; currently 170 days.
- **Hybrid Plans** divide students to allow for smaller class sizes, less traffic in and around buildings and social distancing when possible.

Frequently Used Education Terms

- **Non-Traditional Instruction Program (NTI)** is a program that encourages the continuation of academic instruction on days when school would otherwise be cancelled. School districts create plans to deliver instruction to every student in the district and provide for student and teacher interaction on NTI days, with the ultimate goal of continuing instruction. Teachers prepare at home learning options for students. Students are enrolled in their local district and receive educational services online.
- **Synchronous learning** refers to all types of learning in which learner(s) and instructor(s) are working at the same time for learning to take place. . This includes in-person classes, live online meetings when the whole class or smaller groups get together.
- **504 plan:** A plan that specifies the accommodations and modifications necessary for a student with a disability to attend school with her or his peers; named for Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities and requires that children with disabilities have equal access to public education; required for some students who do not meet the eligibility requirements for special education under IDEA.
- **Achievement gaps:** Differences in achievement between groups of students; including gaps by gender, race, eligibility for free or reduced-price meals, disability, or limited English proficiency; must be examined annually by school councils and addressed in council plans to eliminate those differences in achievement.
- **Admission and Release Committee (ARC):** The ARC is the team of individuals that make educational decisions for a child who needs special education. It includes the parent, child (as appropriate), regular education teacher(s), special education teacher(s), district representative (Principal, Director of Special Education, Guidance Counselor, etc.), evaluators, and related service providers.
- **Advanced Placement (AP):** Exams that can earn students college credit or placement in upper-level college courses based on proven learning during high school. AP courses are classes designed to qualify students to take AP exams.
- **Assessment:** A test or evaluation of what a student knows and is able to do.
- **Average Daily Attendance (ADA):** The average number of students in school each day; used to compute district eligibility for SEEK funding. ADA is suspended for the 2020-2021 school year and has been replaced with "daily participation".
- **Career and technical programs:** Courses that focus on preparing students for careers in specific fields.
- **Charter school:** a publicly funded elementary or secondary school that has been freed from some rules, regulations and statutes that apply to other public schools in exchange for some type of accountability for producing certain results; some definitions include enrolling children whose parents choose to send them to that school. Charter schools are not authorized in Kentucky.
- **Commissioner of Education:** Kentucky's chief executive school officer; administrator and executive to the Kentucky Board of Education; chief administrator of the Department of Education; hired and evaluated by the Kentucky Board of Education.
- **Consent:** Written permission given by the parent. The parent must be fully informed for everything for which consent is being sought. Since consent is voluntary, a parent has the right to take it back at any time.
- **Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE):** Statelevel council that provides direction for Kentucky's public universities, community colleges and technical schools and adult education; council members are nominated by the governor and confirmed by the General Assembly; the Council's members hire and evaluate their president.

Frequently Used Education Terms (cont.)

- **Curriculum:** Knowledge and skills a school intends to teach students, often organized in an outline indicating the order in which topics are taught; a required topic for school-based decision making policy.
- **Daily Participation:** For 2020-2021, all students will be counted as “participating” for each day in the instructional calendar. Daily participation for students learning in-person will be their attendance in the classroom. For students learning virtually, their participation will be based on at least one of the following for interactions:
 - One on one video communication or phone calls between teacher and student (or teacher and parent with smaller children or students with special needs);
 - Group video communication or phone calls between the teacher and a whole class or between a teacher and smaller groups of students within a class;
 - Student time logged into a learning management software system completing assignments;
 - Submission of paper-based assignments for students in a non-digital, non-traditional setting.
- **Dual credit course:** A college-level course in which a high school student can earn both high school and college credit.
- **English language learner (ELL):** Another term for students with limited English proficiency. English Learners (ELs) are those students whose primary language is a language other than English. Kentucky uses WIDA screener assessments to determine the ELP of students who have been identified. A student’s language is tested in four domains: listening, reading, speaking, and writing. Once a student is identified as an EL, the district is required to provide a Program Service Plan (PSP). Parents must be notified and invited to the PSP meeting within 30 days of the first day of school. If the student was enrolled after the start of the school year, the PSP meeting must occur within 2 weeks of enrollment as required by ESSA 1112(e)(3)(A-B) and 703 KAR 5:070.
- **Exceptional students:** Students who need special educational programs or services to get the maximum benefit from school; in Kentucky this includes students with disabilities and gifted and talented students.
- **Family Resource/Youth Service Center Director (FRYSC):** One of the beneficial programs Kentucky’s Public Schools have in place is the Family Resource/Youth Service Center. Parents should visit their local FRYSC and ask about programs and services available. The director can be a valuable resource in helping parents get referrals for needed services. Many centers also provide parent training and educational opportunities for parents, and in some locations, host support groups. The FRYSC Director can also provide you with a list of local and possibly regional and state resources.
- **Gifted and talented:** Term identifying “children who possess demonstrated abilities or measured potential ...in intellectual ability; specific academic aptitude; creative or productive thinking; leadership ability and/or in the visual and performing arts.” Kentucky requires each district to identify and serve those students and provides categorical funds to cover some of those gifted and talented services.
- **Individual Education Program (IEP):** An individual education plan written to meet the unique needs of a child identified with a disability. It is a legally binding agreement that guarantees the services specified in the plan will be provided to the child.
- **Individual Learning Plan (ILP):** a comprehensive framework for advising students in grades six (6) through twelve (12) to engage in coursework and activities that will best prepare them to both realize college and career success and become contributing members of their communities. Starting in sixth grade, all Kentucky public school students create and update ILPs with input from their parents and educators. The ILP replaces earlier requirements for an individual graduation plan.

Frequently Used Education Terms (cont.)

- **Infinite Campus:** A student information system that helps student families stay engaged, and connected because you can see what is happening in the classroom so you can understand, monitor, and participate in the educational process. Infinite Campus tracks student grades, attendance and other information, and is used in all Kentucky public schools.
- **Kentucky Board of Education (KBE):** Eleven member state board responsible for P-12 education; sets policy, adopts regulations, grants waivers and hires and evaluates the commissioner; appointed by the governor and confirmed by the state Senate.
- **Kentucky Performance Rating for Educational Progress (K-PREP):** Required state assessments of reading, mathematics, science, social studies, writing and language mechanics; uses constructed response items and multiple choice questions, plus an ondemand writing prompt; includes the multiple-choice portion of the required end-of-course assessments; a major factor in schools' scores for Next Generation Learners.
- **Kindergarten readiness:** In Kentucky, defined as meaning each child enters school ready to engage in and benefit from early learning experiences that best promote the child's success. A school readiness taskforce recognizes five developmental areas for school readiness.
- **Parent Teacher Association (PTA):** an association with parent and teacher members established at a local school as a chapter of the Kentucky and national PTA; also used to refer to the state and national groups.
- **Parent Teacher Organization (PTO):** A group formed locally to bring parents and teachers together, not affiliated with the state and national.
- **Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA):** an association that includes student members as well as parents and teachers, affiliated with the state and national PTA.
- **Readiness:** For accountability, readiness is a component of a school or district's score for Next Generation Learners, reflecting middle schools' Explore results and high schools' results on ACT and multiple optional assessments. (Elementary schools do not have a readiness component.)
- **Response to Intervention (RTI):** A multiple step system of intervention for all preschool to 12th grade students which includes behavior, math and reading.
- **School report card:** Annual report to the public that shows a school's accountability classification, test scores and other important information available at <http://applications.education.ky.gov/src>.
- **School/Site Based Decision Making Board (SBDM):** System of governance in which school councils composed of principals, teachers and parents make a set of important decisions for their school. In Kentucky, school councils responsibilities include principal selection, consultation on other vacancies, selection of textbooks and instructional materials, approval of the comprehensive school improvement plan (CSIP) and set policies on curriculum, instructional practices, discipline and classroom management, extracurricular programs, consultation and other topics specified in state law. School and site is sometimes used interchangeably.
- **Support Education Excellence in Kentucky (SEEK):** Main funding for Kentucky schools, combining state and local dollars funding; provides base guarantee funding for each district's average daily attendance, plus add-on funding for at-risk students, students with limited English proficiency, students with disabilities and students who need home and hospital services; requires a local contribution equal to 30¢ per \$100 of taxable property; allows districts to qualify for additional Tier 1 funding if they set taxes above the 30¢ level.
- **Title I:** Federal program providing added services at schools with high percentages of children from low income families; established in 1965 and reformed by the No Child Left Behind Act; costs are partly covered by federal categorical funds.