



Kentucky Community Schools Initiative (KCSI) Community Conversations:

Key Questions on High Quality Early Care and Education

RBA: The 7-Step Talk-to-Action Process



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¹ Clear Impact Results-Based Accountability



Aspirations

1. What are our aspirations – the quality of life conditions we want – for our youngest learners and their families?
 - *Safe, healthy, ready to learn and thrive in school and life*
2. What would these conditions look like if we could see or experience them?
 - *Healthy pregnancy and birth*
 - *Healthy development (physical, socio-emotional, language, cognitive)*
 - *Strong and supportive relationships*
 - *Strong core skills (executive function and self-regulation)*
 - *Reduced child and family stress*
 - *Stable environments*
 - *Economic stability and mobility*
 - *Students ready for Kindergarten*
 - *Students on track to proficiency by third grade*
3. How can we measure these conditions?
 - *Brainstorm existing data sources in the community*
 - *Health department*
 - *Developmental screenings*
 - [*CDC \(Centers for Disease Control\) Developmental Milestone Tracker App*](#)²
 - *Care Settings - in-home and out-of-home*
 - *US Census Data*
 - *Others?*

Current Conditions

4. How are we doing on the most important measures?
 - [*Community Profiles*](#)³ - [*Facilitator Playbook*](#)⁴ pp. 9-12
 - *What information on your Profile surprises you the most? Why?*
 - *What thrills you about the information on your Profile? Why?*
 - *What challenges you about the information on the Profile? Why?*
 - *What questions do you have about your Profile?*

² Centers for Disease Control. CDC Developmental Milestones. <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/milestones/index.html>

³ Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence. Community Profiles. <https://www.prichardcommittee.org/2022profiles/>

⁴ Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence. Engaging Community Voices Facilitator Playbook. <https://www.prichardcommittee.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Engaging-Community-Voices-Facilitators-Guide.pdf>



- [Study and Source Guide⁵](#)
 - *Preschool Enrollment*
 - *Kindergarten Readiness*
 - *Reading and Math Proficiency (Grades 3 and 8)*
 - *Median Household Income*
 - *Unemployment Rate*
 - *Children below 200% of Federal Poverty Level*
 - *Children in Poverty*
 - *Teen Births*
 - *Low Birthweight*

- [Early Childhood Profiles⁶](#) [Study Guide⁷](#)
 - *Kindergarten Readiness, overall and by domain*
 - *Correlation of K Readiness and 3rd Grade Proficiency (Reading and Math)*
 - *Percent Low Birthweight*
 - *Children Served by First Steps*
 - *Percent High Quality Early Care and Education Programs (3+ on KY All STARS Rating System)*
 - *K Readiness by Prior Enrollment/Prior Setting*
 - *PreK Enrollment by Setting*
 - *County All STARS average rating*
 - *Total Child Care Capacity in the county*
 - *Child Care Capacity by All STARS rating (one to five stars)*
 - *Children <6 in Poverty (100%, 250% and 200% of FPL)*
 - *Households with English not primary language*
 - *Teen births*
 - *Pre-term births*

⁵ Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence. Groundswell Profiles Study and Source Guide.

<https://www.prichardcommittee.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/StudyandSourceGuide.2022.GroundswellProfile.pdf>

⁶ Kentucky Governor's Office of Early Childhood. Early Childhood Profiles. <https://kyecac.ky.gov/schoolreadiness/Pages/The-Early-Childhood-Profiles.aspx>

⁷ Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence. The Kentucky Early Childhood Profiles Study Guide. <https://www.chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dcb/dcc/Pages/find-care.aspx>



What themes have emerged that you can organize your questions into?

What are your top 3-5 priority questions?

What other information might you need about the top priority questions?

How will you go about getting it?

Who might help to find the answers?

Turning the Curve

5. Who are the partners that have a role to play in doing better?

- Key Stakeholders to Consider for Community Conversations and Coalition-Building:
 - Public School System staff
 - District leadership (superintendent or designee, early childhood leadership)
 - School leadership (principal, FRYSC, early childhood teacher)
 - Parent/parent leader
 - Community early childhood advocate
 - Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) agency representative (regional leader, coaches) e.g. [Child Care Aware of Kentucky](#)⁸
 - Local government (mayor's office, local health department, children and families support)
 - [Division of Child Care](#)⁹ (DCC)
 - [Division of Community Based Services](#)¹⁰ (DCBS) [local office](#)¹¹
 - [Division of Regulated Child Care](#)¹² (DRCC) [regional office](#)¹³ representative
 - [Kentucky Early Intervention Services](#)¹⁴ ([First Steps Point of Entry](#)¹⁵ office representative)

⁸ Child Care Aware of Kentucky. <https://www.childcareawareky.org/>

⁹ Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services. Division of Child Care.

<https://www.chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dcbs/dcc/Pages/default.aspx>

¹⁰ Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services. Division of Regulated Child Care.

<https://www.chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dcbs/Pages/default.aspx>

¹¹ Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services. Local Office Search. https://prd.webapps.chfs.ky.gov/Office_Phone/index.aspx

¹² Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services. Division of Regulated Child Care.

<https://www.chfs.ky.gov/agencies/os/oig/drcc/Pages/default.aspx>

¹³ Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services. Regional Map.

<https://www.chfs.ky.gov/agencies/os/oig/drcc/Documents/RegionalMap.pdf>

¹⁴ Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services. Kentucky Early Intervention Services.

<https://www.chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/dmch/ecdb/Pages/fsenrollment.aspx>

¹⁵ Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services. First Steps: Kentucky's Early Intervention System.

<https://www.chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/dmch/ecdb/Documents/1stStepsfactsEnglish.pdf>



- [KY HANDS](#)¹⁶ home visitation program ([local health department contacts](#)¹⁷)
- [Kentucky Early Childhood Regional Collaborative Network](#)¹⁸ representative
- Head Start local grantee representative ([Head Start locator](#)¹⁹)
- [Chamber of Commerce](#)²⁰ local representative
- Small Business Development Center (SBCD) representatives
- YMCA local representative
- Private child care representative
- Faith-based child care representative
- Underserved community representatives (e.g. refugee and immigrant populations, multilingual communities, child care desert communities)
- Foundations and non-profit organizations invested or interested in early childhood (e.g. [United Way local offices](#)²¹)
- Local and regional public and private higher education systems ([Kentucky State Universities](#)²², [Kentucky Community Technical College System](#)²³, [Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities](#)²⁴)
- Others?

6. What works to do better? What works to turn the curve?

- *What works to improve access and quality early care and education in other states?*
- *What works to improve access and quality early care and education in Kentucky?*
- *What works to improve access and quality early care and education in our community?*

¹⁶ Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services. HANDS – Health Access Nurturing Development Services. <https://www.chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/dmch/ecdb/Pages/hands.aspx>

¹⁷ Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services. First Steps: Kentucky's Early Intervention System. <https://www.chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/dmch/ecdb/Documents/1stStepsfactsEnglish.pdf>

¹⁸ Kentucky Governor's Office of Early Childhood. Kentucky Regional Collaborative Network. <https://kyecac.ky.gov/community/Pages/Regional-Collaboratives.aspx>

¹⁹ Head Start Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center. Head Start Center Locator. <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/center-locator>

²⁰ Kentucky Chamber of Commerce. Kentucky Local Chambers List. <https://www.kychamber.com/sites/default/files/pdfs/Kentucky%20Local%20Chambers%20List%202022.pdf>

²¹ United Way. United Ways in Kentucky. <https://www.unitedway.org/local/united-states/kentucky>

²² Council on Postsecondary Education. Kentucky's State Universities and KCTCS. <https://cpe.ky.gov/campuses/state.html>

²³ Kentucky Community and Technical College System. <https://kctcs.edu/>

²⁴ Association of Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities. Our Colleges and Universities. <https://www.aikcu.org/our-colleges>



Program Quality:

- National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) [Benchmarks for High Quality PreK](#)²⁵
- New America: [What's Important to Know About the NIEER Preschool Benchmarks](#)²⁶
 - *NIEER benchmarks represent an important minimum (solid foundation) for high quality preschool programs*
 - *They do not represent the highest standards of excellence*
 - *Not an exclusive list for quality preschool program indicators*
 - *Program quality indicators are drivers of quality (facilitate and are necessary for it) but do not guarantee it, e.g. small class sizes do not guarantee small group instruction*
- [Kentucky Early Childhood Quality Self Study](#)²⁷
- [Kentucky ALL STARS Standards of Quality](#)²⁸
- KY Governor's Office of Early Childhood [Bright Spots](#)²⁹

Classroom Quality:

- [Kentucky Early Childhood Standards](#)³⁰
- [Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework](#)³¹

7. What actions should be taken to continue forward progress?

- *Based on the top 3-5 priority questions, and what we now know about what turns the curve, what 2-5 things might we propose to do to improve access and quality early care and education in our community?*

²⁵ National Institute for Early Education Research. Overview of Changes to NIEER Quality Standards Benchmarks. <https://nieer.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Overview-of-Changes-to-NIEER-Quality-Standards-Benchmarks.pdf>

²⁶ New America. Laying a Solid Floor: What's Important to Know About the NIEER Pre-K Quality Benchmarks. <https://www.newamerica.org/education-policy/edcentral/nieer-benchmarks/>

²⁷ Child Care Aware of Kentucky. Building A Strong Foundation for School Success: Kentucky's Early Childhood Quality Self Study. <https://www.childcareawareky.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Fillable-Quality-Self-Study-Environment-Section-5.27.21-FINAL.pdf>

²⁸ Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services. Kentucky All STARS Standards of Quality. <https://www.chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dcb/dcc/Documents/DCC431AllSTARStandardsofQuality.pdf>

²⁹ Kentucky Governor's Office of Early Childhood. Bright Spots Across the Commonwealth. <https://kyecac.ky.gov/professionals/Documents/Kentucky%20Early%20Childhood%20Bright%20Spots%20-%20Final.pdf>

³⁰ Kentucky Governor's Office of Early Childhood. Kentucky Early Childhood Standards. <https://kyecac.ky.gov/professionals/Early-Childhood-Standards/Getting-Started/Pages/Start-Here.aspx>

³¹ Head Start Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center. Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework. <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/school-readiness/article/head-start-early-learning-outcomes-framework>



The Prichard Committee

Building a Groundswell for a Big Bold Future