

TOPIC FACT SHEET

Education Matters: TEK TALK

Transforming Education in Kentucky (TEK) Community Forums

TRANSFORMING EDUCATION IN KENTUCKY (TEK) BACKGROUND: Governor Beshear created the initiative Transforming Education in Kentucky (TEK) to serve as a catalyst to reinvigorate public support for K-12 education in Kentucky.

The end goal is to create a unified and focused vision of what schools in the Commonwealth need to offer in order to better serve students today and tomorrow.

TOPIC LIST: Governor Beshear requested that the Transforming Education in Kentucky (TEK) Task Force discuss the following topics and issue recommendations by the Fall of 2010. These topics are also the focus of the TEK Talk Community Forums.

- Improving College Readiness
- Providing Every Student with the Opportunity to Earn College Credit During High School
- Creating a System of Assessments that Measure what Employers Value
- Ramping Up Academics in Career and Tech Schools
- Using Technology to Improve Teaching and Learning
- Improving Teacher Recruitment and Retention
- Improving Transitions Between Preschool to K-12

INITIATIVES AND ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE TEK TASK FORCE AND TEK TALK TOPICS: The following activities and initiatives are ongoing and related to the current work of the TEK Task Force and the TEK TALK topics. Briefly, here is the background of each initiative and how it relates to the Charge given to the TEK Task Force.

GRADUATE KENTUCKY

TOPICS ADDRESSED: Improving college readiness; providing every student with the opportunity to earn college credit during high school; ramping up academics in career and tech schools; using technology to improve teaching and learning

BACKGROUND: First Lady Jane Beshear initiated this effort to raise awareness and consolidate efforts to increase Kentucky's high school graduation rate. Over the past year a statewide summit and several regional summits have been organized to gather resources for a statewide action plan for 2011.

KENTUCKY CORE ACADEMIC STANDARDS/SENATE BILL 1

TOPICS ADDRESSED: Improving college readiness; creating a system of assessments that measure what employers value

BACKGROUND: Senate Bill 1 (2009) requires new statewide academic standards, student assessments and accountability for schools and districts. Kentucky participated with 47 other states and territories to create new, higher and clearer standards for math and English/language arts which will be shared with teachers and parents in 2010-2011 and assessed in the classrooms in 2011-2012. Science and social studies standards are under development, as are program reviews to assess non-tested subjects.

EARLY CHILDHOOD TASK FORCE

TOPICS ADDRESSED: Improving transitions between preschool and K-12

BACKGROUND: The Early Childhood Task Force was created in March 2009 to review the delivery of early childhood development and education services. It is charged with recommending improvements to the system to accomplish greater collaboration among providers of services to young children; quality at all levels from early childcare through kindergarten; agreement on what constitutes school readiness; and reliance on accepted early learning standards and assessment. The task force is co-chaired by the secretaries of the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet and the Cabinet for Families and Children and is comprised of 14 members.

UNIFIED STRATEGY FOR COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS

TOPICS ADDRESSED: Improving college readiness; ramping up academics in career and tech schools

BACKGROUND: The Council on Postsecondary Education and the Kentucky Department of Education have developed a joint plan to increase the number of high school graduates who meet college readiness standards, and to increase the number of college students persisting to completion of a bachelor's degree. Key strategies include advanced learning opportunities for high school students ready for college work, transition courses for high school students not ready for college work, college and career readiness advising, and student support and interventions for at-risk college students.

PARTNERSHIP FOR NEXT GENERATION LEARNING

TOPICS ADDRESSED: Using technology to improve teaching and learning

BACKGROUND: Kentucky has joined five other states and the Council of Chief State School Officers in a network to find new ways of learning, including world-class knowledge and skills, personalized learning, authentic student voice, performance-based learning, comprehensive systems of supports, and anytime/everywhere opportunities. Universities are partnering with the Department of Education to create Innovation Labs focused on specific issues such as Motivation and Learning, Digital Game-Based Learning, Civic Engagement, and Global Issues.

EARLY COLLEGE/DUAL CREDIT

TOPICS ADDRESSED: Providing every student with the opportunity to earn college credit during high school

BACKGROUND: Three community colleges in Kentucky have partnered with their local school districts to offer a "Middle College" program where students may take their final two years of high school courses on the college campus and simultaneously take college courses. In other districts students spend part of their day on the college campus and part of the day in their home high school. Policies and funding are needed to make this opportunity available to all Kentucky students.

EDUCATION PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS BOARD COMMITTEE ON ADMISSIONS AND CLINICAL EXPERIENCES

TOPICS ADDRESSED: Improving teacher recruitment and retention

BACKGROUND: This committee, which began meeting in February 2010, will recommend best practices in teacher preparation programs for selecting high quality candidates for the teaching profession and providing high quality field experiences and mentoring for both traditional undergraduate candidates and those seeing initial certification as a second career. The committee is exploring ways to engage teacher candidates more fully with schools during their preparation.