



**Commonwealth
Education Continuum**

Commonwealth Education Continuum Kentucky's P-20 Council

Dr. Amanda Ellis, Vice President, Student Access and Success
Robin Hebert, Senior Fellow, P-20 Policies and Programs

Mission



Commonwealth
Education Continuum

The **Commonwealth Education Continuum** exists to remove barriers throughout the system to ensure students can access a seamless P-20 education journey. The Continuum supports actions that lead to Kentuckians earning the necessary degrees and credentials to succeed in the workforce, elevate our communities, and increase economic opportunity. The CEC achieves this by:

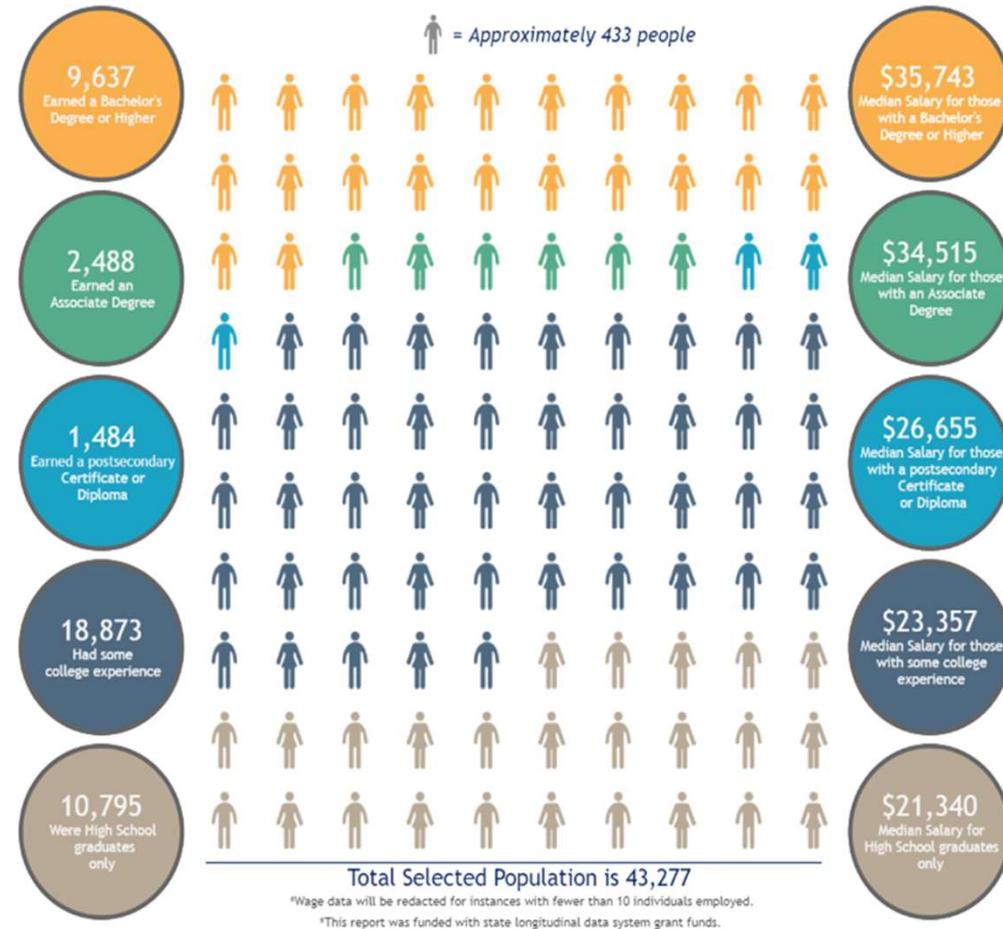
- Convening cross-sector partners,
- Monitoring and reporting progress,
- Identifying and advocating for policy solutions, and
- Accelerating action.

Vision

The **Commonwealth Education Continuum** champions an agile education system that serves Kentuckians from cradle to career.

We aspire to be the most seamless education system in the nation, where Kentuckians have access and opportunity to earn quality degrees and credentials that lead to prosperous careers and fulfilling lives.

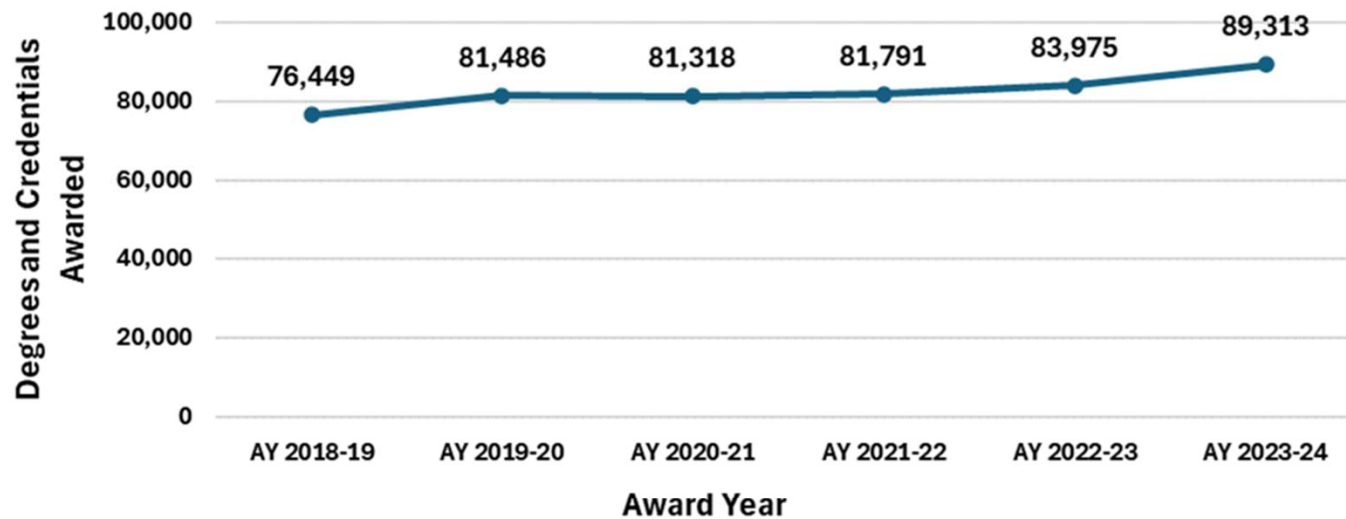
2019 Outcomes for 2012 High School Graduates



Source: KYSTATS 2019 Life Outcomes Report

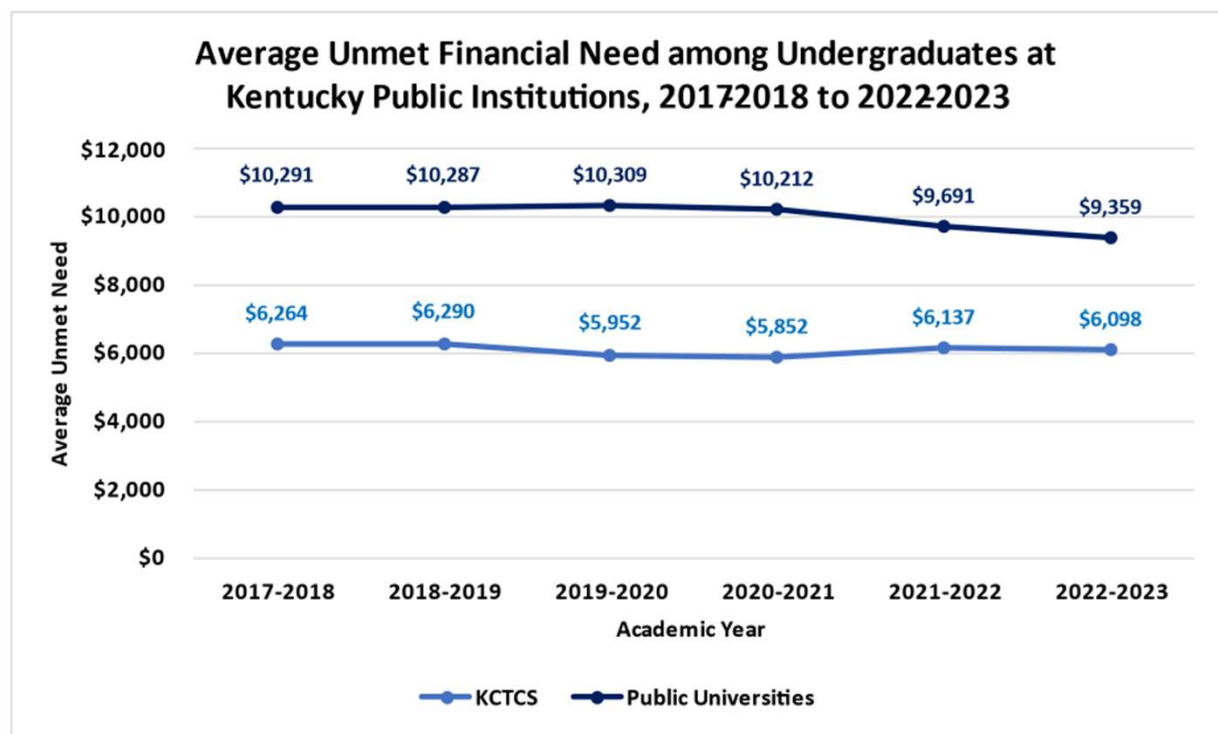
All Public Institution Degrees and Credentials

Total Degrees and Credentials



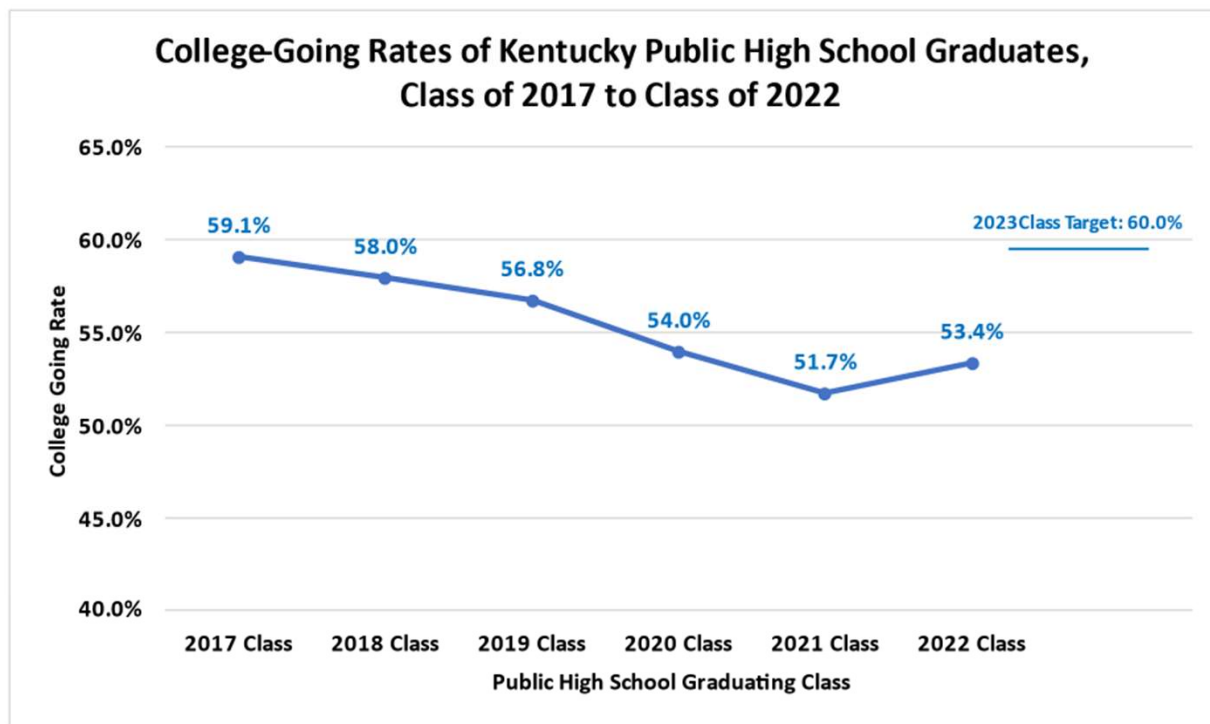
- 1 Year Change: +6.4%
- 5 Year Change: +16.8%

Average Unmet Need - Public Institutions



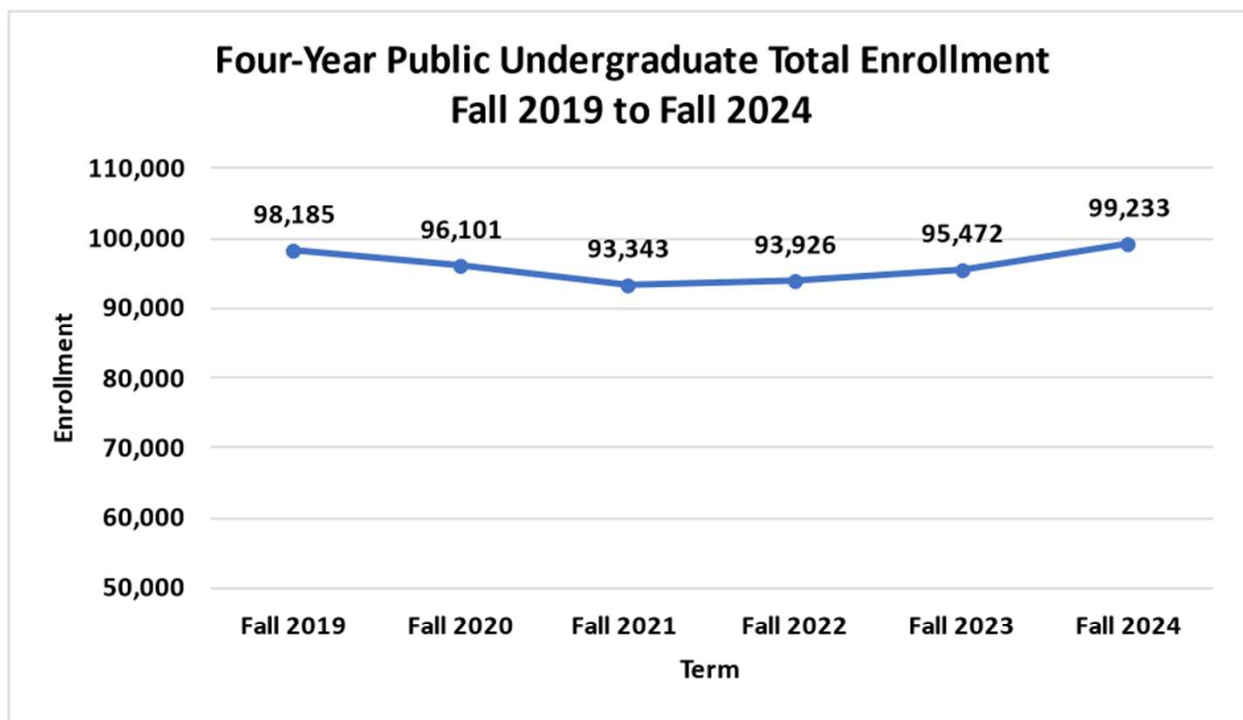
- **KCTCS**
 - 1YR: -0.6%
 - 5YR: -2.7%
- **Public Universities**
 - 1YR: -3.4%
 - 5YR: -9.1%

College-Going Rates Public High School Grads



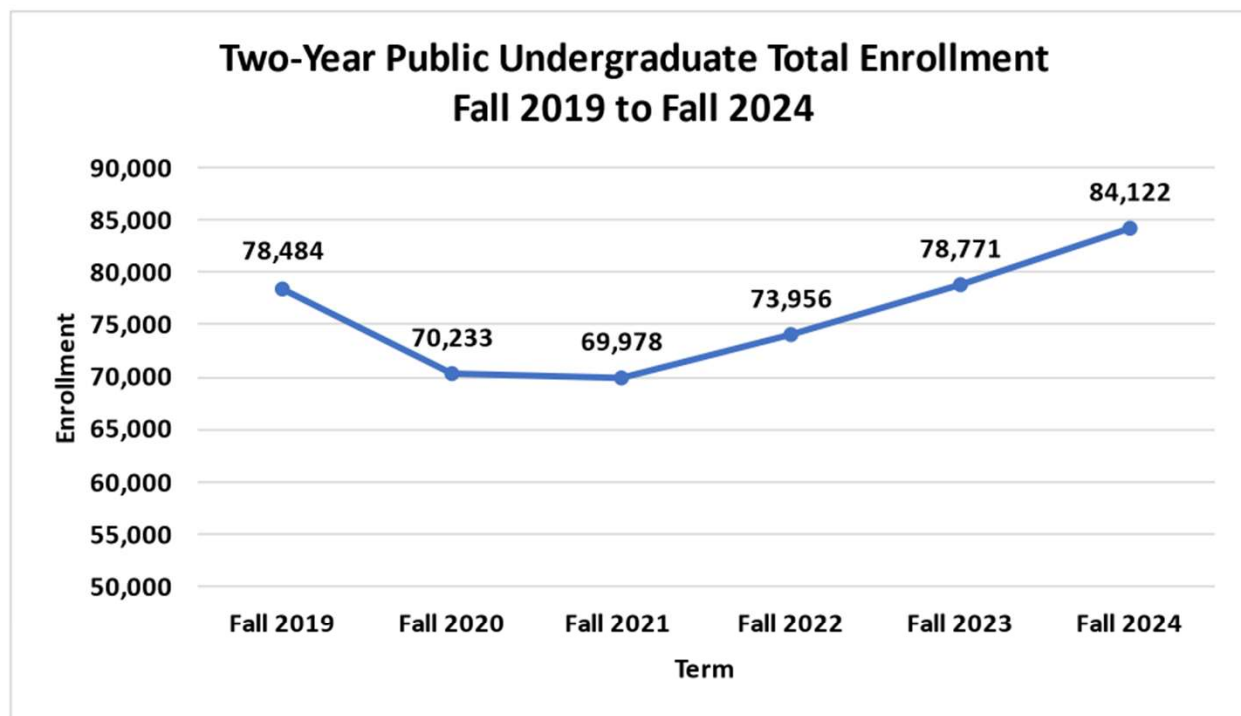
- 1YR: +1.7pp
- 5YR: -5.7pp

4YP Undergraduate Enrollment - Total



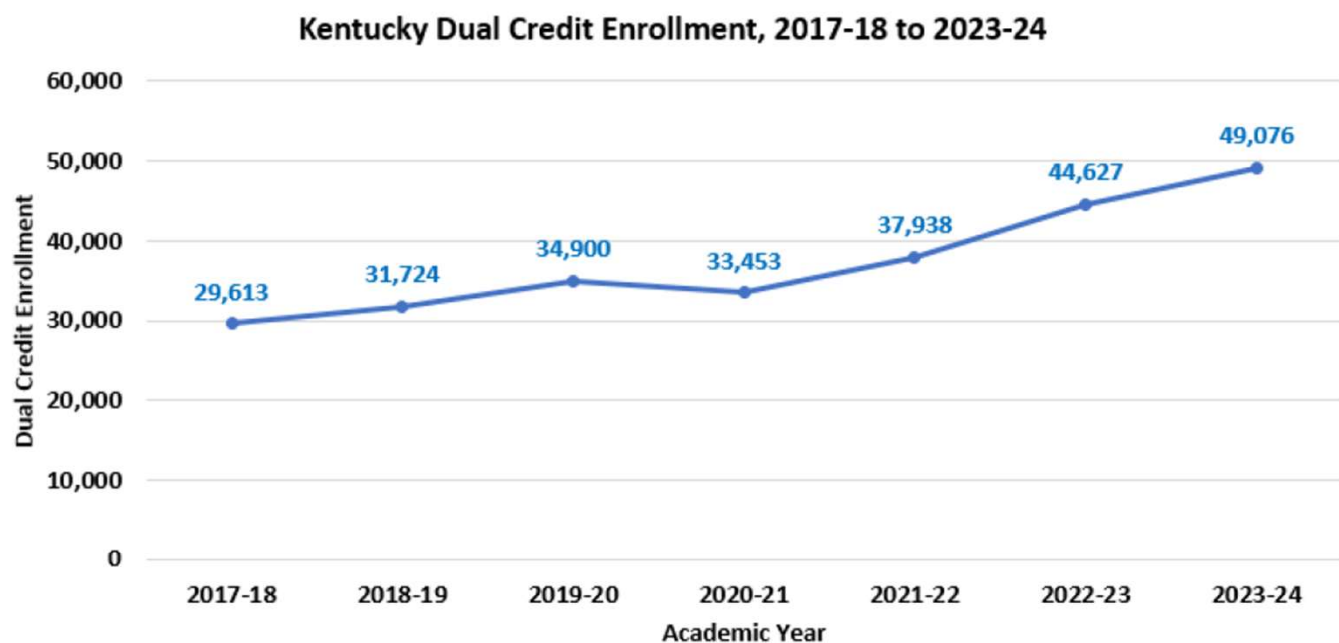
- **1 Year Change: +3.9%**
- **5 Year Change: +1.1%**

2YP Undergraduate Enrollment - Total



- **1 Year Change: +6.8%**
- **5 Year Change: +7.2%**

Dual Credit Participation



Since 2017-18, dual credit enrollment has grown **65.7%**.



2023 Life Outcomes for 2016 Kentucky Public High School Graduates



This dashboard is powered by the Kentucky Center for Statistics. Those using screen readers may need to click the enter key to select options in filters. This dashboard is best viewed on a desktop computer. If you have any questions regarding accessibility, please contact kystats@ky.gov. Follow us @KYSTATS on social media.

An alternative, accessible format in Excel is available for download here:

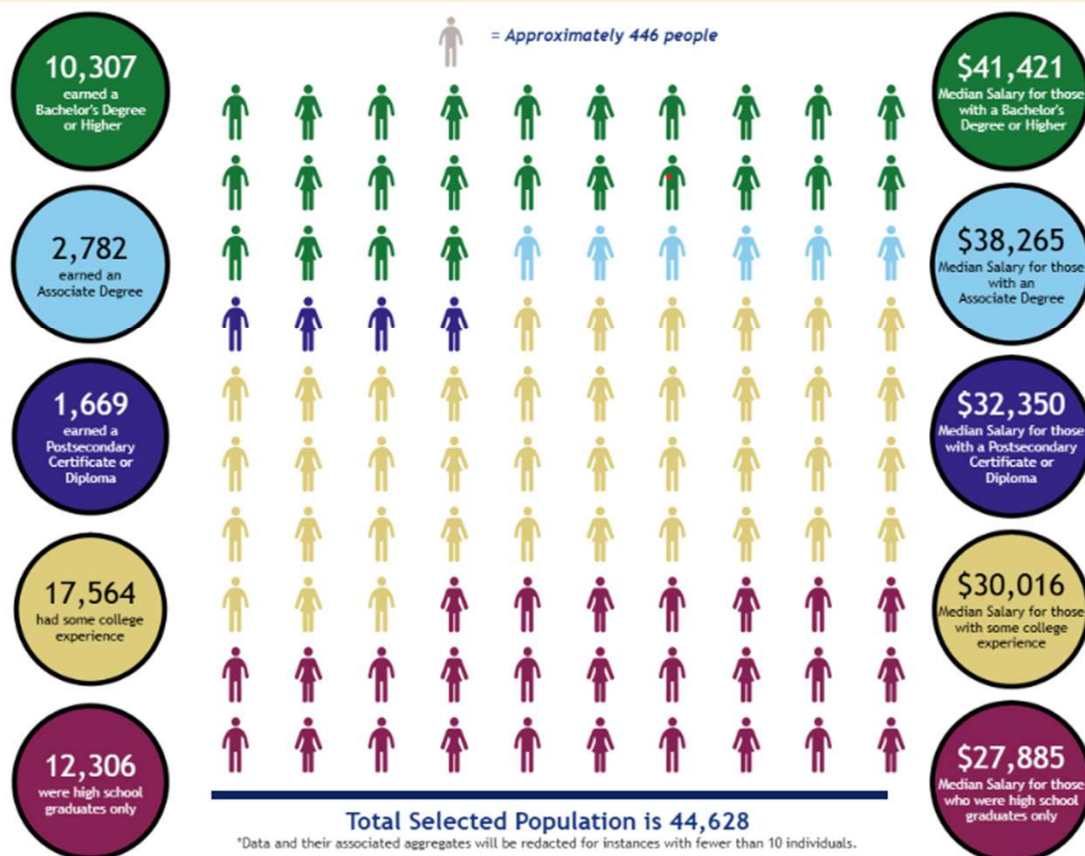
https://bit.ly/LOHS_PAF

Technical documentation can be found in PDF form here:

https://bit.ly/LOHS_TechNotes

Filter Dashboard by Demographic

All Graduates



The CEC in Action



The Renewed Promise of P-20 Councils

P-20 councils, since their inception, have sought to align expectations across early childhood, K-12, and postsecondary education and workforce systems and strengthen cross-sector partnerships to drive meaningful improvements for students and their families. Despite their clear goals, traditional P-20 councils have long faced challenges that can end up thwarting their efficacy. Some of the most common challenges include capacity constraints, funding shortfalls, a lack of consensus on evolving priorities, communication challenges, partisan polarization, and a lack of student and community voice in decision-making.

In short, these challenges have led us to a glaring present reality in which most states that had P-20 councils in the late 1990s and early 2000s no longer have active councils. This leaves us with one crucial question: Does this reality indicate that the value of P-20 councils has run its course?

We believe, when designed well and positioned to help drive the state's strategic priorities, there remains significant promise in the value of P-20 councils.



Commonwealth Education Continuum @CEC_KY · Oct 26

Solyana Mesfin is a 2nd yr Woodford Porter & Muhammad Ali Scholar at @uofl. She served as the first student member on the KY Board of Ed & served on the KY Dept. of Ed. Commissioner Stu Advisory Council. Solyana is dedicated to ensuring equity while prioritizing student voice.



COUNCIL ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION, KENTUCKY EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT CABINET AND THE KENTUCKY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Resolution to establish the Commonwealth Continuum

WHEREAS, Kentucky is committed to equitable access to a high-quality education to ensure the educational development and success of all students; and

WHEREAS, despite progress, too many Kentuckians lack postsecondary credentials, and significant attainment gaps exist between underrepresented minority and white adults; and

WHEREAS, too few of Kentucky's high school graduates transition to and graduate from college; and

WHEREAS, early postsecondary opportunities such as dual credit help students earn low-cost college credits and prepare them for a postsecondary environment; and

WHEREAS, all students need strong advising, mentoring, outreach and support systems to navigate the sometimes difficult pathway between secondary and postsecondary education; and

WHEREAS, Kentucky's teachers and school leaders need access to high-quality, innovative training and ongoing professional development to prepare students for college - academically, socially, and emotionally;

WHEREAS, the Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) set a goal to increase the percentage of Kentuckians with a postsecondary credential to 60% by 2030; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the Commonwealth of Kentucky to meet or exceed this goal and increase four-year college degrees and create a highly-skilled workforce; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council on Postsecondary Education, the Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet, and the Kentucky Department of Education will join forces with other education policy leaders and practitioners to establish the Commonwealth Continuum. The Continuum will provide a forum for Kentucky's P-12 and postsecondary systems to work collaboratively to develop a high-quality, diverse educator workforce; provide student and family support for successful educational transitions; improve equitable access to higher education; strengthen preparation for career success; and improve awareness of postsecondary opportunities through a unified, state-level communication and outreach campaign.

Establishment of the Commonwealth Education Continuum

Kentucky's P-20 Council

The CEC was established January 2021. Since that time, we have accomplished the following:

- 1 of 8 states who have a P-20 council in the U.S.
- **Over 80% attendance** for all CEC quarterly meetings.
- The CEC has been nationally recognized as a model of state collaboration.
- Increased collaboration and awareness through social media with over **450 posts** relating to access and opportunities for students to continue their education.

Workgroups

- **Engaged over 1700 stakeholders** in workgroup membership, interviews, focus groups, and design teams.
- Convened **11 focused workgroups** and one ad-hoc data workgroup in four years.

Internal Evaluation/Continuous Improvement:

- 19 of the 28 members and three co-leads provided feedback on overall satisfaction and suggestions for improvement.

CEC Data Dashboard:

- The CEC Data Workgroup developed a data dashboard to monitor progress in real-time as it relates to the focus areas.

Mission/Vision Statements:

- The CEC co-wrote mission and vision statements to guide its work.

Workgroups

2021:

- Early Postsecondary Opportunities
- Educator Workforce
- Successful Transition to Postsecondary

2022:

- Ninth Grade On Track
- Access to Dual Credit
- Successful Gateway Course Completion

2023:

- Early Childhood Care and Education
- Data Workgroup

2024:

- K-16 Competency Skills Collaboration
- Postsecondary Advising
- Postsecondary Affordability
- Educator Workforce Strategies for Recruitment, Retention, and Support for Administrators



Financial Aid & Literacy

"When [students] get to us, a lot of deadlines have passed and they're scrambling. Providing them with a financial aid advisor during the admissions process as opposed to after they're admitted may help them."

- Higher Education Staff

"I have seen the students struggle with their financial status, how to receive more funding, and how they are going to tackle what aid doesn't cover. Students struggle to reach out for support before they are in crisis."

- Higher Education Staff

- Several students expressed concerns about how to pay for college and fear of debt.
- Counselors and higher education staff called for more information and support around financial aid, including the FAFSA and scholarships.
- They also called for financial literacy to be provided to students early and more often to empower them to better understand their financial decisions after high school (e.g. loans, credit, etc.).



College & Career Exposure

"At our school you have to take at least three years of a certain pathway, but you can't change it after freshman year. So if you get into a pathway that you might not want to do anymore, you can't change it. It would be helpful to explore other pathways and have an idea of other options."

- High School Student

"My daughter didn't really get to figure out what she wanted to do while in high school. I had to set up a job shadow opportunity for my child. Why didn't the high school help me?"

- Parent

- **EARLY EXPOSURE:** College and career conversations should start as early as pre-K or elementary school.
- **PATHWAYS:** School and college faculty often see specific pathways as a great way for students to get ahead and learn about a career. Some students like how their pathways give them a head start on college credits, but other students find pathways too restrictive.
- **SOFT SKILLS:** In addition to academic preparation, teachers and counselors see teaching students soft skills - like time management, self-advocacy, communication - as important parts of their role in preparing students for postsecondary.
- **INDIVIDUALIZED LEARNING PLANS:** ILPs have been completed out of compliance, but some schools are trying to leverage them for college & career exploration.

Key Accomplishments: Kentucky Advising Academy (KAA)

The KAA has **engaged over 80%** of Kentucky school districts through professional learning opportunities, webinars, and conferences.

- Co-created the **Kentucky Postsecondary Advising Framework** with school districts, postsecondary institutions, and state agencies.
- Hosts a monthly webinar on timely postsecondary advising topics. **The webinars have been viewed over 400 times** and 16 Kentucky postsecondary institutions and 6 school districts have helped to lead and share effective advising practices.
- Co-created a **College and Career Advising Online Toolkit** filled with resources for counselors and professionals working with students and families. **The toolkit has been accessed over 9,500 times.**
- Awarded over **\$500,000 in grants to Kentucky school districts** to incentivize increasing access to advising and opportunities for college and career planning.
- **Presented to over 15 state and national professional groups** including but not limited to: National College Attainment Network, Kentucky Counselors Association, Family Resources/Youth Service Center Coordinators, College Advisors, Kentucky College Admission Counseling, KHEAA Outreach Coordinators, Association for Career and Technical Education
- Established an Advising Community of Practice (CoP) with **23 members** representing postsecondary institutions, K-12 counselors/advisors, and supporting agencies and organizations to prioritize initiatives to support Kentucky students in receiving equitable access to postsecondary opportunities.

Key Accomplishments: Futuriti

- Futuriti is a website where Kentucky citizens can find information about careers, education, financial aid, and job opportunities
- The website is a project of the Commonwealth Education Continuum and was designed by the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE), the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE), and the Kentucky Center for Statistics.
- The website provides a way for Kentuckians to clearly see the high-demand jobs, helps them to plan ahead and take the classes they need to earn credentials required for these careers.
- Feedback and input on the site and its contents were provided by **1223 stakeholders** representing Kentucky groups, high school and college students, and career counselors.
- The site includes:
 - a. Job descriptions and wages for more than 700 careers;
 - b. Cost, completion and debt information on all public and private universities, community colleges, and technical schools in the Commonwealth;
 - c. A listing of the majors offered at Kentucky public and private universities;
 - d. All career pathways offered at each Kentucky high school and technical center.
- The website, **viewed by over 15,000 unique users since February 4**, has been and will continue to be promoted to Kentucky middle and high schools, as well as Kentucky Career Center and Adult Education offices.

Key Accomplishment: Dual Credit

- Revised the Dual Credit policy with significant stakeholder feedback and support from the CEC, including the **creation of the nation's first Dual Credit Attainment Goal: 50% of KY students graduating with at least one dual credit course** .
- Established a Dual Credit Community of Practice (COP) to convene a volunteer group of **60+ members from K-12, postsecondary, and state agencies**, to improve Kentucky's dual credit system and expand access to underrepresented students.
- **Since 2017, dual credit enrollment has increased by 65.7%, from 29,613 students to 49,076.**
- Co-created a **Early Postsecondary Opportunities Toolkit** with over 330 active users for high school and postsecondary partners to use to implement a highly effective and inclusive early postsecondary opportunities program. Hosts a monthly webinar highlighting effective partnerships and strategies for offering high school students the opportunity to experience college courses and prepare for postsecondary.
- **Awarded more than \$86,000 for 33 Dual Credit Bridge program grants** to participating institutions to strengthen the support for students as they engage in dual credit courses and the partner institution.
- **The General Assembly expanded the number from 2 to 4 general education dual credit classes and 10 technical education dual credit classes** funded by the Dual Credit Scholarship. In 2023, KHEAA disbursed \$12.33m for general education and \$8.12M for work ready dual credit scholarships. The KY General Assembly appropriated \$13,150,000 in lottery funds for 2023 to support this program.
- Professional development sessions for Hawaii Department of Education, KYACAC, the Kentucky Principals' Advisory Council, College in High School Alliance Professional Learning Network, Principal Partnership Project, and NACEP; and webinars, **with more than 1,100 participants** including middle school, high school, postsecondary and agency partners.

Key Accomplishment: FAFSA Completion

- KHEAA established a state-wide partnership team focused on expansion of FAFSA communications and increased completion rates.
- KHEAA shared web-based resources, onsite FAFSA face-to-face support locations, and training opportunities to help promote FAFSA completion.
- KAA and KHEAA Outreach collaborated to share resources and spread information to stakeholders for increased communication to students, families, and school staff for support.
- GearUp KY and KHEAA collaborated on a television commercial to promote FAFSA that has been played on public television **over 137,000 times** and continues to run.



Key Accomplishment: Summer Bridge

- **Over 1,200 students participated in 40 summer bridge programs at 27 institutions** in 2021 and 2022 and **enrolled** the following fall.
- Over 4 years, total grant awards to Kentucky's postsecondary institutions totaled approximately **\$6.5m**.
- Over half of the programs (21) had **higher fall-to-fall persistence rates** for summer bridge students compared to the overall freshman cohort for each year.
- KCTCS programs were especially effective, 12 of the 17 programs over the two years analyzed **had higher fall-to-fall persistence rates for summer bridge students than the overall freshman class**.
- **Higher persistence rates for academically underprepared students** than underprepared freshmen who did not participate in summer bridge.
- **Higher fall-to-fall persistence rates for low-income students** than for the overall freshman class.
- **Higher fall-to-fall persistence rates for underrepresented minority students** than for the overall freshman class.
- Six institutions **achieved over 85% persistence for summer bridge participants** during at least one year:
- **Summer bridge programs helped bring in an additional \$315,000 in tuition dollars in students' second year alone. The return on investment is likely even greater as students continue to persist and earn their degrees.**

Key Accomplishment: Educator Workforce

- Praxis Change: EPSB changed teacher certification candidate PRAXIS score eligibility from **5 to 10-years**.
- The University of Louisville offers the C4 Summer Bridge Program for recruitment and support of aspiring educators with a **97% retention rate**.
- Workgroup Report: The educator workforce work group completed extensive analysis of principal supports in Kentucky and completed a report detailing recommendations for schools, districts and the state related to principal preparation programs and ongoing professional support for aspiring, novice and experienced principals (USHCA)



CEC Coordination and Funding

The CEC is coordinated by Amanda Ellis and Robin Hebert, CPE, through the direction of the co-leads.

Funding Sources:

CEC Operations: CPE general funds and Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds provided by KDE.

KAA: GEER provided by Governor Beshear/Lt. Governor Coleman, ESSER (KDE), CPE

Futuriti: ESSER (KDE), CPE

Dual Credit/EPSO: GEER (Gov. Beshear/Lt. Coleman), ESSER (KDE), College in High School Alliance Grant

FAFSA: Federal Educational Credit Management Corporation (ECMC) grant

Summer Bridge: GEER (Gov. Beshear/Lt. Coleman), ESSER (KDE)

Educator Workforce: ESSER (KDE)



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Next Steps...