

2020 VISION: “Changing the Face of Education in Fayette County”
WORK GROUP: Early Childhood Experiences
FINAL REPORT

Superintendent Silberman and Board members:

As you read through this report you will find recommendations and steps to implementation that are focused on Fayette County Public Schools and the Early Care and Education Community in Lexington. However, much of what you will read has been, and will continue to be, recommended by other groups, as the research supporting the importance of quality Early Childhood Experiences is so strong. Three such groups that we will reference and incorporate in our report are Kentucky’s KIDS NOW Early Childhood Initiative (HB 706) 2000, The One Community One Voice Report 2003, and The Business Forum on Kentucky Education 2005.

Our work group was comprised of many early childhood professionals and parents of young children. Many of our members have more than 20 years experience in the field. Several have worked on the reports mentioned above. Our challenge was to outline both a vision for Fayette County Public School early childhood classrooms and the many early childhood programs in our community that also serve children who will be entering our public school system when they reach kindergarten age. To meet the challenge of addressing quality early care and education for all children we applied the KIDS NOW 20 year comprehensive plan, and the state early childhood standards to our public school setting and community programs. We included a collaborative component between the school system and the community. We have outlined steps to implementation in the areas of: facilities/environment, curriculum/standards, professional development, and communications/outreach for Fayette County Public Schools and Community Programs.

Researchers have found children who attend high-quality early childhood programs gain skills normally associated with greater brain development, such as problem solving, language, math, and literacy skills. They also gain other kinds of competencies such as self-control, a higher motivation for learning and social skills. Families benefit too as they access needed services, develop parenting skills, and participate in an atmosphere that promotes meaningful family involvement. Our 2020 vision is for all children in our community to have access to quality early education based on research.

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Committee Members

Community Leader: Alice Nelson, **Facilitator:** Sandy Canon, **FCPS Staff Leaders:** Mona Baker, Whitney Stevenson, Jennifer Polnisch, Bradley Stevenson, Tammy Spivey, Kim Townley, Jean Sabharwal, Annie Rooney French, Linda Dyk, Dawn Web, Robin Coston, Catherine Warner, Melissa Bright, Peggy Bright, Cathy Heath, Helen Bowles, Cheryl Dalton, Linda Robinson, Laura Curiel, Mark Hester, Mary Beth Hester, Cynthia S. Kay, Jon Parker, Lisa Stone, LaTanya Ford, Marva Taylor, Malcom Ratchford, Mary Hartsek, Krista Owens, Susan Prout, Amy Wills, Cynthia Pendergrast, Ty Sturdivant, April Wright

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VISION STATEMENT:

All young children in our community will have a quality early care and education experience that ensures educational and personal success.

Specific Recommendations:

1) Fayette County Public Schools moves from a K – 12 system to a Pre-K – 12 system.

- Pre-K will include state funded eligible children (3- and 4- year olds with disabilities and 4- year olds who meet free lunch criteria), children who are English Language Learners (ELL), and four-year-old children who meet reduced lunch criteria.
- Our long term goal is that a quality preschool program is available for all 3- and 4- year old children and their families in a public or private setting.

2) Fayette County Public Schools joins with the community in implementing the KIDS NOW 20-year comprehensive plan to ensure that all early care and education is of high quality and based on research.

- Our long term goal is to collaborate with community partners to maximize resources to provide high quality care and education to all children birth to five and their families.

Research Rationale for how this change will help kids:

- Shore, R. (1997). *Rethinking the Brain: New Insights into Early Development*.
- Schweinhart, L. J. & Weikart, D. P (1992). *Significant Benefits: The High/Scope Perry Preschool Study through Age 27*. Ypsilanti, MI: High/Scope Educational Research Foundation.
- KIDS NOW Evaluation Report 2002-03. University of Kentucky and University of Louisville.
- Bredekamp, S., & Copple, C. (Eds.), (1997) *Developmentally Appropriate Practice in Early Childhood Programs*; National Association for the Education of Young Children
- Harms, Clifford & Cryer (1998) *Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale Revised (ECERS-R)*
- Sandall, Hemmeter, Smith, & McLean (2005) Division for Early Childhood (DEC) of the Council for Exceptional Children: *DEC Recommended Practices, A comprehensive Guide for Practical Application in Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education*

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Implementation Steps for Recommendation # 1 (School — white) & #2 (Community – gray) <i>Italicized is for both school and community.</i>	People Responsible for Completing Steps	Possible Resources?	Start Date	End Date
<i>To Begin Implementation</i>				
Fayette County Public Schools will expand the existing Early Start Department into an Early Childhood Department. This department will focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing leadership on the 20/20 Vision outcomes • Facilities & Environment • The Kentucky Early Childhood Standards • Curriculum • Transitions • Connection to K-12 • Professional Development • Community Outreach & Communication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fayette County School Board • Superintendent • Community Partners will participate in the hiring process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing Early Childhood Department • Community Partners 	Aug. 2006	Dec. 2006
Community partners and agencies will collaborate with the FCPS Early Childhood Department to implement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing leadership on the 20/20 Vision outcomes • Facilities & Environment • The Kentucky Early Childhood Standards • Curriculum • Transitions • Connection to K-12 • Professional Development • Community Outreach & Communication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The newly instituted FCPS Early Childhood Department will work in collaboration with Community Partners to appoint a Steering Committee.* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FCPS Early Childhood Department • Community Partners 	Nov. 2006	May 2020

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<i>Facilities/Environment</i>				
Every elementary school has an Early Start classroom.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fayette County School Board • Superintendent • Elementary School Directors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fully funded state preschool program • FCPS Early Childhood Department 	Aug. 2006	May 2020
Each neighborhood school will partner with local providers in providing quality programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steering Committee • FCPS Early Childhood Department • Principal of neighborhood schools • Community Childcare Directors/Owners • Family Home Providers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Training Centers • Community Funded Grants • Family Resource Centers 	Aug. 2006	May 2020
Each classroom will achieve an average of 6 or above on the Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale-Revised (ECERS-R) and become nationally accredited.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FCPS Early Childhood Department 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Training Centers • University of Kentucky 	Aug. 2006	May 2020
Community childcare programs will achieve a STARS Level 4 and become nationally accredited.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University of Kentucky • Community/Program Directors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Care Council of Kentucky • Regional Training Centers • Community Action Council/Head Start • Community Funded Grants • Fayette County Community Early Childhood Council (FCCECC) 	Aug. 2006	May 2020

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<i>Facilities/Environment (continued)</i>				
All new elementary and major renovations of elementary schools will be planned to include an early childhood center. The center should have a minimum of 6 classrooms, appropriate restrooms, an office suite for special and related service workers, and a commons area which will include space and equipment for gross motor activities. This space would be maintained as an Early Childhood space. It may include pre-k and Kindergarten classes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fayette County School Board • Superintendent • Physical Support Services • FCPS Early Childhood Department • Long Range Plan Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bonding Capacity • KDE/KBE • Outside Contributions 	Jan. 2006	May 2020
Community programs will move toward updating existing facilities or building new facilities in order to achieve a national accreditation and 4 STAR rating.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community/Program Directors/Owners • Steering Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Foundations • Private Funding • State Funding • Grants • Fayette County Community Early Childhood Council (FCCECC) 	Aug. 2007	May 2020
<i>Appropriate adjacent outdoor space and equipment will be available for children with and without disabilities that meets American Playground Association standards. .</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Fayette County School Board</i> • <i>Superintendent</i> • <i>Physical Support Services</i> • <i>FCPS Early Childhood Department</i> • <i>Community/Program Directors/Owners</i> • <i>Steering Committee</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>State Preschool Funds</i> • <i>Outside Contributions</i> • <i>Community Support</i> • <i>Grants</i> 	<i>Aug. 2006</i>	<i>May 2020</i>

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<i>Curriculum/Standards</i>				
Fayette County Public Schools implement the adopted Kentucky Early Childhood Standards in all Early Start Classrooms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FCPS Early Childhood Department • Early Start Teachers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KDE • University of Kentucky • Regional Training Centers 	Aug. 2006	Fully implemented Aug. 2007
Community programs will adopt and implement the Kentucky Early Childhood Standards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steering Committee supported by the FCPS Early Childhood Department 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FCPS Early Childhood Department • KDE • University of Kentucky • Child Care Council • Regional Training Centers 	Feb. 2007	May 2020
All Early Start Classrooms will implement developmentally appropriate instruction in the areas of Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Health Education, Physical Education, Music, Arts and Humanities that is supported by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum/Scheduling • Staffing • Materials/Equipment • Facilities • World Language Study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FCPS Early Childhood Department • Early Start Staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FCPS Professional Development Department • FCPS Early Childhood Department • Grants • Regional Training Centers • Child Care Council of Kentucky 	Aug. 2006	May 2020
Community Early Childhood Programs will implement developmentally appropriate instruction in the areas of Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Health Education, Physical Education, Music, and Arts and Humanities that is supported by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum/Scheduling • Staffing • Materials/Equipment • Facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steering Committee supported by the FCPS Early Childhood Department 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FCPS Early Childhood Department • Grants • Regional Training Centers • Child Care Council of Kentucky • University of Kentucky • FCCECC 	<i>Feb. 2007</i>	May 2020

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Language Study 				
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<i>Curriculum/Standards (continued)</i>				
Community Infant-Toddler Programs will implement developmentally appropriate instruction in the areas of Communication, Cognition, Social-Emotional, Motor, and Creative Expression instruction that is supported by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curriculum/Scheduling Staffing Materials/Equipment Facilities World Language Study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steering Committee supported by the FCPS Early Childhood Department 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FCPS Early Childhood Department First Steps Grants Regional Training Centers Child Care Council of Kentucky FCCECC University of Kentucky 	<i>Feb. 2007</i>	May 2020
All Early Start Classrooms will implement a continuous assessment system that includes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screening Diagnostic Classroom/Instructional which will measure child progress and improve instruction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FCPS Early Childhood Department Early Start Staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FCPS Early Childhood Department Grants Kentucky Department of Education University of Kentucky Regional Training Centers 	Aug. 2006	May 2020
Community Early Childhood Programs will implement a continuous assessment system that includes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screening Diagnostic Classroom/Instructional which will measure child progress and improve instruction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steering Committee supported by the FCPS Early Childhood Department 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FCPS Early Childhood Department Grants Kentucky Department of Education University of Kentucky Regional Training Centers 	Aug. 2007	May 2020

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<i>Curriculum/Standards (continued)</i>				
All Early Start classrooms will include parent/family involvement. Parents will serve in the roles of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporter • Teacher • Advocate • Decision Maker 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FCPS Early Childhood Department • Elementary School Principals • Early Start Staff • Parents/Families 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FCPS Early Childhood Department • Prichard Committee Center for Parent Leadership • Grants • Family Resource Centers • Community employers will support parent involvement 	Aug 2006	May 2020
Community Early Childhood programs will include parent/family involvement. Parents will serve in the roles of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporter • Teacher • Advocate • Decision Maker 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steering Committee supported by the Early Childhood Department • Community Early Childhood Program Directors & Staff • Parents/Families 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FCPS Early Childhood Department • Prichard Committee Center for Parent Leadership • Grants • Community Action Council (Head Start) • Community Employers will support parent involvement 	Feb. 2007	May 2020
<i>A written Transition Plan exists that when implemented assures the smooth movement of children and families from one setting to another. Transition is a process, not an event.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>FCPS Early Childhood Department</i> • <i>Early Start Staff</i> • <i>Steering Committee supported by the FCPS Early Childhood Department</i> • <i>Community Early Childhood Directors & Staff</i> • <i>Parents/Families</i> • <i>Kindergarten Teachers</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Prichard Committee Starting Strong Institute</i> • <i>Project First Steps</i> • <i>Kentucky Early Childhood Transition Project</i> • <i>FCCECC</i> 	<i>Aug. 2006</i> <i>Aug. 2007</i>	<i>May 2020</i>

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<i>Professional Development</i>				
<i>FCPS partner with other community early childhood providers in offering training among FCPS and community early childhood providers and families.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>FCPS Early Childhood Dept.</i> • <i>It’s About Kids Support Services (IAKSS)</i> • <i>Child Care Council</i> • <i>Community Action Council</i> • <i>UK</i> • <i>Prichard Committee</i> • <i>Other training entities</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Early Learning Opportunities Act Grant (ELOA)</i> • <i>Early Childhood mini-grants</i> • <i>Public Library</i> • <i>Kentucky Association for Early Childhood Education</i> • <i>Kentucky Department of Education</i> • <i>Regional Training Centers</i> • <i>Family Resource and Youth Service Centers (FRYSC).</i> 	<i>Jan. 2007</i>	<i>May 2020</i>
<i>FCPS partner with other community early childhood providers in offering training among FCPS and community early childhood providers and families.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>FCPS Early Childhood Dept.</i> • <i>IAKSS</i> • <i>Child Care Council</i> • <i>Community Action Council</i> • <i>UK/IHDI</i> • <i>Other training entities</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>ELOA</i> • <i>Early Childhood mini-grants</i> • <i>Public Library</i> • <i>KAECE</i> • <i>KDE</i> • <i>RTC</i> • <i>FRYCS</i> 	<i>Jan. 2007</i>	<i>May 2020</i>

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<i>Professional Development (continued)</i>				
Principals, school leaders, primary teachers receive Professional Development on developmentally appropriate practices in early childhood education.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Superintendent • Steering Committee • FCPS Early Childhood Dept. • FCPS Elementary Directors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FCPS 	Summer 2006	May 2020
Owners, directors and board members of community child care facilities will receive professional development on developmentally appropriate practices in early childhood education.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steering Committee • Community Early Childhood Program Directors/Owners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media Resources • Child Care Council • FCCECC • Community Action Council (Head Start) 	Summer 2006	May 2020
<i>Fayette County Public School teachers and community early childhood teachers receive on-going job-imbedded professional development in early childhood related topics.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>KTIP</i> • <i>FCPS Early Childhood Dept.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>ESL Office</i> • <i>RTC</i> • <i>Collaborative Funding</i> • <i>Child Care Council</i> • <i>FCCECC</i> • <i>Early Reading</i> • <i>KDE Academies</i> 	Aug. 2006	May 2020
<i>Fayette County Public School teachers and community early childhood teachers receive on-going job-imbedded professional development in their work settings.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>KTIP</i> • <i>Steering Committee</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>RTC</i> • <i>Collaborative Funding</i> • <i>FCCECC</i> • <i>Child Care Council</i> • <i>KDE Academies</i> • <i>Directors</i> 	Aug. 2006	May 2020

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<i>Professional Development (continued)</i>				
FCPS teachers will receive PD on transitioning children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FCPS Early Childhood Dept. • Elementary Schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transitiononestop.org • Special Ed Dept. • KDE – KCMP (KY Continuously Monitoring Plan) • Elementary Directors 	Jan. 2007	May 2020
FCPS will collaborate with community child care centers/preschools to facilitate children’s transitions to public and private programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steering Committee • Community • FCCECC • FCPS Early Childhood Dept. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transitiononestop.org • Directors • ELOA Grant 	Jan. 2007	May 2020
Early Start teachers will receive professional development on Kindergarten curriculum and expectations of the public school system. (i.e. Program of Studies)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FCPS Early Childhood Dept. • Elementary Schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K-3 teacher/local schools • Principals • Elementary Directors • KDE 	Aug. 2006	May 2020
All 4 and 5 yr old teachers in community based early childhood programs will receive professional development on Kindergarten curriculum and expectations of the public school system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FCPS Early Childhood Dept. • Child Care Council • Head Start/CAC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K-3 teacher/local schools • Principals • KDE 	Aug. 2007	May 2020

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<i>Professional Development (continued)</i>				
All assistant teachers (and other classroom aides) will have a minimum of a CDA by 2008 and an AA in early childhood related fields by 2020.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fayette County Early Childhood Dept. • Steering Committee • Possibly Child Care Council (teaches CDA) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KIDS NOW Scholarship program • KCTCS • KHEAA 	Aug. 2006	CDA: Dec. 2008 AA: Dec. 2020
All assistant teachers (and other classroom aides) will have a minimum of a CDA by 2011 and an AA in early childhood related fields by 2020.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steering Committee • Head Start • Child Care Council (teaches CDA) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incentives for child care centers • KIDS NOW Scholarship program • KCTCS • KHEAA 	Aug. 2006	CDA: Dec. 2011 AA: Dec. 2020

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<i>Communications/Outreach/Liaison</i>				
<i>Regular meetings of the Steering Committee will track progress for 20/20 plan.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Steering Committee</i> • <i>FCPS Early Childhood Dept.</i> 		<i>Nov. 2006</i>	<i>May 2020</i>
<i>FCPS will begin a publicity campaign educating the general public on the importance of early childhood via PSA’s, brochures, ads, websites, billboards, etc.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>FCPS Early Childhood Department</i> • <i>Steering Committee</i> • <i>Success By Six</i> 	<i>FCPS Communication Department Community Media Business Community</i>	<i>Aug. 2007</i>	<i>May 2020</i>
<i>FCPS partners with early childhood community to establish a unified preschool to school transition.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Steering Committee</i> • <i>ELOA</i> 	<i>Kentucky Early Childhood Transition Project</i>	<i>Aug. 2007</i>	<i>May 2020</i>
<i>FCPS supports parent outreach and in-home education to ensure success in school.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>FCPS</i> • <i>Steering Committee</i> • <i>ELOA</i> 	<i>FRYSC First Steps HIPPIE Program</i>	<i>Aug. 2007</i>	<i>May 2020</i>
<i>FCPS partners with the community to ensure equal access to training and professional development to all early childhood providers.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>FCPS</i> • <i>Child Care Council</i> • <i>Fayette County Community Early Childhood Council</i> • <i>Community Action Council</i> 	<i>ELOA Grant Foundations</i>	<i>Jan. 2007</i>	<i>May 2020</i>
<i>Increase collaboration in the development of new programs. i.e. – grant writing, fundraising, new initiatives.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>FCPS</i> • <i>Steering Committee</i> • <i>Child Care Council</i> • <i>Community Action Council</i> • <i>Other grant writers</i> 		<i>Jan. 2007</i>	<i>May 2020</i>
<i>Create and implement a plan to ensure pay and benefit equity across early childhood programs.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>FCPS</i> • <i>Steering Committee</i> 		<i>Aug. 2008</i>	<i>May 2020</i>
<i>Utilize all community leaders and establish a yearly Early Childhood Summit</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Steering Committee</i> 		<i>Aug. 2006</i>	<i>May 2020</i>
<i>An early childhood resource directory, website, United Way 211 call center will be available for all needing information related to early childhood.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Steering Committee</i> • <i>United Way</i> • <i>ELOA</i> 		<i>Aug. 2006</i>	<i>May 2020</i>

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***Possible Steering Committee Members:**

Child Care Council

Child Care Providers

Community Action Council (Head Start)

Fayette County Community Early Childhood Council

Lexington Fayette Urban County Government

FCPS Early Childhood Department: Department Chair or Early Childhood Department Staff Member, Early Start Teachers, School Director

First Steps

Health Department

KDE/Division of Early Childhood Development

Lexington Fayette Urban County Government

One Community, One Voice

Parents

Private Pre-Schools

Success by Six/United Way

UK Early Childhood Department

- One idea is that there is a rotating service schedule so that there are always current members and new members.