

**2020 VISION: “*Changing the Face of Education in Fayette County*”**

**WORK GROUP: *Connecting to the World***

**FINAL REPORT**

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**Number of Specific Recommendations:   5**

## **Research rationale for how the Connecting to the World recommendations will help kids:**

- The Kentucky Senate Concurrent Resolution 142 on International Education was passed in March 2001, stating:  
*Section 1: The Kentucky Board of Education is urged to encourage its students, teachers, administrators, and educational policy makers to participate in international study and educational exchange programs and other activities that advance cultural awareness and promote mutual understanding and respect for citizens of other countries.*  
*Section 2: The Department of Education is urged to identify international opportunities for learning, education exchange programs, and the availability of curriculum materials and provide information to local district that will increase the awareness of Kentucky educators and students of other cultures, languages, economies, and systems of government.*  
The Kentucky International Education Summit, held in October 2003, was one response to that resolution, and the Kentucky Virtual International High School, due to open in fall 2006, is another.  
**We think Fayette County students, teachers, and administrators can lead the state in taking advantage of international opportunities for learning and using curriculum with a global perspective.**
- Kentucky had the fourth highest rate of export growth among all 50 states in the 1990's. On a per capita basis, our state is in the top ten in terms of exports and is the only state in that group without a major port of entry or border with Canada or Mexico. Canada is Kentucky's largest foreign market, followed by Japan, United Kingdom, France, and Mexico. Two of the often cited New Cities Foundation's twelve principles are Connect to the World and Buy Locally, Sell Globally.  
**We challenge Fayette County Public Schools to prepare young people for this international marketplace.**
- In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, globalization – the acceleration and intensification of interaction and integration among the peoples, governments, and companies of the different nations – is a fact of life, with both advantages and disadvantages. Some say we live in a global village. In his #1 bestseller *The World is Flat*, New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman describes a world “flattened” because of technology. He states that in the future young people in the United States will have to compete and collaborate in innovations and discoveries with new players all over the world.  
**We want Fayette County to put the world in a world class education.**
- Research (as listed in Background Reading below) says that international experiences and a global education make a difference. Students and teachers gain substantive knowledge and perceptual understanding. They develop cross-cultural friendships and become cultural mediators.  
**We believe a world class education includes the participation of Fayette County students, teachers, and administrators in both international experiences and an internationalized curriculum.**

**Suggested background reading for all recommendations:**

“A classroom as big as the world” in *The Christian Science Monitor*, May 10, 2005.

Thomas L. Friedman, *The World is Flat, A Brief History of the Twenty-first Century*. New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2005.

William Gaudelli, *World Class, Teaching and Learning in Global Times*. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, 2003.

Carrol Joy and Willard M. Kniep, Ed. *The International Development Crisis and American Education*. New York: Global Perspectives in Education, 1987.

Sharon Lynn Kagan and Vivien Stewart, Special Section on International Education: “Putting the World into World Class Education,” *Phi Delta Kappan*, November 2004.

Nel Noddings, Ed. *Educating Citizens for Global Awareness*. New York: Teachers College Press, 2005.

Merry M. Merryfield and Angene Wilson, *Social Studies and the World, Teaching Global Perspectives*. Washington, DC: National Council for the Social Studies Bulletin 103, 2005.

*Preparing Citizens for a Global Community*, [www.socialstudies.org/positions/global/](http://www.socialstudies.org/positions/global/)

“The World in the Classroom,” Theme Issue. *Educational Leadership*, October 2002.

Angene Hopkins Wilson, *The Meaning of International Experience for Schools*. Westport, CT: Praeger, 1003.

**Group Recommendation Number: 1**

**Specific Recommendation:**

**Establish an Office of International Education (OIE) at It's About Kids Support Services that would include a resource center, database, website, and listserv. The OIE will act as a clearinghouse for international experiences for students, teachers, and administrators and will organize and support such experiences as well as professional development, curriculum development, and community efforts to internationalize our schools.**

<b>Implementation Steps for Recommendation # 1</b>	<b>Person Responsible for Completing Steps</b>	<b>Possible Resources?</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>End Date</b>
1. Establish office.	Superintendent, Board	FCPS	6/2006	
2. Hire director who might also be social studies consultant for district.	Superintendent	FCPS	6/2006	
3. Gather information about current international experiences, programs, curriculum.	OIE	FCPS	7&8/2006	
4. Inform students, teachers and administrators about existing opportunities through website, listserv, and encourage taking advantage of those opportunities	OIE	Global TeachNet listserv, Fulbright, NCSS, etc.	9-12/2006	ongoing
5. Support current exchanges, trips and organize new virtual and real school exchanges.	OIE	FCPS, community	9-12/2006	ongoing
6. Involve community groups to create local/global exchanges.	OIE	FCPS, community such as Sister Cities.	9/2006	ongoing
7. Help plan professional development and curriculum development to internationalize the curriculum.	OIE, schools	Teachers, UK	2006-2007	ongoing

**Group Recommendation Number: 2**

**Specific Recommendation:**

**Make international study/travel/exchange/world language experience an expectation for all teachers and administrators in hiring and/or professional development and award two \$1000 scholarships to two different teachers and/or administrators at each school each year to undertake such experiences.**

<b>Implementation Steps for Recommendation # 2</b>	<b>Person Responsible for Completing Steps</b>	<b>Possible Resources?</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>End Date</b>
1. Allocate and raise money.	Superintendent, OIE	FCPS PD money, foundation, international business	8/2006	ongoing
2. Inform teachers/administrators about scholarships.	OIE	FCPS	fall/2006	ongoing
3. Administer awarding of scholarships	OIE	FCPS	3/2007	ongoing
4. Receive reports of required follow-up activities such as curriculum development, school inservice, community presentations.	OIE	FCPS	9/2007	ongoing

**Group Recommendation Number: 3**

**Specific Recommendation:**

**Require professional development for teachers to internationalize their curriculum.**

<b>Implementation Steps for Recommendation # 3</b>	<b>Person Responsible for Completing Steps</b>	<b>Possible Resources?</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>End Date</b>
1. Plan both county-wide and school-based professional development. Examples:	OIE, schools.	Internationally experienced teachers, UK	8/2006	ongoing
a) encouraging elementary teachers to teach reading and writing using a broader representation of stories and themes that mirror the diversity of world cultures and include geography.	OIE, schools	Teachers, UK, Lee and Low Books.	Summer 2007	
b) showing elementary teachers how to infuse a global perspective in social studies.	OIE, schools	Teachers, UK	Summer 2007	
c) challenging middle and high school world history teachers to convey a bird's eye sense of the shape of all human history and to share ideas about ways to make their courses truly global.			Summer 2007	
2. Fund teachers and administrators to attend regional, national, and international conferences that relate to global education.	OIE pass on information about conferences	PD money International Studies Schools Association, National Council for the Social Studies.	2007	
3. Work with UK to help internationalize preservice teacher education.	OIE, UK		Spring 2007	

**Group Recommendation Number: 4**

**Specific Recommendation:**

**Plan K-12 curriculum development with a global perspective.**

<b>Implementation Steps for Recommendation # 4</b>	<b>Person Responsible for Completing Steps</b>	<b>Possible Resources?</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>End Date</b>
1. Connect classes in each school virtually with students in other parts of the world.	K-12 teachers	iEARN, Sister Cities, Peace Corps WorldWide Schools	Fall 2006	ongoing
2. Develop service learning with an international orientation.	K-12 teachers	Ashley Barbour, Henry Clay High School., community partnerships.	Spring 2007	
3. Experiment with use of world languages in assignments other than language classes.	OIE, World Language teachers		Spring 2007	
4. Support International Baccalaureate Program at Tates Creek High School and encourage students to apply to that program and to the Kentucky Virtual International High School.	Tates Creek High School, KDE		Fall 2007, Fall 2006	
5. Infuse global issues into existing social studies and other curriculum and offer Global Issues elective at high schools.	High School social studies departments	Amy Galloway, Tates Creek; Becky Johnson, Bryan Station High Schools	Fall 2006	
6. Organize international/cross-cultural business/non-profit organization opportunities for Experience Based Career Education students.	OIE, EBCE		Fall 2006	
7. Encourage passport application and voter registration for all high school seniors.	OIE, schools		Spring 2007	

**Group Recommendation Number: 5**

**Specific Recommendation:**

**Involve the community in multicultural activities to increase cross-cultural understanding and respect for all citizens.**

<b>Implementation Steps for Recommendation # 5</b>	<b>Person Responsible for Completing Steps</b>	<b>Possible Resources?</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>End Date</b>
1. Offer ESL and world language classes for adults in the schools.	ESL, world language teachers, volunteers	FCPS, Library, Operation Read, BCTCS	Fall 2006	ongoing
2 Utilize ESL student parents and other international adults/parents as resources.	OIE, schools	Community groups such as Bluegrass Indo-American Civic Group	Spring 2007	ongoing
3. Offer diversity training for FCPS staff, parents.	OIE	UK, Transylvania, BCTCS, NCCJ	Fall 2007	
4. Connect each school with a local international organization	OIE, schools	Sister Cities, youth exchange groups, business	Fall 2007	ongoing
5. Reinvigorate International Classroom, utilizing international students as speakers, language mentors.	K-12 teachers, UK Office of International Affairs/Kay Roberts/Asia Center	UK	Fall 2006	ongoing
6. Educate parents through PTA's with programs about how the world is changing and how this affects education.	OIE, 16 <sup>th</sup> District PTA	Asia Society video	Fall 2006 Spring 2007	