

PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL ISSUES RECOMMENDATIONS

The Commissioner's Parents Advisory Council (CPAC), a group formed to advise the state commissioner of education on policy issues, has issued a set of recommendations to improve family and community involvement in Kentucky's public schools.

The recommendations were presented to Interim Education Commissioner Kevin Noland September 27, 2007 at CPAC's regular meeting in Frankfort. The council's goal is for Kentucky to become the first state in the nation to set a standard for family and community involvement that is focused on student achievement.

In January 2007, CPAC developed a document called the *Kentucky Family and Community Involvement Guide to Student Achievement*. The guide outlined six objectives to help parents and other adults support student achievement:

- **Relationship-Building:** School staff build productive, personal relationships with students' parents.
- **Communications:** Two-way information flows regularly between school staff and parents about students' academic achievement and individual needs.
- **Decision-Making:** School staff encourage, support and expect parents to be involved in school improvement monitoring and decisions.
- **Advocacy:** School staff identify and support a parent or other adult who takes personal responsibility for a child's learning needs.
- **Learning Opportunities:** School staff ensure that families have opportunities to support children's learning.
- **Community Partnerships:** School staff partner with community members to improve student achievement.

CPAC recommends that the Kentucky Department of Education take four major actions to implement these objectives:

- Set high expectations, measure performance and report progress, using the *Kentucky Family and Community Involvement Guide to Student Achievement* as an audit tool.
- Help schools improve relationship-building and communications by adopting

“customer satisfaction” training modules for school districts, making involvement data available publicly and establishing community involvement advisory councils at school, district and state levels.

- Provide resources and support through recognition of local achievement, research materials and training.
- Build capacity through professional development for parents, teachers, school officials and the community.

Interim Commissioner Noland will share the recommendations with Department of Education staff and the Kentucky Board of Education.

The Commissioner’s Parent Advisory Council was formed in 1999. Its 37 members are selected by the commissioner of education and represent ethnic, gender and geographic diversity. The group meets four times a year in Frankfort.