

Kentucky Leadership Networks Year 2 Overview

The Kentucky Leadership Networks are designed for **CAPACITY BUILDING**. Based upon a 'senate' or equal representation model, participating members share and develop strategies, ideas, and resources that can be used to help all in the implementation of KCAS within the context of highly effective teaching, learning, and assessment practices.

During year one, participants at all levels were **introduced** to the new KCAS, spent time analyzing and interpreting them in terms of acceptable evidence of student achievement, and began to **develop a foundation** for implementing them within the context of the Characteristics of Highly Effective Teaching and Learning, along with assessment literacy.

In year two, the focus will be to **implement/support the implementation** of the KCAS through the use of aligned instructional practices and assessments. **ALL** in the Teacher Leader networks will need to TRY OUT instructional and assessment strategies BETWEEN meetings—in classrooms WITH students. **ALL school/district leaders** will need to share and develop strategies and resources for supporting teachers as they are implementing rigorous and congruent learning experiences and assessments, along with ideas for removing barriers.

Listed below are the original goals/deliverables of the networks. The **bolded items** will be especially emphasized in year 2:

- understand the intent/meaning of Kentucky's Core Academic Standards and implications for courses, instruction, and resources (July 2010 and ongoing)
- break down or deconstruct Kentucky's Core Academic Standards into clear learning targets (August to December 2010)
- **design high-quality formative and summative assessments and utilize resulting data effectively to improve teaching and learning (January 2011 and ongoing)**
- **plan rigorous and congruent learning experiences for instruction (January 2011 and ongoing)**
- **select evidence-based strategies and resources to enhance instruction (January 2011 and ongoing)**
- work collaboratively within and across networks to populate an online repository for instructional resources (i.e., learning targets and progressions, **sample aligned units and assessments, common formative and summative assessments** based on Kentucky's Core Academic Standards) for all Kentucky teachers/leaders to access (December 2010 and ongoing)
- utilize provided resources, tools, protocols and other items in schools and districts to facilitate all aspects of this work (July 2010 and ongoing)
- support other educators in their district as they do these same processes via professional learning communities (September 2010 and ongoing)

In order to achieve greater coherence in messages and support for this critical implementation year, a few changes are being made in response to the feedback we have received in year one. First, we ask that all participants *re-evaluate their commitment to this work*. Year 2 will require that ALL spend time in classrooms with students trying out new strategies and tasks. Even those that do not have their own

classrooms will be expected to partner with teachers that do so that they are able to effectively contribute.

Next, we are reorganizing the Instructional Support Leadership Network (ISLN) to include **BOTH SCHOOL AND DISTRICT** leaders—and those meetings will occur within the cooperative regions as have the Content Leadership Networks. Combining the school and district leaders will allow for more practical and deeper conversations about implementation and necessary support strategies. The Regional Content Specialists will be on the facilitation team for all of these meetings to ensure that school and district leaders are getting a complete picture of what the teacher leaders are being asked to learn and do. Additionally, in order to build more local capacity, the cooperatives will be seeking additional facilitators that are both familiar with the region and that have experience as school/district leaders. The meetings for the ISLN will be shortened to ½ day meetings, with the option to stay longer and work directly with the content specialists/other facilitators as a district team. *(KLA will continue to offer complementary support to other administrators that are members.)*

We ask that you keep in mind that each district's Network participants should include:

- 3 ELA Teacher Leaders
- 3 Mathematics Teacher Leaders
- 3 School Level Administrators
- 3 District Level Administrators
- **Superintendents are always invited to participate in any of the meetings.*

Finally, we are excited to announce that we have received funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to utilize Literacy and Mathematics tasks/lessons that are aligned to the standards and that emphasize our Characteristics of Highly Effective Teaching and Learning, particularly formative assessment processes. Teacher leaders will be provided opportunities to learn about these engaging and rigorous tasks/lessons and then *implement them in their own classrooms*, as well as look at the design features so that they can 'screen' other tasks/lessons or possibly design some new ones using those features. Likewise, the school and district leaders will be focusing on supporting all teachers to be more effective in their practice around such learning experiences.