Abstract Narrative

Project Title: KYONLINE - Kentucky's K-12 Expanded Online Course Access Program

Absolute Priority: Statewide Virtual Learning and Course Access Programs

The primary goal for this project is to provide more access to high-quality online and virtual courses for Kentuckys' K-12 public school students by establishing a sustainable Networked Improvement Community (NIC (Bryk et al., 2015).

Key project objectives and activities for establishing the Kentucky Online and Virtual Schools NIC include; 1) Development of a Research Practitioner Partnership (RPP) to define a common aim of quality assurance and support needs of Kentucky teachers (pre-service and in-service) (Coburn & Penuel, 2016), 2) Bringing together relevant and necessary partners from academia, public education, state education stakeholders, education co-operatives, and community support organizations, 3) Provide training for network participants, 4) Develop goals and objectives to prepare additional funding and policy recommendations as well as revise promising practices for integration of online and virtual teaching.

Key uses of grant funds to support the project include; 1) Online program, course and teaching quality assurance development (including the establishment of A5 programs/ schools, 2) Teacher onboarding and professional learning and distance learning credentialing, 3) Content/course development, and vetting as outlined by the KY Digital Learning Guidelines, 4) Expansion of school offerings through program development, 5) Partner engagement.

Partners in the grant project are further being developed to expand the offerings and effectiveness of the NIC. Kentucky's education cooperatives, institutions of higher education, Kentucky Education Television, Barren Academy of Virtual and Expanded Learning (BAVEL), AdvanceKY, and the Kentucky Science Center are in discussions currently to offer assistance in their area of expertise to further the project goals (including content development).