

# **KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

## **STAFF NOTE**

### **Review Item:**

Status Update on State Management in the Breathitt County School District and Monticello Independent School District

### **Applicable Statute or Regulation:**

KRS 158.780, KRS 158.785 and 703 KAR 3:205

### **History/Background:**

#### *Breathitt County School District Status Update*

On December 5, 2012, the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) approved Breathitt County School District to be designated as a state managed district, with regular status updates to follow.

Some highlights of key areas in the Breathitt County School District are as follows:

- ✓ *Student Attendance:* This has improved significantly.
  - District attendance for April 2012 was 89.2
  - District attendance for April 2013 was 92.18%
  - District attendance is currently at 92.09% for May 2013 (School was not in session for May 2012 due to being dismissed early).
- ✓ *District Finance:* The district has decreased its expenditures by approximately \$900,000 to date.
- ✓ *District Facilities:* The District Facility Plan is on schedule to be presented for the June KBE Meeting.
- ✓ *District Personnel:* The district has reviewed personnel rolls and taken the appropriate action to reduce some areas while combining others to improve efficiency.

Also, attached is the “BCS May 2013 Report” which provides detailed information about the status of the corrective action planning process in the Breathitt County School District.

#### *Monticello Independent School District Status Update*

On February 20, 2013, the KBE approved Monticello Independent School District to be designated a state managed district, with regular status updates to follow.

Under the joint leadership of State Manager Jim Hamm and Superintendent John Dalton, the Monticello Independent School District and the Wayne County School District were able to successfully negotiate a merger agreement. The merged school district will become effective on

July 1, 2013. A copy of the merger agreement is attached to this staff note.

Some highlights of the merger process include:

- ✓ *District Facilities:* A mutually acceptable school configuration was reached, with the old Monticello Independent High School being transformed into the merged district's elementary school for all children.
- ✓ *District Personnel:* Wayne County was able to give contracts to ALL Monticello tenured staff and ALL Monticello status classified staff as of July 1, 2013.
- ✓ *Student Achievement:* ACT composite scores in the Monticello Independent School District went up by at least 2.5 points for this year, demonstrating that the students in Monticello are able learners even in the most tumultuous of circumstances.

Also, attached is the "Monticello Spring 2013 Report" which provides detailed information about the status of the corrective action planning process in the Monticello Independent School District.

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**Commissioner of Education**

**Date:**

June 2013