

**Commissioner's Report  
June 5, 2013 Kentucky Board of Education Meeting  
Commissioner Terry Holliday**

**Update on ACT Online End-of-Course Testing**

In 2012, 34% or 59,755 students were successfully tested with the ACT online system. Because of the immediate results and other changes to the end-of-course (EOC) assessments, there was an increased interest in the online testing in 2013. 65% of schools were planning to use online testing in 2013. Over 10,000 students successfully tested throughout the 2012-13 school year prior to April 29.

The problem arose when from April 29 to May 3, ACT ran into significant capacity issues while trying to handle online testing from high schools in Alabama, Ohio, and Kentucky. ACT informed KDE on May 3 that they were shutting down the online system to make repairs. KDE decided to require all schools to move to a paper version of the test.

The impact of this situation is as follows. Some schools were allowed to complete their tests using the repaired online system starting on May 8. These schools either had partially completed tests in the online system, severe scheduling issues or problems with delivery of paper tests. Approximately 2,000 students in 30 schools are known to have had interrupted online test sessions, but were able to complete the tests. Schools converting from online tests to paper administration experienced challenges rescheduling. Local grading policies were reviewed for impact. Some schools revised policies or delayed grade reports. Approximately 100% of high school students completed ACT Quality Core tests in the online system or with paper.

Relative to accountability, KDE, HumRRO and ACT psychometricians will evaluate the impact of the testing problems on scores for individual students and schools. KDE will make appropriate adjustments to the accountability scores for the affected schools and will contact district staff as this process evolves.

Decisions will have to be made in the future on the contractual impact for the 2013 testing program and the contractual impact for the 2013-14 school year.

**EPSB in Collaboration with KDE and CPE Applying for CCSSO Grant**

In 2012, a Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) chiefs task force, led by former President Tom Luna of Idaho and Vice-Chair Terry Holliday, released a set of recommendations and action steps for states to use to transform educator preparation and entry into the profession. CCSSO was recently awarded funding to select 8-10 states that are willing to pilot the implementation of all ten of the recommendations contained in the report as well as work on policy issues that require collective state action. This pilot will be conducted over a minimum of two years and there will be financial support (in the form of sub-grants).

The Education Professional Standards Board in collaboration with the Kentucky Department of Education and Council on Postsecondary Education is preparing an application for this comprehensive effort to transform educator preparation and entry into the profession. The completed applications are due on Friday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00 p.m. EDT.

**Commissioner's Next-Generation Student Advisory Council Members to Attend KBE Meeting**

I have a number of advisory groups to assist me in gathering input on key education issues. Among them is the Next-Generation Student Advisory Council. This Council advises me on issues relevant to high school students throughout the state. The council includes 11 members, representing geographic and ethnic diversity in grades 10-12. The Council meets at least quarterly, one face-to-face meeting per year and Web-based meetings.

Some of the Council members will be attending the June 5 Kentucky Board of Education meeting and I will be introducing them during my report. Those individuals are:

- Vincent Cao, Paul Laurence Dunbar High School (Fayette County)
- David Hormell, Martha Layne Collins High School (Shelby County)
- Guyron Spalding, Bardstown High School (Bardstown Independent)
- Iman Ali, Pikeville High School (Pikeville Independent)