

KENTUCKY BOARD of EDUCATION
October 8, 2013
Report from the Secretary
Education and Workforce Development Cabinet

Kentucky Workforce Investment Board

The Kentucky Workforce Investment Board (KWIB) continues to oversee implementation of the WORKSmart Kentucky Plan and in August approved an update to the plan which brings a new focus on Entrepreneurship and Apprenticeship, both of which will involve partnering with K-12 , postsecondary education, the Cabinet for Economic Development and the Labor Cabinet. The success of the Kentucky Work Ready Communities initiative continues to grow. Currently, more than 75 counties have either been certified or are in the process of developing their applications for certification. The board has been receiving feedback from school systems and businesses that the initiative is creating new opportunities for engagement of those partners with each other.

Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives

The Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives (KDLA) oversaw Kentucky's 2013 Summer Reading Club with programming in all 119 Kentucky public library systems. The theme "Dig Into Reading" was designed to keep children reading throughout the summer in order to maintain reading skills while instilling a love for reading. In 16 counties, public libraries partnered with local school districts as part of the Summer Food Services Program to provide reading enrichment programs designed for high risk children in conjunction with their lunch programs. In 10 additional counties, KDLA collaborated with the National Center for Family Literacy to create a six-week family literacy program targeting the entire family for literacy activities. More than 300 families including 600 children participated in these programs. This fall, KDLA staff will be focusing on providing training for public library staff in how to deliver quality literacy services for very young children and their parents. In October, KDLA will hold the annual conference that begins preparations for next summer's reading program which will focus on the theme of "Science" with emphasis on STEM areas. This training will be held at the Louisville Science Center with many partners including KDE, Dept. of Agriculture, University of Louisville and many others. Also at KDLA, 23 public school systems have accounts with the Kentucky Talking Book Library for serving the needs of visually impaired students with many students having individual accounts. With the new formats that are now available including downloading of audio materials and braille plus the availability of an app for IOS devices, services of the Kentucky Talking Book Library will be much more accessible and we hope to expand usage much farther in the coming year.

Carl D. Perkins Vocational Training Center Celebrates 40th Anniversary

Over the past 40 years, more than 41,000 Kentuckians with severe disabilities have come to the Perkins Center to improve their quality of life. Each one of those numbers represents a life that was changed because they can now do daily tasks that help them be more self-reliant or they can enter the workforce because of the educational training.