

**Commissioner Terry Holliday's Report
for the
October 8, 2013 Kentucky Board of Education Meeting**

Data on Home School Students - The Kentucky Board of Education and the Interim Joint Committee on Education both showed interest in the number of students moving from public schools to home schools. As a reminder, in Kentucky a home school is categorized as a private school. Home schools do have to: (1) register with the local school district, (2) maintain records of attendance and academic progress, (3) cooperate if there is an inquiry into attendance by the local school district Director of Pupil Personnel, and (4) teach at a minimum reading, writing, mathematics, spelling, grammar, history and civics. A link to the KDE site that contains guidance for home school education is: <http://education.ky.gov/federal/fed/Pages/Home-School.aspx>

A spreadsheet showing the number of students moving to home schools over a five- year period is provided as an **attachment**. Home school students are coded and referred to as W20 students. The spreadsheet shows data for individual districts with state totals at the bottom.

Highlights of some numbers pulled from the data are:

- During a five-year period, from 2009-2013, 18,607 students were coded as W20.
- The average withdrawal percentage rate to home school was .8 in 2009 and .8 in 2013.
- The range of the withdrawal percentage rate to home school was from 0 to 3.8.
- The two largest districts in the state (Jefferson and Fayette Counties) account for 590 of the 18,607 students or 3% of the total.
- 36 of 173 districts account for 50% of the total W20 withdrawals from 2009-2013.
- Of the 18,607 W20 students, 12,564 (68%) were coded as students receiving free/reduced lunch.

Rowan County Board of Education Passes Resolution on Funding Unbridled Learning – Rowan County Superintendent Marvin Moore distributed a resolution to all superintendents that the Rowan County Board of Education recently passed challenging the General Assembly to fully fund Unbridled Learning in order to ensure Kentucky's education system can offer its students the path to college and career readiness. The resolution is provided as an **attachment**.

KDE Applying for Waivers of PGES Timeline for Personnel Decisions and Inclusion in State Accountability – The U.S. Department of Education has offered states that have ESEA waivers and Race to the Top grants the opportunity to apply for a waiver of the original timeline that was required for the implementation of the Professional Growth and Effectiveness System (PGES) for use in personnel decisions. Originally, Kentucky had submitted that the system would be fully implemented and used for personnel decisions as well as state accountability in 2014-15. In addition to requesting the change in the date for use in personnel decisions, we will also be requesting a waiver to change the date for incorporation of PGES into the accountability system, since it was also to originally occur in 2014-15.

As you know from updates to the board, KDE is now doing a statewide pilot in all school districts within a representative number of schools during 2013-14 and plans to do full statewide implementation of PGES in all schools and districts (without the use for personnel decisions or without state accountability) in 2014-15. Then, we would move forward with full implementation in all schools and districts for use in personnel decisions and state accountability in 2015-16.

The waiver submission, prepared by KDE staff, makes the formal request to delay use of the system for both personnel decisions and state accountability. This will align implementation for both purposes to occur during the same timeframe. The submission is due on Oct. 31, 2013.

We are optimistic about the approval of the submission from our conversations with our USED waiver contact and Race to the Top contact and will keep you apprised of the decision from the federal level.