

Steven L. Beshear  
Governor



Terry Holliday, Ph.D.  
Commissioner of Education

EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT CABINET  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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September 6, 2012

Mr. James Palm, Superintendent  
Southgate Independent School District  
Wm. Blatt and Evergreen  
Southgate, KY 41071

Dear Superintendent Palm:

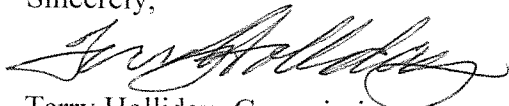
Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) Chair David Karem and I are taking this opportunity to thank you and your local board for having the steadfast commitment and resolve to propose and pass the maximum 4% tax rate this year.

As you know, each local school district has the legal authority to pass such a tax rate each year to account for changes in enrollment and property values, fluctuations in state and federal funding, inflation and other negative economic factors. This allows a local school district to continue to provide a high-quality public education each year, despite such concerns.

Although the public hearing requirement associated with this tax rate can stir negative publicity, it is critically important for school districts to level this maximum rate each year because a failure to do so would permanently impact the financial bottom-line of a school district for years to come. The rate set for a particular year becomes the baseline for local funding for the next and the lost revenue compounds dramatically over the years.

Thank you again for the leadership and vision provided at the local level in making such courageous decisions for the betterment of our students as whole.

Sincerely,

  
Terry Holliday, Commissioner  
Kentucky Department of Education

  
David Karem, Chair  
Kentucky Board of Education

Cc: Kentucky Board of Education members  
Jeffrey Paul, Southgate Independent Board Chair

TH/DK:HD:mam