

Steven L. Beshear
Governor



Terry Holliday, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Education

**EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT CABINET
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

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November 9, 2012

Superintendent Gary Abbott
Monticello Independent School District
161 College St.
Monticello, KY 41339

RE: KDE Management Audit

Dear Superintendent Abbott:

As you know, the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) has assigned Educational Recovery staff to Monticello Independent School District for several months to address concerns relating to school and district improvement, specifically the status of Monticello High School as a persistently low-achieving school and the finding that the district leadership lacked capacity to lead the turnaround of this school. In addition, in response to a request for financial assistance from you, as superintendent, we have deployed KDE finance staff onsite to conduct a review of school district finances. This work is ongoing; however, based upon initial feedback and data that has indicated significant deficiencies, I am officially initiating a management audit of Monticello Independent School District pursuant to KRS 158.780, KRS 157.785 and 703 KAR 3:205.

This management audit focuses on school and district improvement and is focused upon a review of the following areas:

- Local governance policies and procedures
- Curriculum and instructional practices
- Financial management
- Personnel practices, including hiring and staffing
- School food services management

Our onsite staff will be working with KDE staff in Frankfort (collectively our "audit team") to prepare a report on the findings in accordance with 703 KAR 3:205, Section 3, to the Kentucky Board of Education, and the report may recommend additional state assistance or even state management, if necessary, to correct the concerns during the audit. The report will also provide constructive feedback to the Monticello Independent School District on how to address such concerns moving forward. We appreciate the assistance already being provided to our onsite staff and request the district's continued cooperation and support during this management audit.

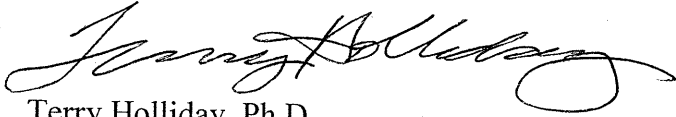
Finally, in response to questions raised to our onsite staff, I also remind the local board of education of the obligations under the Kentucky Open Meetings Act contained in KRS Chapter 61. A local board may only go into closed/executive session for very specific and limited reasons. Discussions of the financial condition of a district,

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including notification of a management audit, do not constitute valid rationale for going into closed executive session.

The audit team will be operating under the joint direction of Associate Commissioners Susan Allred and Hiren Desai. If you have any questions, Susan Allred may be reached at 502-564-5130 and Hiren Desai may be reached at 502-564-1976.

Sincerely,



Terry Holliday, Ph.D.

Cc: Jerry Lair, Chair, Monticello Independent Board of Education
KDE Associate Commissioners