

Kentucky Board of Education
December 5, 2012

**Report from the President of the
Council on Postsecondary Education**

Improving Educator Quality Federal Grant Program

For the 11th consecutive year, the Council on Postsecondary Education awarded federal grant funds to improve P-12 educator quality through professional development programs.

The Improving Educator Quality (IEQ) grants, totaling \$895,000, were awarded to four lead institutions, including Morehead State University, Murray State University, Northern Kentucky University and University of Kentucky.

Included in the proposals are partnerships with the University of Louisville, Hazard Community and Technical College, Madisonville Community College, the Kentucky Center for Mathematics, Thomas More College, as well as local high-need school districts.

The focus of the program this year is on fully integrating the Common Core Standards by assisting teachers in providing intervention in content areas for students in need of accelerated learning, which helps successful students advance to the next stage and helps struggling students catch up.

To be eligible, a partnership must include a postsecondary institution's school of arts and sciences, its teacher preparation program, as well as a high-need local school district.

The projects, lead institutions and grant awards are listed below.

- Reading for the 21st Century: Improving Reading Comprehension Through Project-Based Learning, **Morehead State University**, \$135,000--Year 2
- Developing Standards-Based Digital Content for Next Generation Learning, **Murray State University**, \$90,000--Year 2
- Continuous Assessment and Algebraic Thinking: Keys for Career and College Readiness, **University of Kentucky**, \$150,000--Year 2
- Algebraic Dynamic Duo: Integrating Hands-On Learning and Problem Solving to Increase Student Achievement, **Morehead State University**, \$130,000
- Success in Algebra: Improving Special Education Teaching Practice, **University of Kentucky**, \$130,000
- FLIP: Using Video Podcasts for Mathematics Instruction and Intervention, **Northern Kentucky University**, \$130,000
- Collaborative for Inquiry-Based Instruction, **Northern Kentucky University**, \$130,000

Kentucky Adult Education (KYAE)

KYAE continues its national prominence as a leader in the adult education community.

“Graduating to College: Three States Helping Adult Education Students Get a College Education,” a policy brief released by the Working Poor Families Project, noted:

- Kentucky has far more experience than most states in strengthening adult access to postsecondary education.
- Kentucky is ahead of almost all other states in building the common core standards into its adult education system.

The Adult College Completion Toolkit, developed by the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE), touts KYAE’s adoption and implementation of common core standards as a top state strategy for helping adults become college and career ready.

Current Version of GED to Expire

KYAE announced that the current version of the GED® test will expire at the end of 2013. The current version, known as the 2002 Series GED® test, will be replaced with the new 2014 GED® test on January 2, 2014.

The important point that Kentuckians need to know is this – people who have taken the 2002 Series GED® test, but have not passed all five parts, have only until December 18, 2013, to take the current test. If they do not pass all five parts by December 18, 2013, they will need to start over again in 2014 with the new GED® test. More than 16,000 Kentuckians have passed parts, but not all, of the current GED® test version.

Kentucky Adult Education offers free classes to help adults earn their GED®. To find an adult education center in your county, visit <http://www.knowhowtogoky.org> or call toll free (800) 928-7323. GED® testing information is also available at <http://www.finishtheGED.com>.

A couple of important tips to know about GED® testing in Kentucky before the end of 2013:

- The last day to take the current version of the GED® test is December 18, 2013.
- All GED® test-takers must first pass the Official GED Practice Test™, which is available at all local adult education programs.

McDonald’s Campaign Release

McDonald’s restaurant owners/operators have partnered with Kentucky Adult Education for the seventh consecutive year to promote GED attainment. The campaign was initiated by Joe Graviss, a central Kentucky owner/operator and a member of the Council on Postsecondary Education.

The project began in three of his restaurants in Franklin and Woodford Counties and has grown to 72 counties through his leadership.

Customers at restaurants represented by McDonald's of Central and Southeastern Kentucky, Paducah Co-op, Tri-State Co-op, Louisville Co-op, and Tri-Cities Co-op will see tray liners featuring a message encouraging GED attainment. The campaign is an extension of ongoing efforts to raise the educational attainment of adults by Kentucky Adult Education.

A Commentary on Senate Bill 1: Kentucky's Architecture of Implementation

John DeAtley and Sue Cain recently published the article, "A Commentary on Senate Bill 1: Kentucky's Architecture of Implementation," in *The Kentucky Journal of Excellence in College Teaching and Learning*. The article highlights the challenges of meeting the college readiness and degree completion goals in Senate Bill 1 (2009), including the process used by Kentucky in aligning standards, assessments, and accountability systems from preschool through postsecondary, and the manner in which professional development was made available for educators at all levels. The article can be found at

<http://kjectl.eku.edu/sites/kjectl.eku.edu/files/files/Journal%2012/DeAtleyCain2012.pdf>.