

***Commissioner of Education's Report
Kentucky Board of Education Meeting
April 10, 2013
From
Commissioner Terry Holliday***

Upcoming Meetings with Superintendents and Update on Superintendent Evaluation Work – Recently, concerns have been expressed by some superintendents about my speech at the Kentucky School Boards Association winter conference regarding superintendent evaluation and local school board member training, the recent audits of school districts and the auditor's press conference, and the legislative agenda for the Office of Education Accountability that includes a review of superintendent contracts, evaluations, and benefits. As a result, over the next few weeks, I am meeting with the Kentucky Association of School Superintendents (KASS) Executive Board on April 18 and my quarterly meeting of the Superintendents Advisory Council meeting is scheduled for April 25.

Regarding the work on superintendent evaluation, the Kentucky Association of School Administrators (KASA) has been working to develop new superintendent standards that will eventually evolve into part of the evaluation instrument. In a previous communication, you were sent the draft standards and the rubric that have been developed by the KASA design team. The members of the design team are: Tim Hanner (Retired Kenton County Superintendent); Lu Young, Jessamine County; Tommy Floyd, Madison County; Mike LaFavers, Boyle County; Carmen Coleman, Danville Ind.; Tom Shelton, Fayette Co.; Fred Carter, Western Kentucky University (past KASA president); Justin Bathon and Linda France, University of Kentucky (KASA partner); Larry Holland, Scholastic Achievement Partners (KASA partner); Wayne Young, KASA; Rhonda Caldwell, KASA and Jan Lantz, St. Catharine's College (recently retired superintendent). It is my understanding that KASA has shared this information with KSBA in hopes that there will be collaboration in this area.

TELL Kentucky Survey Response Exceeds 86 percent – 43,743 educators or 86.62% of those eligible have participated in the 2013 TELL Kentucky Survey. This is a tremendous response and a huge thank you goes to all of the teachers and principals that participated. Additionally, appreciation goes to everyone at the local level that provided assistance with information on how to participate as well as our statewide partners that urged educators to provide feedback through the survey.

ACT College and Career Readiness Campaign Event - ACT selected seven states this year to kick off a College and Career Readiness Campaign and Kentucky was one of the first states selected to participate. With the support of ACT, KDE is leading this effort to recognize a business, community college, high school and a high school student for their work in supporting a college and career readiness focus for Kentucky.

A press conference has been scheduled for this purpose where Governor Beshear and I will announce the "winners" in the four categories named above at the Capitol in Room 110 on April 15 at 10:00 a.m. ET. These categories of awards will also be recognized by ACT at the national level in May.

A state team has worked to plan this campaign and includes members from the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, Council on Postsecondary Education, Kentucky Department of Education, General Assembly and the Governor's office.

Status of Work with JCPS on Priority School Improvement – On March 22, I conveyed a letter **(attached)** to the superintendent and board chair of the Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS) regarding needed collaboration for improving low-performing schools. Superintendent Hargens and I had conversations about the content of the letter prior to finalizing it, and then on Tuesday, March 26, a meeting was held with Superintendent Hargens, the JCPS chair and vice chair of the local board, David Karem, Mary Gwen Wheeler and Susan Allred in attendance. The meeting was very productive, and we are working on a plan for moving forward to improve the performance of the district’s Priority Schools.