**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

**May 6, 2013**

1. **End of Course Assessments - Biology, U.S. History, Algebra II, and English II –** ACT, Inc. informed the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) late Friday afternoon (5/3) that the ACT/VANTAGE system has been suspended for Monday, May 6 due to technical issues. ACT is attempting to re-open the online system as soon as possible’ however, KDE believes stabilization of the End of Course assessment program is now the priority. This requires Kentucky to move to 100% paper/pencil tests for all remaining EOC test administration in high schools in Kentucky.

Schools scheduled for online EOC testing must plan to administer a paper/pencil test. The paper/pencil tests will arrive in district offices by May 13. However, ACT is prioritizing the shipments based on each district’s last instructional day and some districts may receive test materials earlier.

\*\*\*\*Our high school was scheduled to begin EOC assessments on Monday, May 13th.

1. **DISTRICTS OF INNOVATION –** Gallatin County School District is one of 17 Kentucky public school districts that have submitted applications to the Kentucky Department of Education to become Districts of Innovation. See press release below.

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**NEWS RELEASE**

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**17 DISTRICTS APPLY TO BE DISTRICTS OF INNOVATION**

(Frankfort, KY) – A total of 17 Kentucky public school districts have submitted applications to the Kentucky Department of Education to become [Districts of Innovation](http://education.ky.gov/school/innov/pages/districts-of-innovation.aspx).

The Districts of Innovation legislation, House Bill 37 (2012) -- codified as [KRS 156.108](http://www.lrc.ky.gov/KRS/156-00/108.PDF) and [160.107](http://www.lrc.ky.gov/KRS/160-00/107.PDF), provides Kentucky public school districts the opportunity to apply for an exemption from certain administrative regulations and statutory provisions in an effort to improve student learning. Local board policy may also be waived for a District of Innovation.

By "re-thinking" what a school might look like, districts will be able to redesign teaching and learning using innovative strategies such as competency-based learning, creating multiple pathways to graduation, and a modified school schedule in an effort to engage and motivate more students, and increase the numbers of those who are college- and career-ready.

During May, a cross-agency team comprised of staff from the Kentucky Department of Education, Education Professional Standards Board and the Regional Education Laboratory that serves Kentucky, will review applications using a rigorous process in which each application will be evaluated against a scoring [rubric](http://education.ky.gov/school/innov/Documents/Districts%20of%20Innovation%20Application%20Scoring%20Rubric%20LRC%20Review%20Version%20NOT%20FINAL.docx). Among other requirements, applications had to include an evaluation model for monitoring the effects of plans on student learning, graduation rates and college- and career-readiness

Districts submitting applications are:

* Cloverport Independent
* Danville Independent
* Eminence Independent
* Fayette County
* Gallatin County
* Jackson Independent
* Jefferson County
* Jessamine County
* Kenton County
* Mason County
* McCracken County
* Montgomery County
* Owensboro Independent
* Owsley County
* Taylor County
* Trigg County
* Woodford County

Once the evaluation process is complete, the review team will recommend to the Kentucky Board of Education, a list of finalists for consideration. The board will select the Districts of Innovation at its regular meeting on June 5. The successful districts could start implementation of their plans as early as the 2013-14 school year.

The initial term of the District of Innovation designation is for five years. After five years, the district’s status can be renewed in five-year increments, or revoked based on processes defined in the administrative [regulation](http://education.ky.gov/school/innov/Documents/701%20KAR%205140%20SOC%20FINAL.doc).

More information can be found on the Districts of Innovation website at <http://education.ky.gov/school/innov/Pages/Districts-of-Innovation.aspx>.