

## Superintendent's Report

May 13, 2013

Chair Diane Porter, members of the Board; it is my pleasure to call your attention to a few items of special interest.

We are 5 days away from testing (the end of the 2012-13 school year) and approximately 90 days away from the start of the 2013-14 school year. This is the time when we are closing one year and working to put the staffing and resources in place for the next year. I appreciate Cordelia Hardin's leadership in the budget process to ensure that dollars impact students.

Summer before last I was in NC reading about 55,000 (55K) Degrees. What I recall was that 55K Degrees is the temperature of a lightning strike. What it appeared to me to be was a great example of a community all rowing in the same direction toward a goal --- with each player knowing their specific role and contribution.

Our *Strategic Plan Vision 2015* has as one of its four focus areas, *Graduation and Beyond*, and as a *Strategy 2.4* and speaks to this important collaboration. It also talks about creating a context where all students have a disposition for postsecondary education and are college and career ready.

55K has been a conversation-changer and a catalyst for results.

At Atkinson Elementary School, the kindergarten students, when asked the year that they will graduate ready for college -- they say in 2025. The Jefferson County Public Education Foundation has funded college banners for our elementary schools. At many of our schools, teachers post outside their door the college(s) and universities from which they graduated. A Western High School Senior, who is a member of the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council proudly announced that she was college and career ready and now was assisting her peers.

A data system is in place in JCPS to keep track of students' status and to inform interventions or extra time and support. That will take intentionality. That will take redirecting resources to this important effort.

We are seeing progress. Last year, College and Career Readiness went up by 13% points. Our targets for this year is 51.7% and our preliminary data is on track. Graduation rate went up. We are working toward our 55K Degrees goal.

We have maintained or improved attendance. Suspensions are down.

*U.S. News & World Report* has released its analysis of more than 18,000 high schools across the nation and more than half of JCPS high schools received national recognition. The publisher ranked schools using a three-step method developed by the American Institute for Research with 1. data from 2010-2011 reading and math achievement, 2. the performance of the school's least-advantaged students, and 3. the school's college readiness performance based on Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate test scores. A gold medal was awarded to high schools that met the requirements of all three steps and ranked in the top 500 schools nationally. At JCPS, these schools included Manual, Ballard and Brown. A silver medal was awarded to schools that met the requirements of all three steps but not in the top 500, including Male and Atherton. A bronze medal was awarded to schools that met the requirements for the first two steps— including Butler, Central, and three of our Priority Schools, Fairdale, Fern Creek and Western.

Nationwide less than 25 percent of schools received a medal, whereas more than 50 percent of JCPS high schools were recognized.

It all starts way before high school. The New Accountability Model gives each student a sense if they are on-track to be college and career ready. The Common Core Standards make it clear what students are to know on each grade level.

JCPS is the pipeline for achieving the goal of 55K in Louisville, and we take that responsibility very seriously.

**At this time, I recommend the consent calendar for your consideration.**