

**Commissioner's Report  
August 7-8, 2013 Kentucky Board of Education Meeting  
Commissioner Terry Holliday**

**Update on districts passing policies in response to SB 97 and "Blitz to 96"**

As of the submission of this report to the Kentucky Board of Education, 113 local boards have adopted a policy to raise the compulsory school age to 18 and submitted the required paperwork. Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) staff have monitored and verified this number through ASSIST, which produces a time/date stamp once all required steps are completed. KDE will continue to receive notification from districts once they pass the policies and submit the necessary documentation.

The 96-district total necessary to meet the 55% district requirement for making the implementation of a policy raising the age to 18 mandatory for the 2017-18 school year was reached on July 9 at 12:46 p.m. ET when Lewis County became district number 96. The first 96 districts will receive a \$10,000 planning grant as part of "Blitz to 96" initiative to help ensure they will have the programs in place to meet the needs of the affected students.

A celebration at the August 8 Kentucky Board of Education meeting will occur at 10:00 a.m. ET when Governor Beshear and First Lady Jane Beshear attend the meeting to be presented with a resolution to be passed by the board in their honor for SB 97 work and implementation of the "Blitz to 96" initiative. They will also address the board about the tremendous response from local boards and districts to raising the compulsory school age to 18. Moreover, the board as a group and I will travel over to the Capitol for a 1:15 p.m. ET recognition of school districts that have passed such a policy, a 1:30 p.m. ET press conference about this effort and a reception in honor of the school districts that are to be recognized.

**Update on the superintendent evaluation process**

On July 10, I sent a letter, with a copy provided to the board, to all local board chairs and superintendents detailing the steps that need to be completed before the end of the year regarding superintendents' evaluations. It also included the superintendent evaluation process for them to follow beginning in the spring/summer of 2014 and thereafter until the new superintendent evaluation system is fully implemented.

The letter was a follow-up to the April 29 Superintendents' Webcast in order to provide clarity to the content that was discussed.

Additionally, as part of the July 25 Superintendents' Webcast, KDE Chief of Staff Tommy Floyd covered this topic with an opportunity for superintendents to ask questions about the process. Tommy and I will continue to communicate regularly with superintendents on this process as the system moves toward piloting and implementation.

**KDE Employees Recognized by the Kentucky Association of Government Communicators**

Each year, the Kentucky Association of Government Communicators (KAGC) honors through its Awards of Excellence the achievements of public agencies or individuals whose work has

furthered the communication profession and the public's knowledge of government. As part of this award process, KAGC recognized the following KDE employees:

- Feature Writing, Honorable Mention – Susan Riddell for *It's starting to add up*
- Feature Writing, Award of Merit – Matthew Tungate for *Eminence on 'Fire' after changes*
- Newsletter, Award of Merit – Susan Riddell for *ParentInfo*, Dec. 1, 2012 issue
- Single Photograph, Award of Excellence – Amy Wallot for *Graduation*
- Image Campaign/Photo Series, Honorable Mention – Amy Wallot for *Japanese Language Teacher*
- Video, Single Program or Series, Honorable Mention – Rebecca Blessing for *CITTS, the Continuous Instructional Improvement Technology System*
- Web-Based Media, Award of Merit – John Boone, Susan Riddell, Nancy Rodriguez, Matthew Tungate and Amy Wallot for *Kentucky Teacher*

These employees will be at the board meeting to be recognized during the Commissioner's Report agenda item.