



Steven L. Beshear
Governor

Terry Holliday, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Education

EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT CABINET
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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August 16, 2013

Michael Borchers, Superintendent
Ludlow Independent School District
525 Elm Street
Ludlow, KY 41016

Dear Superintendent and Local Board Chair,

As a new school year gets underway, I am taking a moment to personally thank you for passing a policy raising the compulsory school age from 16 to 18.

With the quick action of so many districts – 122 to date – we were able to reach the 96 district threshold required to trigger a statewide mandate of the higher attendance age in just two weeks. Incredible! Certainly this is a testament of your dedication to your students and your focus on ALL students graduating college/career-ready.

As you know, on August 8, the Governor and First Lady hosted a recognition ceremony in honor of the school districts that took the initiative to pass this policy. There is a link to a webcast of the event here: <http://1.usa.gov/1cE0Zih>. I am sorry you could not join us. However, we did want you to have the enclosed certificate to recognize your courageous action to benefit your students.

Thanks to you, the goal for all Kentucky students to have a chance at a better future is becoming a reality. With the majority of school districts implementing this policy in the 2015-16 school year and the rest within two years after that, Kentucky will soon have a better-trained, better-prepared workforce that will benefit the state for decades to come. We could not do it without your help.

Yet, passing a policy is the easy part. The real work is at hand to ensure the additional time students spend in school will be meaningful and a benefit to them. Please know that the Kentucky Department of Education will be sharing strategies and best practices with you to support your successful implementation of the higher compulsory school attendance age in your district. I look forward to working with you as we continue to lay the foundation for our future and work steadily toward our goal of college/career-readiness for all.



Michael Borchers

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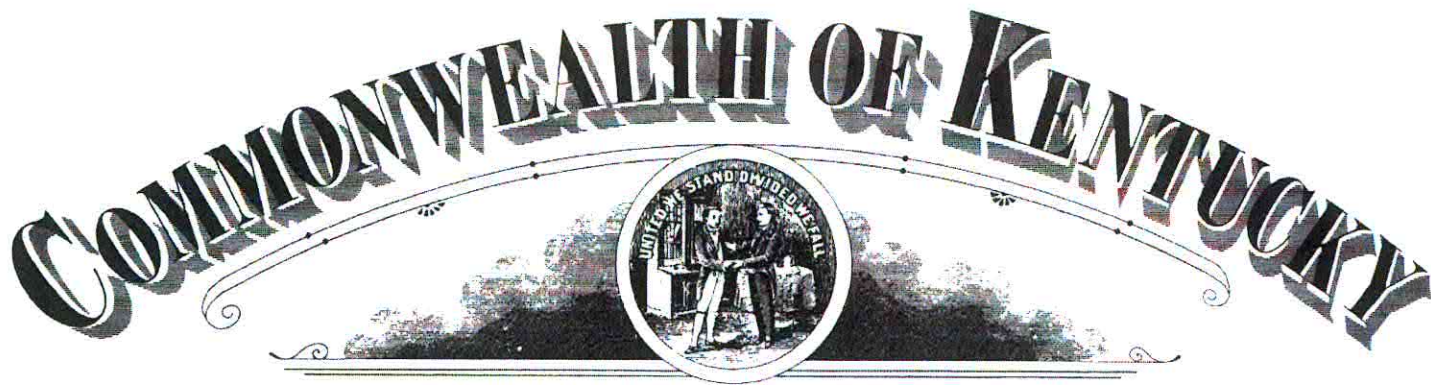
Once again, thank you and congratulations! I wish you the best on a smooth and successful school year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Terry Holliday". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "T" and "H".

Terry Holliday, Ph.D.

Enclosure: Recognition certification



CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

PRESENTED TO

Ludlow Independent School District

IN RECOGNITION AND APPRECIATION OF

Your bold, immediate step to adopt the Graduate Kentucky policy to keep students enrolled in school through graduation or their 18th birthdays. Keeping our students in school will not only offer them a better opportunity to become college/career-ready, but will ensure that Kentucky has a better-trained, better-prepared workforce that will benefit the state for decades to come.

GRADUATE KENTUCKY
A Community Approach

**UNBRIDLED
LEARNING**
College/Career Readiness for All

Steve L. Beshear
GOVERNOR

Jane Beshear
FIRST LADY

Ray Holliday
COMMISSIONER, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION