

**Commissioner Terry Holliday's Report  
for the  
April 8-9 Kentucky Board of Education Meeting**

***World Language Program Review Survey*** - As you may recall, the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) renewed its commitment to the World Language Program Review at its February meeting. The expectation for Program Reviews is one review per year with reviews conducted on a cycle based on the number of reviews a school performs (4- or 5-year cycle). However, several districts expressed concern about the roll out of both the World Language Program Review pilot and the Professional Growth and Effectiveness System (PGES) in 2014-15. So, in early March we conducted a survey of superintendents to see where they stood on this issue.

While many superintendents concurred with the premise of students learning a foreign language in our global world, most feared their district's capacity to implement a successful districtwide foreign language program. Of the 103 responses, 17.5 percent were in favor of continuing with the World Language Program Review pilot this fall. A clear majority, 82.5 percent, were against moving forward with the World Language Program Review in the 2014-15 school year. The major objections were:

- Too many other initiatives to implement
- Lack of funding and resources to support quality implementation
- Lack of capacity (technology or teachers)
- Lack of time to build and implement a world language program (more time needed to implement current initiatives)
- No models for the elementary level

While some did not want to see the World Language Program Review ever implemented (due to the above reasons and a lack of evidence that the desired outcome would be reached in most districts), the majority favored postponing implementation until funding is available to districts so they can have a reasonable chance for success. Still others sought a delay of 1-5 years with inclusion in accountability a year or two later. Several mentioned the need for a pilot to be conducted in a cross section of districts and the data from the pilot analyzed and used to improve a model, prior to statewide implementation.

***2014-16 Budget Update*** - As you are aware, the Kentucky General Assembly passed a biennial budget for the next two (2) fiscal years in April 2014. Overall, the enacted KDE budget was a tremendous success for K-12 education.

- Approximately \$141 million in FY15 and \$228 million in FY16 (a total of \$369 million) in additional general funds were approved for the benefit of the Commonwealth's 173 school districts.
- The top four priorities of the Kentucky Board of Education - SEEK, Flexible Focus, Technology, and Career and Technical Education (CTE) - all received a significant funding increase.

Several highlights of the biennial budget include:

- SEEK Funding was increased by approximately \$189 million to aid districts in providing both certified and classified salary increases for school district employees (1% in FY15

and 2% in FY16). This also resulted in the per pupil amount being increased from the current \$3,827 to \$3,911 in FY15 and \$3,981 in FY16.

- Technology funding was increased by \$2,900,000 in FY15 and \$5,800,000 in FY16 to provide increased bandwidth to local school districts.
- \$800,000 was provided for a Statewide IT Academy in FY16.
- CTE was provided with \$3,000,000 in both fiscal years for additional staffing in Area Technology Centers.
- \$250,000 was provided in FY15 for a Regional Collaborative Career Academy.
- \$800,000 in FY15 and \$1,200,000 in FY16 was provided for AdvanceKentucky.
- State Agency Children funding was increased by \$500,000 in both fiscal years.
- \$250,000 was provided in both fiscal years for Teach for America.
- Flexible Focus grants were increased by approximately \$30 million in FY15 and approximately \$61 million in FY16 (including an expansion of Preschool from 150% to 160%). A breakdown is provided below:

| <b>Flexible Focus Grants</b>       | <b>Current (FY14)</b> | <b>FY 15</b> | <b>Change from FY14</b> | <b>FY16</b>  | <b>Change from FY14</b> |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|-------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| Extended School Services           | \$12,301,200          | \$19,105,900 | \$6,804,700             | \$25,510,700 | \$13,209,500            |
| Professional Development           | \$5,370,000           | \$8,848,800  | \$3,478,800             | \$11,927,700 | \$6,557,700             |
| Safe Schools                       | \$4,157,400           | \$7,267,800  | \$3,110,400             | \$10,378,300 | \$6,220,900             |
| Instructional Resources            | \$0                   | \$16,700,000 | \$16,700,000            | \$16,700,000 | \$16,700,000            |
| Total Flex Focus without Preschool | \$21,828,600          | \$51,922,500 | <b>\$30,093,900</b>     | \$64,516,700 | <b>\$42,688,100</b>     |
| Preschool Expansion                | \$71,315,300          | \$71,315,300 | \$0                     | \$90,113,200 | <b>\$18,797,900</b>     |

In addition, the budget also includes salary increments for all state employees in FY15 as follows:

| <b>Annual Base Salary or Wages</b> | <b>2014-15</b> |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| \$0 to \$27,000.00                 | 5%             |
| \$27,000.01 to \$36,000.00         | 3%             |
| \$36,000.01 to \$50,000.00         | 2%             |
| \$50,000.01 and above              | 1%             |

In FY16, a 1% salary increment is provided across the board for all state employees.

In conclusion, the next biennial budget shows a strong reinvestment by the Governor and the General Assembly in K-12 education.

If you have specific questions on the budget, contact Hiren Desai at [hiren.desai@education.ky.gov](mailto:hiren.desai@education.ky.gov).