

Commissioner Terry Holliday's Report
June 4, 2014 Kentucky Board of Education Meeting

Science Testing - The new Next-Generation Science Standards will be implemented instructionally in the 2014-15 school year. Science teachers across Kentucky will spend the year re-designing curriculum, developing new units and teaching the standards to students. The goal is to begin teaching the new standards immediately; however, development of a new test for elementary and middle school will not take place until after the 2014-15 school year. There is at least a one year disconnect between the standards and the test because the only test available in 2014-15 measures out-of-date standards. To continue using the out-of-date test would not meet state and federal guidelines that call for a test to measure the current standards. In order to maintain an emphasis on teaching the new science standards, the 2014-15 elementary and middle school K-PREP science test will not be administered. Once the new test is built to match the new science standards, testing will resume. Accountability would be adjusted per 703 KAR 5:200 that calls for redistributing missing data in equal proportions across other subject matter. By implementing this decision, two important outcomes occur: (1) teachers receive a clear message to teach the new science standards immediately; and (2) Kentucky saves a substantial amount of money that can be repurposed to support the development of the new science test. Staff is working on the new science test framework and updates will be provided to the Kentucky Board of Education during the transition period.

SB 97 Count at 147 - Associate Commissioner Kelly Foster has notified me that Pike County has now adopted the policy on raising the dropout age to 18 as required by SB 97. This now makes 147 districts that have put these policies in place. We are encouraging the remaining districts to get on board by Christmas.

National Dropout Prevention Conference in November - The 26th Annual National Dropout Prevention Network Conference will be held November 2-5, 2014 in Louisville. This year's theme, ON TRACK FOR SUCCESS: Each Student College and Career Ready, will challenge conference participants to look for new and effective methods to motivate students in at-risk situations to successfully graduate from high school and be college and career ready. Please see the [National Dropout Prevention Network webpage](#) for registration information.