

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Review Item:

Presentation by The Education Trust Staff on Report Titled *Making Sure All Children Matter: Getting School Accountability Signals Right* (Report is attached.)

History/Background:

Existing Policy. At the December 2014 Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) meeting, the Kentucky Board of Education will be discussing proposed changes to the accountability model. To provide background information and some recommendations for the board to contemplate as it considers these changes, Commissioner Holliday invited staff from The Education Trust to appear and discuss their recently released report titled *Making Sure All Children Matter: Getting School Accountability Signals Right* (attached).

The Education Trust is a non-profit advocacy organization based in Washington, D.C. that is dedicated to closing gaps in opportunity and achievement in our nation's schools. The organization conducts research, policy and data analysis to understand the policies and practices that can both contribute to and help close these gaps. In recent years, the organization's policy team has worked extensively to understand states' accountability plans under the waivers, with an eye toward whether these new systems send a sufficiently strong signal about the need to improve achievement for low-income students and students of color. As demonstrated in their recent report, *Making Sure All Children Matter: Getting School Accountability Signals Right*, they found that right now, these signals are often fairly weak. The Education Trust is working with states to help them think through how they can strengthen these signals to ensure that their school accountability systems push for high achievement, improvement and growth for all groups of students.

The staff from The Education Trust that will be appearing at the December board meeting are Daria Hall, Director of K-12 Policy Development, and Natasha Ushomirsky, Senior K-12 Policy and Data Analyst.

Impact on Getting to Proficiency:

Ensuring that all groups of students are proficient and prepared for success – college- and career-ready is essential for moving Kentucky's education system forward.

Contact Person:

Terry Holliday, Commissioner of Education
Office of the Commissioner
(502) 564-3141
terry.holliday@education.ky.gov

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry Holliday". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Commissioner of Education

Date:

December 2014