

**Commissioner Terry Holliday's Report  
for the  
December 2-3, 2014 Kentucky Board of Education Meeting**

***Kentucky Rising Program*** – Work has begun for Kentucky to establish a program for our state called “Kentucky Rising”. This program will establish criteria for a high school diploma/certificate/endorsement that certifies a graduate meets the requirements to take the next steps (careers/education) that are needed to ensure our workforce is an asset for global economic development. In order for the economy of the Commonwealth to continue to grow and create jobs for our citizens, the education community must respond and create a stronger workforce that meets the requirements of foreign industries who are directly investing in Kentucky and industries that are creating trade with other countries.

A joint meeting of the chairs and vice-chairs of the Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE), Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) and Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) and their agency heads is being planned for some time in January to gain support for the initiative, followed by a statewide meeting to gain support from multiple partners. Additionally, a comprehensive needs assessment will be completed to identify current initiatives and programs that should be integrated within the *Kentucky Rising* initiative. All of these activities will be used to gather input for creating a unified plan in which CPE, EPSB, KBE/KDE and other partners will have key roles and responsibilities. Funding and staff support for *Kentucky Rising* will be managed through The Fund for Transforming Education in Kentucky.

***Renewal of ESEA Flexibility Waiver*** – Our ESEA Flexibility Waiver will expire at the end of the 2014-15 school year. KDE has been notified by the U.S. Department of Education (USED) that our state is eligible to apply for a four-year renewal, through the 2018-19 school year, of its ESEA Flexibility Waiver and participate in an expedited review process. Along with this notification, USED issued two documents (*ESEA Flexibility Guidance for Renewal Process* and *ESEA Flexibility Renewal Form*, both **attached**) to assist staff as the revisions are made to our current waiver request's language in order to meet USED's criteria.

By participating in the four-year, expedited review process, the due date for the revised waiver request will be January 30, 2015. This process also will require appropriate staff to travel to Washington, D.C. to meet with USED staff for a one-day meeting to discuss and answer questions on our revised waiver request.

As is customary when the waiver document is revised, it will be made available to education constituents, the public and the board for review and feedback before it is submitted. Any feedback that we receive is reported to USED as part of the waiver review process.