

Commissioner's Report
February 4, 2015 KBE Meeting

Kentucky Rising

On January 14, 2015, the agency heads of the Kentucky Department of Education, Council on Postsecondary Education and Education Standards Board and the chairs and vice chairs of their boards met in Frankfort to discuss the *Kentucky Rising* initiative. Roger Marcum and Jonathan Parrent attended with me to represent the Kentucky Board of Education.

The goal of *Kentucky Rising* is for Kentucky to have a workforce that is among the world's most highly-skilled, globally-aware, and globally-competent. (See **attached** fact sheet for description.) Staff from the National Center for Education and The Economy, who are providing support for the initiative, presented the most current information on this new concept.

It was agreed on by the participants for each agency head and chair and vice chair of the appropriate board to take a resolution lending support to *Kentucky Rising* back to the appropriate board's next meeting for consideration. The proposed resolution is **attached** and I am asking for the board to approve it to show support for this important work.

Four-Year ESEA Waiver Renewal

As you are aware, Kentucky's ESEA waiver expires at the end of the 2014-15 school year and the U.S. Department of Education (USED) has offered Kentucky the opportunity to be considered for a four-year renewal through the revision of its waiver document. We need renewal of the waiver in order to continue the Unbridled Learning system for both state and federal accountability purposes.

The draft redlined version, as required by USED, of the four-year waiver renewal document was e-mailed out to a variety of education constituents, including the Kentucky Board of Education, on January 21 asking for feedback on the changes we have made. Additionally, on January 22, it was posted on the department's website and a press release went out offering the opportunity to comment. The feedback was due to the department by close of business on January 28. Once the feedback period ends, final edits to the document will be made and it will be submitted to USED by January 30.

A team of KDE staff who have worked on the waiver renewal and I are scheduled to meet with USED staff on March 4 in Washington, DC to answer their questions about our renewal submission. This is a meeting required by USED for those states requesting the four-year renewal. I will report to you what the outcome of this session is once it occurs.