

**Commissioner Terry Holliday's Report**  
**Kentucky Board of Education**  
**April 1, 2015**

***Feedback Being Gathered on the Future of CIITS*** – Due to issues raised by stakeholders as well as the significant financial commitment KDE has invested, I am gathering feedback this spring from my various advisory groups and from districts through the superintendents on whether KDE will continue the statewide Continuous Improvement Instructional Technology System (CIITS), abandon the statewide solution and allow districts to pursue local options or pursue some combination of the two. CIITS includes the Educator Development Suite (PGES), ASSIST (school improvement process), and PD360 (professional development offerings). **Attached** is the PowerPoint that is being used with the various groups on this topic and that also has been sent to superintendents for their use with local district staffs.

I will be making a decision on this issue sometime in May once the feedback is gathered and analyzed and will keep you apprised of what direction we will be pursuing.

***Update on Kentucky's ESEA Four-Year Waiver Submission*** – As you are aware, KDE submitted its four-year ESEA waiver renewal application to the U.S. Department of Education the end of January. Then, on February 20, the KDE team that prepared the waiver and I had a conference call with USED staff where they apprised us of issues they either needed clarification on or believed were not detailed in our submission. These included how Kentucky is ensuring schools that achieve the highest rating in our accountability system do not have significant graduation and achievement gaps; specifying the process for identifying any schools that, after implementing interventions for three school years, have not made sufficient progress to exit Priority status and how the SEA will ensure increased rigor of interventions and supports in these schools by the start of the 2015-16 school year; for Other Title I schools, ensuring schools that miss AMOs or graduation rate targets over a number of years are addressing those areas; clarifying how KDE will continue to support schools and districts in implementing college- and career- ready standards beyond the 2014-15 school year; specifying the timeline for implementation of interventions aligned with all of the turnaround principles in all Priority Schools and specifying a timeline for ensuring that LEAs implement interventions targeted to their Focus Schools' reasons for identification. While these were discussed as part of the call, KDE was asked to submit written responses to these issues and did so on February 25.

The next step was a face-to-face meeting with USED staff, including Deb Delisle, Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education, and Kentucky's waiver team on March 4 in Washington, D.C. Representing KDE were Associate Commissioners Amanda Ellis and Kelly Foster, Division Director Rhonda Sims, Executive Director Mary Ann Miller and me. We made a brief presentation expanding on the written responses we provided to USED on February 25 and then dialogued with them to answer questions and come to an agreement on what additional language was needed to move our waiver submission forward for approval. It was a productive meeting and we left there knowing what revisions needed to be made to our waiver submission. It was indicated that we would know by March 31 if we were approved. USED also asked us to

send in a revised redline version by March 13 to include the revisions that were agreed on and we met that deadline.

On March 20, we were requested to accept all changes in the redline format that we had submitted on March 13 and send USED the clean version. It was submitted to USED on March 24 and we are awaiting their final decision.