

## Commissioner of Education's Report

### June 2-3, 2015 Kentucky Board of Education Meeting

***KDE Decision on Future of Technology Platforms.*** At the April meeting I stated that in June, I would bring forward a decision on the future of the Continuous Instructional Improvement Technology System (CIITS), including both the Educator Development Suite (EDS) and the Instructional Management System (IMS) platforms, as well as for Edivation (PD360) and ASSIST. That decision has been made and shared with superintendents last week via e-mail.

During the April 30<sup>th</sup> superintendents' webcast, I apprised superintendents that this decision would be coming and after briefing them on the vision, cost, usage, and other aspects of each technology platform, asked for each superintendent to complete a survey to provide us with feedback on the technology platforms to assist us in the decision making process. The survey was e-mailed to all superintendents and was open for two weeks from Friday, May 1 to Friday, May 15.

Following the webcast and release of the survey, a KDE team met to analyze current data from various sources regarding each platform. The analysis was based on:

- analytic usage data from the KDE website
- the superintendents' survey results once the survey closed on May 15 - KDE received feedback from 157 districts.
- advisory group feedback from KDE presentations on the issue
- recommendations from KDE staff responsible for each component

At the May 22 meeting of KDE's leadership team, the group recommended a course of action based on the analysis of the items listed above and I concurred with those recommendations. Thus, for the 2015-16 school year, KDE will continue to provide the following to local school districts:

- IMS – Continue availability for 2015-16
- ASSIST – Continue availability for 2015-16 to address the CSIPs/CDIPs and Program Review usage
- EDS – Continue to provide full access to all features of the platform only for those districts who elect to use EDS for data collection of the sources of evidence

ALL districts will still be required to submit summative data for certified staff (principals, teachers, and other professionals) using EDS. KDE will provide electronic forms on the PGES website for districts that do not elect to use EDS for PGES evidence collection.

Relative to Edivation (PD 360), the decision was made that it will not be a state-provided technology resource for the 2015-16 school year.

In response to this decision, all districts have been asked to notify KDE via e-mail of whether they intend to use EDS for collection of PGES evidences for 2015-16 and want access to all features of the platform. The deadline for this notification is June 15, 2015. If a district does not

notify KDE by this date, EDS access will not be allowed during the 2015-16 school year, with the exception of the feature to submit summative data for certified staff.

As part of the e-mail sent to superintendents, we included criteria that need to be considered if any district is interested in building, buying or acquiring its own Educator Development Suite (EDS) type of system.

KDE will continue to work with its software vendors to improve all technology solutions so that end users have a positive experience and see technology as helping them be more efficient and effective.

***Kentucky Rising.*** The Kentucky Rising gap analysis is scheduled to be completed by the end of June and we are working to have John DeAtley present a summary of it to the board at the August meeting. During a recent weekend summit, a variety of stakeholders reviewed some of the early results of the gap analysis for four of the building blocks. The current plan is to complete the gap analysis and then begin to work with the incoming Commissioner, Governor, and General Assembly leadership to determine next steps for the 2016 session. I have recommended that KBE discuss next steps concerning Kentucky Rising at the August meeting and have invited representatives from the Prichard Committee and Kentucky Chamber of Commerce to attend and participate. At the August meeting, we also will move forward with discussions focused on one of the building blocks – develop and implement a world class career and technical education system.

***Status of Kentucky's Equity Plan.*** At the time this report was written, KDE staff was on schedule to submit the Equitable Access to Effective Educators Plan for Kentucky to the U.S. Department of Education on June 1. The review and approval process will be similar to that of the ESEA waiver where the federal officials will review the plan and then interact with KDE to ask questions and provide feedback on its content. We will be given the opportunity to revise the plan to incorporate their feedback and then submit it for final approval.

In the interim, KDE will post the plan on its website for all stakeholders to access and we will continue to take input that can assist in improving it.