

Commissioner's Feedback Survey

For a two-week period from May 15-29, the Kentucky Department of Education held an online public comment period to solicit feedback on the Kentucky Board of Education's proposed list of characteristics for the next commissioner of education and to gather feedback on traits the public would like to see or other items the board may want to consider in the search and selection process.

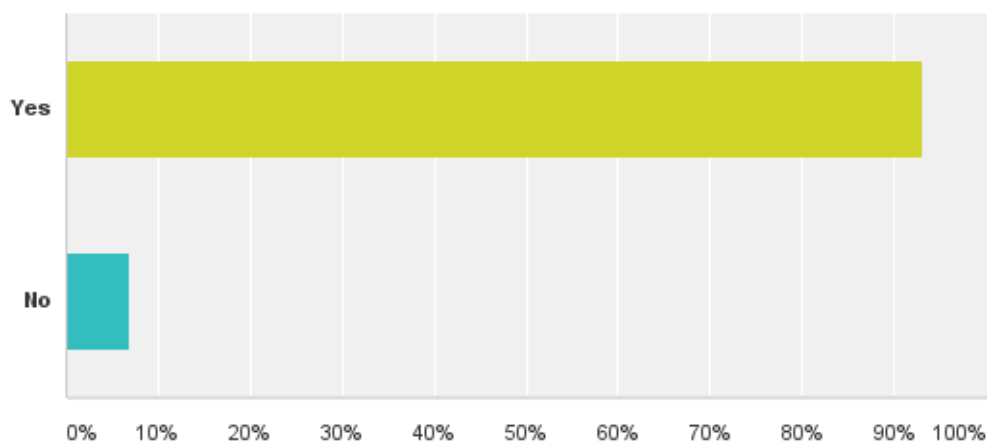
This opportunity was publicized in a news release issued on May 15. A reminder was included in the KBE meeting advisory issued on May 28. In addition, information about this opportunity was distributed through KDE's normal communication channels to superintendents, principals and partner organizations (Fast Five and Monday Memo), teachers (weekly Kentucky Teacher e-mail) and staff (Weekly Update). It also was posted on the front page of the KDE website, on a page dedicated to the search for a new commissioner and publicized through social media.

A total of 184 responses were received with many of those leaving specific feedback for the board to consider. Below are the responses to the three questions asked. Responses are as submitted and have not been edited.

Q1. I agree with characteristics the board is seeking in the next Kentucky commissioner of education.

Answered: 176

Skipped: 8



Answer Choices—	Responses—
Yes	93.18% 164
No	6.82% 12
Total	176

Q2. I would like to see the board consider the following characteristics when choosing who to hire as the next commissioner of education.

Answered: 153

Skipped: 31

Response Date	Response Text
May 15, 2015 12:41 PM	High morals, integrity and honest.
May 15, 2015 12:41 PM	I would agree with the above but think the board should look more closely and favorably at candidates with strong ties to Kentucky as well as an understanding of Kentucky educational structures. Kentucky has some very unique processes and cultures. If you are not "from here", you cannot understand "here". This has been a source of conflict in the recent past.
May 15, 2015 12:44 PM	Less emphasis on standardized testing. Cut the ties between scores on tests and teacher evaluations. Reform teacher tribunal laws. Greater emphasis on the Kentucky virtual school.
May 15, 2015 12:46 PM	Promotes an efficient, effective, positive work environment within the Kentucky Department of Education
May 15, 2015 1:05 PM	Experience as a Kentucky superintendent Experience within the KDE. Wow we may sometimes voice frustration about the rapid pace of change, I think we would all agree this state cannot afford to go backward. It is imperative to keep the momentum going that thie curr wow we may sometimes voice frustration about the rapid pace of change, I think we would all agree this state cannot afford to go backward. It is imperative to keep the momentum going that the current commissioner has started.
May 15, 2015 1:16 PM	Knowledge of workforce development systems and economic sectors. Ability to communicate with individuals involved with economic development efforts. Demonstrate a strong understanding of rigorous and relevant career and technical education systems.
May 15, 2015 1:18 PM	Would love to see this person embrace our Unbridled Learning Senate Bill 1educational reform and continue the trajectory that is in place. If a new commissioner comes in and starts tearing down what we have and are continuing to build... the morale of our troops will be deflated.
May 15, 2015 2:20 PM	Thorough knowledge of the education system in Kentucky.
May 15, 2015 2:21 PM	We need someone who is a relationship builder. A dictator will never garner the support needed to implement the reform efforts.
May 15, 2015 2:28 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledgeable about technical education, higher education, research, community service, workforce development, entrepreneurship. • Knowledgeable about education system in other states and the world. • Extensive educational career with demonstrated ability to influence student achievement and student success.
May 15, 2015 2:36 PM	Someone who is a product of the Kentucky, someone who has worked here in our schools and not some far away place.

May 15, 2015 2:46 PM	Someone who is interested in ALL children, including special needs children.
May 15, 2015 2:49 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demonstrated knowledge of Kentucky curriculum and legislation affecting school performance. - Uses measurable, statistically sound data to make decisions (i.e. understands percentiles). - Willingness to address challenges in an open and professional manner. - Values uniqueness and history of individual Kentucky public school districts.
May 15, 2015 2:56 PM	The Board should strongly consider applicants from within the state who are more knowledgeable about Kentucky's education system.
May 15, 2015 3:04 PM	Make sure that this person has several years of classroom experience at both teacher and administrator levels. This person should also be willing to constantly seek educator input from across the state before implementing any plan of action that will affect all of us in the schools.
May 15, 2015 3:08 PM	<p>A committment to build and sustain student growth using the Kentucky Academic Standards, including a firm belief of continuing to use the "Common Core" current and future nationally designed standards.</p> <p>A committment to the importance of all academic content areas including the arts, career and technical subjects, physical education, world langauages at ALL grade levels; not just the grade level its tested in.</p>
May 15, 2015 3:16 PM	Someone who is committed to a meaningful change in pedagogical practices and school structures throughout the Commonwealth to make learning much more personalized. The basic structure of schools is still organized around a standardized, one-size-fits-all industrial model. We must move education toward more competency-based, self-paced, individualized learning. Teachers who want to make this move now are often hamstrung by rigid school structures that hamper real efforts toward individualization. If the next Commissioner is to be truly visionary, he or she must have a real understanding of what 21st learning should look like and how to move Kentucky schools and districts in that direction.
May 15, 2015 3:20 PM	I agree with the characteristics, but I would like for the board to clarify "be an active listener." I think something should be added to indicate the commissioner will thoughtfully consider feedback from teachers and administrators and other stakeholders PRIOR to implementing changes of high magnitude.
May 15, 2015 3:23 PM	<p>Possessing the ability to Understand the national education agenda and how it relates to KY's agenda</p> <p>Possessing the ability to demonstrate diversity and inclusion by the hiring of a minorities in upper level positions</p>
May 15, 2015 3:33 PM	Much of Dr. Holiday's success as Commissioner can be attributed to his experience implementing the Baldrige Framework. Our next Commissioner should also have a working knowledge of this Framework, and should express a commitment to continuing Dr. Holiday's work in this regard.
May 15, 2015 3:42 PM	to be personalable

May 15, 2015 4:15 PM	I would like Kentucky to have a commissioner who is willing to acknowledge and address the state-mandated policies that are not working in our classrooms. I want a commission who will talk to our teachers and genuinely listen to their concerns and suggestions. Develop a system that works not only in theory but in practice to help all of Kentucky's children advance their educations and be prepared for college or for the workforce.
May 15, 2015 4:18 PM	Someone who truly understands Kentucky education issues even back to what the reform act of 1990 brought us and still has to offer.
May 15, 2015 5:20 PM	I would like to see the board give preference to candidates working and residing in Kentucky. I believe the candidates working in our state over the last several years are far more qualified to lead than any out of state candidate is. Also, I feel the board should consider in great depth the work done in leading change in previous positions. Over the last five years, we as educators have been asked to "fly the plane while it is being built" so to speak. All candidates should be screened for this. At the end of the day, the decision rest with the board. For the sake of our state's public education system, please maintain high expectations for teaching and learning while finding a candidate who is going to build trust and buy in.
May 15, 2015 5:28 PM	Someone who truly understands Kentucky
May 15, 2015 6:16 PM	<p>* exhibits a passion for creating an environment in which students can achieve a global education (increased exposure to foreign languages (esp. Arabic and Chinese), more study abroad opportunities)</p> <p>* respect for students with alternative education needs (opportunities for experiential learning)</p> <p>* drive to create internship and apprenticeship opportunities for students</p> <p>* strong understanding that physical education is important and enhances a student's ability to perform well in the classroom, move to every day gym classes (variety of class styles: yoga, aerobics, etc.)</p>
May 15, 2015 6:40 PM	We should not close the door on experienced Kentuckians with a demonstrated record of academic success and positive stakeholder engagement.
May 15, 2015 7:41 PM	Someone who is willing to show up within the department and address issues that are occurring. Make all employees feel like they are part of the same team. I felt Dr. Holliday did this well and hope our next commissioner will do the same.
May 15, 2015 7:55 PM	<p>Someone who understands and has experience in Kentucky.</p> <p>Someone who has been in a school district fairly recently to understand the work load and continuous pressure that teachers, administrators and staff feel from the constant unfunded mandates. (I am not saying these haven't been good initiatives but without funding, faculty and staff do have a certain carrying capacity).</p> <p>Someone who believes in administrators as well as teachers.</p> <p>The more roles a person has filled within a school district the better equipped they are do fill this position.</p> <p>Someone who is not so old they are out of touch.</p>

May 15, 2015 8:21 PM	A leader with the professional courage to stand up for what is best for the local districts and classroom staff across Kentucky. This might mean not signing on to all National Agendas just to get national recognition. I have felt for the last 5 years we have chased national recognition (being first to sign on and trying to implement multiple agendas all at one time) instead of focusing on the uniqueness of our Kentucky School Districts and meeting those unique needs through consistent unified long range plan. The Kentucky Department of Education must regain a Kentucky vision for our children. We have been jumping on different horses and riding them until they fall over and then without even thinking just getting on a new horse and riding again. This is not the way to run an education system. KDE must be restructured to be a support agency not a watchdog agency. In our most successful years that was the mission of KDE. We need a leader that will move us forward but not be afraid to say "We are not doing that because it is not good for Kentucky children."
May 15, 2015 8:27 PM	Take a serious look at someone from Kentucky.
May 15, 2015 9:46 PM	I like the above traits.
May 16, 2015 12:40 AM	Amount of time served as a classroom teacher. Please hire someone that is truly a classroom veteran not someone who is a veteran administrator. Hire someone who is highly intelligent and seeks continuous progress for our gifted and talented students.
May 16, 2015 12:10 PM	Awareness of what teachers go through in the classroom; more freedom given to discipline older students who disrupt the learning process.
May 16, 2015 4:39 PM	A commitment to "Deeper Learning" as embodied in 21st Century Skills, authentic assessment, project-based learning, and educating the whole child. Kentucky needs a Commissioner that will be committed to putting into place a much better approach to school improvement consistent with the one outlined in Dr. Willhoit's "Accountability for College and Career Readiness" report.
May 18, 2015 1:52 AM	Someone from KY, who is familiar with the history of education reforming KY. Not someone who brings an agenda, such as the Baldrige Model with them.
May 18, 2015 2:35 AM	A candidate with education in the Arts and World Languages A candidate ready to champion for the Arts and World Languages A candidate who understands the importance and the critical role of the Arts and World Languages, as content areas that educate and develop students' minds towards the world.
May 18, 2015 10:24 AM	Past history of leadership- have they been able to achieve results?
May 18, 2015 10:45 AM	Someone that will closely examine the relevancy of Common Core and the fact that it might be doing more harm than good for our children. They are learning to take test without actually garnering any knowledge from it.
May 18, 2015 11:23 AM	Dress religion trustworthiness
May 18, 2015 11:46 AM	Someone who will put education and learning first and not focus on all these end of year testing
May 18, 2015 12:25 PM	Strong leadership skills with national experience.

May 18, 2015 12:30 PM	Seek candidates who understand and can harness the talents and resources that are already in existence in our diverse state to educate and support students and teachers. We need someone who will put our students and teachers first and not be sold out to monopolies that want to privatize education due to greed and power. We need a forward-thinking problem solver, an innovator, and an activist for what is balanced and right. We need someone who can see through the corruption and make decisions without fear of losing recognition among the wealthy. Our state needs someone who can see the desired end result and map a goal to get us there. Find a person who isn't afraid to shake things up a bit by making necessary changes to put the money back into the classroom so our students can evolve with the world and be prepared for careers that aren't yet even in existence.
May 18, 2015 12:37 PM	I believe the next commissioner must be willing to seek honest feedback on the implementation and effectiveness of current planks in the SB1 reform program. From conversations with districts, it appears that some programs have been implemented for compliance and look good on a report but have not been implemented for effectiveness due to the tidal wave of new initiatives over the past several years. Schools have been overwhelmed have not been able to devote the time to effectively implement many programs due to the demands of the next initiatives. We must take a period of time to gain feedback and evaluate where we truly are in implementation or I fear we will only have compliance rather than the impact on student learning that we seek and may think we have. Sometimes, more is not better. Our new commissioner must be careful to not filter out only what he/she wants to hear or what he/she thinks others want to hear but seek the truth from practitioners in the field which means that the commissioner must create an environment based on trust so that accurate feedback will be given. This will take time to develop but is desperately needed. We need to know what is really working for the benefit of our students and what is not so we can streamline and focus our efforts on those most effective practices.
May 18, 2015 12:51 PM	He or she needs to be someone with several years of classroom experience in K-12 rather than a college professor with no experience in K-12 classrooms. Teachers in the classroom understand students and their needs much better than someone who has only studied and written curriculum without ever standing before a classroom full of K-12 students.
May 18, 2015 1:23 PM	<p>An individual who will work with school district's & superintendents and not against them. We're all in this together.</p> <p>An individual who is an advocate not only for children and learning but who also understands that it takes everyone working together to achieve those goals.</p> <p>Someone who understands communication is key in ensuring stakeholders are receiving necessary information that may include presenting information in person as well as through electronic means.</p>
May 18, 2015 1:29 PM	This person spent time in the classroom as an actual teacher.
May 18, 2015 1:52 PM	I would like to see a commissioner who will actually listen to the teachers of this state when it comes to academic needs. Students are tested to the point of exhaustion and teachers are spending hours upon hours on the new evaluation system causing us to not be able to complete our work for the kids. We need someone who will return education to the basics, care about the kids and employees and focus less on standardized testing. Everything is too test-driven. It is sad when my daughter is sick to her stomach in the 3rd grade over a standardized test that will prove nothing. Changes need to be made.

May 18, 2015 2:57 PM	Look for someone that has had several years of experience as a teacher and understands what it takes to get students of today to succeed.
May 18, 2015 3:14 PM	Someone who has a current knowledge of what a modern composite of students in the classroom that a teacher has to contend with each and every day, with the additional burden imposed with some needless paperwork and testing. Someone who understands Kentucky, A Kentucky trained teacher. Someone who understands results show more than numbers on paper. Someone who has knowledge of a classroom in recent years. They cannot understand the problems otherwise.
May 18, 2015 3:41 PM	I would like to see the board consider hiring an exemplary superintendent from the state of Kentucky.
May 18, 2015 4:17 PM	A tougher policy on bullying, than just a slap on the wrist to start. And have a tough policy on Teen-domestic violence.
May 18, 2015 4:26 PM	Experience as a Superintendent of a large school district that encompasses urban and rural
May 18, 2015 5:02 PM	Lobbyist We NEED someone who can convince legislators to stop reducing money to community colleges.
May 18, 2015 5:16 PM	A willingness to listen to the public, a willingness to put effort into skills outside the standardized expectations. They also need to take into consideration the varying ways children learn and develop, the fact that no single way is efficient for every individual that comes into the education system.
May 18, 2015 5:33 PM	The next commissioner of education must be a visionary leader who understands and advocates the mission of the KDE as one that encompasses the significance of a generation of learners that face vast opportunities and challenges that are unique to them. We need a commissioner who will continue to advance current efforts while propelling ideas about today's learners and innovative learning environments that will diversify and modernize an outmoded education system. In short, we need a commissioner who is zealously dedicated to the children of Kentucky. We need a man/woman who is faithful to the work of nurturing children to someday be responsible and hardworking citizens who will dream and then build a better world.
May 18, 2015 6:53 PM	Demonstrates a keen understanding of the issues surrounding LEP student achievement and the considerations that schools and districts need in supporting these students most effectively.
May 18, 2015 7:39 PM	Supportive of KCAS Supports the inclusion of educators input in decision-making (i.e. PGES) Defender of public school funding Knowledge of CIITS, PGES, and ideas to make both more effective Experience working with developers of state assessments Ideas about implementation of Social Studies Standards Supports for Program Review (all areas)
May 18, 2015 7:53 PM	More educator; less politician would be nice

May 18, 2015 7:57 PM	Experience with Career & Technical Education (CTE) programs.
May 18, 2015 8:14 PM	Classroom experience, integrity, and thinking beyond the test.
May 18, 2015 8:40 PM	A person of color. Time for Kentucky to hire someone other than a white man!
May 18, 2015 9:33 PM	He/she have an understanding of the issues Students with Disabilities and their parents face.
May 18, 2015 10:09 PM	<p>1. Someone who will lead & not simply follow the "present wind."</p> <p>2. Education is a privilege, not a right or entitlement. Those students who believe it is an entitlement tend to waste a great percentage of instructional time. The philosophy of Education needs to change. It should be available for all children, but they, the students, need to be held to some responsibility.</p> <p>3. Someone who will handle the Common Core system. Keep what is good; get rid of what is not working. The lower math grades are expected to grasp abstract concepts much too early.</p>
May 18, 2015 11:08 PM	<p>I notice under relating to audience - students were omitted.</p> <p>I believe we need a collaborator - with teachers, administrators, parents, students, business leaders and local leaders. I believe grass roots efforts are important and the new Commissioners should engage, encourage and empower whole communities to take on the role of educating our youth.</p>
May 18, 2015 11:27 PM	The candidate should have experience working in a Kentucky public school(s) preferably as a teacher, a principal, and possibly as a superintendent. Someone who has not worked in a public school in Kentucky would not fully understand and appreciate Kentucky's rich history of education reform, as you indicate that trait in your criteria.
May 18, 2015 11:57 PM	The commissioner should be a teacher. She/he should have at least 10 years of classroom experience. Also, she/he should be from a Kentucky school system.
May 19, 2015 2:09 AM	Choose someone that has worked as an educator Kentucky. Someone who knows where we've been and where we need to go. Enough already of people who have no ky experience- do the right thing
May 19, 2015 11:28 AM	Not afraid to lead KY and make bold, drastic changes to a "lackluster" system in making KY a leader in education.
May 19, 2015 2:09 PM	<p>A person with no affiliation with any independent contracting group. The relationship the current commissioner has with Pearson Learning Group appears improper. It has left me and others to wonder if he is gaining financially from the relationship.</p> <p>Additionally, a person with commitment and follow through is warranted for such a vast position. Speaking of abandoning CIITS, a \$32,000,000 taxpayer expense, after it completely and utterly failed, shows disregard for taxpayer dollars.</p>
May 19, 2015 3:47 PM	A person who loves children of all races, compassion for the less fortunate, a wish to help them achieve the highest level of education possible. Poor children hate to be treated as second rate people. It is NOT the child's fault that his family is poor.

May 19, 2015 5:27 PM	I believe it is important that this individual have practical classroom experience as a classroom teacher. This position is the individual who will set the standard for teachers within the Commonwealth. As such, I believe this person should have the experience of standing in a classroom and trying to meet the expectations of parents, students, teachers and administrators.
May 19, 2015 5:43 PM	As a KDE staff member, I hope the KBE will consider including the following as 'look fors' in the new commissioner: 1. An understanding or willingness to learn about systems work and the continuous improvement cycle that has driven so much of the agency's work since Dr. Holliday has been our leader 2. Deep knowledge of the importance of instructionally-minded leaders at every level in KY education 3. A commitment to EVERY child's success in KY education
May 19, 2015 6:18 PM	Capable of changing the focus of Kentucky schools from "Test-centered" to "Preparation for the future". A system that teaches kids at all levels to be productive not just "Test takers". Too many "Distinguished" test takers are flunking out of college because they did not develop a foundation of basic skills during K-12. A building is only as strong as its foundation!
May 20, 2015 5:23 PM	Willingness and expertise in thinking innovatively and encouraging risk-taking. Global view and excitement around transforming KY's system to compete globally. Facility and comfort with design thinking and systems redesign.
May 20, 2015 8:38 PM	I would like to see a commissioner who has spent at least 10 years as a classroom teacher. We need someone who understands the demands placed on today's teachers.
May 21, 2015 6:10 PM	Has in-depth knowledge of policies and laws regarding English language learners and how they need to be served Has in-depth knowledge of innovation that will break the cycle of low-performing schools to improve outcomes
May 21, 2015 6:14 PM	I would like to stress the importance of the global competency agenda for the next commissioner. Someone who understands the role of language learning and its connection to the global competency standards is of utmost importance to the state now.
May 21, 2015 6:15 PM	Someone who is interested and passionate about language learning. Someone who sees the value of students being bilingual in order for them to benefit from more opportunities and compete in the global market with internationals who are fluent in multiple languages.
May 21, 2015 6:34 PM	Someone who has actually taught in an urban public school classroom & someone who values world language learning and global competency.
May 21, 2015 6:47 PM	I would like for the Board to especially consider those who stress language learning as a means for global competency and multicultural understanding and awareness.

May 21, 2015 7:20 PM	It is imperative that the new commissioner of education realizes how vital it is to continue moving forward on the global competency program. The new commissioner must likewise support and understand the integral connection between this goal and language learning. The new commissioner must embrace global competency state standards and the World Language program review if KY is to advance as a state with education citizens who understand both the local and global aspects of their lives and the life of the state.
May 21, 2015 7:24 PM	KY needs a commissioner who understands the importance of world languages, K-12. In an ideal world, the next commissioner would actually have something like a working knowledge of a language other than English (i.e. more than 2 years of college study, for starters).
May 21, 2015 7:41 PM	A commitment to including teachers in shaping future educational policy, so their voices are heard and their experiences taken into account. Related to that idea, promoting teacher leadership as a key reform strategy.
May 21, 2015 8:22 PM	If the next commissioner is to promote diversity and global competency, then it is essential that we find someone with expertise in the instruction of foreign languages and cultures. Ideally, this person would be knowledgeable about not only Spanish, which influences American culture more every day, but also Mandarin, as China becomes increasingly powerful on a global scale, and French, which is the only language besides English to be spoken on five continents. It should also be noted that French is one of the primary languages used on the African continent, a place where opportunities will only grow in the decades to come.
May 21, 2015 8:23 PM	Understanding of global education and the need for students to speak a language in addition to English.
May 21, 2015 8:23 PM	"Global competency" can not be achieved without an understanding and an experience with other cultures and that means the study of languages other than English. To learn another language means to become involved in the way people of a culture relate to others, understand themselves, communicate their feelings, and that is inscribed in the language. One can say that supposedly, "everyone has to learn English," but without an understanding of the other culture's idiom, it would be like going to the home of the Spanish or French or Italian or Arabic, etc. speaker with whom you want to enter into business or other relations and to be admitted only into the living room. In other words, you would only have a knowledge of the other in the most formal way. You wouldn't understand what is going on in the household--in the kitchen, the den, etc. So you wouldn't really have a sense of this other person. Knowing the other's language gives students every kind of advantage.
May 21, 2015 8:28 PM	Someone who is bold and willing to "disrupt" the educational system if that is what it takes
May 21, 2015 9:17 PM	<p>Fearless, willing to hear the good and the bad. Find out from the boots on the ground KDE employees what the reality is in the districts and schools and use the information to make changes to better support the districts.</p> <p>Practical, set high expectations with realistic timelines.</p> <p>Respect our time - those of us who serve on agency committees would appreciate some clear direction on why we are there and what we are to accomplish, instead of talking in circles for hours without making any progress.</p> <p>Promote staff and be proud of their accomplishments - take a look at how the Department of Education promotes education for their own staff. The state allows raises for staff who achieve college degrees, but our agency has said they won't allow it. We are the Department of Education and should be the first agency to support this!</p>

May 22, 2015 12:22 AM	I would like to see a commissioner who will push forward Kentucky's emphasis on student development of proficiency in World Languages as one of the paths toward global competency for all students. There have been small steps taken in recent years, but I still feel like we are behind in this area.
May 22, 2015 11:27 AM	I would like to see the new commissioner has a broad understanding of all content areas which include the Arts and Humanities and Practical living and career skills and embracing the 21st century ideas of teaching the four C's as well as the three R's
May 22, 2015 11:33 AM	The ability to communicate and collaborate with post-secondary institutions and the varied businesses that represent successful futures for our diverse student population.
May 22, 2015 11:52 AM	Knowledge of and experience with education reform as we have realized it here in Kentucky.
May 22, 2015 1:02 PM	-keep and improve the focus on the teaching and learning of world languages K- 12 and beyond included in his/her ability to move the KBE global competency agenda forward
May 22, 2015 2:02 PM	Please understand that an important characteristic of the next commissioner should be not only to engage, motivate, inspire and involve educators but to also acknowledge the excellence of and advocate for the education professionals who have chosen the noble job of educating Kentucky's future. Kentucky's teachers, counselors, principals, speech pathologists, etc. have worked tirelessly to implement constantly changing education reforms in this state. They have been asked to continue to do more, achieve greater results and embrace unparalleled levels of accountability with inadequate compensation and dwindling resources.
May 22, 2015 3:30 PM	Importance put on skills that will prepare students to be globally competent, which includes a focus on continued study of world languages.
May 22, 2015 4:09 PM	Creativity, adaptability, responsiveness, courage We need an educational leader who is always making decisions with students rather than adults in mind. In order to do this, our leader must listen to stakeholders at all levels and, while maintaining a working relationship with the state and federal policy makers, stand up to those who make educational decisions that do not have students' best interests in mind.
May 22, 2015 8:26 PM	The board has listed communicating a compelling vision as one of the desired characteristics. The compelling vision should build upon the work already ongoing in KY. It would be grossly unfair to those working diligently to implement the current initiatives if these were ditched in favor of a totally different compelling vision.
May 22, 2015 11:45 PM	- Work to make sure that students of the Commonwealth are being held to high standards that are exhibited by the current Kentucky Core Academic Standards.
May 23, 2015 3:34 PM	A leader who understands or seeks information about the state and federal political process, is able to work on a bi-partisan fashion with elected leaders, works with legislators to develop a legislative agenda instead of delivering a completed product.
May 25, 2015 1:25 AM	Demonstrates an international mindset and global competencies.
May 25, 2015 6:42 PM	I would really appreciate someone who understands that standardized testing corporations aren't the main stakeholders in education. We need another commissioner who understands that students should come first, and that we need to work with all education stakeholders to continue to improve the educational opportunities we give Kentucky students.
May 25, 2015 7:22 PM	Support of students as valuable voices in the decision making process. Outreach to students. Including students in discussions about improvements to be made.

May 25, 2015 9:33 PM	A commissioner who will work to lower the cost of public university tuition to encourage all youths, regardless of income, to pursue higher education.
May 26, 2015 12:59 AM	-has knowledge of Kentucky education and its unique goals and challenges
May 26, 2015 1:40 AM	Someone who really understands what teaching 21st century students is like and can inspire educators to do just that - not just with words but with modeling.
May 26, 2015 3:23 AM	Prioritizing students and their involvement in education policy-making
May 26, 2015 3:37 AM	Stands with students. Lets students have a voice.
May 26, 2015 1:06 PM	I would prefer for the next KY commissioner of education to be a champion for innovation in our schools. Our students are faced with the prospect of a rapidly evolving job market where they will likely have to "re-invent" themselves many times over their careers. The concept of Districts of Innovation is wonderful and should be expanded so that districts can focus on local talent and innovative strategies.
May 26, 2015 1:43 PM	The commissioner should acknowledge students as the chief stakeholders of education and work to include student representation in important decisions.
May 26, 2015 1:47 PM	The new Commissioner of Education should also have a clear understanding of the economic development impact that he/she can have on the Commonwealth. A highly trained and skilled workforce is essential to the economic well-being of Kentucky.
May 26, 2015 2:06 PM	<p>- not afraid to make hard choices to discontinue programs conducted by KDE staff that aren't producing significant, measureable results for STUDENTS.</p> <p>- background in interacting with and influencing state legislative bodies to enact legislation that furthers is proven (based on data) to improve educational outcomes for students.</p> <p>- solid administrative manager - seeks to eliminate inefficiency and excessive bureaucracy in the agency.</p>
May 26, 2015 3:24 PM	I would like to see someone that will continue the vision of continuous improvement that the current Commissioner has led us through. I don't want someone coming in and tearing apart all that schools know to be the path to student success going forward. I also feel it will be important for the new Commissioner to have experience working with teacher unions and how to get positive change with said unions and not working against them. Our current Commissioner has done a good job of that.
May 26, 2015 4:01 PM	<p>-communication needs to include state level agencies (communication)</p> <p>-Evidence of understanding of the connection between health and education to ensure education equity and reduction of gaps in educational achievement(knowledge and expertise)</p>
May 26, 2015 4:02 PM	advocate for school nurses in every school
May 26, 2015 4:02 PM	Some one who understands the need for school nurses and the vital role they play in children's health care.
May 26, 2015 4:29 PM	Experience in partnering with health related agencies.

May 26, 2015 5:23 PM	<p>-Believes there is an inextricable link between health and learning.</p> <p>-Understands the Whole Community, Whole School, Whole Child model</p> <p>-Is supportive of school health initiatives</p>
May 26, 2015 5:31 PM	Someone who understands the statutes and the impact of regulations on the function of the entire system. For example, someone who understands that incorporating particular forms instead of the information they contain (I.e., physical assessment forms for bus drivers or student athletes) is unnecessary and causes problems it then takes years to correct.
May 26, 2015 5:54 PM	The applicant's knowledge of and experience and/or support in student health as it relates to the overall well-being and ability of the student to be educated and thus a productive adult citizen.
May 26, 2015 6:55 PM	Someone with a strong belief that health plays a very important role in the education of Kentucky's children. If we do not begin to look at the importance of overall health (both physical and mental) in the education of our children I believe Kentucky's educational barriers will continue and eventually worsen. Those children grow up to be our leaders of tomorrow, if we don't begin to address the effects of health on education who will be leading us tomorrow?
May 26, 2015 7:08 PM	An innovative Kentucky leader. Someone who knows our system, knows the challenges, believes and has proven to overcome these challenges, and more importantly knows and can relate to the people of KY.
May 26, 2015 7:55 PM	Former Kentucky educator preferred in core subject
May 26, 2015 10:30 PM	Someone who is in touch and will listen to the student voice.
May 26, 2015 10:45 PM	A commissioner who values student voice and the unique perspective students have to offer as the main stakeholders in Kentucky's classrooms.
May 27, 2015 3:04 AM	The ability to "work" with the General Assembly. As Commissioner ! the individual must have working knowledge of the key role that the General Assembly has in the education system in Ky.
May 27, 2015 12:26 PM	<p>1. Cares about the safety and security of students and those managing the system to ensure that education can be done in an environment as free from threat as possible, from the parking lots and busses to the classroom and CPT.</p> <p>2. Prizes a rigorous, standards-based educational system free from political or dogmatic influence.</p>
May 27, 2015 1:43 PM	I don't see any focus on the need to have experience in partnering with health related agencies or health as a focus for improving education in schools. Experience is getting in there and learning through trial and error.
May 27, 2015 1:50 PM	I would like to see as a characteristics an "understanding of the ever increasing global connections which necessitates an understanding of other cultures and languages."
May 27, 2015 2:34 PM	Someone who values the health of children and health education specifically. Someone who is willing to advocate for health education, health programs/activities, etc., for children in grades K-12. Someone who believes health education and physical education should be a part of the core education curriculum and also a tested subject. Someone who believes in physical education. Someone who will mandate physical education in the core content areas.

May 27, 2015 8:35 PM	Someone who has demonstrated an understanding that students education and learning is greatly dependent on health as well as other social determinants. The successful candidate should have examples of programs implemented to address these types of issues such as coordinated school health, exercise programming, health awareness, etc.
May 27, 2015 10:43 PM	<p>Organized, thorough, and prepared. All too often it seems we are tasked with rolling out initiatives and programs that have not been fully created/developed, which makes it difficult to maintain our true focus on helping students. For example, the launch of TPGES has been horrendous. This system was implemented before it was fully developed, resulting in poor training opportunities and a lot of uncertainty. Another example, world language program reviews. Where did this come from? Plus, the rubric is overwhelming and the guidance from the state to incorporate this into our existing and already tight schedules has been lacking.</p> <p>Trusting. Local control of our schools has been lost. It seems everything is being pushed out of Frankfort, and our local districts and schools have very little decision making in our school and academic programs. Trust administrators and teachers to get the job done. Be there for support, guidance, and expertise.</p>
May 27, 2015 11:09 PM	Under Specific Traits ... Communication ... the first bullet ... I would like to see "students" added (the sixth bullet addresses communicating with "youth" but that is different than "relating" to students!)
May 28, 2015 1:02 AM	I would love to see someone who is respectful to all groups in the state. Someone who has respect for SBDM and its power to increase student achievement. I feel the Commissioner should be supportive of principals as well. I always sensed that he supported teachers and superintendents but not principals.
May 28, 2015 1:11 AM	First and foremost it should only be someone with multiple years of teaching experience in Kentucky.
May 28, 2015 1:09 PM	I would like to add that the next commissioner of education should be someone that has experience in working with or partnering with health related agencies to promote the health of every student in Ky so that our students can learn and reach their potential.
May 29, 2015 2:08 PM	I think it is vital that the next commission has a firm grasp on Continuous Improvement. Dr. Holliday has put the wheels in motion to set goals, annual targets and regular metrics to show progress on a continuous basis. We can't go backwards now!
May 29, 2015 2:25 PM	<p>I believe that it's important that our next commissioner be a strong advocate for the role of public schools in civic life.</p> <p>I would like for our next commissioner to be willing to address the steady decrease in state funding for public schools.</p>

May 29, 2015 2:34 PM	<p>*The next commissioner needs to be someone that will be transparent in their actions and not engage in actions that are inappropriate or could seem inappropriate such as taking trips funded by publishing companies that Kentucky engages with in business or proposals for business such as Pearson.</p> <p>*The next commissioner needs to ensure that appropriate investigations are taken seriously particularly in terms of superintendents.</p> <p>*The next commissioner needs to not have any evidence of past disciplinary actions or investigations of their actions in previous work.</p> <p>*The next commissioner needs to engage with Colleges of Education throughout Kentucky so that they can be part of the process rather than an afterthought.</p> <p>*The next commissioner needs to be a certified P-5, 5-9, or secondary educator. The top instructional leader for the Commonwealth should have a full background of teaching rather than coming into educational administration from other routes such as business, counseling, or psychology.</p>
May 29, 2015 3:03 PM	Someone who understands Kentucky's population.
May 29, 2015 3:07 PM	I had the opportunity to interact with Commissioner Holliday on several occasions. I certainly hope the new commissioner Will take time to actively listen to the layperson when they engage him in conversation. I never felt that the current Commissioner ever fully engaged with the local public or local board members or really even cared to hear what they said. On two occasions after a perfunctory pause he would simply walk away without responding to my comments. The ability to relate to the local people and local tax payers is a must for the next commissioner!!
May 29, 2015 4:14 PM	<p>Ability to inspire others to help develop the whole child</p> <p>Connected to nationally known education specialists</p> <p>Having a national reputation among educators, I.e., nationally-known expertise.</p>
May 29, 2015 5:18 PM	Expertise and appreciation for the finance and facility components of KDE. The lack of emphasis on these two areas for the past five years has left them in a weakened state. Without Facilities and sound financial planning the local districts cannot meet the instructional goals demanded of them. The new Commissioner should be willing to understand and support the Kentucky structure for facilities and finance within the schools. Total devotion to the instructional side of the operation will eventually devastate KDE's ability to function in a productive leadership and oversight role.
May 29, 2015 5:23 PM	Please hire someone who values teaching content over teaching to the next standardized test. Our students are tested to death. Also, please hire someone who is Arts friendly and is up on the research supporting using the Arts to increase reading and math abilities in children.
May 29, 2015 5:48 PM	an openness to hearing concerns & issues that the front line educators have; especially those involved with adult education.
May 29, 2015 6:20 PM	Experience is leading a STATE education system, preferably one with local experience as a Superintendent of an URBAN district. There are many currently seated district superintendents (and even a few retired Superintendents) who have adequate experience in small systems. However, many of these local superintendents manage or have managed SMALL systems that may or may not have suffered as a result of "micromanagement." Management of a state system CANNOT effectively operate with ANYONE who micromanages. A prime example of how NOT to manage well would be to take a look at top administration in Fayette County. The state not only needs a VISIONARY leader just like Terry Holliday but also needs one with an outside view of educational innovation from another state who has invested time and capital resources in implementation of SB1-like initiatives.

May 29, 2015 7:00 PM	<p>A servant leader mindset</p> <p>Significant time (3-8 years per assignment) as a teacher, BUILDING administrator and superintendent - may not be possible, but it should be a priority to find someone with a depth of knowledge in all three roles.</p>
May 29, 2015 7:21 PM	<p>Someone with discernment who recognizes the vast responsibilities and demands on district and school personnel and is sensitive to that. It has been very difficult for school personnel to adequately prepare for and implement the number of new initiatives that have been passed down in recent years. More time to implement and prepare staff would have allowed us to be more effective in the implementation.</p>
May 29, 2015 7:51 PM	<p>Someone within the Kentucky "family" so initiatives and current programs are not thrown out.</p>
May 29, 2015 8:17 PM	<p>The fifth bullet under expectations seems unrealistic to a person in this position.</p> <p>As written: balances a combination of relentless focus on the student with managing the system to support the people who are getting the work accomplished</p> <p>Suggestion: evaluates and improves the system which supports the people who are getting the work accomplished</p> <p>The first bullet under Knowledge and Expertise, again, is keeping your commission in the weeds instead of a high level.</p> <p>As written: exhibiting detailed knowledge and an understanding of the teaching and learning process</p> <p>Suggestion: Deep understanding of evidence-based teaching and learning processes</p> <p>Additionally I would suggest the quality of abhorrence for status quo and a strong commitment to enabling those in our educational system walk the talk.</p> <p>A commissioner with complete willingness to work with other officials/groups/NGOs/agencies in helping all students get the nutrition (in and out of school) and health care they need to learn.</p>
May 29, 2015 8:34 PM	<p>Seeks and values the teacher voice.</p> <p>Innovative and open to new ideas</p> <p>Supports teacher leaders. Seeks to provide opportunities for teacher leadership.</p> <p>Supports and encourages national board certification.</p> <p>Will be visible in the local schools and districts.</p>
May 29, 2015 8:43 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Have ideas about fair accountability for teachers. * Support more STEAM Initiatives * Find more ways to include student in processes revolving around education policy and curriculum. * Provide more incentives for diversity in staff, curriculum and academic competition preparation * Provide more support for Gifted Ed with staffing and projects.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Develop more strategies to reduce achievement gap especially with Students with Disabilities, Low Income, African Americans and Hispanics *Support and perhaps more incentive for Parental/Family Engagement *More outreach and partnership with Education and Parent Advocacy groups and activities. *Value more digital learning and blended learning *Create more Community Partnerships! *Promote more foreign language offerings early! *More Support for Early Ed for All especially those traditionally in Gap!
May 29, 2015 9:05 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Provide more incentives for diversity in staff, curriculum and academic competition preparation * Provide more support for Gifted Ed with staffing and projects. * Develop more strategies to reduce achievement gap especially with Students with Disabilities, Low Income, African Americans and Hispanics *Support and perhaps more incentive for Parental/Family Engagement *More outreach and partnership with Education and Parent Advocacy groups and activities. *Value more digital learning and blended learning *Create more Community Partnerships! *Promote more foreign language offerings early! *More Support for Early Ed for All especially those traditionally in Gap!

Q3. I would like to provide the Kentucky Board of Education the following feedback related to its search for Kentucky's next commissioner of education.

Answered: 97

Skipped: 87

Response Date	Response Text
May 15, 2015 12:41 PM	Look at what they have done with their life. Have they made good decisions, are they happy.
May 15, 2015 12:41 PM	Please, please, select a Kentuckian!!
May 15, 2015 12:46 PM	Currently, many staff at the Kentucky Department of Education face an overwhelming workload. It would be very beneficial to have someone take a look at work flow efficiency to ensure KDE's work is accomplished in the most effective, efficient, and high quality manner.
May 15, 2015 1:16 PM	It is very important to conduct a national search.
May 15, 2015 2:20 PM	<p>I believe that the next Commissioner needs to have ties to Kentucky and our educational system. We need to remember that just because something works in one state does not mean that it will work exactly the same here.</p> <p>The next commissioner I believe will need to embrace both county and independent school systems. We have very successful independent school systems in Kentucky and our current commissioner has not supported them at all. If you will look at the top performing districts in the state a good majority are independent districts. Our current commissioner has indicated that he is not in support of independent systems.</p>

May 15, 2015 2:28 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •I see the benefit of "common core" where the same educational standard across Kentucky and the United States has some benefit. This is more beneficial if we have a dynamic migratory population and workforce - the children moving with their parents will have the same standards no matter where they reside. But is it practical for a state like Kentucky where job opportunities that require higher level of education standards are not plentiful? Whatever level of education we want our children to have, at the end of the day they will need to generate income to support themselves, take care of their family and community. If there is no large research center that devote to Kentucky's issues: poverty, drug and alcohol addiction, lung cancer, obesity - what difference does it make if we provide top notch math and science education? I agree that we have some research centers but they are not large enough to accommodate the students we will produce. Somehow, K-12 education needs to line up with employment opportunities of today and tomorrow. •Reducing emphasis on test scores, and seeing the students as a "whole person" will benefit education. As educators we might want to see high test scores, our students climbing the corporate ladder and becoming "successful." But what do our students want? Rather than getting fixated on six figure salary, they might simply want to make a difference in their community, help others, become a better citizen. Allowing students to ponder who they are and what they want to become in middle and high school will prepare them for life after high school graduation no matter where they go. Currently middle and high schools focus too much on competition, tests, prescriptive environment, parent involvement. At age 18, the students are adults and enter college to find a completely different environment than the one they have been living in. In middle and high school we need to prepare students for the next life - be it job, vocational school, university of Kentucky or an Ivy League college. •Parent involvement in K-5 is fine, but we need to reduce parent involvement in schools during middle and high schools. Focusing on teachers to measure student success is fine, but how do we know what kind of environments the middle and high schoolers go back home to? Do they have a stable environment at home? Involving parents in providing a stable environment at home is more beneficial than asking them to help students with academic performance. •I hope the next commissioner is able to work with our legislators, the federal government, schools, communities and parents to fund more counselors in middle and high schools where they can contribute towards emotional wellbeing of students enabling them to become a "whole person" able to cope with life after high school graduation.
May 15, 2015 2:33 PM	A nationwide search should occur in order to find the most qualified candidate.
May 15, 2015 2:36 PM	It would be refreshing to see the board put faith in a local candidate. We should have faith in a Kentuckian to lead our Department of Education. Someone local know the challenges we face and the "getting to know" you time would be less providing for the ability to hit the ground running. I encourage you to give a good strong look at any and all local applicants, they deserve the opportunity to lead us.
May 15, 2015 2:46 PM	I hope that our future commissioner will get rid of Common Core. Not every child learns the same way and this has hurt our kids more than anything. Special needs kids have been left behind. Our kids needs the extra help to be productive individuals to society and not relying on government assistance for the rest of their lives.

May 15, 2015 2:47 PM	<p>They need be a lifelong Kentucky Educator.</p> <p>They need to understand and be an advocate against non-funded mandates. These mandates are crippling school systems.</p> <p>The amount of policies and paperwork required of public school employees. How can one be effective or knowledgeable in all the areas? No one can – we need someone to streamline the information to what’s important.</p> <p>A plan to recruit and retain Kentucky teachers, administrators, and superintendents. Turnover in education is far too great.</p> <p>An individual that can work with other agencies to arrive at practical solutions. In particular, meshing together law enforcement, DJJ, CDW’s, County Attorney’s, Social Services, and Judges in providing appropriate solutions for dealing with out of control youth.</p>
May 15, 2015 2:49 PM	I know this is a national search, however, I think given the recent progress and initiatives in place, an experienced and well-respected KENTUCKY educator should be a priority. The political landscape for education has potential to change dramatically with a new governor and new president, therefore, the Department of Education will need an individual to lead through continual change and communicate effectively and efficiently to all stakeholders. I also think a Kentucky educator that has led through changes since 2009 will better understand needs of Kentucky schools and educators.
May 15, 2015 2:57 PM	I would like for the board to strongly consider that the next Commission of Education be a champion of the initiatives currently in place so that the outstanding work we have initiated and received national recognition be continued. I would encourage the board to consider Tommy Floyd as our next commissioner.
May 15, 2015 3:20 PM	Over the last few years several sweeping changes have been made regarding assessment and accountability, the teacher evaluation system, implementation of new standards, addition of program reviews, etc., without gathering feedback first from those of us who are actually doing the work. I know I speak for many of my colleagues when I say it has very much felt like a top-down decision making process these past few years. I would like a commissioner who truly values the input from professionals in the field and proactively seeks that input prior to make substantial changes to our work.
May 15, 2015 3:23 PM	We do not want to go backwards! It is important that the new commissioner understands the need to have courageous and real conversations with school leadership to insure that all students are successful!
May 15, 2015 3:33 PM	This is the most important decision you will make as a Board of Education.
May 15, 2015 3:42 PM	Needs to have the desire to continue the work KY has done with College and Career Readiness
May 15, 2015 4:18 PM	The individual must be respectful of all stakeholders, soliciting real and valued input from all parties.
May 15, 2015 5:20 PM	See number 2.
May 15, 2015 5:28 PM	Hire someone with ties to Kentucky

May 15, 2015 5:40 PM	I hope the Board considers input from the employer community. With that in mind, the Board should seek a commissioner whose focus is to create an educational environment in Kentucky that equips students with the needed basic, personal and technical skills required to succeed in today's economy. The commissioner should be willing an available to partner with economic development organizations, chambers of commerce and trade organizations to create partnerships fostering mutual success.
May 15, 2015 7:41 PM	I think we all have the same agenda (the board and staff at KDE) to better serve students of Kentucky in all possible ways. My hope for the next commissioner is that they see all of the hard work and positive steps KDE has made in the past 6 years and continue this path to excellence.
May 15, 2015 8:05 PM	My impression from the field is that there has been a disconnect between the top levels at KDE and the field. The disconnect is in that I don't believe the top leadership has really understood the amount of time and effort it takes to carry out any of these new initiatives, particularly to make them part of practice and to integrate them with existing activities. Research shows that initiatives that require teachers to change teaching practice in particular require extended amounts of exposure and practice. To achieve meaningful reform, "less is more" if that means firmly establishing what you are doing before going on to something else. There needs to be an effort at KDE to understand the real world of Kentucky teachers and administrators on a day to day basis. I am firmly in favor of making needed reforms to make Kentucky first in education but we have to bring folks on board in a way that they develop a real understanding of what they are doing and a commitment to making it work.
May 15, 2015 8:21 PM	Honestly make Kentucky Superintendents part of the education process and consider them a trusted partner not the enemy. Currently I feel that my role is not valued by the Kentucky Board of Education nor the Commissioner. I would like to see that change. I am an educational leader in my community and should have some value at the state level on state issues that will impact my community and school district. Education is happening everyday in school districts not in Frankfort or Washington. Thank you for allowing this input.
May 15, 2015 8:27 PM	Hire someone from Kentucky.
May 15, 2015 9:46 PM	In any capacity. [REDACTED] name and phone number redacted
May 16, 2015 12:40 AM	Please hire someone who understands the problems of rural KY as well as urban areas. Hire someone who recognizes the huge disparity among schools due to size differences and tax base.
May 16, 2015 12:09 PM	Someone who will be ready to immediately evaluate our assessments, especially the EOCs. I question the true alignment of our EOCs to common core. We, as teachers, parents and students, do not receive necessary feedback results to help us make decisions on best teaching and learning practices.
May 16, 2015 12:10 PM	I would like to see someone from Kentucky, or someone who knows what Kentucky has gone through the last 30 years. It would also be nice to have someone who champions learning resources, as there has been no money for textbooks in my area, for ten years.
May 16, 2015 4:39 PM	The next Commissioner must be collaborative and committed to deeply involving Kentucky's teachers and their Associations, as Dr. Holliday has generally done.
May 17, 2015 12:27 AM	It has been observed by some that the commissioner has been unduly loyal to the Pearson Company. Please use this to provide KDE with the opportunity to appear neutral in loyalty to for profit companies.

May 18, 2015 2:35 AM	I would like to help the Kentucky Board of Education with any questions related to the content area of World Languages
May 18, 2015 10:24 AM	How do Commissioner Candidates align with the ongoing work of KDE? A huge focus has been put on CCR and Career and Technical Education- it would be a shame to change horses in mid-stream.
May 18, 2015 11:46 AM	Someone who will not be so determined on the end of year testing
May 18, 2015 12:25 PM	Look state wide and nationally. Choose the best for Kentucky's Education stakeholders.
May 18, 2015 12:30 PM	Education has become a massive for-profit business with high-paid executives and underfunded teachers/classrooms. A lot of money goes toward a corporate education. This is a very dangerous practice. It is destined to fail, making the rich richer and the students falling farther behind. Let's consider the dynamics of our state and put the resources toward strengthening communities. Let us do something brave instead of following others to bankruptcy. Fund the teacher retirement system.
May 18, 2015 12:37 PM	I would hope the KBE will give particular consideration to a Kentucky candidate for this vacancy. I think we need someone who understands Kentucky's programs, the status of those programs, and the people implementing them so we will not spend time "educating" the commissioner. I also don't think we need someone who desires to add new programs from their previous position to the programs we already have.
May 18, 2015 12:51 PM	See above
May 18, 2015 1:23 PM	Gene Wilhoit knew how to relate to everyone and it is someone like him that the Kentucky Department of Education needs.
May 18, 2015 1:29 PM	The person should have experience in the classroom, so he/she can understand what is occurring in schools.
May 18, 2015 1:52 PM	See above.
May 18, 2015 2:33 PM	<p>1. The next commissioner of education should also understand that all students are not "cut out" to be college students. Schools should be preparing those students for their future jobs- technical or vocational or whatever. Even students who are going to college are leaving high school without real world "life skills". In our middle schools one class period during their 8th grade year is devoted to the "reality store" where students are given a salary and expected decide how their money is best spent. It is an eyeopener for many students, but that's where it stops...no time to follow up and usually nothing else is mentioned about it...we have to get back to "test prep"</p> <p>2. Students are being "tested to death". Valuable instructional time is being used to "test prep" 4-6 times (at least 2 days each prep) before the "big test" at the end of the year. I've known students (those who care) who are physically ill from being stressed on "practice test" days...scared they won't get their star on the wall or whatever little reward they will receive for "trying" on the prep test.</p>

	<p>3. Student test results do not indicate the quality of a teacher. Too many factors influence a students ability to preform on tests. Just 2 of many reasons: 1. Parent involvement with student's academic life (some parents just don't care...their main priority is not their child). 2. The child doesn't care! As middle school teacher I have encountered many students who just "blew off" the test because the didn't care. Write something down, mark a few answers and put their head down. Nothing we can do...they don't care whether they get rewards for "doing their best" on the test, they'll just stay home on rewards day.</p> <p>4. Student and parent evaluations of a teacher's ability will not always be accurate. Too many parents are not involved enough in their child's school lives to know what is going on there. And, believe it or not, if a student "just doesn't like" or "is mad at" a teacher he/she will give a bad evaluation...reasons could range from "I didn't get the grade I wanted (his/her own fault for not doing the work required)" to "the teacher wouldn't let me sleep in class". Yes these examples sound like they would never happen, but they do!!</p>
May 18, 2015 2:57 PM	I think it would be in the best interest of the students to get a person who has understanding of what it takes to be a teacher in the classroom today.
May 18, 2015 4:26 PM	Be thorough. Select the absolute best candidate for the job
May 18, 2015 5:33 PM	I believe that one of the most important, if not THE most important trait of those listed above, is the trait of "communicating with youth and inspiring them to be active participants in their education and pursuit of a career." Student voice in the design and implementation of a modernized education system is vital for success.
May 18, 2015 7:39 PM	Candidates should be very knowledgeable about what is working for Kentuck. They should also show evidence of advocating for students and teachers in relation to policies AND the budget.
May 18, 2015 7:53 PM	The next Commissioner must do a better job of educating the public (not just those who presently have children in school) about what is required from students to be competitive in the 21st century and build more public support for education. We must provide more money and support to schools as a state for things to improve rapidly enough to remain viable. Constantly running down our system isn't the answer; broad based support is necessary, especially since the number of students raised in poverty is growing.
May 18, 2015 7:57 PM	A Commissioner must have a thorough understanding of and experience with CTE programs if we are going to increase college and career readiness for ALL students. We cannot singularly focus on ACT/academic benchmarks to the exclusion of a robust and high quality CTE program that integrates academic and technical education for the hundreds and thousands of students that need postsecondary certificate credentials and are not necessarily interested nor need a four year degree to be competitive and successful in the world of work.
May 18, 2015 8:14 PM	This person needs to have been a classroom teacher for at least ten years.
May 18, 2015 8:40 PM	Also time to seek a woman to lead the Education
May 19, 2015 2:09 AM	Someone who has extensive educational history in KY Supporter of kea/nea
May 19, 2015 11:28 AM	Don't settle for someone without a vision and proven results!

May 19, 2015 5:27 PM	This individual needs to have the charisma, the energy and the willingness to come out of the office and the board room and be a part of the classroom experience across Kentucky. He or she will need to be the voice of the Commonwealth to Frankfort and to Washington, DC. As this voice, it is imperative that a personal evaluation and understanding of what challenges educators daily be always at the center of the message conveyed to those who would dictate policy and processes. KDE has lost touch with what the "every teacher" must manage on a daily basis.
May 21, 2015 6:10 PM	Kentucky is a wonderful education state in many ways, particularly innovation and piloting new initiatives. That is one reason why I moved here and work as a teacher trainer. However, we must do better with English language learners to even meet minimal legal requirements. Also, we need and can do better in teaching minority and title one populations.
May 21, 2015 6:34 PM	Please choose someone who is willing to implement more dual-language immersion schools. Thanks!
May 21, 2015 7:20 PM	There must be support for foreign language education and to have it offered across the state and across the board. Language education and global competency must never be sacrificed for the sake of political agendas or the budget limitations of school districts. Indeed, students who study foreign languages and who achieve global competence are better learners and more attractive job candidates. Our students are worth this investment and the new commissioner must support these initiatives.
May 21, 2015 7:24 PM	The new commissioner's ability to communicate with multiple constituencies is more important than many consider. These constituencies include the legislature, the citizens, faculty K-12, students K-12.
May 21, 2015 7:41 PM	<p>Dr. Holliday is unique in that he has a quick grasp of big picture issues and at the same time is able to place those issues within a practical context. I believe he will be difficult to replace for this and many other reasons, but it is important to find someone who can make complex issues accessible to a wide audience.</p> <p>Also, the next commissioner needs to be a teacher at heart with a clear understanding of what constitutes high quality instruction. The systems he/she puts in place should be shaped by this understanding.</p> <p>In terms of leadership, the next commissioner should understand the symbolic aspect of the job, making sure his/her words and actions convey what is important and worth paying attention to, so that equity and excellence are achieved for Kentucky's students.</p>
May 21, 2015 8:23 PM	KY needs to continue its leadership role in world language education and we can only do that if our Commissioner is an avid supporter.
May 21, 2015 8:23 PM	Let me say as well that the next commissioner of education should be someone who understands the crucial value of the humanities: of learning how to read and how to think and analyze. I believe we have lost contact with the basic skills that allow students to articulate an idea and to understand the logic of the thoughts and ideas of others. As many major business corporations have said: we need people with certain specific skills but just as importantly, as Apple has recently said, we need people who can read and write well and who can think and articulate their thoughts. These basic skills are learned very early on or not and I believe the next commissioner of education has to be engaged in these goals

May 21, 2015 9:17 PM	KDE is not serious about the Data Diet!! We ask districts to enter information into Campus that is NOT required, just because someone at KDE wants it and thinks it is nice to have. Some of it is redundant. The new Commissioner needs to set some limits on this. The districts need a Commissioner who will advocate for them so that their valuable time is spent with students rather than entering more and more data that is not required, even to the point of saying no to some of the KDE leadership.
May 22, 2015 11:52 AM	Perhaps there are people in Kentucky Education we should look to for leadership. If Kentucky is to be a leader among other states, where else can we go to find leadership?
May 22, 2015 1:02 PM	The world language program in elementary schools needs more funding so that more certified teachers can be placed in our schools. We provide students with the foundation for language learning at the most critical time in their lives--at an early age when it is easy for them to grasp it, play with it and engage in it.
May 22, 2015 4:09 PM	While assessment is necessary to the educational process, it is imperative that a new commission works to ensure that KY is not using tests that are not deemed valid or useful by Kentucky educators; it is imperative that the new commissioner ensure that we are not using tests that do not align with the standards identified by law that we are to be teaching; it is imperative that the new commissioner work to reduce the abusive nature of the current testing system on students and teachers; it is imperative that a new commission work to make sure that KY respects the rights of parents to make decisions about their child's education -- including the right to opt their children out of testing; it is imperative that that a new commissioner stop changing the accountability system every year; it is imperative that a new commissioner think beyond the obvious, be creative, innovative, daring, in leading our state to truly teach students the enduring skills they will need to be contributing members of local, state, and global communities. This means we must have a leader who cares about more than just numbers, more than just reading and math, more than just data. We must have a leader who first cares about people -- students, parents, and educators.
May 22, 2015 11:45 PM	I currently am working toward my Bachelor's of Science of Elementary Education at a Kentucky institution of Higher Education. I would like for the Kentucky Board of Education to look for a person to be Kentucky's next commissioner of education who wants to see the students of the Commonwealth to move forward in the area of education. It is time that Kentucky continues to see that the world is not standing still, or are the people who are going to make change occur setting back to see how things work for other states. I believe that we need an commissioner who, like Dr. Holiday, believes that high-standards that are part of the Common Core State Standards and New Generation Science Standards are a good thing for our students. I also believe that the board should find a person who believes that education is not a Republican or Democrat idea, but a bipartisan idea that shapes the future of our state. I also believe that the next commissioner should believe that all students have a right to a high-quality for of education and that it starts with high-quality early learning experiences.
May 23, 2015 3:34 PM	We need to move from a compliance mentality to a model of high expectation with appreciation not every school district has to do the same thing to brle successful.

May 23, 2015 5:38 PM	Just an added note to this characteristic "balances a combination of relentless focus on the student with managing the system to support the people who are getting the work accomplished"...It is important to provide support to the people getting the work done in the commonwealth (teachers, principals, superintendents). In an effort to provide that support, a realistic approach must be taken when making decisions. A proposal may sound wonderful in theory, but it also has to be able to be implemented in a logical, efficient way. I would like a commissioner that understands this. If someone truly exhibits detailed knowledge and an understanding of the teaching and learning process, this will not be an issue. Our commissioner can't be too far removed from the classroom.
May 25, 2015 7:22 PM	I feel that the new commissioner should be focused on not only helping students succeed, but giving them the opportunity to do so when they have a suggestion to change the education system.
May 26, 2015 12:59 AM	-continue to move forward, not backward
May 26, 2015 3:23 AM	Please remember that students are central to everything you do. Students demonstrate a capacity for high-level work, and they want to be involved in discussions that affect them.
May 26, 2015 2:06 PM	Consider someone who has experience managing a business or institution. Someone who can run the agency like a business, always focusing on minimizing costs and waste at the state level.
May 26, 2015 4:01 PM	Kentucky needs a commissioner who will partner with state agencies to combine resources and expertise in improving education in KY. The state does not need to have a Dept of Education functioning in a silo without understanding of the need to develop true partnerships and collaborative efforts.
May 26, 2015 4:02 PM	advocate for school nurses in every school
May 26, 2015 4:29 PM	I would like to see a focus on the need to have experience in partnering with health related agencies and health as a focus for improving education in schools.
May 26, 2015 5:31 PM	Student success and well being is greatly influenced by the health of the child and those supporting the student experience. Having someone who not only gives lip service to the importance of health, safety, and well being, but also develops policies to better ensure student health and safety would be wonderful!
May 26, 2015 5:54 PM	The commissioner of education should have a focus on student health and it's relationship to the education of the student. School based health clinics should be explored and supported and be staffed by Registered Nurses.
May 26, 2015 8:04 PM	Please choose someone from Kentucky, who relates to school superintendents in this state. Many good things have happened in our state over the last few years. We need a positive individual who is willing and able to have a good relationship with school superintendents. The turnover in the position over the last few years say a lot.
May 26, 2015 10:30 PM	Student feedback needs to be prioritized to avoid biased and less relevant opinions
May 26, 2015 10:45 PM	This search should be publicized. Students are the ultimate benefactors of the results of this selection even if we're removed from the process.
May 27, 2015 2:09 AM	School nurses play a vital role in the education and success of our students. I would like to feel that we have a representative that understands our role and would be an active advocate when programs are implemented that directly relate to the students health issues during school hours, on outings and overnight trips such as BETA convention.
May 27, 2015 3:04 AM	I firmly believe the next Commissioner should be a Kentuckian. The Superintendents in our state are very familiar with KDE and what it takes to move our kids forward.
May 27, 2015 12:26 PM	I wish you the best of luck!

May 27, 2015 1:43 PM	I would like the person to understand that the person (student) is unique and should be treated fair in their circumstances (such as environment they have been brought into) are different for each one of us. Don't judge others or forget where you came from.
May 27, 2015 1:50 PM	See above.
May 27, 2015 10:43 PM	See above, and strongly consider a Kentuckian for the position.
May 27, 2015 11:09 PM	Please search for a person who understands not only the "rich history" of Kentucky's education reform but also the parts of it that have made it successful: the accountability system (and all the changes since 1990 which have been made to make it successful and appropriate), the emphasis and focus on student achievement, the cooperation and input of all stakeholders (school councils), AND the fact that since KERA, Kentucky has moved WAY up in (most) lists of state rankings of education, i.e., KY used to be ranked near the bottom in education but NOT ANY MORE. The new Comish needs to understand and appreciate that!
May 28, 2015 1:11 AM	Should be an educator from Kentucky.
May 28, 2015 1:09 PM	I would like a commissioner that has a health related focus also. Someone that could work towards the goal of having a school nurse in every school.
May 29, 2015 1:54 PM	When searching for the next commissioner of education, I would like to see the commissioner take into consideration transportation for students. I would like to see a commissioner that takes into all aspects of education. Without transportation, many children will not be going to school. Many programs that are implemented do not consider transportation, transportation costs or the capability of the districts to ensure all students, not just special needs, have safe transportation to get to school and back. School districts are struggling to keep afloat while transportation is being cut so they can hire new teachers. Hiring new teachers and cutting buses to hire the new teachers/keep teachers is hurting our children. Absentee rates will increase if this continues.
May 29, 2015 3:03 PM	It is important for the next commissioner to communicate with all stakeholders, gather and provide information back to the groups on the feedback provided. The next commissioner should have proof of skills and not just talk. Kentucky needs someone who will listen and have not have a top down only management style. In the last few years, too many initiatives/goals have been undertaken in Kentucky without proper vetting and only to find they are not working. For example, proficiency by 2014, CIITS, and the KDE data warehouse are just a few. Millions of dollars have been spent on these initiatives and it seems there is no accountability.
May 29, 2015 4:14 PM	Familiarity with our accountability system and insights into how it can be improved would be most helpful.
May 29, 2015 5:23 PM	This person needs to be tech savvy. They need to have studied the multitude of computer programs teachers and students are being forced to use and possess the ability to determine which are of value and which are not. This person needs to have actually been a classroom teacher for no less than 10 years.
May 29, 2015 5:48 PM	Please incorporate into your search parameters some factors that address the need for our State's adult education system to be adjusted & to provide our citizens that need a GED some viable options. The current system is significantly flawed and the adult education administrators in Frankfort demonstrate a fortress mentality rather than a concern for fixing the issues that have resulted in a drastic decline in people earning their GED.

May 29, 2015 6:20 PM	Experience is leading a STATE education system, preferably one with local experience as a Superintendent of an URBAN district. There are many currently seated district superintendents (and even a few retired Superintendents) who have adequate experience in small systems. However, many of these local superintendents manage or have managed SMALL systems that may or may not have suffered as a result of "micromanagement." Management of a state system CANNOT effectively operate with ANYONE who micromanages. A prime example of how NOT to manage well would be to take a look at top administration in Fayette County. The state not only needs a VISIONARY leader just like Terry Holliday but also needs one with an outside view of educational innovation from another state who has invested time and capital resources in implementation of SB1-like initiatives.
May 29, 2015 7:00 PM	I would like to point out that "Active Listening" involves more than giving lip service to the concerns of superintendents, principals and teachers in the field. I am concerned that we are setting many of our schools up for failure by an over-reliance on standardized tests results and ranking our schools against each other on everything. Every time we re-set the proficient scores, we automatically make 69% of schools "Needs Improvement." We mention all the time that teachers are bogged down in tasks that detract from their primary responsibility, but we keep adding to the plate anyway/ We need a leader who truly understands Kentucky education - I hope the board will focus on that as they begin this search process.
May 29, 2015 8:17 PM	Kuddos for seeking public comment.
May 29, 2015 8:43 PM	Diversify! There are many qualified minorities-especially African Americans and Hispanics- and we need more at the higher levels to further exemplify diversity that's needed in schools all across Kentucky! Also see response to #2!
May 29, 2015 9:05 PM	<p>More Diversity at the top and in teachers all over the state even in mostly white areas.</p> <p>Also See response above:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Provide more incentives for diversity in staff, curriculum and academic competition preparation * Provide more support for Gifted Ed with staffing and projects. * Develop more strategies to reduce achievement gap especially with Students with Disabilities, Low Income, African Americans and Hispanics *Support and perhaps more incentive for Parental/Family Engagement *More outreach and partnership with Education and Parent Advocacy groups and activities. *Value more digital learning and blended learning *Create more Community Partnerships! *Promote more foreign language offerings early! *More Support for Early Ed for All especially those traditionally in Gap!