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Frankfort, KY 40601  
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KSBA Website: [www.ksba.org](http://www.ksba.org)

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May 19, 2015

Roger L. Marcum, Chairman  
Kentucky Board of Education  
500 Mero Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Capital Plaza Tower  
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Dear Chairman Marcum:

Please find attached a compilation reflecting critical traits for the next Commissioner of Education as identified by the board of directors of the Kentucky School Boards Association (KSBA).

Responding on behalf of our 869 local board of education members, our KSBA Board of Directors welcomed the opportunity to actively participate in your board's work of finding the best person to serve as our education commissioner.

The results speak for themselves. I want to thank you for including this contribution from KSBA.

If you have any questions or concerns about this effort, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

Mike Armstrong, Executive Director  
Kentucky School Boards Association

Cc: Allen Kennedy, KSBA President



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## 2015 Commissioner of Education Search

Ideally the next Commissioner of Education of Kentucky should:

- Be an experienced Kentucky educator with knowledge of Kentucky's ongoing reform efforts, as well as innovative education practices from across the nation and around the world.
- Be an advocate for public education and have the desire to promote and work toward increasing public confidence in the public education system.
- Recognize that adequate and equitable funding for public education, including early childhood education, is crucial to continuing to move education forward in Kentucky.
- Recognize that adequate and equitable funding for public education is possible only if public funds for education remain devoted to public schools only.
- Recognize the progress Kentucky has made in recent years and be committed to working with local districts and local boards of education to continue that progress and drive Kentucky forward to be more competitive internationally.
- Be a proven and effective communicator that utilizes communication to foster collaboration among education stakeholders from all areas, and all levels of the education system in Kentucky.
- Lead the Department of Education as an agency of support to school districts and educators across the Commonwealth.
- Be familiar with and mindful of the diversity of needs of school districts and students in urban and rural settings across the Commonwealth.
- Value the knowledge of local leaders and believe that local governance has an important role in setting education policy.
- Continue implementation of existing programs and education reforms to allow for full execution of those reforms and stand against new initiatives and programs that would be costly as unfunded mandates.

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