

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Review Item:

Status Update on School Districts in State Assistance

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 158.780, KRS 158.785 and 703 KAR 3:205

History/Background:

Existing Policy.

- ✓ The Fleming County School District (Fleming) and the Robertson County School District (Robertson) have been designated for state assistance by the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) for more than a year.
- ✓ At the February 2015 board meeting, the Caverna Independent School District (Caverna) was designated for state assistance by the KBE.
- ✓ At the December 2014 board meeting, the Menifee County School District (Menifee) was designated for state assistance by the KBE. *At a special-called July 2015 board meeting, the KBE changed this designation to state-managed.*

Caverna Independent School District

Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) staff is continuing to support the district on a daily basis. The district has created two new central office positions to better manage district operations. They have hired a Director of District-Wide Programs and District Curriculum Specialist. The district also will have completed several facilities improvements that were noted in the management audit by the end of the summer. The district is planning an administrative retreat with KDE staff support in which the superintendent will set expectations and non-negotiables for all administrators. KDE staff has been working with teachers over the summer on pacing guides and summative unit assessments and assisting principals in the development of a district-wide Professional Learning Community (PLC) Framework. The superintendent and board have been very cooperative in working with the KDE team.

Fleming County School District

The district has made significant progress over the summer. They have worked on multiple initiatives and had an administrative retreat that was led by AdvancED staff. With the ultimate goal of district accreditation, the retreat focused on using the Standards of Quality for continuous school improvement. District leadership also was busy filling multiple administrative vacancies in the district, including principal and assistant principal at the high school and principal at Ewing Elementary. The district has hired a Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Specialist to support the turnaround efforts at the high school. The board is committed to improving student achievement and has approved two interventionist positions for the high school. The administrative team at the high school is all new and we anticipate significant academic gains over the next school year.

Robertson County School District

Sanford Holbrook started work as the new superintendent on July 1. Superintendent Holbrook has been very visible in the community and has offered input on development of 30/60/90-day plans using the improvement priorities from the internal review to help guide the work. KDE provided the funds to train all teachers in the district in using classroom systems for continuous improvement. The feedback from teachers and administrators was very positive and implementation in classrooms will align with many of the improvement priorities from the internal review. There is still concern regarding declining enrollment and the district's ability to provide adequate services to meet the needs of all students with its current resources. However, Superintendent Holbrook has made an effort to personally call all parents of students that lived in the district but were attending school elsewhere to invite them back to Robertson County Schools and this continues to be a focus for the district.

Menifee County School District

At a special-called state board meeting on July 10, the KBE approved a change in designation of the Menifee County School District from "state-assisted" to "state-managed." At the time of preparation of this staff note, KDE staff are working on this transition. As of the October KBE meeting, Menifee will switch to the state management staff note format for reporting.

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