

1 NEW COMMISSIONER: Pruitt offered education commissioner post



The Kentucky Board of Education voted to extend an offer of employment to Stephen L. Pruitt to become Kentucky's sixth commissioner of education. Pruitt is currently senior vice president at Achieve, Inc., an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit education reform organization based in Washington, D.C. Pruitt's prior experience includes chief of staff, associate state superintendent, director of academic standards, and science and mathematics program manager with the Georgia Department of Education; and high school chemistry teacher in Fayetteville and Tyrone, Georgia. He earned a bachelor's degree from North Georgia College and State University; a master's from the University of West Georgia and a Doctorate of Philosophy from Auburn University. *NKCES welcomes Dr. Stephen Pruitt to Kentucky!* See [news release](#) for more information Superintendents are invited to a reception welcoming Dr. Pruitt as Kentucky's Education Commissioner at the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce:

Monday, October 5, 2015

4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Please RSVP by Thursday, Oct. 1 to Michelle Whitaker at mwhitaker@prichardcommittee.org or 859-233-9849 x235

2 2014-15 Assessment and Accountability to be Data Released this Week



Data from the 2014-15 Unbridled Learning: College and Career-Readiness for All accountability model will be released to the public at **12:01 a.m. ET on Thursday, October 1** through the online [School Report Card](#). Reminder: The data remains under embargo for both districts and the media until the public release. This means it may not be discussed or reported publicly, though districts are free to discuss it with the media as long as it is not reported prior to the public release time.

Districts and the media will be provided the media briefing packet and state news release in addition to a new spreadsheet that will compare overall scores. The file is designed to alleviate confusion over the percentile rank and allegations that because they are based on a locked percentage from 2013, current performance may be misleading. The excel spreadsheet is organized alphabetically by district. It reports the three school levels and the district. It displays the Overall Scores for 2013-14 and 2014-15 and an associated rank for each set of scores. These scores reflect all the same components and are comparable. We show a simple rank instead of a percentile. [Click here for data release resources.](#)

3 SB 97 SUPPORT: Join the Professional Learning Community



KDE's Division of Student Success is offering training and technical assistance on strategies that can be used to reengage off-track students in learning and get them back on a path to graduation through the Persistence to Graduation professional learning community (PLC). The PLC is being convened at least bimonthly, both virtually and in person, to offer peer-to-peer learning on strategies that have been successful in reengaging these students.

Please click this [link](#) to join the listserv and receive updates on PLC activities and resources. For more information contact [Christina Weeter](#) or by phone at (502) 564-4772.

4 GLOBAL COMPETENCY/WORLD LANGUAGE PROGRAM REVIEW UPDATE



COMING SOON TO NKCES: WORLD LANGUAGE NETWORKS with [Alfonso De Torres Nunez](#)

The Global Competency (GC)/World Language (WL) Program Review will remain on schedule for 2015-16 as follows:

- High school baselines will be calculated using 2014-15 data in the fall of 2015 for accountability reporting in 2015-16;
- Elementary and middle school baselines will be calculated using 2015-16 data in the fall of 2016 for accountability reporting in 2016-17;
- ALL schools are required to enter data into ASSIST in 2015-16;
- ALL schools are to be expected to use the REVISED 2015 Global Competency/World Language Program Rubric.

Why was the Program Review Rubric revised? -- The rubric was revised based on the intentional focus on Global Readiness/Competency by the Kentucky Board of Education following the presentation of *Kentucky's Global Education Position Statement* and the board's *Resolution Supporting Global Readiness for Kentucky Students* at the August 2014 board meeting.

The following supports are being offered:

- A series of **Global Symposia** have been planned for November 2015 and January 2016 in locations across the state. Register on the GC/WL Program Review webpage by clicking [here](#)
- **Progressions documents** have been created for the Global Competency/World Language Program Review Rubric to illustrate the clear progression of expectations for each characteristic. You can locate these on the [Program Review webpage](#).
- Additional opportunities to apply for funding have been made available. The **second round of Learn and Launch (FY16) Grants** are for elementary and middle schools to begin exploring school-wide integration of global competencies/world languages with the assistance of a provider partner, VIF.

For further information, see the [Global Competency/World Language](#) and [Program Review](#) webpages on the KDE website or contact [Kelly Clark](#) or [Alfonso De Torres Nunez](#)

5 NOVICE REDUCTION INITIATIVE



NOVICE REDUCTION TRAINING COMING TO NKY REGION: One of the first trainings will be held in our region. Teams from each district will work in a small group setting with Novice Reduction Coaches in a workshop format. There will be a morning and an afternoon session and each will be limited to 6 teams.

Over the next four months, districts, schools, and cooperatives will be learning more about KDE's Novice Reduction Initiative ([graphic](#)). This intentional push toward novice reduction will provide focused support for partners as they work to build and/or modify systems, in order to improve student success with continuous improvement tools. Much of the work of novice reduction is not new; however, it is an intentional focus to align and implement successful strategies.

For more information about how current work relates to novice reduction, as well as clarification of questions surrounding novice reduction, refer to this [white paper](#). In the Novice Reduction White Paper, in Appendix A, you will find a matrix that demonstrates the alignment of Characteristics of Highly Effective Teaching and Learning (CHETL), Teacher Professional Growth and Effectiveness System (TPGES) and Novice Reduction components. If you have further questions, contact [Linda Rains](#), Novice Reduction Coordinator.

6 RURAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE



Taking the Lead: Rural Innovation, Integration, Investment, and Impact will be held **October 26-27** at the Polaris Hilton in Columbus, Ohio. The 2015 Forum will feature powerful examples of rural investment and innovation that positively impact student growth and achievement and foster collaboration around best practices for their districts, schools and communities. Join us for two days of professional learning and networking with national leaders and practitioners around key rural education issues: [Register](#) now and be sure to see the [attachment](#) or check the [Forum's website](#) for more information.

7 NEW BROADBAND ACCESS RFP



Earlier this year, the Governor's Office and the Finance and Administration Cabinet announced a new state initiative to provide improved broadband access across the Commonwealth of Kentucky, at reduced cost and with better access for students/parents outside of school. The Governor's Office and the Finance and Administration Cabinet requested that the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) share this information:

The Finance and Administration Cabinet will soon release a RFP for statewide high capacity connectivity, Internet access and security services for public libraries, K-12 school districts, higher education, governmental, and healthcare locations in 120 counties. As districts are aware, KDE recently finished the transition from the Kentucky Information Highway (KIH), version 2 to KI3, which led to significant gains in speed, but now there are new opportunities available to us through the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) E-rate modernization rules. These opportunities make a new solicitation (KI4) the responsible thing to do for our state. We look forward to this new opportunity for better service and better rates for our schools. As always, KDE will initiate E-rate filings on behalf of the districts and follow the normal offers of assistance process.

8 DFC Grant



In collaboration with NKCES Grants Consortium, The Campbell County Drug Free Alliance has been awarded \$625,000 over five years (\$125,000 per year) from the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration of the US Department of Health and Human Services. Campbell County Drug Free Alliance (CCA) has more than 25 community partners and serves all schools and the community in Campbell County. This funding will allow CCA to hire a full-time coordinator to facilitate substance abuse prevention efforts and build relationships among community members and agencies.

Campbell County Drug Free Alliance's mission is to build community partnerships that create an environment and promote a lifestyle free of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs for Campbell County youth so that they can pursue a safe, healthy, responsible and productive lifestyle. CCA works through seven research based strategies for community change: providing information, enhancing skills, providing support, enhancing access/reducing barriers, changing consequences, changing physical design, and modifying/changing policies. The coalition focuses on prevention of youth use of all substances. The DFC grant will allow them to more heavily focus efforts on youth marijuana & alcohol use. **For more information, contact:** Allyn Reinecke, CCA Chair

9 NBCT REIMBURSEMENT OPPORTUNITY through NT3 GRANT



To help achieve the goal outlined in [KRS 161.131](#) of having one National Board Certified Teacher in every Kentucky school by 2020 and to overcome the barrier that teachers in schools without colleagues who are board-certified are **half** as likely to pursue National Board certification, the Kentucky Network to Transform Teaching will reimburse candidates from schools without National Board Certified Teachers \$275 after the submission of one component for out of pocket expenses, as long as funding allows & in the order [applications](#) are received. If you have any questions, please e-mail Suzanne.Farmer@ky.gov.

10 NEXT-GENERATION STUDENT COUNCIL: PLEASE SHARE WITH STUDENTS IN GRADES 10-12



In order to gain valuable feedback from Kentucky students and to engage student leaders in learning by doing, the commissioner of education created the Next-Generation Student Council. This group meets with the commissioner and Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) staff, both in person and virtually, to discuss how decisions made at the state level are affecting students throughout Kentucky and provide feedback. The Next-Generation Student Council is a year-long program for Kentucky public school students in grades 10-12. The council seeks students with refreshing ideas and thoughtful insight into how we can further improve our schools and student achievement. As such, we encourage all students to apply in order to represent the diverse academic, geographic, demographic & school-size variables particular to our state. Students can click [here](#) to access the application and read FAQs for the council.



September 30	Deadline for Commissioner's Student Council
October 1	Deadline for reporting requirements for achievement gaps in ASSIST 2015-16 Constitutionally Protected Prayer Certification due to KDE
October 12	Using the Common Core Standards to Enhance Classroom Literacy
October 13	NOVICE REDUCTION TRAINING
October 14	NKCES Superintendents' Board Meeting (NKCES PD ROOM)
October 16	ISLN MEETING (GATEWAY)
October 22	NKCES CREATE and TAKE CO-OP CONNECTIONS
November 9	Kentucky Global Symposia, Shelbyville
November 11	NKCES Superintendents' Board Meeting (GATEWAY)
November 15	District financial audits and audited Annual Financial Report, Balance Sheet (AFR) and corresponding Statement of Certification due to KDE
November 20	ISLN MEETING and PD CONSORTIUM MEETING (GATEWAY)
November 25	21 st Century Community Learning Centers final reimbursement request due
November 30	Race to the Top final reimbursement request due
December 9	NKCES Superintendents' Board Meeting (GATEWAY)
December 10	Federal Cash Request due *GREEN: NKCES DATES



"Important Due Dates for Superintendents" Document Available Online The updated document can be found by [clicking here](#).