

Commissioner's Report
April 13, 2016 Kentucky Board of Education Meeting

KSB and KSD Update

KSD Principal Will Begley, KSB Principal Debi Phillips and KDE Division Director Gretta Hylton visited the Georgia School for the Deaf, Georgia Academy for the Blind, and Atlanta Area School for the Deaf. Great conversation occurred between our staff and the superintendents of these schools. The Georgia team has been invited to visit Kentucky to continue the collaborative partnership.

KSB and KSD administrators are working with the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) to develop a stronger infrastructure.

The Braille Challenge and Academic Bowl were huge successes!

The review of practices continues with:

- Audit of special education programs completed and reports pending;
- Outside observations completed from the University of Kentucky Center for Trauma and Children and University of Louisville Academic and Behavioral Response to Intervention (ABRI) Program

Multidisciplinary teams have been formed and are meeting regularly at both schools. KDE representatives are participating in these meetings.

The Kentucky School for the Deaf pool renovation is underway.

KDE, Division of Learning Services, has developed a structure for support to the schools.

Staff vacancies are being evaluated to determine additional supports needed for both schools.

Two students from KSD achieved College-and-Career-Ready status.

Town Hall Meetings

At the time of the writing of this report, two Town Hall Meetings have occurred, Shelbyville and Campbellsville. The attendance was good at both, approximately 275 for Shelbyville and 175 for Campbellsville.

The purpose of these meetings is to gather feedback to help shape the new accountability system that we will be developing to meet the requirements of the Every Student Succeeds Act. A presentation during the April board meeting will be devoted to this topic.

We have been received very well in the communities in which we have conducted the meetings. All input has been conveyed in an orderly and respectful manner.

We are audio taping each meeting and capturing the comments in written form as well. Access to the comments will be available soon on a webpage being created on the KDE website. You will receive a summary report once the listening tour is completed.