



# Teach For America - Appalachia

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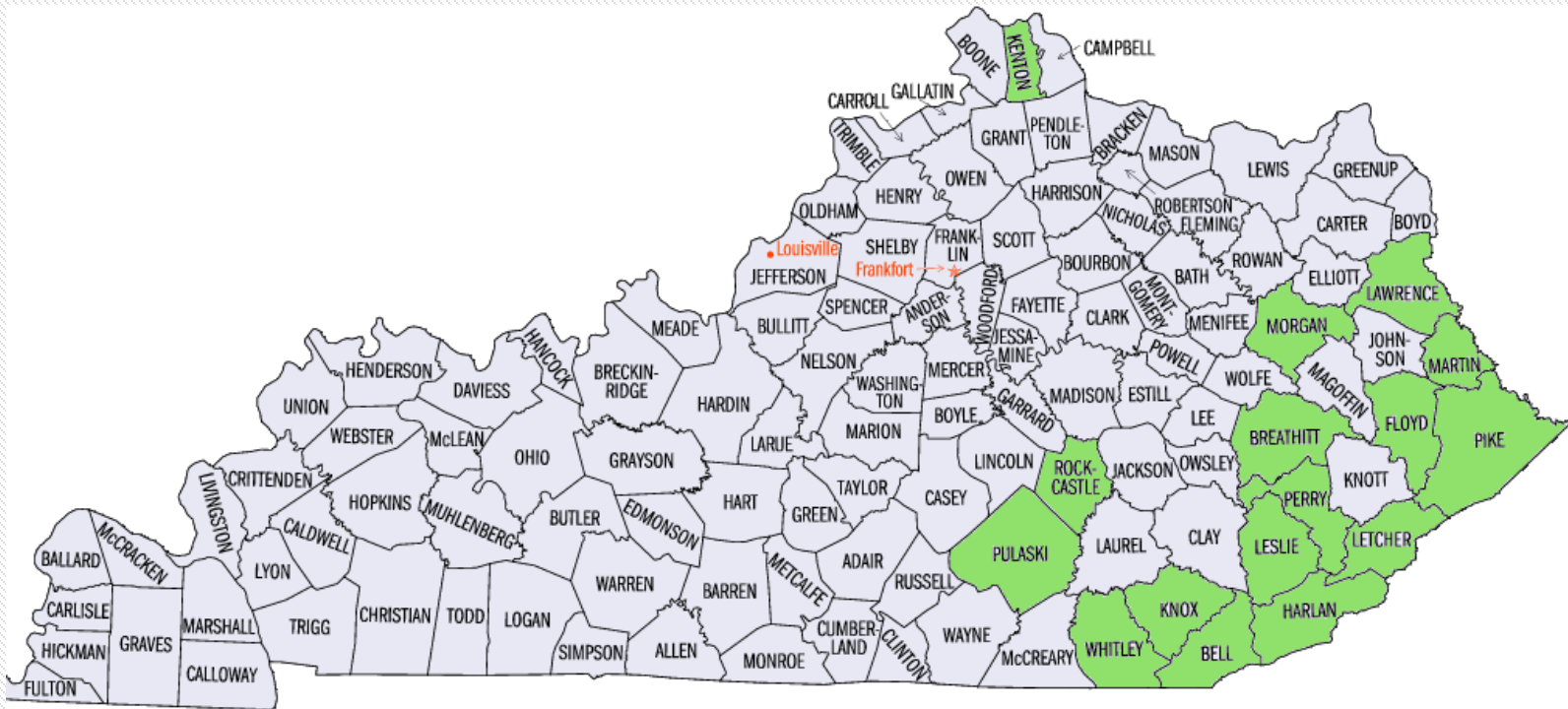
State Funding + Our Future in Kentucky + Q&A

# History in Kentucky

- In the spring of 2010, the KY General Assembly amended KRS 161.048 which created the 8<sup>th</sup> option to an alternative certificate in KY.
- Shortly thereafter, the EPSB promulgated rules to put into place Option 8 and began issuing temporary, provisional certificates to TFA candidates in June of 2011.
- Currently, Option 8 is a pilot program linked directly to the federal Race to the Top program; however, the EPSB has the authority under KRS Chapter 13A to make Option 8 a permanent option.

## Key Program Statistics

- Partnerships with 21 districts (up from 4 in 2011)
- 52 corps members
  - 70% in secondary STEM and foreign language
  - Remaining 30% spread among all other subjects



# Key Program Statistics

- 130 TFA alumni across Kentucky
- 66% of alumni continue to work in education
- Alumni teachers in the following districts:
  - Fayette (8)
  - Floyd (5)
  - Hardin (1)
  - Hazard Independent (2)
  - Jefferson (4)
  - Kenton (4)
  - Knox (2)
  - Leslie (1)
  - Letcher (1)
  - Lincoln (1)
  - Middlesboro (2)
  - Perry (1)
  - Rockcastle (1)
  - Scott (1)
  - Wayne (1)
  - Woodford (1)

# Feedback from Principals/Superintendents

## Annual Principal Survey

- 93% of principals rated corp members as good, very good or excellent in terms of knowledge of their subject matter.
- 100% of principals agree/strongly agree that they are satisfied with their TFA corp members.
- 100% of principals agree/strongly agree that TFA corp members make a positive difference in their school.
- 85% of principals agree/strongly agree that TFA teachers have a greater impact on student achievement than other beginning teachers.

# Feedback

“As a Perry County School Board member, I see firsthand the benefits of our partnership with Teach For America – Appalachia. The level of quality that TFA is investing in our students, our schools and our communities is immeasurable.” –**Robin Gabbard**, Parent and School Board Member, Perry County Schools

“Martin County is desperate for highly-qualified teachers. There are no local applicants for high school positions. I have 4 TFA English teachers, 2 math teachers, 1 science, and 1 history. Six of these were hired just this year. I must stress that TFA does more than just fill highly needed positions. TFA teachers are excellent workers and do a wonderful job educating our students. Moreover, the extra support TFA provides helps the teachers and me beyond measure.” –**Dr. Lonnie Laney**, Principal, Sheldon Clark High School

“TFA is the most selective teacher preparation program in the state of Kentucky.” –**Kim Walters-Parker**, Former Director, Education Preparation Division, EPSB



# State Funding

- Legislature included funding for TFA in the FY15/16 budget bill during the spring session of 2014
- In exchange for \$500,000 in the biennium, TFA promised to:
  - Bring in a total of 60 additional teachers for the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 school years
  - Expand to at least 5 new counties
  - Match the public funding 3:1 with private funding
- Funding specifically supported:
  - Recruitment of teachers within KY and across the country to Appalachia (including regional recruitment)
  - Initial training of new teachers before they begin teaching—including coursework, room and board, transportation, etc.
  - On-going support, training and coaching of teachers during their two-year commitment (and beyond, if they choose to stay)



# Our future in Kentucky

- TFA Appalachia currently the highest performing rural region within TFA
- Demand for teachers during 2015-2016 school year was double our supply
- Legislature asked to renew \$500,000 appropriation for FYs 2017 and 2018

