

Commissioner's Report
August 3-4, 2016
Kentucky Board of Education Meeting

KSB/KSD Update – The following items provide an update from the Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB) and Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD):

School bells may not have been ringing, but both schools were busy offering students a variety of learning opportunities through summer enrichment programs. One program at KSD focused on a camp theme of “Manufacturing Bright Minds.” Attending students learned about various manufacturing jobs and focused on soft skills required for work. Some of these skills included imagining, designing, creating and producing, in addition to assembly lines, robotics and generators. As part of this experience, some students also got the opportunity to see these jobs and skills in practice when they visited Ma Blakeman’s, Tarter Industries, Denyo America, Toyota, Old Kentucky Chocolates, Krispy Kreme, Pioneer Vocational Industries, 10th Planet and Hitachi. (Pictures of this program are attached.) Likewise, teachers have been busy learning. The Convention of American Instructors for the Deaf (CAID) National Conference was held in Louisville on June 25-28, 2016; staff from the Division of Learning Services (DLS) and KSD were both in attendance.

Staff from DLS also continues to provide intensive technical assistance and support to both schools. Corrective Action Plans (CAPs) that resulted from the reviews of practice have been implemented, with timelines being met. Additionally, contracts for additional support from the University of Kentucky’s Center on Trauma and Children (CTAC) and University of Louisville’s Academic and Behavioral Response to Intervention (ABRI) have been approved. This approval will result in additional support being provided in the areas of academics, behavior and trauma-informed care at both schools. Other improvements occurring at both schools include a restructuring of the Food Service Program; this is currently underway and a full-time food service coordinator position at KDE has been routed for approval.

Specific to KSD, the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) released a Response for Proposal (RFP) for assistance with KSD’s strategic planning. The KDE received proposals and the scoring process has begun. In addition, facilities maintenance continues to take place at KSD. The pool is currently being filled with water and Grow Hall is still under construction.

Specific to KSB, Tristan Parsons has been appointed as interim principal while we seek a full-time, permanent principal.

Second Meeting of Accountability Steering Committee Held on July 25. The Committee that will make recommendations to me on the configuration of the new accountability system held its second meeting on July 25. Associate Commissioner Rhonda Sims and Brian Gong from the Center for Assessment facilitated the meeting.

The committee provided feedback on what is working and what is not working in the current accountability system as well as heard a presentation from Gong on the detailed requirements found in the draft regulations issued by the U.S. Department of Education that the system would

have to meet. Members were asked to provide feedback on these draft regulations by the August 1 deadline.

The next meeting of the group will occur on August 22 in Frankfort at the Capital Plaza Tower's Ground Floor Auditorium from 9:00 a.m. till noon ET.

Dyslexia Task Force Update - The Dyslexia Task Force held its first of twelve meetings on Wednesday, July 20, facilitated by Dr. Timothy Odegard, Chair of Excellence in Dyslexic Studies at Middle Tennessee State University. The task force is comprised of individuals who have experience and expertise in this area, including education shareholders from schools, local districts, postsecondary institutions, education cooperatives and advocacy groups. The group's work is to study dyslexia and develop recommendations on policy, personnel, and the instructional and fiscal resources needed to identify and support students with dyslexia across Kentucky.

KDE Booth at State Fair - This year, KDE's booth at the State Fair in Louisville will have content/learning area theme days representing mathematics, science, arts & humanities, social studies, foreign language/global competency, library media, early childhood learners and English/language arts. There also will be a day spotlighting the Kentucky School for the Deaf and Kentucky School for the Blind.

Each theme day will have a themed takeaway and those content consultants and KDE staff generalists staffing the booth will engage the visitors in conversation about the content area featured that day and also answer any questions from visitors. If the questions cannot be answered that day, the visitor can leave his or her name and an email for follow-up later.

The booth also will have pens, bags and a station where visitors are encouraged to take selfies using career pathway props. The Office of Career and Technical Education also will maintain and staff shared space in the booth to engage and answer questions related to career and technical education.

The dates of the 2016 Kentucky State Fair in Louisville are Aug. 18-28 and KDE's booth will be located in the Main Street Kentucky section of the South Wing of the Kentucky Exposition Center in Louisville. The schedule of theme days is as follows:

- Friday, August 19: Global competency/world languages
- Saturday, August 20: Mathematics
- Sunday, August 21: Arts & humanities
- Monday, August 22: Science
- Tuesday, August 23: Kentucky School for the Deaf
- Wednesday, August 24: English/language arts
- Thursday, August 25: Early childhood
- Friday, August 26: Kentucky School for the Blind
- Saturday, August 27: Library media
- Sunday, August 28: Social studies