

*Commissioner of Education's Report
Kentucky Board of Education Meeting
October 5, 2016*

Assessment Data Release

The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) will be releasing the last assessment results under the Unbridled Learning Assessment and Accountability System according to the following schedule:

Tuesday, September 27

- Morning: Release of **embargoed** data to districts via the School Report Card
- Afternoon: Release of **embargoed** data to the working media

Thursday, September 29

- 12:01 a.m. ET – **Embargo lifted**
- Public release of School Report Card

The board will receive the data at the same time it is released to the media. Please remember that it is embargoed and you are not to share or discuss it with outside persons until the embargo is lifted and the data is made public.

Associate Commissioner Rhonda Sims will be giving the highlights of the data at the board meeting on the morning of October 5. Board members can prepare themselves for this discussion by reviewing the briefing packet that will be sent to them as part of the embargoed material prior to the board meeting.

Status of Work on New Accountability System

Work on the new accountability system is moving forward and reaching a point where substantive content will soon emerge. The five work groups (assessment, college- and career-readiness, educational innovations, opportunity and access, and school improvement) are finalizing their recommendations, which are due to Associate Commissioner Rhonda Sims on September 26. Following the receipt of their recommendations, the following schedule will be followed:

- September 27 - Day to organize the recommendations from the work groups by KDE.
- September 28 - Target date to send all recommendations from the work groups to the Systems Integration Work Group in advance of their October 4 meeting.
- October 4 – Systems Integration Work Group meeting to review and discuss the work groups' recommendations.
- October 11 – Systems Integration Work Group meeting to finalize what recommendations will be forwarded to the Accountability Steering Committee.
- October 12 – Accountability Steering Committee meeting to begin to review and discuss the recommendations forwarded from the Systems Integration Work Group.
- October 31 – Systems Integration Work Group meets to discuss any clarifications requested by the Accountability Steering Committee, if needed.
- November 2 – Accountability Steering Committee meeting to consider clarifications sent back from the Systems Integration Work Group, if needed.
- After the November 2 Accountability Steering Committee meeting – Proposal released for public input and focus groups to be held with various constituencies (business and

industry, minority constituency groups, higher education, educators, etc.) during the month of November.

- November 30 and December 1 – Accountability Steering Committee meeting to consider and discuss the comments received during the public comment period.

Be aware that these dates are all tentative and could be adjusted according to the progress of the various groups.

Currently, we plan to have a special meeting of the Kentucky Board of Education in January for a first reading of the related regulations and a second reading in February. However, this could change if the U.S. Department of Education adjusts the timeline for implementation of the system in their regulations. We should know this by December.

KSB and KSD Update

Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD)

School began on August 1, 2016. At registration, each child was presented with a KSD suitcase, a pair of shoes and a shirt. Parents reported that this offering was highly valued and appreciated as residential students typically traveled from home to KSD with their belongings in a plastic bag. Additionally, preschool enrollment is growing with the potential for more students to enroll within the next few months.

A focus for the fall has been reviewing communication policies and American Sign Language (ASL) attainment for staff. A team consisting of KSD and KDE staff began its preliminary work last month on these and other policies. The team, along with the KSD Advisory Board, will collaborate in an effort to present policies to the board in the spring. In the meantime, administration developed a staff procedure handbook (for both classified and certified staff) to include clearly defined roles and expectations. Additionally, ASL videos are currently being produced by Meena Mann with KSD Outreach and the following KDE staff: Emma Riley, Alfonso De Torres Nunez, Andrew Liaupsin and Megan Osborn. The videos, titled “The Novice ASL Survival Kit,” will be used by school districts in an effort to learn basic ASL to communicate with students who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Staffing additions at KSD include the following:

- Carla Lewis: Elementary teacher from Clay County with 25 years of experience in Deaf Education
- Sarah-Ann Webb: Functional Mental Disability (FMD) teacher from Boyle County with 15 years of experience in her field
- Deanna Glasser: High school English teacher from the American School for the Deaf and the Tennessee School for the Deaf with 25 years of experience in Deaf/Hard of Hearing
- Kelsey Grievson: High school social studies teacher from New York, a graduate of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf in her first year with a Deaf/Hard of Hearing and social studies certification
- A social worker also has been hired and will be named once the official paperwork has been processed.

In addition, there will be six practicum students from Eastern Kentucky University starting in the fall. They will be working with KSD teachers to learn the tasks and responsibilities of teachers, as well as how to specifically monitor a student's progress.

Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB)

While Commissioner Pruitt and KDE staff joined KSB staff and students for an Open House on August 7, 2016, school officially began on August 8. A significant change this year is that all students are now provided breakfast; whereas in the past, this occurrence only applied to residential students. The KDE Division of School and Community Nutrition continues to be involved in the monitoring and training of both KSD and KSB food-related services. Reported feedback by parents and staff regarding school and staffing changes has been overwhelmingly positive.

Professionals from the University of Louisville and the University of Kentucky will be providing trainings to address school-wide academic and behavior interventions. The purpose is to provide KSB with guidance in order to develop a Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS). The MTSS will meet the diverse needs of KSB students as all students' instructional and behavioral needs will be addressed. Additionally, a special emphasis will be placed on services for students who fall under the low incidence category (1%) consisting of Multiple Disabilities, Functional Mental Disability (FMD) and Autism. Further, a Mental Health Consortium has been developed and is working with the University of Kentucky's Center for Trauma and Children (CTAC). A plan is currently being developed to include trauma training for all staff, both at KSD and KSB.

Staffing additions at KSB include the following:

- Tristan Parsons: Interim principal
- Jackie Williams: FMD teacher
- Dr. Anna Freeman: Psychologist

KDE Move to 300 Sower Blvd. Completed

The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) has completed its move from the Capital Plaza Tower to its new home at 300 Sower Blvd. Considering we moved over 400 people, the move went amazingly well!

This can be attributed to the leadership of Associate Commissioner Robin Kinney, her facilities staff, the team of Project Move Champions from across KDE and Associate Commissioner David Couch's technology staff. The organizational plan that supported the move was excellent!

Offices moved on a schedule with about 30 to 50 people being moved at a time. Staff packed up the day before their move, reported to the new building the next day for orientation and while they were in orientation, their moving boxes were delivered and computers were hooked up. We had very little down time and work resumed as usual fairly quickly.

Again, kudos to everyone who were part of the Project Move effort!