

EDUCATION CABINET
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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Jon E. Draud, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

May 28, 2008

Nannette Johnston, Superintendent
Hardin County Schools
65 WA Jenkins Road
Elizabethtown KY 42701

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Dear Superintendent Johnston:

This year, the *SchoolMatch* 17th annual "What Parents Want" Award honored 2,529 of the nation's 15,571 public school districts for making noteworthy efforts to meet family needs.

I congratulate the Hardin County school district for being one of 21 Kentucky districts selected to receive the "What Parents Want" Award.

To determine which districts made the cut, *SchoolMatch* compiled information gathered from county assessors, county auditors, state taxing authorities, state departments of education and others. The criteria include:

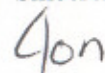
- solid academics, competitive test scores and appropriate levels of rigor
- accreditation
- national recognition for excellence
- competitive teacher salaries
- above-average instructional expenditures, based on national percentiles
- above-average expenditures for library/media services, based on national percentiles
- small class sizes
- high-quality secondary education

SchoolMatch used these criteria to search its database of public schools and found that only 16 percent of the more than 15,000 schools listed met those criteria.

Hardin County is certainly deserving of this honor. Your district's performance on state assessments, low dropout rates and recognition on the state, regional and national level make it a natural choice.

Your district's selection for this award puts it in an elite group of school districts across the nation. I applaud your achievements, and I'm certain that Hardin County will continue to be a leader among Kentucky's 174 school districts.

Sincerely,



Jon E. Draud

JD:lyg