

***Report from the Kentucky Commissioner of Education
Stephen L. Pruitt, Ph.D.***

***Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) Meeting
February 7, 2018***

Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB) Highlights:

- *A senior student recently scored a 31 on their ACT.*
- *KSB high school students wrote and performed a play on the life of Louis Braille at American Printing House.*
- *KSB recently participated in a national wrestling tournament. The girls' team placed 1st and the boys' team placed 2nd out of ten (10) total teams.*
- *KSB is producing a school yearbook for the first time this academic year.*
- *Interviews were held the week of January 29 for the vacancies of Fiscal Officer and Operations Supervisor.*
- *The food service corrective action plan has now been closed.*
- *Gifted and Talented identification processes are currently being developed.*

Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD) Highlights:

- *Gifted and Talented identification processes are currently being developed.*
- *The KSD Academic Team qualified for the regional meet in Tennessee.*
- *The KSD Culinary Team was one of 7 teams from across the country invited to participate in a Culinary Arts Bowl for deaf students.*
- *Recent new hires include an Operation Supervisor and English teacher.*
- *The KSD website has been updated and is now ADA compliant.*
- *The administration team will begin "Colonel Walks" soon, which are classroom walkthroughs to measure the rigor of instruction taking place.*

Kentucky Academic Standards Updates

Work continues on the revision of Kentucky's Academic Standards per Senate Bill 1 (2017). Members of the math and ELA advisory panels (APs) met the last two weeks of January 2018. The next level of work will be completed by the Review

and Development Committees (RDCs) to be informed by the work of the APs along with data collected during the public comment period.

Meanwhile, Health and Physical Education standards are being finalized by their RDCs and will be shared with the Local Superintendents Advisory Council (LSAC) for feedback and input in upcoming April 2018. Public feedback was presented to the Computer Science standards RDCs with final editing to the draft standards to occur later this month. Further, the committee workgroup for the Historical and Cultural Influences of the Bible standards reconvened and also is finalizing a draft of the standards to share with the LSAC in April 2018.

Additionally, the KDE began the Social Studies standards revision process in January. The process launched with a webinar on January 23 outlining details for public comment/feedback on the current standards and call for teacher participation in the Social Studies APs and RDCs.

Computer Science Updates

1. KDE Computer Science Initiative

The KDE Computer Science Initiative is a partnership with Code.org, Advance Kentucky, and the College Board to offer professional development and support to computer science teachers, schools, and districts interested in offering CS for the first time. This is a K-12 initiative intended to develop true K-12 CS pipelines in districts and/or ATC's. The application to apply to become part of the 2018-2019 cohort will be available soon (late January).

2. Kentucky K-12 Computer Science Standards

VISION - Learning through computer science can benefit all students, K-12. The Kentucky K-12 Computer Science standards are designed to:

- i. focus on "creating" (rather than a simple consume model);
- ii. implement and integrate into many content areas; and
- iii. expose more learners to critical thinking, computational thinking, and problem-solving through computer science.

BACKGROUND - By creating more opportunities for computer science learning for Kentucky students, we will:

- iv. reach, keep, and engage more students in learning;
- v. create a pool of more qualified people to fill existing job openings; and
- vi. stimulate suppressed economic regions of our state by developing a high-tech, skilled workforce.

The 30-day public comment window for these standards concluded on January 3, 2018. It is anticipated that they will be heard by the Kentucky Board of Education for a first reading at their April regular meeting.

3. Tech Ready Apprentices for Careers in Kentucky (TRACK) IT Pilot Pathway (IT Pre-Apprenticeship)

KDE is excited to offer, for the first time, a pre-apprenticeship opportunity in IT for Kentucky high school students in conjunction with Interapt (<https://www.interapt.com>). TRACK students will complete a prescribed set of IT courses in high school and have the opportunity to take the Project Based Programming course during senior year (a course developed in partnership with Interapt). After completion of this course, these students will be eligible to sit for the IT TRACK industry certification exam.

After high school graduation, those that pass the exam will be guaranteed an interview into Interapt's computer programming apprenticeship program (officially registered with the KY Labor Cabinet). Students will also be granted up to 500 hours worth of credit toward the 2,000 hour program. Upon completion of the apprenticeship program, students will earn a nationally recognized credential from the US Dept. of Labor and have the opportunity to be hired by a variety of companies across the Commonwealth.

New Skills for Youth Initiative (NSFY) Updates

Year one (1) of Kentucky's NSFY grant is drawing to a close. Cohort 1 awardees (Burgin Independent, Corbin Independent and Lee County Public Schools) have begun their regionalized planning efforts and the Request for Application (RFA)

was released on January 8, 2018 seeking Cohort 2 applicants. An announcement of Cohort 2 awardees is expected in late April.

Tragedy in Marshall County

I want to personally thank every individual, organization and partnering agency who has provided support to the Marshall County School District over the last two weeks. The events that unfolded at Marshall County High School on January 23rd are unimaginable to most of us. The outpouring of love and encouragement for this school district has been nothing short of incredible. KDE provided direct support during the wake of the crisis; however, most know that the true work of moving forward has only just begun. This school and its community has a long road of recovery and healing ahead of them and I ask that you continue to keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

New Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) Employees:

- **Office of Continuous Improvement and Support**
 - *Toni A. Harrod, Administrative Specialist III*
Division of Consolidated Plans & Audits/Planning Branch
- **Office of Finance and Operations**
 - *Sarah Astor, Dietetics Educator*
Division of School & Community Nutrition/Programmatic Delivery Section

KDE Team Member of the Month for January 2018

Amy Peabody, Deputy General Counsel
Office of Legal, Legislative and Communication Services