

## **Interim Commissioner's Report to the Kentucky Board of Education**

### **Wayne D. Lewis, Jr., PhD**

#### **Major Department Projects and Initiatives (June 2018-August 2018)**

- Strategic plan finalization
- Academic standards review and revision
- Accountability system implementation
- Preparation for JCPS Management Hearing
- Department reorganization
- Campaign: *What Will You Be KY?*

#### **Visits and Speaking (June 2018-August 2018)**

- Louisville Forum, June 13<sup>th</sup> , Louisville
- Early Childhood Institute, June 14<sup>th</sup>, Louisville
- Superintendents, 16<sup>th</sup> Senate District (Sen. Max Wise), Russell Springs, KY, June 12<sup>th</sup>
- See Blue STEM Camp, University of Kentucky, June 15<sup>th</sup>
- US Dept of Education School Safety Roundtable, Lexington, June 26<sup>th</sup>
- Skills USA National Leadership and Skills Conference, June 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, Louisville
- Kentucky Chamber of Commerce Education & Workforce Council, June 28<sup>th</sup>
- WKU Young Male Leadership Academy Year-End Celebration, Bowling Green, June 29<sup>th</sup>
- Superintendents, 15<sup>th</sup> Senate District, Stanford, KY (Sen. Rick Girdler, July 13<sup>th</sup>)
- Winburn Summer Leadership Academy Closing Luncheon, Lexington, July 13<sup>th</sup>
- Superintendents, 53<sup>rd</sup> House District, (Rep. James Tipton), Frankfort, July 13<sup>th</sup>
- KY Association for Career and Technical Education Summer Program, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, Louisville
- KASA New Superintendents Luncheon, July 25<sup>th</sup>, Louisville
- Kentucky Educational Development Cooperative, Louisville (KASA), July 25<sup>th</sup>
- Green River Regional Educational Cooperative, Louisville (KASA), July 25<sup>th</sup>
- KASA Annual Leadership Institute Address, July 27<sup>th</sup>, Louisville

#### **Upcoming Visits Speaking Engagements**

- Meade County Schools Opening Day, August 6<sup>th</sup>, Brandenburg
- Pikeville Independent Schools Opening Day, August 8<sup>th</sup> , Pikeville
- Superintendents, 98<sup>th</sup> House District (Rep. Danny Bentley), Greenup, KY, August 8<sup>th</sup>
- BMW (Black Males Working) Program Kickoff, Lexington, August 11<sup>th</sup>
- Fairview Independent Schools Opening Day, Ashland, KY, August 13<sup>th</sup>
- Central Kentucky Education Cooperative, Lexington, KY, August 15<sup>th</sup>
- Northern KY Superintendents and General Assembly Members, Bulington, KY, August 14<sup>th</sup>

Wayne D. Lewis, Jr., PhD  
August 1, 2018

- Superintendents, 27<sup>th</sup> Senate District (Sen. Steve West), Maysville, KY, August 27<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>
- Glasgow Independent Schools, Supt. Keith Hale, August 28<sup>th</sup>
- Superintendents, 23<sup>rd</sup> House District (Rep. Steve Riley), Glasgow, KY, August 28<sup>th</sup>
- Ohio Valley Education Cooperative (OVEC), August 29<sup>th</sup>, Shelbyville
- National Governor's Association (NGA) Education Policy Advisor's Institute, September 13<sup>th</sup>
- National Association of Pupil Services Administrators, Covington, KY, October 15<sup>th</sup>
- AEI Future of American Education Working Group, Washington DC, October 19<sup>th</sup>
- KASA Annual Summer Leadership Institute, July 19, 2019

### **Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship**

On July 11<sup>th</sup>, Governor Bevin signed an executive order expanding the Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship. Previously, the scholarship covered up to 32 credit hours of tuition and fees at the KCTCS rate for postsecondary students pursuing certificates in one of Kentucky's top five high demand workforce sectors—advanced manufacturing, healthcare, information technology, transportation and logistics, and construction and trades. With the expansion, the scholarship covers up to 64 credit hours for postsecondary students pursuing certificates, diplomas, and applied associate of science degrees in those sectors.

As well, the scholarship will now cover the cost of tuition and fees for two CTE dual credit courses per year for Kentucky high school students, providing those courses are within a CTE pathway that leads to an industry recognized credential. With the Kentucky Dual Credit Scholarship and this scholarship's expansion, Kentucky's high school students completing CTE pathways now have the opportunity to earn over 30 credit hours of dual credit coursework with tuition and fees covered.

### **Education Professional Standards Board**

On August 1<sup>st</sup>, Governor Bevin signed an executive order abolishing the Education Professional Standard's Board's (EPSB) agency. The board remains intact and with all of its rights and responsibilities. But the agency function of the EPSB now moves to KDE, with the establishment of a new office—the Office of Educator Licensure and Effectiveness. The authority of the former Executive Director of the EPSB has been given to the Commissioner of Education. This move provides us with the opportunity to have greater coordination of the state's efforts in educator preparation, licensure, and professional develop. Rob Akers, former principal of Woodford County High School, will lead the new office as an Associate Commissioner. Rob will begin his new role at KDE on August 6<sup>th</sup>.

### **Office of Career and Technical Education**

David Horseman has been appointed Associate Commissioner of the Office of Career and Technical Education effective August 1<sup>st</sup>. David comes to the position with previous experience as an engineer, business owner, educator and school leader, and the previous director of KDE's area technology centers (ATCs). David replaces Laura Arnold, former Associate Commissioner of the Office of Career, who resigned effective July 31<sup>st</sup> to take a new opportunity in Nelson County. Laura provided tremendous leadership to the office and she will be missed, but we are very excited about David's appointment.

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August 1, 2018

### **Assessment Plan Changes for 2018-2019**

We are making some changes to the assessment plan for the 2018-2019 academic year. I notified our school districts in July that School accountability for the 2018-19 school year will be based on the content tests given at elementary and middle schools. For high schools, the reading and mathematics subscores on the college admissions examination and scores from the science and writing assessments will be utilized for accountability.

At high school level, end of course tests will NOT be administered in spring 2019. Instead, students will take the college admissions examination to assess reading and mathematics and participate in field tests for new Kentucky assessments. A college admissions examination vendor is being secured and an announcement is expected within the next several weeks. At grade 11, a new operational assessment in science will be administered and the on-demand writing test will continue. A social studies assessment will be created once new standards are adopted.

### **Campaign: What Will You Be KY?**

On July 23<sup>rd</sup>, at the KY Association of Career and Technical Education's (KACTE) Summer Program we launched a new statewide campaign intended to get students to begin exploring career options early, ideally by middle schools. It is targeted at stakeholder groups including students, parents, educators, and business and industry partners. Central to the campaign will be the stories of Kentucky students, graduates, and business partners. We are looking for stories about career preparation, career choice, and career success. If you or someone you know has a story to share, please email us at: [WhatWillYouBeKY@education.ky.gov](mailto:WhatWillYouBeKY@education.ky.gov). Also, please follow the campaign's social media handles on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

### **Department Reorganization Plan**

KDE is in the process of preparing for a reorganization. We are planning for the reorganization to be effective next month. At the October meeting we will share all the details of the department's new organizational structure, but I would like to share a few key elements of the plan.

- The current functions of the Office of Teaching and Learning (OTL) will be redistributed to different offices. OTL's current Associate Commissioner, Dr. Amanda Ellis, will be joining me in the Commissioner's Office to play a broader leadership role in the department.
- The current Division of Learning Services will be elevated to the Office of Exceptional Learners and Early Learning.
- The current Office of Assessment and Accountability will become the Office of Standards, Assessment, and Accountability
- Per the recent executive order regarding EPSB, there will be a new Office of Educator Licensure and Effectiveness.
- The current Division of Communications will be moving to the Office of the Commissioner.

These changes are intended to create greater efficiency in the department and better align the department's organizational structure with our identified priorities.

## Interim Commissioner's Education Policy Priorities

- **Achievement Gaps:** Significantly reducing economic and racial/ethnic achievement gaps
  - As measured by standardized examinations, high school graduation rates, and transition readiness rates
- **Early Learning:** Significantly increasing young learners' proficiency in reading and mathematics as measured by standardized examinations in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade
- **High School Graduation Requirements:** Revising and implementing minimum high school graduation requirements
  - Including required demonstration of competence in reading and basic mathematics, and demonstration of readiness for transition into a career or postsecondary education/training
- **Skills Gap:** Increasing the number and percentage of high school students completing CTE pathways and earning industry recognized credentials in high-demand sectors
- **Early Postsecondary Opportunities (EPOs):** Increasing the number and percentage of high school students successfully completing early postsecondary opportunities (EPOs)
  - Including dual credit, dual enrollment, articulated credit, Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), and Cambridge
- **Reducing Bureaucracy:** Increasing flexibility and autonomy for public schools and school districts in exchange for performance accountability
  - Including revision of the current Districts of Innovation (DOI) program through proposed changes to regulation and statute, and continuing to advocate for increased flexibility for public schools with the Kentucky General Assembly
- **School/Program Choice:** Expanding the number and type of high-quality public school options available to Kentucky's students
  - Including high-quality schools and programs of choice within traditional public school districts, KDE-operated schools and area technology centers (ATCs), and the growth of a new public charter school sector