



RECEIVED MAY 22 2009

EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT CABINET DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Steven L. Beshear
Governor

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Frankfort, Kentucky 40601
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Elaine Farris
Interim Commissioner of Education

May 14, 2009

Nannette Johnston, Superintendent
Hardin County Schools
65 W.A. Jenkins Road
Elizabethtown KY 42701

Dear Superintendent Johnston:

This year, the *SchoolMatch* 18th annual "What Parents Want" Award honored 2,436 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 18 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

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,

Elaine Farris

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FEATURED EVENTS

- 06/04/09 School/Law Enforcement/Emergency Responder Interaction
- 06/11/09 Cyber Bullying: Definition, Prevention, Policies and Procedures
- 06/23/09 Kentucky's Drug Use and its Impact on Policy
- 07/10/09 Summer Leadership Institute
- 08/20/09 Director of Special Education and Special Education Legal Update



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KSBA BOARDCAST

18 Kentucky districts earn "What Parents Want" recognition

Eighteen Kentucky school districts have earned 2009 "What Parents Want" honors from the SchoolMatch Corporation of Columbus, Ohio, a school-selection consulting firm.

They are Beechwood Independent, Daviess County, Elizabethtown Independent, Erlanger-Elsmere Independent, Fayette County, Fort Thomas Independent, Frankfort Independent, Hardin County, Jefferson County, Jessamine County, Kenton County, Madison County, McCracken County, Murray Independent, Oldham County, Pikeville Independent, Warren County and Woodford County.

Only 16 percent of the nation's 15,571 public school districts (2,436) have been recognized for meeting the needs of families choosing schools in the 18th annual

BOARDCAST EDITING DATES

May 26, 2009
May 12, 2009
April 28, 2009
April 14, 2009
March 24, 2009
March 10, 2009
February 24, 2009
February 10, 2009
February 8, 2009
January 27, 2009
January 6, 2009

award.

Criteria used for award selection include:

- competitive in academic test scores and academically solid, but not so rigorous as to intimidate their children
- accredited
- recognized for excellence by a national foundation or by the U.S. Department of Education
- competitive in teacher salaries
- above average in instructional expenditures on a national percentile basis
- above average in expenditures for library/media services on a national percentile basis
- known for small class size.

An April 1 search of the 22 field SchoolMatch® Database revealed that only 16 percent of the nation's public schools consistently provide "What Parents Want" in public education. The SchoolMatch® staff of school experts salutes those school districts which are meeting the needs and desires of both students and parents.

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