

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND EARLY LEARNING



Gretta Hylton,
Associate Commissioner
Phone: (502) 564-4970, ext. 4109
Email: gretta.hylton@education.ky.gov

Carol Morrison,
Policy Advisor

The Office of Special Education and Early Learning (OSEEL) works to improve educational outcomes for diverse and early learners through training of and coaching for local district staff and teachers, and providing technical assistance, financial analysis, guidance, policy documents, and supports for students and their families. The OSEEL provides oversight of programs in public schools for exceptional children. This includes special education services for students with disabilities; gifted and talented education; extended school services; public preschool; special education preschool; blind and visually impaired services; deaf and hard of hearing services; the Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB); the Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD); and family engagement initiatives for exceptional students.

DIVISION OF IDEA MONITORING AND RESULTS

Sylvia Starkey, Director

Robert Meacham, Assistant Director

Carol Ann Morrison, Branch Manager

- Develops and submits the State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR).
- Provides technical assistance and oversight of alternate assessments aligned with the alternate academic achievement standards.
- Reviews and approves waivers for special populations.
- Conducts risk assessments for all local educational agencies (LEAs).
- Issues *Annual Determinations* for all LEAs.
- Oversees Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) corrective action plans.
- Exercises general supervision requirements under the IDEA.
- Conducts IDEA formal complaint investigations.
 - Conducts monitoring activities that include onsite and desk audits for the Department of Corrections, Department of Juvenile Justice and LEAs.
 - Participates in multiple types of monitoring activities including state consolidated monitoring, special monitoring activities based on levels of risk and state management audits.

DIVISION OF IDEA IMPLEMENTATION AND PRESCHOOL

Veronica Sullivan, Director

Amanda Waldroup, Assistant Director

April Pieper, Branch Manager

Andrea Bartholomew, Branch Manager

- Develops and disseminates guidance for LEAs and families about the IDEA, gifted and talented services, preschool programs and English learners with disabilities.

- Oversees implementation of Comprehensive Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CCEIS) and Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CEIS) under the IDEA.
- Provides resources and oversight of transition services for preschool students and students with disabilities.
- Provides approvals, monitors quality and compliance, and issues reports for preschool programs.
- Reports Section 619 data.
- Completes All-STARS ratings for state-funded preschool programs.

DIVISION OF STATE SCHOOLS

Kevin Stull, Director

*Martin Monson, KSB Interim Principal
Toyah Robey, KSD Principal*

There are two statewide schools dedicated to serving students through the [Kentucky School for the Blind](#) (KSB) and the [Kentucky School for the Deaf](#) (KSD).

- The KSB’s mission is to provide comprehensive educational services to all Kentucky students who are blind or visually impaired, birth to 21.
- The KSB offers a full school experience for students who are blind or visually impaired and whose placement is determined by an Admissions and Release Committee (ARC), including:
 - Statewide outreach services to support local school districts in reducing barriers to learning associated with a vision loss by providing students access to the general education curriculum and Kentucky’s Academic Standards, and the Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC) for students with visual impairments;
 - Materials embossed in Braille for school, community and students across the state;
 - Low vision evaluations provided by an ophthalmologist specializing in low vision;
 - Family support services that promote family awareness and involvement;
 - Kentucky Instructional Materials Resource Center (KIMRC) provides textbooks in Braille and large print, and other educational materials needed by students who are blind and visually impaired, for use in local school programs. The resource center also conducts an annual registration of students who are blind and visually impaired in Kentucky; and,
 - A Short-Term Program that is a nationally recognized model program, offering students the opportunity to receive direct and intensive instruction for their vision needs.
- The KSD’s mission is to ensure that deaf and hard of hearing children and youth in Kentucky receive educational opportunities to develop their potential to become educated, life-long learners and productive citizens.
- The KSD offers a variety of resources and supports, including:
 - An environment where American Sign Language (ASL) is the primary language and English is a secondary language;
 - Campus-based evaluations provided at no cost to families by professionals who have extensive experience working with deaf and hard of hearing students;
 - A Statewide Family Support Center (SFSC) that offers services to families; and,
 - The Instructional Materials Resource Center (IMRC), a free-loan lending library for families, professionals and outreach providers who work in partnership with the regional educational cooperatives to facilitate the expansion of regional services.