

# KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OFFICE OF CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT AND SUPPORT



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The Office of Continuous Improvement and Support (OCIS) provides administrative and managerial oversight of the following three divisions whose work is described below: the Division of Innovation, Division of School and Program Improvement, and Division of Student Success. At the office level, the OCIS provides support and monitoring for districts in need of management improvement, including districts designated by the Kentucky Board of Education as state-managed and state-assisted. The OCIS also collects and maintains a portion of the data sets publicly reported through federal and state mechanisms, including the Kentucky School Report Card. Additionally, the OCIS administers the ongoing implementation of House Bill 520 from the 2017 Regular Session of the Kentucky General Assembly, which created the public charter school project, and staffs the Commissioner's Charter Schools Advisory Council.

## **DIVISION OF INNOVATION**

*David Cook, Director*

- Coordinates the Kentucky Competency Education and Assessment Consortium as well as the Kentucky Innovative Learning Network.
- Oversees Districts of Innovation in accordance with KRS [156.108](#) and [160.107](#), as well as districts administering nontraditional instruction (NTI) programs pursuant to KSR [158.070\(9\)](#).
- Receives and manages requests made by local superintendents through the Application of Waiver of Administrative Regulations process permitted by KRS [156.160\(2\)\(a\)](#).
- Staffs the Local School Board Members Advisory Council, which is one of the commissioner's stakeholder groups.
- Acts as a resource to districts and schools statewide regarding innovative practices, and liaises with new school models (e.g. Big Picture Learning, New Tech Network, iLEAD Academy, School on Fire, etc.) throughout Kentucky.
- Engages with education constituent groups focused on innovation, including the University of Kentucky's Next Gen Leadership Academy, the Center for Innovation in Education, iNACOL, KnowledgeWorks, the Center for Assessment, Next Generation Learning Challenges, Education Reimagined and 2Revolutions.

## **DIVISION OF SCHOOL AND PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT**

*Tara Rodriguez, Director*  
*David Millanti, Assistant Director*

*Jennifer Akin, Branch Manager*  
*Natasha Napier, Branch Manager*  
*Brigette Stacy, Branch Manager*  
*Neil Watts, Branch Manager*

- Oversees, monitors, provides technical assistance and ensures the accurate reporting of data related to implementation of the following federal programs:
  - Title I, Part A: Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged;
  - Foster Care;
  - Title I, Part C: Education of Migrant Children;
  - Title I, Part D: Programs for Children and Youth who are Neglected and Delinquent;
  - Title III: English Learner and Immigrant Students;
  - Title IV, Part B: 21st Century Community Learning Centers;
  - Title V, Part B: Rural Education Achievement Program;
  - The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act; and,
  - Assistance for Homeless Children and Youth Program.
- Supports districts and schools in need of improvement, including schools identified for Comprehensive Support and Improvement, Targeted Support and Improvement or Additional Targeted Support and Improvement, through diagnostic reviews and comprehensive school and district improvement planning, Hub Schools, LEAD-Kentucky, the Continuous Improvement Summit, as well as with Education Recovery staff and Continuous Improvement coaches.
- Directs state activities related to school-based decision making (SBDM) councils.
- Engages with nonpublic schools, including homeschools as well as certified nonpublic schools, and provides an ombudsman to help ensure federal equitable services requirements are met.
- Provides technical assistance around teacher loan forgiveness and para-educator requirements.
- Administers, pursuant to KRS [160.155](#), [160.156](#) and [160.157](#), a state-funded grant for community education programs in school districts and supports academic achievement through an integrated approach involving parent, family and community engagement.
- Coordinates the Title I Committee of Practitioners, which is the advisory group mandated by [20 U.S.C. 6573](#) to review and comment on the rules, regulations and policies related to the Kentucky Department of Education's administration of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.
- Staffs the Parent Advisory Council and Superintendents Advisory Council, which are two of the commissioner's stakeholder groups, as well as the Council for Community Education, which is established by state statute.

## **DIVISION OF STUDENT SUCCESS**

*Christina Weeter, Director*

*Donna Montgomery, Branch Manager*  
*Vacant, Branch Manager*

- Oversees, monitors and provides technical assistance related to implementation of the following federal program:
  - Title IV, Part A (Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants);
  - School Climate Transformation grant program; and,
  - Project AWARE (Advancing Wellness and Resilience Education).

- Engages in activities related to school safety and security, including implementation of the [School Safety and Resiliency Act](#) of 2019, annual safe schools data reporting, as well as bullying and suicide prevention services, and regularly collaborates with the Kentucky Center for School Safety to provide professional development to school districts.
- Provides training and support for implementation of school mental health initiatives and Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) as well as trauma-informed practices for educators.
- Supports alternative education programs in Kentucky through guidance and technical assistance and annually names Alternative Programs of Distinction, which also function as a cadre sharing replicable best practices and seeking continuous improvement in instruction and curriculum within these programs statewide.
- Leads the state Persistence to Graduation dropout prevention efforts in accordance with KRS 158.146, including administration of the Early Warning and Persistence to Graduation tools to provide real-time data, using research-based indicators that enables districts and schools to engage in immediate intervention services to support the most at-risk students.
- Directs state activities related to restraint and seclusion, juvenile justice and digital learning as well as compulsory attendance, chronic absenteeism and Kentucky's No Pass/No Drive law.
- Receives daily notices from the Kentucky State Police on school-age children reported missing through the National Crime Information Center database and, in compliance with KRS [156.495](#) and [158.032](#), transmits pertinent information to district and school leaders in the interest of child protection.
- Represents the field of education on the Kentucky attorney general's human trafficking task group.



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