

Breathitt County
Plus/Delta/Next Steps
January/February 2020

Plus

1. The Breathitt County Board of Education voted (5-0) to accept the Commissioner's recommendation that the district move from a designation of state managed to a designation of state assisted.
2. Ending balance for June 30, 2019, - \$2,645,000; which is approximately 19% contingency (up over \$645,000 from last year).
3. The district is making academic data-driven decisions by purchasing evidence-based science curriculum resources (\$200,000) for grades K-8. Additionally, reading and mathematics curriculum resources were purchased (\$400,000) and strategy work has shown promise with student academic achievement. Students engage in goal setting and have a conversational knowledge of where they are academically and what steps they can take to improve.
4. The transition of grades K-6 from LBJ Elementary to Sebastian Elementary has been smooth. Renovation project of Sebastian started December 2019, with a projected completion date of June 1, 2020 (renovation of front entrance-security vestibules and turning old locker rooms into 2 classrooms and 2 new bathrooms).
5. Safety and security measures have been enhanced, including the hiring of a School Resource Officer, the construction and renovation of security vestibules, and the implementation of the Raptor Visitor Management System. Emergency management plans have been updated in conjunction with community agencies. Review of final school safety assessment reports of Breathitt High School and Sebastian Elementary conducted by the Kentucky Center for School Safety, showed improvement and provided positive feedback.
6. The Award Notification was received for the School Improvement Fund for 7th and 8th Grade. The Turnaround Team and the Advisory Leadership Team meet regularly to discuss and monitor plan implementation. Progress toward the goals of the turnaround plan will be presented at the January Board of Education meeting.
7. As part of PD in July, November and January, teachers utilized standards rollout resources and curriculum evaluation processes to update/refine curriculum pacing guides that reflect the updated Reading & Writing, Mathematics and Social Studies standards. Kentucky Academic Standards work continues through job-embedded professional learning as well as teacher workshops. This work is supported in part by the \$10,600 KAS Mini Grant that was awarded to the district.
8. District non-negotiables for academics--strong instruction, deep engagement, grade appropriate assignments, and high expectations--continue to be reinforced during school and district leadership team meetings and professional learning communities.
9. All teachers have been provided with new devices and are expected to utilize this resource to improve instruction. A Technology Integration Specialist has been hired to support teachers in incorporating evidence-based instructional practices utilizing technology into instruction.
10. The district continues to build leadership capacity at all levels, through the continuous improvement process and partnerships with KDE.
11. Attendance for the 2018-2019 school year ended at 94.8; up from 94.1.
12. Growth factor report for the 2019-2020 school year shows an increase of seven students, first positive growth in several years.
13. The Breathitt Board of Education approved the purchase of 2 new buses (\$220,000 from the general fund).
14. District received grant award notification from Kentucky Governor's Office of Early Childhood in the amount of \$59,943, to help support local preschool/daycare students.

Delta

1. School attendance, sickness and inclement weather have a negative impact on the learning environment (cancellations of classes and poor attendance days).

2. Technology professional development and support for the preparation of online assessment and management of student devices is needed.
3. LBJ Elementary, MRC Elementary, and Area Technology Center facilities are listed as transitional due to building conditions.
4. Recruiting new, highly qualified employees, and employee turnover is an ongoing issue.
5. According to MAP, some progress has been made (In Fall 2018, 47% of grades 3-6 students scored above the 50th percentile in Reading; in Fall of 2019, that number was increased to 57%. In Fall 2018, 53% of students in grades 7-11 scored above the 50th percentile in Reading. In Fall 2019, that number increased to 62%. In Math, students scoring above the 50th percentile in grades 7-12 increased from 45% to 55% from Fall 2018 to Fall 2019). Despite this growth, MAP data indicate that 45% of students in grades 7-12 are still below the 50th percentile in Math (down from 55% in Fall 2018) and 38% are below the 50th percentile in Reading (down from 47% in Fall 2018). In grades 3-6, 66% of Math students (up from 62% in Fall 2018) and 43% (down from 53% in Fall 2018) of Reading students are still scoring below the 50th percentile.
6. CCEIS (Comprehensive Coordinated Early Intervening Services) Designation
7. Redbook Compliance is an issue in the District and will be addressed with training to be conducted at all schools during the 2019-2020 school year.

Next Steps:

1. Strategic planning process has begun to include possible new vision, mission, and re-branding. This process will identify academic and financial goals for the district and include stakeholder input.
2. The district will continue to utilize standards rollout resources and curriculum evaluation processes to update/refine curriculum pacing guides that reflect the updated Reading & Writing, Mathematics and Social Studies standards. Full implementation of the three year plan associated with the KAS Mini Grant begins in January 2020.
3. Action plans developed from analysis of the diagnostic review and state management audit are being progress monitored for continuous improvement.
4. Finance office continues to progress monitor the district cashflow (expenditures and revenues), to ensure we maintain our goal of 10-15% contingency. Budget projections predict a decrease in tax revenues; therefore, cautious budgeting for the 2020-2021 school year is critical for continued financial success.
5. Time and Attendance and Substitute Management Software has been implemented and is fully operational. Finance Staff is monitoring time and attendance to address any issues with the software or the set up of the program. FAQ's have been distributed to assist employees having trouble with the Frontline software.
6. Implementation of the CCEIS plan has begun to include instructional support assigned for grades K-2.
7. School Activity Funds are required to be included in Munis by June 30, 2020. Schools are now entering invoices using Munis codes in their EPES accounting system for import into Munis by the end of the fiscal year.