



Commissioner's Report
Commissioner of Education Jason E. Glass, Ed.D.

KDE Welcomes New Staff

New staff who joined KDE since the board's April regular meeting are listed below by office:

Office of Finance and Operations:

5/1/2021 Allison Sadler
5/1/2021 Nicholas Cavender
5/1/2021 Michelle Austin
5/1/2021 Joshua Rowe

Office of Education Technology:

5/17/2021 Austin Parsons

Office of Special Education and Early Learning:

5/1/2021 Natasha Meniffee

Kentucky Coalition for Advancing Education

The Kentucky Coalition for Advancing Education (KCAE) had its first meeting Tuesday, June 1. This coalition brings together diverse perspectives from across the Commonwealth and will co-create a vision with communities, foster local innovations and advance policy recommendations to shape the future of education in Kentucky.

In order to bring together necessary perspectives and voices, KDE and its partners recognized that three distinct groups of stakeholders must be included in this crucial work:

- **Critical Stakeholders:** It is vital to have the involvement of these individuals and groups. For that reason, the department directly appointed critical stakeholders;
- **Interested Stakeholders:** This group of members expressed their interest in being included by participating in an open application process; and
- **Potential Stakeholders:** Members in this group may not have been aware of the application process. Therefore, potential stakeholders were nominated by a sampling of principals from across the Commonwealth.

Each of these three stakeholder groups makes up one-third of the coalition and bring these diverse perspectives together to co-create and co-design policy recommendations. KCAE



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members will collaborate to build new tools, systems and approaches for education in the Commonwealth.

Commissioner's Student Advisory Council

Eighteen Kentucky public high school students who were named last week to the 2021-2022 Commissioner's Student Advisory Council. The council was established to provide feedback on critical issues impacting students and schools, and members work with the staff of the Kentucky Department of Education to develop ideas to strengthen student voice and transform education. The group meets both in person and virtually to discuss how decisions made at the state level are affecting students throughout Kentucky.



It is essential that students have an active, purposeful voice in decision-making, especially as we begin to define what learning will look like after the pandemic.

The newly selected members will serve for the 2021-2022 school year, and they join 13 returning members.

KSB/KSD Update

Graduation

The Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB) and Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD) held graduation ceremonies on May 26, 2021. KSB celebrated seven graduating seniors, and KSD celebrated 10 graduating seniors.

Kentucky School for the Blind

KSB is offering three weeks of summer school programs in June. The first week, June 7-11, is open to KSB students as well as other students throughout the Commonwealth who are blind or visually impaired. The theme for the first week is the Olympics and will include a focus on different adapted sports for students who are blind or visually impaired. The program will also focus on the Expanded Core Curriculum, friendship building and orientation and mobility. The second week of summer school, June 14-18 is open to KSB middle school and high school students. The third week of summer school, June 21-25, is open to KSB elementary school students. These final two weeks will address learning loss due to the pandemic as well as specific areas of the Expanded Core Curriculum including orientation and mobility, recreation



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and leisure, self-determination and independent living skills. Students will also focus on social and emotional learning and self-care.

KSB students will participate in the Insight Post-Secondary Prep Program at Morehead State University this summer from June 5-12. This program is dedicated to promoting college and career readiness for students who are blind or visually impaired. The program is open to students who have completed grades 10-12 and are interested in attending a post-secondary institution after graduating from high school. It was designed to promote self-advocacy and independent living for students that are blind or visually impaired and to provide an opportunity for students to experience college life. Students stay on campus in Morehead State University's dormitories, eat in the cafeteria on campus and attend college classes.

Kentucky School for the Deaf

Summer school is open to all KSD students and will be held June 2-25, 2021. Students will stay on campus, with most students choosing to attend all four weeks. The theme for summer school is "Into the Wild." This program will focus on core content instruction with enhanced learning opportunities in the afternoons.

6 of 11 graduating seniors have received scholarships to the Rochester Technical Institute/National Technical Institute for the Deaf (RTI/NTID) and Gallaudet. High school students were asked if they wanted to have a KSD prom this school year. Students chose, instead of a prom, to have an outdoor social including a student vs. staff volleyball game and a cook-out. Students also enjoyed a bonfire around a new fire pit built by the students.



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KSD students and staff enjoyed the annual Derby Day at KSD. This celebration is a tradition for the school.

Students learn about the Kentucky Derby. Elementary students participate in a race utilizing stick horses, and the winners receive roses. The KSD Derby Day activities have been occurring at the school since the early 1980s.



KSD is beginning the process to seek accreditation through the Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools and Programs for the Deaf (CEASD) and will submit the application for this in June. The process includes a 12-18-month self-study utilizing the 12 standards of self-assessment identified by CEASD as well as collaboration with stakeholders and community partners. This work will be led by the school's accreditation steering committee. About six weeks after the self-study is submitted, a team of 3-4 from CEASD will conduct an onsite assessment and interviews with the KSD team.

Updates on Kentucky Tech District of Area Technology Centers (ATCs)

New Estill County Area Technology Center (ATC)



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The new Estill County Area Technology Center (ATC) was approved and funded in the 2021 Regular Session of the Kentucky General Assembly. The school is now the 52nd ATC within the Kentucky Tech state-operated system. The Estill County ATC facility is under construction and is adjacent to Estill County High School. The facility has 39,000 square feet and is projected to be ready for the start of school in August. Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathways offered within the Estill County ATC will include Diesel Technology, Electrical Technology, Computer Science, Health Sciences, Engineering and Industrial Maintenance. In addition to Estill County, the ATC will also serve students from Estill and Powell Counties.



Estill Co. ATC Drawing

New Construction for Lake Cumberland ATC

Lake Cumberland ATC is finishing up construction on a new 54,610 square foot facility, which will also be ready for the start of school in August. Russell County Schools Superintendent, Michael Ford, extends an invitation to the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) members to attend the ATC's Open House on Sunday, August 1, 2021 2:00 CST.

General Updates

The ATCs recently completed professional learning for staff on diversity, equity and inclusion. Topics included Implicit Bias and Racial Micro-aggressions; Culturally Responsive Teaching; and Cultural Humility and Cultural Competence. This training series was provided by Dr. Roger Cleveland.

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The ATCs are finishing the year strong and offering targeted remediation to students both after school and on the weekends. The ATCs will continue remediation throughout the summer to address student learning loss. Remediation sessions have been very well received and have provided students a greater opportunity to successfully obtain industry certifications and successfully transition to postsecondary education and/or the workforce.