



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

KDE Welcomes New Staff

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

Office of the Commissioner:

7/16/2021 Rosalind Turner

Office of Finance and Operations:

7/1/2021 Robin Morley

7/1/2021 Olga Ghazaleh

7/26/2021 Angela Stark

Office of Assessment and Accountability:

7/1/2021 Devon Avery

Office of Continuous Improvement and Support:

7/16/2021 Natalie Gwishiri

Office of Legal Services:

7/16/2021 Felicia Nu'Man

Student-led Mental Health Forums

In partnership with Lieutenant Governor Coleman and the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet, we are excited to announce a series of student-led mental health forums. The forums will take place mostly in September, with one event to be held in each of the educational cooperative regions.

Each meeting will include closed-session and peer-facilitated roundtables where students will be able to confidentially share stories about what challenges they have experienced and are expecting,





Kentucky Department of Education Updates

Kentucky Board of Education

August 5, 2021

resources that are needed, recommendations and more. Findings and policy recommendations will be shared at KDE's Education Summit, scheduled for Nov. 1-2 at the Kentucky Exposition Center in Louisville.

Kentucky School for the Blind

KSB Summer School

KSB hosted three weeks of summer school with 23% of KSB students in attendance. Students had the opportunity to participate in team building activities, Lego robotic building, circuit board building and cardio drumming.



Gateways to Independence

KSB's Outreach Department hosted its annual professional development event, Gateways to Independence, virtually July 14-15. Attendees participated in sessions such as Orientation and Mobility for students with Complex Needs, The Positive Looking Program, Assistive Technology, Physical Education for Students with Visual Impairments and transition topics.

Kentucky School for the Deaf

KSD Summer School

KSD held summer school June 2-25 with approximately 45% of KSD students attending. The theme was "Back to the Wild," and students were able to experience a menagerie of animals, reptiles and insects when a mobile zoo visited campus for the day. The final week was complete with two field trips to the Salato Wildlife Reserve and the Louisville Zoo.

Accreditation

KSD is preparing a 12-month self-study as part of the Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools and Programs for the Deaf Accreditation process. The last time KSD participated in the accreditation process was in 1996.

Construction Updates

KSD campus building projects continue to move forward with the CTE building and the boiler project at Jacobs Hall. KSD ordered new furniture for the art room and Statewide Center on Deafness. Additional Deaf-friendly furniture will be ordered for the middle and high school common areas and classrooms and should be in place by early September.

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

Knox County Area Technology Center

The Knox County Board of Education has officially assumed control of the Knox County Area Technology Center. The transfer from state to local governance was completed pursuant to the provisions of SB 101 (2021) and the transition was effective July 1, 2021. The KDE Office of Career and Technical continues to support the district through this time of transition.

Estill County Area Technology Center

Estill County held the grand opening of its new \$14.7 million area technology center on July 23. The 40,00 square-foot facility will be the new home of the Estill County Success/Virtual Academy and will serve about 300 students from Estill, Powell and surrounding counties.

