



# Kentucky Department of E D U C A T I O N

Commissioner's Report  
August 3, 2022

## KY Tech District of Area Technology Centers (ATCs)

The ATC principals and teachers attended the Kentucky Association of Career and Technical Education (KACTE) Summer Program in July and took part in professional/leadership development and technical upgrade training. The Office of Special Education and Early Learning (OSEEL) was on hand to provide training to ATC principals regarding compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities and Education Act (IDEA).

Demolition has begun on the Breathitt Co. ATC facility, with construction of the new building anticipated to begin in the Spring of 2023. The original Breathitt Co. ATC building was constructed in 1964.



Planning is also underway for a new Millard ATC facility. Construction is expected to begin this school year.

In response to regional workforce needs, new programs will be underway in a few of the ATCs for the upcoming school year. Breckinridge County ATC will be offering Law and Public Safety. Four Rivers Career Academy (Fulton County) will have Industrial Maintenance. Warren County ATC, in partnership with Warren Co. Schools and Southern Kentucky Career and Technical College (SKYCTC), will offer a Heavy Equipment Operation Program. Finally, Leslie County ATC will offer a Teaching and Learning Program in response to the increasing teacher shortage.

Southern KY Early College and Career Academy (Clinton Co.) Business Teacher, Lora Grant, completed the Kentucky Master Teacher of Personal Finance program over the summer. The Kentucky Master Teacher of Personal Finance program is a collaborative initiative between the Coalition for Financial

Literacy in the Commonwealth (CFLC) and the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. This program is aligned with the Kentucky Academic Standards for Financial Literacy.

The Office of Career and Technical Education (OCTE) is looking forward to the new academic year and the opportunity to increase student engagement and achievement.

## Kentucky School for the Blind

Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB) and Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD) staff look forward to welcoming students back to campus on August 14 for registration and move-in day with the first day of school to follow on August 15.

In collaboration with the Kentucky School for the Blind Charitable Foundation (KSBCF) and the University of Louisville (U of L), Center for Archaeology and Cultural Heritage, KSB held an [archaeological dig](#) at the site of the former segregated school on KSB's campus. Elementary through high school students had the opportunity to visit the site and participate in digging and learning about the history of KSB.

KSB had a successful three weeks of summer school. Fifty-two students from around the Commonwealth attended the first week, 15 KSB students attended the second week, and eight KSB students attended the third week. Activities ranged from a trip on the Belle of Louisville to swimming and spending the day at Kentucky Kingdom. High school and middle school students visited the U of L Center for Archaeology and Cultural Heritage and participated in curating objects found during the archaeological dig.



Twenty students from KSB and the Commonwealth worked at Kentucky Kingdom and the Louisville Zoo as participants in the summer work program. Several students had job coaches provided by the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR), and the students performed a variety of jobs, including taking tickets, working in food service, working on grounds at both locations, and stocking the gift shops.

KSB students are working with Bernheim Forest and completing aspects of the new sensory garden. Working with artists in residence through The Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft (KMAC), students have been creating windchimes that will be hung in the garden.

The outreach program's annual Gateways for Independence conference for Teachers of the Visually



Impaired, Orientation and Mobility Specialists and any and all special education teachers, took place July 14 and 15 at the University of Louisville Shelby Campus. Over 70 professionals participated in training on Functional Vision Learning Media Assessments and assessments for students with complex needs, using the Sensory Learning Kit.



## Kentucky School for the Deaf

KSD Summer School concluded on June 30 with 35 students in attendance for 4 weeks focused on instruction with weekly field trips that included Explorium of Lexington, Kentucky Railway Museum and train ride, Pioneer Playhouse to spend a day with the actors and watch the first interpreted play to be held at the facility as well as a day at Monkey Joe's in Lexington.



Mini Deaf Olympics (MDO) is celebrating its 40-year anniversary, and KSD was honored to host this year's Olympics at KSD, July 7-16. There were approximately 80 students and volunteers on campus participating in various sports and activities. KSD has been invited to host MDO again next year! Below are the 2022 Miss Olympian Gew Meredith, Texas School for the Deaf and Mr. Olympian Micah Tucker, Kentucky School for the Deaf.



KSD would like to welcome new staff members: Laura McKinney, Food Service Director, Faneshia Jones, Assistant Principal and Eddie Durr, Woodshop. KSD currently has two open positions for culinary and high school math.



Flowers and Flags hang across campus as part of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration! MDO kicked off the first of many events to occur this school year. For more information about the upcoming Gala in April and how to purchase tickets visit the [200<sup>th</sup> Celebration Facebook page](#).