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**KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
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June 30, 2023

Kevin Stull, Superintendent  
Garrard County School District  
322 West Maple Ave  
Lancaster, KY 40444-1064

**RE:** 2023 Determination Letter  
**Status:** Meets Requirements

Dear Superintendent,

The purpose of this letter is to provide Garrard County School District with the 2023 state-funded preschool program “*Annual Determination*.” This determination will serve as a public acknowledgement that the preschool program has completed the annual preschool proposal, as is required by KRS 157.3175. Pursuant to 704 KAR 3:410, the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) is required to evaluate state-funded preschool programs on an annual basis.

There are four levels of determinations for school districts:

- Meets Requirements
- Needs Assistance
- Needs Intervention
- Needs Substantial Intervention

The *Annual Preschool Determination Process* below describes the various levels of *Determination* and what actions, if any, are required based on this determination. The KDE’s Office of Special Education and Early Learning (OSEEL) will provide districts with the degree of support needed depending on the individual level of Annual Determination.

The OSEEL’s Early Learning Unit, School Readiness Branch, used a variety of data sources to create outcome measures for *Annual Determinations*. Data from the Grant Management Application and Planning system (GMAP), performance indicators and measures, district educational outcomes for students and regulation compliance were used to create the 2023 *Annual Determinations* for Kentucky school districts.

Based on the performance review of Garrard County School District Preschool Program, the district's overall 2023 Annual Preschool Program Determination is **Meets Requirements**. KDE staff will contact the district's preschool program coordinator to discuss information about how the program compares to state expectations and the criteria to maintain this determination, and to share information about available technical assistance.

If you have questions regarding your 2023 Annual Determination, please contact Andrea Bartholomew via email at [andrea.bartholomew@education.ky.gov](mailto:andrea.bartholomew@education.ky.gov) or by phone at (502) 564-4970 ext. 4722.

Sincerely,

*Thomas Williams*

Thomas Williams Jr, Ph.D., Early Learning  
Administrator Office of Special Education and  
Early Learning (OSEEL)

cc: Wendy Congleton, Preschool Coordinator, Garrard County Schools  
Gretta Hylton, Associate Commissioner, OSEEL  
Andrea Bartholomew, Branch Manager, SRB

## ANNUAL PRESCHOOL DETERMINATION PROCESS

### Introduction and Purpose

704 KAR 3:410, Section 9 (3) states, “A local school district preschool program shall be subject to evaluation by the Department of Education to determine the effectiveness of the statewide preschool program.” To meet this regulation, the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) conducts monitoring activities to identify and correct noncompliance within the state-funded preschool program and uses the Preschool Determination process as one way of doing this.

This report will provide Garrard County School District with a review of state preschool regulations. This review process ensures that school districts are providing high quality early childhood education for state-funded preschool children. The OSEEL’s Early Learning Unit, School Readiness Branch used a variety of data sources to create outcome measures for *Annual Determinations*. Data from the Grant Management Application and Planning system (GMAP), performance indicators and measures, district educational outcomes for students and regulation compliance were used to create the 2023 *Annual Determinations* for Kentucky school districts. This report may identify findings of noncompliance. Additional recommendations for quality improvement and strengths will be provided to the preschool coordinator following this report.

### Evidence Considered and Methodology

The monitoring team worked extensively to use various sources of information to triangulate, or piece together what was happening in the district. The information considered and resulting conclusions are addressed below in the *Findings of Fact and Conclusions* sections. The monitoring team reviewed data obtained from a variety of sources including:

- Information uploaded into GMAP
- District child count data from the 2022-2023 December 1
- District policies and procedures as they pertain to state-funded preschool regulations
- Information on timely reporting by the district

### Determination Levels and Enforcement Actions

Below you will find a chart that explains the different levels of determination and the enforcement actions that will follow.

Determination	Level	Enforcement Actions
Meets Requirements	<i>MEETS</i>	None
Needs Assistance	<i>NA</i>	The district will be given a corrective action plan for areas of regulation violation. The KDE will provide districts with a comprehensive monitoring of preschool program indicators for compliance. This may include a desk audit focused on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Policies/procedures related to regulations</li><li>• Completion of <i>Preschool Regulation Checklist</i></li></ul>

Determination	Level	Enforcement Actions
<b>Needs Intervention</b>	<i>NI</i>	In addition to actions listed under <i>NA</i> , the KDE shall take one or more of the following actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On-site monitoring visit will occur</li> </ul>
<b>Needs Substantial Intervention</b>	<i>NSI</i>	In addition to actions listed under <i>NA</i> and <i>NI</i> , if the KDE determines a district needs substantial intervention in implementing the state funded preschool program, or if there is a substantial failure to comply with any regulation pursuant to 704 KAR 3:410 and KRS 157.3175, the KDE shall take one or more of the following actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Withhold in whole or in part, further payments to the district under the Preschool Grant Funding Allocation System</li> <li>• Refer the matter for appropriate enforcement action with the Division of IDEA Monitoring and Results (DIMR) as needed for non-compliance with IDEA Part B.</li> </ul>