December 2023 Board Report

Office of Special Student Populations

Special Education

Special education teachers and myself attended the Kentucky Council for Exceptional Children Conference again in Louisville. Discussions are underway to plan sessions for Administrative Assistants to Directors of Special Education. This is an area of growth in training needed statewide and a draft proposal of topics will be submitted for sessions.

KYCASE Executive Board meeting resulted in a revitalization of the DoSE’s across the state. I have volunteered to co-chair the Governmental Relations Committee with the DoSE from Bardstown.

Record Reviews are underway to prepare for a monitoring visit from KDE in January.

An Assistive Technology conference is being held in January that the DoSE and SLP will be attending.

December 1 Child Count data is clear for submission with verification coming on Dec. 11. This count determines IDEA funds for prek-12 for the following school year.

Early Childhood Services

Tigers CUBS monthly book program currently sends 91 books a month home to infants and toddlers.

Hear our ROAR weekly book program continues. We send home 54 books each week, tied to the weekly theme and what students are learning, to build their own home libraries.

Preschool will be taking a field trip to the Museum Center after the holiday break.

December 1 Child Count data is clear for submission with verification coming on Dec. 11. This count determines IDEA funds for prek-12 for the following school year. Preschool has an additional count submission on March 1 for additional KERA preschool funds.

English Learners

NKCES is providing services for our English Learners.

GES: 3 students

BHS: 5 students

Gifted and Talented

Please see attached report.

Monthly GT meetings topics include: early entrance into kindergarten, website development, potential funds for visiting artists for GT identification, budget reviews and referral systems and norms.

Grants

KyCL grant is going strong with teacher training, district literacy team meetings, etc. Scholastic will remain our partner for the 2023-2024 school year for K-12. In addition, teachers are being presented with the opportunity to participate in the LETRS training. Presented by Lexia Learning, the continuum of ECLETRS and LETRS in a professional learning course for instructors of reading, spelling and associated language skills. This training provides knowledge and skills in the area of literacy that can be used with any reading program. A no cost extension will be pursued by the state department which will extend the use of the funds by one year.

Preschool Partnership Grant supports a full day preschool option with a focus on the social and emotional health of our youngest Tigers. Aunt Kathy’s is open at GES Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. This is the final year of funding for this particular grant.

MAF grant awarded to the district is supporting the work of a GES math coach. The grant requires the coach to be enrolled in courses through the University of Louisville to become an expert in math content and coaching and modeling for teachers on best practices for math instruction. This is the final year of funding.

The Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) grant work has allowed the district to purchase a new evidence-based curriculum for social emotional learning from preschool through twelfth grades. This work is now being led by Vanessa Kuhn. This grant was awarded on September 22, 2022 and will generate $375,000 per year for the next five years.

The Full Service Community Schools Grant had been submitted for a multi-district proposal which will provide $15,000,000 over the next five years to create a true community school approach to learning. Bellevue, Dayton and Southgate partnered in this effort and Bellevue Independent Schools would have been the fiscal agent. Award activities within the grant would’ve included: each school receiving one additional reading and math interventionist, the installation of a health clinic at GES staffed by a nurse practitioner, the purchase of a bus/van to convert to a mobile preschool classroom, funds to hire a nutrition specialist who will work with cafeteria staff in preparing more fresh foods and a social worker for each district whose main focus is to reduce chronic absenteeism by identifying the barriers and helping families remove and overcome them. Award announcement was made and we are not recipients this round. Upon review of evaluator comments, one area fell short of a perfect score which will hopefully set the stage for a successful award for the next submission.