

Kentucky Board of EDUCATION

2024 Kevin C. Brown Strategic Priority Award



Kevin C. Brown served at the KDE in various roles from 2004 to 2018. Most recently, Brown served as the Interim Commissioner of Education from December 2019 to September 2020.

Brown's time at the department throughout 2020 was marked with significant challenges that called for strategic educational leadership and clear ongoing communication that was forward-thinking, action-oriented and aimed at advancing efforts to educate, feed and support Kentucky's 650,000 students during a global pandemic.

The goal of Senate Bill 9 (2022), the Read to Succeed Act, is to support evidence-based early literacy instruction throughout the commonwealth by investing in teachers to increase student success in reading. A child's ability to read is a critical predictor of both educational and lifelong success. Students must have every opportunity to gain and strengthen this skill, and teachers must be equipped and empowered in the teaching of reading to best support their students.

The 2024 award seeks to recognize a public school or district that has demonstrated a strong commitment to enhancing early literacy through the effective adoption and implementation of evidence-based practices, as outlined in Senate Bill 9 (2022), the Read to Succeed Act.

Criteria for the award include:

- Notable efforts in supporting the successful adoption and implementation of evidence-based early literacy instruction. This includes investment in professional development and/or instructional resources to equip teachers with the latest evidence-based practices for teaching reading.
- Evidence of successful implementation of the Read to Succeed Act, focusing on policies and practices that enhance early literacy outcomes. This includes providing teachers with the resources and support needed to effectively teach reading and offering students ample opportunities to develop and strengthen their reading skills.
- Engagement with the community to support early literacy initiatives, recognizing that literacy is a collective effort. This includes collaboration with families, local organizations, and other stakeholders to create a literacy-rich environment that extends beyond the classroom.

Nomination window: October - November

Award presented: February