

Steven L. Beshear  
Governor



Terry Holliday, Ph.D.  
Commissioner of Education

**EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT CABINET  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

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December 21, 2010

Mr. Michael David Kenner, Superintendent  
Todd County School District  
205 Airport Road  
Elkton, KY42220

Dear Superintendent Kenner:

This letter is a follow-up regarding the ongoing work around a Board Examination System for Kentucky.

As you are aware, the State Consortium for Board Examination Systems (SCOBES) failed to receive grant funding under the Race to the Top Assessment Fund. Subsequent attempts to secure funding also have not yielded the results that were desired. While we are still participating in the SCOBES work, it is necessary for Kentucky to take on more of the resource responsibility than previously expected.

I and the staff at the Kentucky Department of Education are still committed to this important work.

To that end, I wanted to update you on our proposal to begin the work on our Board Examination System.

- 1) We propose to begin a cohort of 9th-grade students at each site in the fall of 2011. We are recommending a cohort of 65 students per site.
- 2) Through an approved competitive bidding process, Kentucky will select a vendor that will provide the curriculum and end-of-course assessments for the "core" courses for the 9th- and 10th-grade years.
- 3) End-of-course (EOC) assessments in Algebra II, Biology, U.S. History, English II and the arts will serve as our "lower division" Board Examinations. A cut score will be determined that will serve as the basis for identification for early graduation or moving on to the "upper division" of the Board Examination system. Again, through an approved competitive bidding process, Kentucky will select a vendor that will provide the curriculum for the "upper division." Each school year, a new cohort of students will enter



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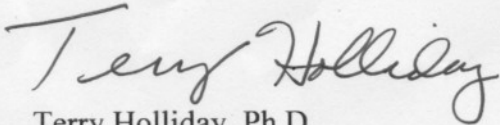
the program. In the 2013-14 school year, the first group of "upper division" students will begin their 11th-grade year in the program.

To meet financial needs, we are recommending a partnership approach in which the state and school districts share the cost of implementation.

- KDE will cover the costs of the EOC assessments and materials for the courses.
- KDE and the school districts will split the cost of teacher training equally for the teachers assigned to the board examination system.

Please review this letter carefully and discuss with your team how you would like to proceed. If you would like to participate in the initial implementation in 2011-12, please respond to David Cook at [david.cook@education.ky.gov](mailto:david.cook@education.ky.gov) or (502) 564-4201 by the close of business on January 7, 2011. You also may contact David if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Terry Holliday". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Terry Holliday, Ph.D.

TH:DC:mam