

Finance Department Highlights – September

Director Comments	The Working Budget was a great crash course learning experience in where all of the district's revenues and expenses are coming from. I have a lot more to learn over the rest of the fiscal year, but I have identified some areas where we can streamline internal processes to better track expenses going forward.
Operational Updates	<p>Last month I mentioned implementing positive pay to help prevent check fraud. We were able to prevent an altered check for \$18,000 from clearing the bank account.</p> <p>We began paying vendors weekly in August, and we will look to reduce the number of checks we print and begin paying vendors through ACH/online methods.</p> <p>Now that the Working Budget is complete, we will shift focus to last month's highlights of better utilizing our accounting software for internal processes and where efficiencies can be made across the department.</p>
Staffing Training/ Updates	Director is attending UK's School Finance Management Institute for certification and several other Finance Officer related trainings.
Collaboration	<p>We continue to work very closely with HR on potential reorganization of duties and efficiency in Munis.</p> <p>I will be visiting principals/bookkeepers to discuss the finalized Working Budget and begin discussions looking toward next year.</p>
Upcoming Priorities	<p>Enhancing electronic/digital processes</p> <p>Broaden purchasing options with different vendors</p>

Curriculum and Instruction

100% of Classrooms visited with in the first month of school

Morningside and Helmwood Heights Elementary have 100% of students complete their Fall Diagnostic Testing in Reading and Math.

TK Stone has 100% of students complete their Fall Diagnostic Testing in Math.

The High school will begin administering the NWEA MAP benchmark assessment

Department Highlights

We have visited all classrooms in the district as our department works to build positive relationships with teachers and school administration. We are working to actively support our schools in achieving their goals.

Operational Updates

The Kentucky Department of Education Department of Early Literacy has conducted walkthroughs of our K-2 foundational skills instruction. Work has begun to review and support teachers and schools in this instruction

Staffing Updates

The New Teacher Academy held training for new teachers during the first week of August followed up by additional training from GRREC on August 27th.
Refined our Mentor program to support our new and less experienced teachers.
We sent three staff members to receive additional coaching and mentor training through GRREC.

Collaboration

The Kentucky Department of Education Department of Early Literacy has conducted walkthroughs of our K-2 foundational skills instruction. Work has begun to review and support teachers and schools in this instruction

The University of Delaware will be providing teachers support in the implementation of the Bookworms Curriculum.

Progress Toward EIS Goals

Created a plan of implementation of [DOT.IT](#) to create pacing guides and resources for all content areas grades K-12. Common assessments have been created for all tested content and are ready for schools to roll out following their plan.

Upcoming Priorities

We are working with the school leadership to develop a walkthrough instrument that helps schools gather data regarding progress towards their school goals. This instrument will also help monitor each school's, "Non Negotiables, and district Non Negotiables."

We are working with schools to create a Data Review schedule to utilize our assessment information to improve student learning.

Personnel Highlights - Sep 2025

- ❖ All certified positions hired and certifications secured.
- ❖ First Staff recognitions of the 25-26 school year - the theme/criteria is Inspire Excellence and the treat bag included a token for a free ice cream thanks to a partnership with Dewster's Homemade Ice Cream.

Operational Updates

- Added a teacher position to Morningside Elementary - due to enrollment over projected enrollment from the spring - it has been filled.
- Continuing to add substitutes - added 14 substitutes to date

Staffing Updates

Please see the Board Personnel Report

Staff Recognition

- Chuck Jones - District, Director of Communications
- Kim Hartlage - Panther Academy, Attendance Clerk
- Kelly Davenport - Helmwood Heights Elementary, 1st Grade Teacher
- Ashley Jury/Kelsey Rogers - Morningside Elementary, 4th Grade Teachers
- Katie Davis - T.K. Stone Middle - 7th Grade Science Teacher
- Tonda Mullins - Elizabethtown High, GT Coordinator/Teacher

Progress Toward EIS Goals

- Mission/Vision Statements printed and displayed
- New Hire Surveys sent
- Grow Your Own Update:
 - 2 Instructional Assistants will earn their bachelors degree in Dec 25
 - 1 Teacher will complete his masters' degree in Nov 25
 - 1 Administrator will complete his program in Dec 25
 - Leaves 1 Instructional Assistant in the program - graduates in May 26
- Certified Staff Absences
 - August 2025 - 62; August 2024 - 85.5 = 23.5 less
 - down 32.4% from last August

Upcoming Priorities

- Establish Certified Evaluation Appeals Committee
- Prepare for upcoming job fairs for WKU and Campbellsville University

Special Programs

Current # of students with IEPs	405	Current # of English Language Learners	105
Current # of gifted students	394	Current # of students in Pre-K	79

Department Highlights

As the year has begun, we have worked hard to ensure students are placed in their least restrictive environment to promote as much progress for each student. Our department is diving deep into I-Ready data and making instructional decisions in response to that information. We are also continuing our work in standards alignment and instructional resources for teaching students with disabilities in a manner that meets the Kentucky Academic Standards

Operational Updates	We have worked to improve our systems in addressing necessary interventions for students in the general education setting, and ensuring those interventions address the suspected deficits. We are working to improve our use of AI to ease processes for teachers in regards to paperwork and scaffolding lessons.
Staffing Updates	<p>Special shout-out to Trevor Deneen (Project SEARCH Instructor) and Brandy Horton (FINCK) for their swift actions to support a student in their time of need.</p> <p>Additional recognition to Helmwood Heights and Panther Academy special education staff and building administrators for their flexibility and responsiveness to student needs.</p>
Collaboration	I have worked closely with the Superintendent, Asst. Superintendent, and Director of Student Services to ensure our systems and processes align to the work of others, and ensure our interventions and supports allow students to increase their ability to access the general education curriculum.
Progress Toward EIS Goals	We are continuing our work in ensuring our instruction in the special education setting and through co-teaching meets Kentucky Academic Standards. Staff are contributing a shared document to provide instructional resources for students with disabilities to enhance standards based instruction.
Upcoming Priorities	We will continue to find instructional resources that support access to the general education curriculum for students with disabilities.

Department of Technology

Tickets 7-1-25 to 8-15-25	240	Average Daily Tickets 8-1-25 to present	16 (last month, 15)
Tickets 8-1-25 to 8-15-25	302		

Department Highlights

Since your last update, we have continued our work migrating to Rapid Identity and GoGuardian. Our most important job this month has been successfully transitioning to the start of the student instructional cycle. I am happy to report that we have not exceeded 65 tickets in our queue, which is a great improvement from last year's peak of 120. As I complete this report, we have under 20 tickets in our queue, and will likely finish the school week with five or fewer.

Operational Updates

Rapid Identity: We are continuing to work with KDE to complete the migration to identity management service "Rapid Identity" which aims to automate account management to a much higher degree

GoGuardian: We are continuing to work with KDE to complete the migration from Lightspeed content filtering to GoGuardian Admin.

Battery Backup: Travis McCoy, network admin, has completed the replacement of backup batteries in most locations throughout the district.

Chromebook rollout: We recently purchased 50 more Chromebooks to address the unintended shortfall from the original 370 Chromebook purchase. Those have already been deployed and are in the hands of students.

Staffing Updates

Parker Barnett has resigned as district technician and Gabriela Horton will be starting in the role very soon.

Collaboration

We continue to collaborate with Travis Gay and Student Services to complete the installation of 100 new security cameras funded through the COPS grant. We anticipate this project being complete by next month. This project enhances campus security and supports our shared goal of creating a safer environment for students and staff.

Progress Toward EIS Goals

Our commitment to fast response times on user-end technology tickets ensures that instructional time is not hindered by the technological tools we use in the classroom. This will remain one of our top priorities.

Upcoming Priorities

The upcoming work of the department will support district initiatives by ensuring reliable, high-quality internet access, maintaining effective content filtering for students, and keeping accounts and devices fully operational to support teaching and learning.

Communications Department

Important Data

Since Aug. 1, we've had 907.3K views and we reached 85.4K on social media.

Important Data

We recorded 16.1K content interactions on social media this school year. That's up 50 percent from a year ago.

Department Highlights

This school year, the communications department has posted 10 stories on the school website, averaging more than one per week. We've recognized our speech pathologists and our teachers of the arts during special weeks. Chuck Jones was also the Inspire Excellence award winner for the month.

Operational Updates

We're taking a new approach this year. Instead of waiting for teachers to say they're doing something special, the communications department is visiting each classroom in the district, starting last week. This is an opportunity to showcase what we're doing in the classrooms.

Staffing Updates

We haven't added anyone to the department. Chuck Jones was also the Inspire Excellence award winner for the month.

Collaboration

The Communications Department has worked with each school to set up a schedule to visit each classroom. We also worked personnel to deliver the Inspire Excellence to staff members. We worked with Director of Student Services Travis Gay for the safety story and the teachers of the arts for a story.

Progress Toward EIS Goals

The Communications Department is working to tell the story of the EIS district. We're watching analytics on each social media post to see what people are most interested in. We're also keeping an eye on our number of followers. We're closing in on 7.9K followers on Facebook. We have added 3.4K followers since I took over.

Upcoming Priorities

The Communications Department has plans for stories on Belle, homecoming, principals, custodians and coaches. We have posts planned for Facebook and Instagram. We also have planned classroom visits.

Safe Schools

Important Data

Important Data

Department Highlights

At EIS, safety is more than a priority—it's a promise. Our layered, proactive approach to school safety combines technology, training, mental health supports, and strong partnerships to keep every student safe, every day. Safe Schools week in September. COPS Grant implementation in process.

- Safe Haven Defense security window film installed districtwide
- Ongoing rekeying and hardware upgrades for doors
- Enhanced surveillance and badge-access systems
- Exploring weapons detection systems through federal COPS grant

- Safe Haven Defense security window film installed districtwide
- Ongoing rekeying and hardware upgrades for doors
- Enhanced surveillance and badge-access systems
- Metal detection systems through federal COPS grant
- Raptor Alert & Drill Manager for rapid emergency response and drill tracking
- FirstNet radios provide uninterrupted, high-priority communication across schools and buses
- Safety Roundtables with EPD, Fire, EMS, Emergency Management, and state partners

Staffing Updates

All School campuses remained staffed with SROs.

Collaboration

Continuing our partnerships: Creative Counseling, Communicare, Cumberland Family Medical, CKCA

The work of the SSC this month directly supports the Value Accelerate and grow.

*The work of the SSC this month directly supports the **Accelerate and Grow** goal of the EIS Strategic Plan by strategically aligning resources to maximize efficiency and safety by being on the forefront of safety innovation students have a positive start to the school year.*

Upcoming Priorities

Driver recruitment and retainment, safe efficient operations

Nutrition Services

Important Data	<u>DC information:</u> Free & Reduced: 37.1% Paid: 62.9%	Important Data	<u>August 2025 Participation:</u> Breakfast - 42% Lunch - 71% 13,480 Breakfasts Served 23,017 Lunches Served
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Department Highlights

We kicked off the new school year featuring familiar student favorites for August menus. September will see changes to and additions as we are incorporating limited time offerings and new items to our lunch menus. We will also celebrate the big game during homecoming week with a special menu on 9/25/25. As discussed with PA administrators and teachers, we are also offering more menu choices for our youngest Panthers as well to add variety to daily menus.

Operational Updates	<p>Household Income Form Processing still taking place.</p> <p>Summer Feeding Review Notes: We had findings on our Administrative Review that there was not enough milk in the district to serve the numbers that we reported. This finding is being appealed as our statements from our dairy vendor show we ordered and received enough milk to cover meals served.</p>
Staffing Updates	<p>We currently have 29 active employees in Nutrition Services with 1 Monitor vacancy at HHES. This number includes Director and Asst. Director.</p>
Collaboration	<p>I will work with the Director of Student Services to provide popsicles to the MES for being the High Attendance Day winner!</p>
Progress Toward EIS Goals	
Upcoming Priorities	<p>Menu development continues for the School Breakfast Program. Looking to add more protein options to provide better service to students with allergy concerns, as well as add variety to breakfast choices.</p>

Elizabethtown High School

Enrollment	745	Average Daily Attendance	95.74%
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School Highlights

On **August 28, 2025**, the Elizabethtown High School Beta Club was honored as both a **National Beta School of Distinction** and a **National Beta School of Merit**. They also earned a **Service Hour Award** with grand slam status—a rare and notable achievement. A recent Facebook post published **September 2, 2025** proudly announced that **EHS has been ranked #43 in Kentucky** by the **2025 U.S. News & World Report** Best High Schools list. EHS received Gold Status and was in the top 17% of all KY High Schools and #1 in the area.

Academic Updates	Guided Planning and PLCs have begun. We have a school wide PGP Goal of improving standard 3D universally amongst our staff members. 3D, adopted by KDE using the Danielson Framework for Teaching . This component looks at how teachers use assessment during instruction to guide learning, check for understanding, and provide feedback to students.
Staffing Updates	Attached is the link to our list of new staff members—click HERE to view. Our August outing was a tailgate for the first football game. September's outing is TBD. The Leadership Team (teachers are involved) meet in September and the 3rd Thursday of each month, unless we are out of school or if it's a holiday. Panther Tracks meets each month for new staff members. Our first meeting in August incorporated discussions/questions and allowed time for former alumni and employees to speak with the new staff about Panther Pride.
Community & Family Engagement	All after-school events are posted on Eventlink, and athletic schedules can be found on the KHSAA website. This fall, we're also excited to welcome back several graduating classes for their reunions. Also, we will be hosting parent meetings for freshman, sophomores, juniors, and seniors September 25th. FAFSA workshops are upcoming as well.
Progress Toward EIS Goals	EHS staff are actively developing new mission and vision statements that align with the broader EIS mission and vision. As this important work moves forward, we will begin seeking input from our stakeholders to ensure the final mission and vision truly reflect the values and aspirations of our entire school community. We have invested into Dot It, which helps teachers to teach our state standards effectively.
Upcoming Events & Additional Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belle Sept. 20th • Class Parent Nights Sept. 25th • Homecoming Sept. 26th, Parade 3 PM. Game 7:30 PM • College and Career Fair will be October 30th. • Fall Chorus Concert 9/29.

TK Stone Middle School

Enrollment	540	Average Daily Attendance	96.34%
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School Highlights

Our clubs are holding interest meetings and student participation is at an all time high. Our initial meetings brought out the following number of students: BETA, 85; HOSA, 23+; Gaming Club, 53; FCA, 60; Art Club, 23; Pep Club, 55+; Robotics, 36. Research tells us that extracurricular activities like sports and clubs increase self-esteem and resiliency, lower levels of risky behaviors, and result in higher academic performance, more positive academic perspectives, and higher academic aspirations. We are very excited about the vibrant culture of TK Stone and the many opportunities for our students to develop leadership skills and positive relationships.

Academic Updates	The Fall round of iReady testing in Math is complete and ELA testing will be completed by the end of the week. PLCs will be analyzing iReady data and staff will be working on goal setting with students. Staff has also been exploring our new district resource, Dot It, to see how we can use the program to increase student learning and achievement.
Staffing Updates	Club Sponsors and Coaching Hires Academic Team Coaches- Jasmine Valentine and Sydney Brown Pep Club Sponsor- Amanda Baker Student Council Sponsors- Indya Bradley and Abbie Flood Assistant Volleyball Coach- Abbie Flood
Community & Family Engagement	Robotics Club held a parent meeting PTO held a meeting iReady Parent letters will be sent home next week
Progress Toward EIS Goals	Continuing instructional work in PLCs Teachers completed Professional Growth Goals Initial iReady testing and individual student goal setting
Upcoming Events & Additional Information	Our first student production of TK TV will air Monday. This will include school news, construction updates, sports news, and interviews. Our first Power Hour with Paw Mart is Friday, September 19th. These are PBIS activities to support student learning and positive behaviors in the building. We will have a school dance on September 19th after school to support our History Club and their 8th grade trip to Washington DC.

Morningside Elementary

Enrollment	469	Average Daily Attendance	96.52%
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School Highlights

- We revealed our house system to our students a couple of weeks ago. Students are excited to be a part of a team. They are learning ways to earn "points" for their house through good behavior, academic accomplishments, and community involvement. It has been fun to watch the connections students are forming with others in various grades and classes because they are in the same house.
- Teachers are consistently sharing information about what students are learning with parents on Class Dojo. They are also sharing pictures of students in the classroom. This has helped with parent communication and allows parents to know what content is being taught in the classroom.

Academic Updates

- All of our teachers have done goal setting with students in various areas; students are monitoring their own progress toward these goals. Students receive shoutouts in the classroom and at morning meeting when they meet the goals they have set.
- When completing walkthroughs, we have found that our students are able to tell us what they are learning and why they are learning it. This shows that teachers are being intentional about setting the instructional purpose of the lesson for students.

Staffing Updates

- We have hired an additional 2nd grade teacher. This will help reduce class size from 27 in 2nd grade to about 20 in each class. Mrs. Reeves comes to us with 17 years experience; we are excited for her to join our team.
- We have a part time ESS daytime waiver interventionist who is able to provide additional support in 1st and 2nd grade so we can help more students who are struggling in reading.

Community & Family Engagement

- We are about to kick off our All ProDad program; this is being coordinated by Amanda Shine and Jack Breunig.
- Our PTO is working hard to plan our Fall Festival which will take place on 9/25.
- We have about 30 5th graders who will participate in our homecoming parade; they were selected based on a writing that they completed about why they want to be in the parade.

Progress Toward EIS Goals

- Our intervention and enrichment block has started this week which is formed based on iReady scores. Students will receive targeted instruction based on skills they are missing. We will also have PLCS with grade level teachers and interventionists to discuss student progress and next steps.

Upcoming Events & Additional Information

- Morningside had the highest attendance in the district on 9/9 which was high attendance day.
- Teachers will begin having conferences with parents; we will meet with all parents in person or speak with them on the phone by the middle of October.

Helmwood Heights

Enrollment	456	Average Daily Attendance	95%
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School Highlights

- *We celebrated our gains in KSA Test Scores as a staff this month!!!!*
- *Fall Festival is next week*
- *Record Sales in our Book Fair*

Academic Updates

- *KSA Highlights*
 - *+10 Points in Reading - 50% P/D*
 - *+14 Points in Math - 45% P/D*
 - *+13 Points in Social Studies - 51% P/D*
- *Completed iReady Testing*

Staffing Updates

- *Kevin our custodian is out with a heart condition for another week. Mr. Mudd has provided us with a sub custodian from the high school from 10-2 every day - it has been a blessing.*

Community & Family Engagement

- *Chamber of Commerce is coming to Helmwood next week to dedicate our Playground*
- *Fall Festival is next Thursday the 18th, playground dedication to start the festival.*

Progress Toward EIS Goals

- *KDE Coaching was beneficial for our new phonics program - UFLI. This has prompted the district to offer coaching/training for our teachers this month and next.*
- *Bookworms Coaching is this week - I've already gained some insight from their trainer on next steps.*

Upcoming Events & Additional Information

- *Fall Festival - Sept. 18*
- *Book Fair was this week*

Panther Academy

Enrollment	K - 181 PS - 68 rostered (85 registered)	Average Daily Attendance	169.23
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School Highlights

Our students continue to learn routines and procedures in order to be successful at school. Our preschool numbers continue to increase.

Academic Updates	<i>All students have completed the Brigance screening. The intervention team is working to get that data entered into OMS. Preliminary, but not official results, show that 50.2% of the students are ready for kindergarten. 8.3% of the students are ready with enrichments.</i>
Staffing Updates	<i>Each week in my weekly notes the staff nominates someone to receive the Staff Golden Paw Award. Those recognized thus far: Erin Lee for always having a smile on her face despite some challenges in her class Leonard Brown for being supportive, helpful and visible to all when needed Ashley McNerlin for being an invaluable resource to new SLPs in the district</i>
Community & Family Engagement	<i>At a recent PTO meeting, one of our previous parents offered to make and donate 3 new picnic tables to our school. Mental Health Partners from the district and GRREC partnered with Mrs. Donahue and Mrs. Truitt during special area classes on Friday, September 5 to help the students with wellness activities.</i>
Progress Toward EIS Goals	<i>Kindergarten teachers continue to view and revise curriculum documents to align HQIRs with standards.</i>
Upcoming Events & Additional Information	<i>We are looking forward to hosting families at the Book Fair the week of September 8-12.</i>

Valley View Education Center/GDC

Enrollment	27 VV/ 9 GDC	Average Daily Attendance	TBD
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School Highlights

- 2 students have transitioned back to their home schools
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Academic Updates

- 12 students in the high school program
- 3 students in the middle school program
- 12 students enrolled in the PRIDE program

Staffing Updates

- Creative Counseling has several new interns in the building helping our students reach their personal, educational, and behavioral goals.

Community & Family Engagement

- Mrs. Kim Iman checks in with our students periodically-she is great at building relationships with all students
- Peer Mentor-Tilyah Richardson visited to work with students on the importance of doing the right thing day to day
- Josh Miller-New TCM with Creative Counseling visited to introduce himself to our students and staff

Progress Toward EIS Goals

- Our students now have access to courses through our online learning platform, Edmentum, that more closely align with career/technical interests and pathways.

Upcoming Events & Additional Information

- First monthly treatment team meeting with VVEC Staff and Creative Counseling is on September 26. The goal is to provide the best overall support for our students in all aspects of their lives.