



FLOYD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
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Dr. Chandra Varia, Member - District 2
Keith Smallwood, Member - District 4
Steve Slone, Member - District 5

Consent Agenda Item (Action Item): Enter into an agreement with The Eastern Kentucky Next Gen Workforce Project, led by the Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program (EKCEP)

Applicable State or Regulations: KRS 162.90 General Power and Duties of the Local Board of Education

Fiscal/Budgetary Impact: This program is at no cost to the Floyd County School district. ARH along with EKCEP provides funding and fiscal oversight.

History/Background: The Eastern Kentucky Next Gen Workforce Project, led by the Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program (EKCEP) is a two-year initiative (Oct. 1, 2025 - Sept. 30, 2027) designed to build a replicable, statewide model for sector-specific workforce development. The project addresses Kentucky's critical healthcare shortages by embedding Career Development Specialists (CDSs) directly into high schools and partnering with Appalachian Regional Healthcare (ARH), the region's largest healthcare provider, to deliver sustained K-12 exposure. Unlike traditional career awareness programs, this dual-specialist model spans the entire student journey-from early elementary engagement to high school internships ensuring continuous preparation for in-demand careers. Integration with EKCEP's Prosper Appalachia initiative accelerates implementation and strengthens the school-to-work pipeline. Over two years, the project will: Directly serve 400-500 high school students with advising, work-based learning, and career planning. Provide broad exposure to nearly 15,000 K-12 students through ARH-led activities.

Recommended Action: Formalize a partnership agreement with EKCEP to support our high school students with career exploration services through its Prosper Appalachian program.

Contact Person(s):

Rady Martin 606-285-9443


Director


Superintendent

Date: 10-22-25



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October 22, 2025

Alex Fisher
Administrator, WIOA Statewide Reserve Fund
500 Mero Street, 4th Floor
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Dear Mr. Fisher:

On behalf of Floyd County Schools, I am pleased to offer this letter of support for the **Eastern Kentucky Next Gen Workforce Project**, led by the Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program, Inc. (EKCEP) in partnership with Appalachian Regional Healthcare (ARH).

We are deeply committed to preparing our young people for future success in both postsecondary education and the workforce. We recognize that building a strong talent pipeline is critical not only for the future of our students but also for the long-term vitality of our community and region.

Our district has already formalized a partnership agreement with EKCEP to support our high school students with career exploration services through its Prosper Appalachian program. We are equally enthusiastic about ARH's plans to deliver age-appropriate career awareness programming at the elementary and middle school levels. Our district pledges to **integrate ARH's proposed programming into our schools, particularly at the K-6 level**, by collaborating with their outreach team and facilitating opportunities for our students.

We believe this project represents a transformative opportunity to expose our students to high-demand career pathways—especially in healthcare—while strengthening the school-to-work pipeline across Eastern Kentucky. We can better equip our students with the knowledge, skills, and experiences they need to thrive in today's economy and remain in our communities as productive, contributing citizens.

Floyd County School strongly supports this proposal and looks forward to continued collaboration with EKCEP, ARH, and other partners to ensure the project's success.

Sincerely,

Tonya Williams
Superintendent
Floyd County Schools

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