

Steven L. Beshear  
Governor



Terry Holliday, Ph.D.  
Commissioner of Education

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

Capital Plaza Tower • 500 Mero Street • Frankfort, Kentucky 40601  
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February 4, 2011

Mr. Brady Link  
Christian County School District  
200 Glass Avenue  
Hopkinsville, KY 42240

Dear Superintendent Link:

I am writing to each superintendent about one of the most critical issues in Kentucky, the college and career readiness of our students. This is critical to the success of our students, communities and the economy of the entire state.

Our legislative leaders are keenly aware of the need for progress in this area, as evidenced by the passage of Senate Bill 1 (SB 1) in 2009. SB 1 requires P-12 and postsecondary education leaders to produce a plan to reduce remediation of high school graduates entering college by 50%. This plan has been produced collaboratively, with its key elements being acceleration, interventions, advising and supports for persistence to graduation. Additionally, the new state accountability model will include a college and career readiness measure to emphasize the importance of schools focusing on marked improvement in this area.

In September 2010, campus presidents from Kentucky's colleges and universities signed a resolution pledging their commitment to be full partners with the Kentucky Department of Education in preparing high school graduates to be college and career ready. Today, I am asking you and your local board to sign a similar pledge, "The Commonwealth Commitment to College and Career Readiness."

I ask that each local superintendent and board chair pledge to increase the rate of college and career readiness of their district's high school graduates by 50% between 2010 and 2015 by signing the attached "Commonwealth Commitment" pledge that includes a goal statement that you will tailor specifically for your district. To assist you in setting the goal, a spreadsheet of college and career readiness data for all districts is also attached. Please share this material with your local board of education members and ask them to support the signing of the pledge and your district's goal.

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The very future of Kentucky's economy depends on our ability to prepare students for college and careers. We must not let our students down. Please join me in this statewide, collaborative effort by electronically sending the signature page containing your district's goal statement, signed by both the superintendent and the local board chair, no later than April 1, to Dotty Raley at [dotty.raley@education.ky.gov](mailto:dotty.raley@education.ky.gov).

We have confidence that this goal is ambitious but achievable, and we will be sharing statewide strategies to help you deliver on your commitment and help increase college and career readiness across the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry Holliday". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Terry" and last name "Holliday" clearly distinguishable.

Terry Holliday, Ph.D.

TH:RW:dr

Attachments

# THE COMMONWEALTH COMMITMENT TO COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS

## Christian County Public Schools

The undersigned, on behalf of the Christian County Public Schools, pledge to increase the rate of college and career readiness of the graduates in our school district from 24% in 2010 to 62% in 2015. To meet this goal, 407 students in the 2010-11 eighth grade class will need to be college and career ready, 291 more students than were college and career ready in the graduating class of 2010.

This \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2011.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Board Chair

### Note:

The College and Career Readiness percentage rate is based on the individual goal for each district to increase its 2010 rate by 50% in 2015 (100% less 2010 rate; divided by 2; added to 2010 rate). The College and Career Readiness rate was published in September 2010 and is available on the KDE website. Each district has a unique goal.