

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (KDE)
STAFF NOTE: REVIEW ITEM

<p>Topic: Presentation of the 2026 Teresa Perry Compassion Award Date: June Action Requested: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>Review <input type="checkbox"/>Action/Consent <input type="checkbox"/>Action/Discussion Held In: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>Full Board <input type="checkbox"/>State Schools <input type="checkbox"/>United We Learn</p>

SUMMARY OF PRESENTATION:

This will be the presentation of the 2026 Teresa Perry Compassion Award.

The award is given each year to a KDE employee who exhibits integrity and is committed to assisting others, focuses on delivering excellent customer service for the department, is knowledgeable and productive, and shows compassion for others in the work they do.


The award is named in honor of the late Teresa Perry, who served at KDE as executive secretary to the commissioner of education. For more than 33 years, Perry worked tirelessly for the Commonwealth, KDE, each school district and Kentucky's children. She provided outstanding customer service to internal and external audiences and provided positive inspiration toward others in the day-to-day operation of the agency.

Individuals presently employed by the executive branch are eligible to be nominated. Eligible employees include all 18A classifications, merit and non-merit (associate commissioners are not eligible for this award). Eligible 18A employees must have completed the initial probationary period and be without disciplinary action within the past 12 months.

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Commissioner of Education

GOALS/PRIORITIES: Indicate all applicable options.

- Foster Educational Innovation Through Vibrant Learning Experiences**
- Advance Educational Excellence Through Continuous Professional Improvement**
- Cultivate Collaborative Partnerships**
- Legislation**
- Commissioner's Management**