



Every Child Every Day

SUPERINTENDENT

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Consent Agenda Item (Action Item): Consider/Approve the Letter of Commitment with Digital Promise for the Collaborative Research: CER: Drawing on Kinship Designing a National Model for Rurally Sustaining Computing Education

Applicable State or Regulations: BOE Policy 01.11 Powers and Duties of the Local Board of Education.

Fiscal/Budgetary Impact: No cost to the district. The grant would pay for professional learning and stipends for participating teachers.

History/Background: This project investigates the transferability of the Eastern Kentucky C-EDT instructional model to other geographically distinct rural areas, including Alaska and Arizona. Through this project, 4 teachers from Floyd County Schools will serve as independent peer-facilitators and mentors, building local and national leadership capacity to sustain rigorous computing education.

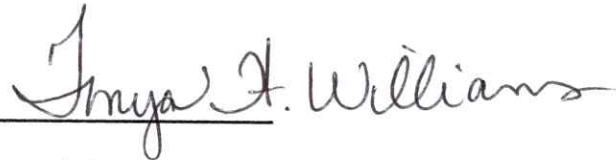
Recommended Action: Approve the Letter of Commitment as presented

Contact Person(s): Rebecca Morrison, Director of District-Wide Services / District Assessment Coordinator

Director



Director



Superintendent

Date: 8/21/26

The Floyd County Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, religion, marital status, sex, or disability in employment, educational programs, or activities as set forth in Title IX & VI, and in Section 504.

442 KY ROUTE 550, EASTERN KY, 41622
TEL: 606.886.2354 FAX: 606.886.4550



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August 21, 2026

To: National Science Foundation

If the proposal submitted by Dr. Emi Iwatani entitled "Collaborative Research: CER: Drawing on Kinship: Designing a Transferable Model for Rurally Sustaining Computing Education" is selected for funding by NSF, it is my intent to collaborate and/or commit resources as detailed in the Project Description or the Facilities, Equipment and Other Resources section of the proposal.

Tonya Horne-Williams
Superintendent
Floyd County Schools

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August 19, 2026

Dear Superintendent Williams (cc: Ms. Rebecca Morrison),

We hope this message finds you well, and that the school year is off to a wonderful start.

We are writing to share some important updates about our National Science Foundation (NSF) funded project, *Drawing on Kinship: Rurally Sustaining Computational Thinking Pathways*, and related initiatives.

Update 1. Celebrating the Success of *Drawing on Kinship*

As this grant officially concludes next month, we are incredibly proud of what we've accomplished together since 2022. Our collaboration successfully boosted student engagement by blending High-Quality Instructional Resources (HQIRs), computational thinking, and Appalachian ingenuity. This partnership brought over \$100,000 in direct funding to Floyd County Schools, including \$82,000 in staff professional development and \$20,000 in classroom materials, along with direct instructional support from Bit Source and Digital Promise.

As you are probably aware, the hard work of Floyd County educators has been making headlines. Their efforts have recently been featured on [WYMT](#) and [KET's Kentucky Edition](#). Nationally, the project is a Top 5 finalist for the National Rural Education Association's Innovation and Impact Showcase (you can view our application [here](#)). Ms. Rebecca Morrison will proudly represent Floyd County for the award spotlight in October and in their upcoming magazine feature. Finally, MIT Press has invited us to author an open-access book about this initiative (slated for 2028), further cementing the district's role as a national leader in rural education innovation.

Update 2. NSF grant awarded for Computing Education Summit

In June, with your letter of support, we submitted a proposal to the NSF to host a 1.5-day summit in April 2027—and we are happy to share that it was accepted! Our project, "[Aligning Teacher Preparation to Support Teaching Computational Thinking in Rural Appalachian Schools](#)," will bridge the gap between university teacher prep programs and K-12 classrooms. Together, we will build a sustainable, cross-sector pathway to bring computational thinking into rural educator pipelines.

We view this as an elite professional development opportunity for your staff. The grant covers all travel and stipends for three Floyd County Schools representatives to serve as K-12 experts. By being at the table to advise regional universities and contributing to the final NSF-funded white paper, this project will highlight Floyd County's educators as key leaders in shaping the future of teaching in our region.



Update 3. Future NSF proposals: Request for continued partnership

Building on our recent successes, we are preparing two complementary NSF proposals due September 10 to sustain the Drawing on Kinship initiative. If fully funded, these grants will provide approximately \$120,000 in additional PD stipends and support to Floyd County Schools over the next three years. The first proposal will develop assessments for our PBL units to help educators meet state accountability mandates for vibrant learning. The second will scale our Eastern Kentucky design model nationally, bringing in partner districts from Arizona and Alaska. We are submitting both simultaneously to maximize the funding opportunities for our partner districts.

We would love to continue this work with Floyd County. A draft scope of work, budget, and a simple template for a letter of support are enclosed and also included in [this linked folder](#). Thank you for your consideration. Please let us know if you have any questions or feedback.

Since the final NSF deadline is September 10, we would greatly appreciate receiving your letter of support by August 28. Please let us know if you have any questions or if you would like any adjustments made to the proposed budget or scope of work.

Thank you again for your time, your consideration, and your continued partnership!

Sincerely,

Emi Iwatani and Merijke Coenraad
Lead Researchers for Drawing on Kinship
Digital Promise

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