

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
Phone: (502) 564-4770 • www.education.ky.gov

May 7, 2012

Dr. Leon Mooneyhan, Chief Executive Officer
Ohio Valley Educational Cooperative
P.O. Box 1249
Shelbyville, KY 40066

Dear Leon:

The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) is very excited about state efforts around innovation. With the passage of HB 37, we are working hard to develop regulatory language to implement “districts of innovation”.

The exciting announcement at Eminence Independent School District this week of its “innovation renovation” is evidence of much preparation by the school system over the past few years related to innovative efforts to impact student learning. We hope that KDE has played an integral role in this announcement.

Our investment with the Council of Chief State School Officers and numerous national foundations in the eight-state Innovation Lab Network has established a framework within which we will move forward in developing conditions for innovation. Additionally, our partnership with higher education through the P20 Innovation Labs, led by the University of Kentucky, was instrumental in the development of the announcement at Eminence Independent this week. Finally, our leadership with the Partnership for 21st Century Skills has positioned Kentucky as a true leader among states in implementing 21st century skills in schools and districts. We have many schools and districts across Kentucky that are involved in these three initiatives, and we look forward to a number of districts applying for “district of innovation” status once the process has been announced.

As I understand the formation of Kentucky Leads the Nation (KLN) by the Ohio Valley Education Cooperative, all cooperative directors and their governing boards are supportive of this initiative. Given that level of superintendent support, KDE is certainly supportive of this initiative. If you are in agreement, I am appointing David Cook, KDE Director of Innovation and Partnership Engagement, to serve on the advisory board. David would work directly with Associate Commissioner Kevin Brown and me to coordinate the agenda and activities between

Dr. Leon Mooneyhan
May 7, 2012
Page 2

KLN, KDE and the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE). David would also serve as my representative on the KLN Roundtable. Lisa Gross, KDE Director of Communications, would serve as the contact for all communication activities.

As you are aware, the KBE is in the process of establishing a "foundation" to support innovation in Kentucky, and we would welcome collaboration with KLN to raise funds for this foundation. The initial guidelines for this foundation were shared at the April 2012 Kentucky Board of Education meeting and we are moving toward finalizing the details at the August meeting.

Thank you for your leadership in this effort. Over the past few years, budget reductions have impacted the staffing at KDE by almost a 30% reduction. Cooperation and collaboration with our regional cooperatives are essential in meeting our vision of proficiency and readiness of ALL students.

Per your request, I will share with all superintendents my support for KLN by including this letter in the Monday or Friday e-mails.

Sincerely,



Terry Holliday, Ph.D.

Cc: Governor Steven L. Beshear
Kentucky Board of Education members
Kentucky Department of Education Planning Committee members

TH:mam