Certification for the 2013-14 School Year
Constitutionally Protected Prayer in Public Schools

This is to certify that the local educational agency does not have any policy that prevents, or otherwise denies participation in, constitutionally protected prayer in public schools as set forth in the U.S. Department of Education guidance.

The guidance clarifies the rights of students to pray in public schools. As stated in the guidance, "...the First Amendment forbids religious activity that is sponsored by the government but protects religious activity that is initiated by private individuals" such as students. Therefore, "among other things, students may read their Bibles or other scriptures, say grace before meals, and pray or study religious materials with fellow students during recess, the lunch hour, or other non-instructional time to the same extent that they may engage in nonreligious activities."

At the same time, school officials may not "compel students to participate in prayer or other religious activities. Nor may teachers, school administrators and other school employees, when acting in their official capacities as representatives of the state, encourage or discourage prayer, or participate in such activities with students."

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School District

_____

Electronic Signature or Signed Signature of Superintendent

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Date Signed

This certification may be submitted to the Kentucky Department of Education in one of three ways:

- Signed electronically by the superintendent and sent via email as an attachment via email at title1reports@education.ky.gov.
- Printed, signed by the superintendent and faxed to Claude Christian at (502) 564-8149; or
- Printed, signed by the superintendent and mailed to Claude Christian, Consolidated Plans and Audits Division, Kentucky Department of Education, 8th Floor, Capital Plaza Tower, 500 Mero Street, Frankfort, KY 40601.

This certification must be received in the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) by **October 1, 2013.** By **November 1, 2013**, the Kentucky Department of Education is required to report to the U.S. Department of Education a list of those LEAs that have not filed the certification. The KDE must also report LEAs for which complaints have been filed with KDE for non-compliance with the guidance.

If you have questions regarding the certification, contact Claude Christian at (502) 564-3791.