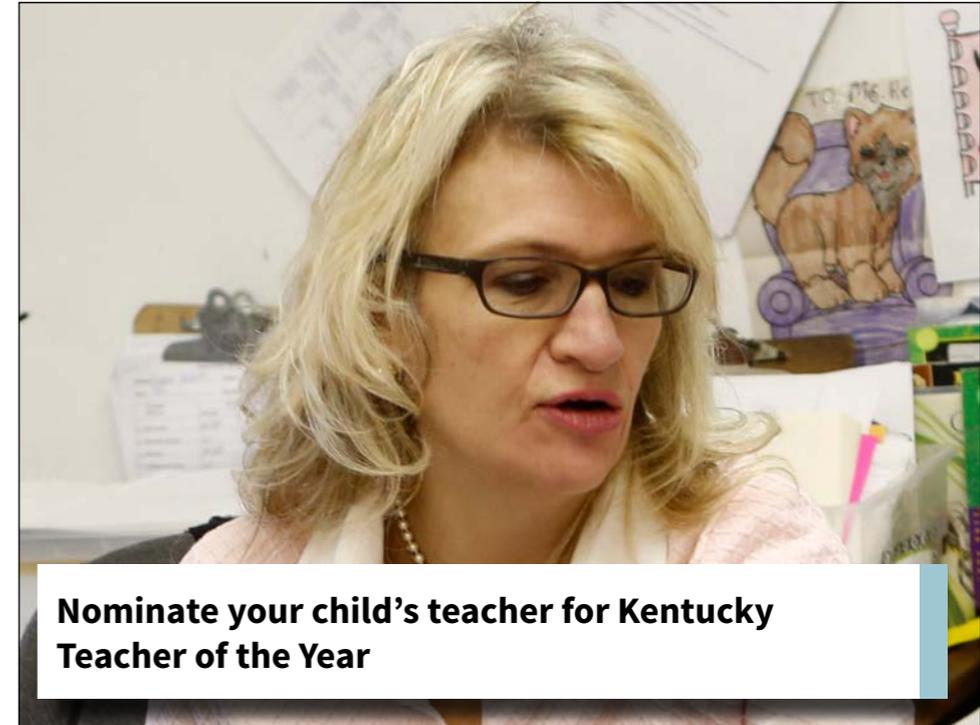


ParentInfo

News for a child's most important educator

April 15, 2015



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All photos by Amy Wallot unless otherwise noted

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Twitter chat

Parents: Want to chat with educators? A parent/teacher Twitter chat takes place at 9 p.m. every Wednesday. To participate or just follow the conversation, use the hashtag #PTchat.

Holliday announces retirement, last day will be Aug. 31

Kentucky Commissioner of Education Terry Holliday has announced his retirement after nearly six years spent improving public education in Kentucky. Holliday, who has served as commissioner since July 2009, made the announcement at the April Kentucky Board of Education meeting. The retirement is effective Aug. 31.

In a letter read by KBE Chair Roger Marcum, Holliday said, "I am humbled and very proud to end my 43 years in public education by serving the Commonwealth of Kentucky. For the last six years, it has been my honor to work with an outstanding and supportive Governor, a committed State Board of Education, a high performing Department of Education staff and passionate educators across the Commonwealth. Thank you for allowing me to serve the children of this great state."

"Dr. Holliday has been a tireless advocate for educational improvement in Kentucky," Marcum said. "He is driven by doing what's best for children and a systemic approach to continuous improvement for students, teachers and administrators."

During his tenure, Holliday successfully implemented many reform efforts including Senate Bill 1 (2009) which mandated new academic standards, new aligned assessments and a balanced accountability system; a Professional Growth and Effectiveness System for teachers, principals and superintendents; and a comprehensive system of school and district improvement planning and support – all with reduced administrative funding. Under his leadership, Kentucky has improved dramatically both its graduation rate and the percentage of students who graduate from high school ready for college and careers. The state also has secured continuous federal flexibility via a waiver from the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) through the



2018-19 school year.

"Dr. Holliday is a leader in education reform on the state and national levels. He has a global vision that has helped renew Kentucky's standing as a national leader in education – first established with the Kentucky Education Reform Act of 1990," Marcum said.

Since his initial hiring as commissioner, Holliday has served on national-level groups, including the board of directors for the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) for which he also served as president; the National Assessment Governing Board (NAGB); the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation's (CAEP's) Commission on Standards and Performance Reporting; and the Board of Overseers of the Baldrige Performance Excellence Program.

"We've seen many positive results of Terry's leadership over the years," Gov. Steve Beshear said. "Under his guidance, Kentucky was the first state to adopt and implement the Common Core State Standards. Commissioner Holliday has worked tirelessly to implement the balanced assessment and accountability system mandated by Senate Bill 1. The

First Lady and I are especially grateful for the Commissioner's work with us to raise the compulsory school age in Kentucky from 16 to 18. I hope all Kentuckians will join Jane and me in thanking Commissioner Holliday for his hard work and dedication. We wish him the best in this future endeavors."

Prior to coming to Kentucky, Holliday served as superintendent, associate superintendent, director of accountability, principal, assistant principal, director of instrumental music and band director in North Carolina and South Carolina. In 2012, the Kentucky Board of Education approved a four-year extension to his initial contract. The contract was to run through August 4, 2017 at a salary of \$225,000 per year.



Nominate your child's teacher for Kentucky Teacher of the Year

Nominations are now open for the 2016 Kentucky Teacher Awards, sponsored by the Kentucky Department of Education and Ashland Inc.

Nominations may be submitted electronically by visiting the 2016 Kentucky Teacher of the Year website at kentuckytoy.com. The deadline for nominations is May 15. Any full-time public school teacher in the state with at least three years of experience is eligible. Additional qualifications are cited on the [application](#).

Teachers may be nominated by students, parents, teaching peers, principals or superintendents or anyone from the community who has an interest in honoring an outstanding educator.

All nominated teachers are required to complete a formal application, which must be submitted by June 30. Judging will take place in August by a blue ribbon panel of education professionals from around the state; up to 24 Ashland Inc. Teacher Achievement Award winners will be an-

nounced in September. Following site visits with nine semifinalists and personal interviews with the top three candidates, the Kentucky Teacher of the Year will be announced in Frankfort. At that time, all 24 teachers will be honored with cash awards and other mementos. Teacher Achievement Award winners will receive a cash gift of \$500; two of the three finalists will receive a cash gift of \$3,000; and the Teacher of the Year will receive a cash prize of \$10,000, along with an exciting professional development opportunity.

The Kentucky Teacher of the Year then will represent the state in the National Teacher of the Year competition.

The Kentucky Teacher Awards program combines the best elements of the Ashland Inc. Teacher Achievement Awards and the Kentucky Teacher of the Year programs. This is the 15th year for this innovative collaboration between private industry and public education.



Kentucky Middle School Teacher of the Year Faye Smith of Campbell County Middle School, Kentucky Teacher of the Year Sarah Reed of Field Elementary School (Jefferson County) and Kentucky High School Teacher of the Year Joshua Underwood of Mason County High School receive their awards at the Capitol.

Photo by Amy Wallot, Oct. 23, 2014



Free online class helps parents support college and career planning

A new online program called Take the LEAD helps Kentucky parents and community members support their middle and high school students in getting ready for college and career. The program is free and on-demand so that participants can earn their Local Education Advocate Diploma on their own schedule.

“Parent involvement and support is vital to student success,” said Bob King, president of the Council on Postsecondary Education. “When it comes to making sure their child is ready, our parents need access to information that is easy to understand, relevant to where their student is, and available at any time. That’s what Take the LEAD is all about.”

Developed by GEAR UP Kentucky specifically for at-risk and underserved families, Take the LEAD provides research-based coursework to help parents advise their children on their plans after high school. Participants learn about the importance of being involved in their child’s education, how to interpret standardized test scores and use online tools to keep track of their child’s academic progress, the different ways to pay for college and how to navigate the college admissions process.

Topics are organized into three levels so parents can get the information relevant to their student’s grade level: middle school (7th and 8th grade), high school (9th and 10th grade),

and College & Career Savvy (11th and 12th grade – available in Summer 2015). Content is presented in 5–10 minute segments, with each course taking approximately 20–45 minutes to complete.

Participants may choose to try just one, a handful, or complete all the core courses to earn a Local Education Advocate Diploma in any of the three levels.

“There are no deadlines, no tests and no grades,” added King. “This program is simply about helping more Kentucky parents feel more confident in navigating the path to college and a career. It’s an opportunity to let others know – especially your child – that you are ready to take the lead in guiding them to a successful future.”

The Take the LEAD program is part of the Digital Driver’s License website hosted by the University of Kentucky’s College of Education. Many Kentucky schools already use the Digital Citizenship License on to help their students learn how to behave appropriately online.

GEAR UP Kentucky also offers a toolkit for schools and organizations interested in offering the Take the LEAD program in their local community. The online toolkit includes resources for promoting and implementing the program and can be accessed at <http://www.taketheleadky.com/statewide/>.



Parents can continue learning with grant for college credit

Adult Kentuckians who are interested in taking college classes may be eligible for a Go Higher Grant from the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA).

The maximum award amount is \$1,000.

The grants are available to adults who are at least 24 years old who are enrolled less than half-time at a participating Kentucky college. Applicants must show financial need and must be U.S. citizens, nationals or permanent residents. They must also be working on their first undergraduate degree.



To apply, students must submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which can be found at www.fafsa.gov. They must also submit a Go Higher Grant application. It can be found on www.kheaa.com by clicking on the “Paying for College” tab, choosing “KHEAA-Administered Programs” and clicking on the link to the grant.

KHEAA is the state agency that administers the Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES), need-based grants and other programs to help students pay their higher education expenses.





Financial Capability: Important for students and communities

Now more than ever it is important to ensure that all students are ready for college and careers. A critical component of this readiness is financial capability. This includes sound financial education, but also the skills, dispositions, and access to appropriate financial products—in a consumer-friendly environment—necessary to make informed financial decisions.

President Obama has [declared](#) April as Financial Capability Month because it's critical that financial capability is a part of every student's education, whether they are about to enter the workforce or make the decision about where to go to college and how to pay for it.

The effects of this financial capability, however, stretch beyond the gains that will accrue to the individual. Students who learn financial lessons often spread these lessons to their parents, aunts and uncles, and others in their community.

This is why the U.S. Department of Education has offered these resources to help families encourage financial capability:

- [MyMoney.gov](#), information gathered by the congressionally chartered Federal Financial Literacy and Education Commission, which is made up of more than 20 federal entities collaborating to strengthen financial capability and increase access to financial services.
- [Financial Aid Counseling Tool \(FACT\)](#), a resource from the U.S. Department of Education's Federal Student Aid, with information about loans, spending, repayment and general finances.
- [Promoting Pathways to Financial Stability: A Resource Handbook on Building Financial Capabilities of Community College Students](#), a publication from the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston.

