

ParentInfo

News for a child's most important educator

August 5, 2015



Links:

[Spencer named manager for Menifee County school district](#)

[Commissioner Holliday: Recovery of dropouts should be seen as an opportunity](#)



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.

It's Back to School Time

Summer is winding down across the Bluegrass state and while many Kentucky public school students are relishing the last few days of summer fun some are already hitting the books.

Students in Logan County began classes on July 29. Thousands more will follow suit this week as several districts open for the 2015-16 school year. Frankfort Independent begins Aug. 3, followed by Eminence Independent on Aug. 4 and Bardstown Independent, Edmonson County and several other districts on Aug. 5.

Among the last of the 173 districts to kick off the year are Bell and Oldham counties, which begin classes on Aug. 18, and Newport Independent which starts Aug. 19. Ludlow Independent students begin classes on Aug. 20.

No matter when your child starts school, the end of summer means a return to morning routines, homework and early bedtimes.

Remember that students [entering Kentucky public schools](#) for the first time and students entering 6th grade must have a [preventative health care exam](#) performed no more than one year before admission.

Students who are 5 or 6 years old also require a dental screening with the [dental exam form](#) due to the school by Jan. 1 of the new school year. Students who are 3 to 6

years old require an eye exam with the [eye exam form](#) due by Jan. 1 of the new school year.

One change in Kentucky schools for the 2015-16 school year is a new law that requires students in most districts to attend school until the age of 18. Senate Bill 97 raised the [compulsory attendance](#) age from 16 to 18 and all 173 school districts had adopted the policy by January 2015. The policy change will take effect in 166 districts for the 2015-16 school year. The change will go into effect in the 2016-17 school year in Newport Independent and in 2017-18 in Ashland Independent, Hickman, Caldwell, Laurel, Letcher and Rockcastle counties.

Also new this year, students in 44 districts will be able to [continue learning](#) even when inclement weather prevents them from getting to school. The Kentucky Department of Education has approved waivers that allow the districts' use of virtual or other nontraditional means of instruction when school is cancelled because of weather or another emergency.

In most cases, students will participate in lessons online. Under the waiver, a district may count up to 10 nontraditional instruction days as regular attendance days and not have to make them up. Last school year, 13 districts participated in the program.



Parents' checklist

As the new school year begins the U.S. Department of Education has created a [checklist](#) that parents can use to make sure their child has the best chance at success in learning and in life.

While your child's education begins at home, the tool provides questions to ask, and *The checklist suggests "key questions" that parents should pose to their child's educators, including:*

Quality: Is my child getting a great education?

- How will you keep me informed about how my child is doing on a regular basis?
How can we work together if my child falls behind?
- Is my child on grade level, and on track to be ready for college and a career? How do I know?

Ready for Success: Will my child be prepared to succeed in whatever comes next?

- How will you measure my child's progress and ability in subjects including reading, math, science, the arts, social and emotional development, and other activities?
- How much time will my child spend preparing for and taking state and district tests? How will my child's teacher and I know how to use the results to help my child make progress?

To see more view the full [checklist](#).

important issues to consider when approaching your child's teachers, principals and counselors about his or her development. As a parent or caregiver, it can be hard to know how to support your child's learning, but asking your child's educators the right questions is a good place to start.



Talk, read and sing with your children



Research has found that providing children from birth to 5 with consistent, language-rich experiences – such as talking, reading and singing – can have important benefits on brain development and future school success.

The U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, in partnership with [Too Small to Fail](#), have created the “[Talk, Read, and Sing Together Every Day](#)” tip sheets.

Made specifically for families, caregivers and early educators, these resources can help enrich a child's early language experiences by providing research-based tips for talking, reading and singing with young children every day beginning from birth.

All tip sheets are available in English and Spanish, and can be downloaded for free at www.ed.gov/early-learning.



Kentucky residents have chance to win an iPad

Kentucky residents have another chance to win a new iPad from the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA) in a sweepstakes being held through Facebook in August. The contest runs from Aug. 1 through Sept. 1.

To enter, click on the orange graduate icon on the KHEAA Facebook page, answer one question about college and “like” KHEAA on Facebook. KHEAA will not share or sell any personal information to a third party.



Only Kentucky residents are eligible. Employees of KHEAA or its sister agency, the Kentucky Higher Education Student Loan Corporation (KHESLC), and their immediate family members are not eligible. Prior winners are also not eligible.

The drawing will be held in early September and the winner will be notified by email. The winner must respond by email within three calendar days to receive the iPad. If no response is received within three days, another winner will be drawn.

KHEAA urges students to check their KEES accounts

Kentucky high school students and 2015 graduates should check their Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES) accounts for accuracy.

KEES allows students to earn money for college by getting good grades in high school and for qualifying scores on the ACT or SAT. Students eligible for free- or reduced-price lunches may also earn awards for good scores on Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate and Cambridge Advanced International exams. KEES is administered by the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA).

To check awards and personal information, students need to use the MyKHEAA function on www.kheaa.com. If they do not already have a MyKHEAA account, they can set one up using the “Sign In” button on the KHEAA home page.

Students can verify their KEES GPA is correct by taking the letter grade for each course taken during the year and converting it to a 4.0 scale. On this scale, an A = 4.0, B = 3.0, C = 2.0, D = 1.0, and F = 0. AP and IB grades receive an extra point, making an A = 5.0, B = 4.0, etc. Pluses and minuses count the same, so an A-minus and an A-plus are both worth 4.0 points. The GPA is calculated by adding all the points together and dividing the total by the number of credits earned during the year.

In addition to KEES, students should check their personal information: name, date of birth, address and Social Security number. Students who need to have GPAs or other information corrected should contact their high school counselor.

If students have problems with their MyKHEAA account or cannot see their KEES information, they should call the KHEAA College Access Team at (800) 928-8926.



Grandparents as Parents conference to be held

A [conference](#) to help grandparents raising their grandchildren will be held from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Sept. 11 at Trinity Episcopal Church in Covington. Attendees at the conference sponsored by Children Inc. will receive information about child development, adjusting to kinship settings, legal matters in kinship care and community resources/assistance. The keynote speaker will be Joseph Crumbley, a

family therapist, trainer and consultant. Crumbley is also an expert in matters of adoption, foster care, and kinship settings. He has co-authored the book “Relatives Raising Children: An Overview of Kinship Care” and consulted on kinship care topics with 60 Minutes, The New York Times and The Oprah Winfrey Show.

For more information and registration is available [here](#).

