

ParentInfo

News for a child's most important educator

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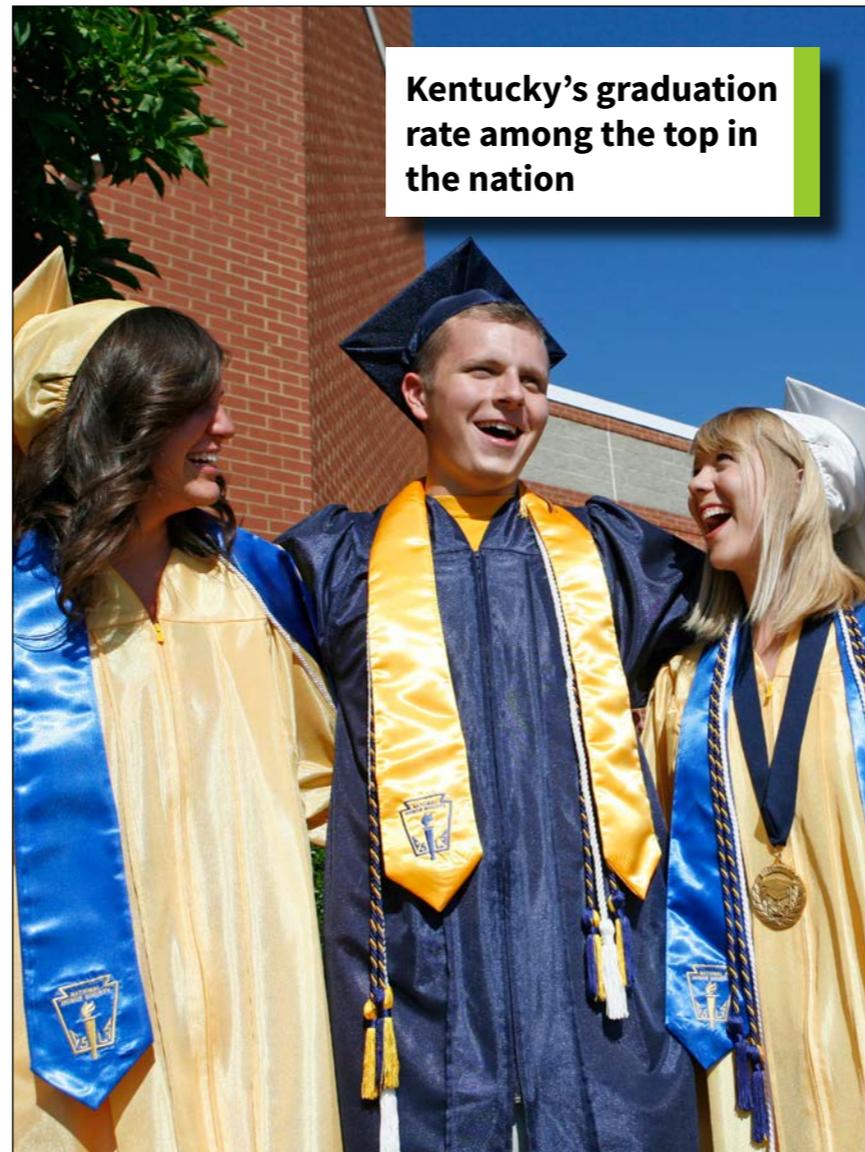


Links:

- Governor, First Lady, Commissioner celebrate new statewide school attendance age
- Board of Education moves to close achievement gaps



All photos by Amy Wallot unless otherwise noted



Kentucky's graduation rate among the top in the nation



Photo contest celebrates state's environment



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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.

Kentucky's graduation rate among the top in the nation

The latest numbers on the graduation rate are out from the U.S. Department of Education, and Kentucky is among the leaders nationwide.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, Kentucky's 86 percent graduation rate in the 2012-13 school year is fourth highest in the country. Only nine states have a higher rate and six are tied with Kentucky. The national graduation rate is 81 percent.

"This data reflects ongoing efforts that have been underway to keep students in school so they have a better opportunity to become

college/career-ready," said Commissioner Terry Holliday. "In the past four years we have not only increased the graduation rate, but also the college/career-readiness rate of our students, which now stands at 62.4 percent, up from 34 percent in 2010. That's solid proof that we are on the right course and Kentucky is better preparing our children for postsecondary education and training than we ever have before."

Kentucky's most recent data from the 2013-14 school year shows even more improvement with a graduation rate of 87.5 percent, so it's

expected that when the new national data comes out next year, Kentucky will once again be among the leaders, Holliday said.

This is the first time in the past few years that Kentucky has been included in the national graduation rate data release after the state adopted a new, more accurate 4-year cohort graduation rate calculation – the same rate most other states use.

The latest Kentucky public school data can be found online in the Kentucky School Report Card and the Open House public school data and information portal.



Photo contest celebrates state's environment

The Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet has kicked off its fifth-annual "Capture the Earth Contest", a digital photography contest for all Kentucky students in grades 6-8.

Judges will look for originality and creativity, photo composition, and a brief explanation of how the photograph celebrates the beauty and diversity of Kentucky and encourages others to care about the state's environment through stewardship and conservation.

The photos will be judged on creativity and originality, photo composition and appropriateness for the contest's theme.

Whether the photo is a native wildflower or wildlife, a landscape or waterscape, parents should encourage their children to share their photography skills and help create a greater interest in the outdoors. The deadline to submit a contest entry is April 3 at 4:30 p.m. ET.

The winner will receive a night's lodging at any Kentucky State Resort Park with his or her family. Students may e-mail one photograph as an attachment to Kidsphotocontest@ky.gov. Use the subject line: STUDENT EARTH DAY PHOTO CONTEST. It doesn't matter when the photo was taken as long as the student is the photographer and the photograph was taken in Kentucky. Official contest rules are available at <http://eec.ky.gov/Pages/earthday.aspx>.



Christina Howard's photograph of an apple made the West Jessamine Middle School student the winner of the 2014 Capture the Earth photo contest. (Provided)



Energy and Environment Cabinet Secretary Len Peters, left, presented West Jessamine Middle School student Christina Howard with her winning photograph from the "Capture the Earth" contest. (Provided)



GCIPL accepting applications for fall institute

Morehead State University, the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence and the University of Pikeville will host the [Governor's Commonwealth Institute for Parent Leadership](#) (GCIPL) this fall.

The Eastern Kentucky Institute will be held in Morehead, Aug. 28-29, Sept. 25-26 and Nov. 13-14 at Morehead State University.

The GCIPL aims to help Kentucky parents become involved in improving public schools to enhance academic achievement for all students. Participants will be trained in leadership and communication skills, given information that includes achievement data and provided an explanation of Kentucky's public education system. The institute is open to all parents and caregivers of public school students and those who work with students.

The institute is free; all expenses including meals, lodging, travel and materials will be provided.

"Morehead State University is exceedingly pleased to partner with the Prichard Committee and University of Pikeville in support of the Governor's Commonwealth Institute for Parent Leadership," said MSU President Wayne D. Andrews.. "We understand the significance of parents being involved in their children's education. This unique initiative engages parents at the grassroots level in improving academic achievement for all students in East Kentucky schools and will prepare parents to become strong partners with their school districts in the education of our young people."

The deadline is April 17.

Participants will be accepted from the 32-county service region of MSU and UPike, that includes: Bath, Bell, Boyd, Breathitt, Carter, Clay, Elliott, Estill, Fleming, Floyd, Greenup, Harlan, Johnson, Knott, Knox, Lawrence, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, Lewis, Magoffin, Martin, Mason, Menifee, Montgomery, Morgan, Owsley, Perry, Pike, Powell, Rowan and Wolfe counties.

To apply online, visit www.gcipl.org and click on "Apply Now" on left hand side of screen. To have an application sent to you, call 859- 233-9849, ext. 227 or email cbaumert@prichardcommittee.org.

More information at: http://www.moreheadstate.edu/News/2015/January/GCIPL_accepting_applications_for_fall_institute/#sthash.V8wZkWar.2eLcqNdN.dpuf



GCIPL Fellow Tara Widener, Cline Elementary (Campbell County), made this cake for the 2014's class graduation. (Provided)



Northern Kentucky parents talk at a Governor's Commonwealth Institute for Parent Leadership workshop. (Provided)



Kentucky Department of Education Recovery Director Deborah Powers and Education Recovery Leader Ruth Ann Sweazy talk with Louisville parents. (Provided)



Nominate a mathematics or science teacher for awards



The Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) is the highest honors bestowed by the United States government specifically for K-12 mathematics and science teaching.

Anyone – principals, teachers, parents, students, or members of the general public – may nominate exceptional mathematics or science

(including computer science) teachers who are currently teaching grades 7-12 for the 2014-15 award year. Teachers may also apply at www.paemst.org.

The nomination deadline is April 1. This date gives the nominated teacher time to prepare an application prior to the May 1 application deadline.

Elementary school teachers (grades K-6) will be eligible to apply during the 2015-16 program year.

Your child can be an author in the 2015 KET Young Writers Contest

The Young Writers Contest is a great opportunity for children to write for an authentic audience. Each story that meets contest guidelines will be read by a panel of judges and each child that enters will receive an official certificate after the winners have been selected.

Due to the overwhelming popularity of the 2014 Short Story Contest, KET has decided to continue the contest for 4th and 5th graders. There is also an illustrated story contest for children in kindergarten through 3rd grade. Both of these contests end on April 11.

Illustrated stories must be mailed or hand delivered to KET, while short stories must be typed and submitted online. Short story entry forms are to be mailed or hand delivered separately.

Be sure to read the complete rules before your child gets started because there have been a number of changes from previous years. Previous winners, contest rules, entry forms and judging information for both contests are available at: <http://www.ket.org/writerscontest/>

Email writerscontest@ket.org with questions about the contest.



Kentucky students can win \$1,500 towards college, \$500 for their school

Kentucky students in grades K-6 have the opportunity to win \$1,500 toward college and \$500 for their school in the “Dream Out Loud Challenge.” Students can submit an original drawing, poem, essay or video answering the question: “How will I change the world after I go to college?”

The annual challenge, sponsored by the Kentucky Education Savings Plan Trust (KESPT), is intended to encourage Kentucky families to start saving and planning for higher education.

The contest has two categories: drawing or video and essay or poem. One winner will be chosen from each category in grades K-1, grades 2-3 and grades 4-6. The winning

students will receive a \$1,500 KESPT college savings account and their schools will win \$500. Entries must be postmarked by March 20 and received by March 25.

“This is the sixth year we have sponsored the Dream Out Loud Challenge. In the past five years, we received nearly 8,000 entries from students all over Kentucky,” KESPT administrator David Lawhorn said. “This has been a great way to promote saving early for college because the challenge starts family discussions about how college can help children make their dreams come true.”

KESPT is Kentucky’s official college savings plan. It is administered by the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority and managed

by TIAA-CREF Tuition Financing. The plan helps parents, grandparents and others invest in a child’s future college education.

Visit www.kysaves.com/DreamOutLoud to learn more about the challenge, including official rules and a complete description of entry requirements.

To learn how to plan and prepare for higher education, go to www.gotocollege.ky.gov.

