

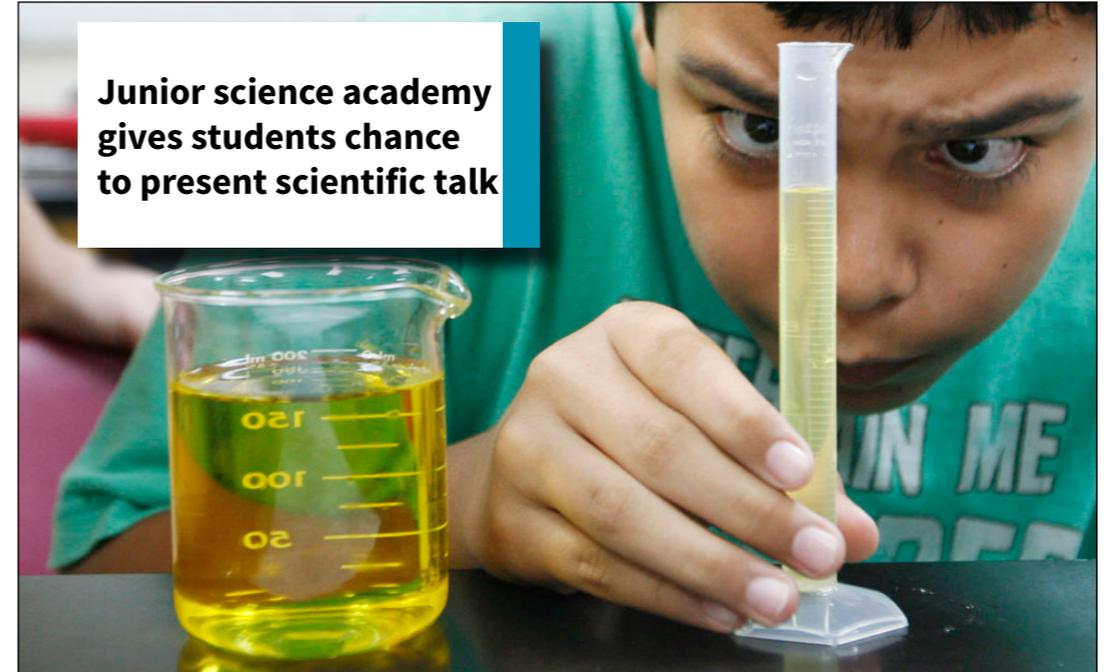


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## Twitter chat

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.

# Pruitt to host town hall meetings on defining school success



Kentucky Education Commissioner Stephen Pruitt will host a series of regional Town Hall Meetings across the Commonwealth to gather feedback from Kentuckians on how they define school success.

The ideas and suggestions collected at the meetings will be used by the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) to inform the development of a new and more effective accountability system, something Pruitt has listed among his priorities since the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) hired him last fall.

“It is my goal to collaborate with legislators, educators, students and the public to produce a system that is fair, reliable, valid and easier to understand than what we have now,” Pruitt said.

The work also is being driven by

Congress’ recent reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, now known as the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). ESSA shifts much of the oversight and responsibility for schools from the federal government to the state – including how accountability is determined and how to define and improve low-performing schools.

“The new federal law gives us an incredible opportunity here in Kentucky to bring all shareholders to the table to create a system that not only holds schools and districts accountable for students’ education, but also celebrates good things happening in our schools,” said Pruitt.

“The Town Hall Meetings are critical to this effort, and I hope parents, community members, teachers, students, legislators, business owners and concerned citizens will come to these meetings ready to share their thoughts and ideas,” he added. “Together we will create a new system that will ensure we do the very best for all our kids and provide them with a well-rounded education that will prepare them to be successful, productive citizens of the Commonwealth.”

The next town hall meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. March 22 at Campbellsville University in Campbellsville. In all, 11 Town Hall Meetings are scheduled. A Virtual Town Hall Meeting also is being

planned, with details to be released at a later date.

Read more about the town hall meetings in Pruitt’s blog: [How do Kentuckians define school success?](#)

<b>EDUCATION TOWN HALL MEETINGS: How does Kentucky define school success?</b>		
<b>All meetings are 6:30 – 8 p.m. local time.</b>		
Date	City	Location
Monday, March 14	Shelbyville	The Blair Center @ Southside Elementary 728 Ginkgo Drive Shelbyville, KY
Tuesday, March 22	Campbellsville	Campbellsville University – Gheens Recital Hall 210 University Drive Campbellsville, KY
Tuesday, March 29	Owensboro	Daviess Co. High School Auditorium 4255 New Hartford Road Owensboro, KY
Thursday, March 31	Hazard	Kentucky Valley Educational Cooperative 412 Roy Campbell Drive Hazard, KY
Thursday, April 7	Lexington	Kentucky High School Athletic Association 2280 Executive Drive Lexington, KY
Monday, April 11	Corbin	Southeast/Southcentral Educational Cooperative – Corbin Center 222 Corbin Center Drive Corbin, KY
Monday, April 18	Ashland	Kentucky Educational Development Cooperation – Ashland Conference Center 904 Rose Road Ashland, KY
Thursday, April 21	Louisville	Seneca High School Magnet Career Academy – Stickler Theatre 3510 Goldsmith Lane Louisville, KY
Monday, April 25	Northern Kentucky	Northern Kentucky University James C. and Rachel M. Votruba Student Union – Ballroom Kenton Drive Highland Heights, KY
Wednesday, April 27	Bowling Green	GRREC Offices and Training Center 230 Technology Way Bowling Green, KY
Thursday, April 28	Murray	Murray Middle School Auditorium 801 Main Street Murray, KY



## Junior science academy gives students chance to present scientific talk



The Kentucky Junior Academy of Science will hold its 2016 meeting April 16 at Kentucky State University in Frankfort. The organization is open to any middle or high school student in Kentucky regardless of their participation or performance in a science fair.

Students who are interested in STEM fields may gain the experience of presenting their project as a 10-minute scientific talk with slides at the meeting. Winners in the high school level categories will receive KAS support to participate in the American Junior Academy of Science meeting in Boston in February 2017. Click [here](#) for tips and guidelines on presenting, or email the [executive director](#) for additional assistance in preparing a talk or to be matched with a mentor scientist for coaching during the process.

The registration deadline is March 18. Students will be required to provide a 250-word abstract, a 10-page research paper and a signed waiver when they register online. Click [here](#) for more information.

## Kentucky Girls STEM Collaborative conference set

The Kentucky Girls STEM Collaborative Annual Conference will be April 15 at the East Kentucky Science Center in Prestonsburg. The conference is open to middle and high school students, their teachers/counselors, parents, community leaders and government officials and seeks to promote the collaborative's mission of increasing the number of women pursuing STEM careers.

Registration is limited to 130 participants. Click [here](#) for more information.



**Kentucky Girls STEM Collaborative Project**

## Art contest teaches high school students about legal system

Law Day 2016

**MIRANDA**  
more than words

The 2016 Law Day Art Contest provides an opportunity for students to learn about the legal system and justice while showing their creativity and competing for prizes. The contest, presented by the American Bar Association's Young

Lawyers Division, can be done as part of class or just for fun. Individual and group submissions are welcomed.

The 2016 Law Day theme, "[Miranda: More than Words](#)," will explore the procedural protections afforded by the U.S. Constitution, how these rights are safeguarded by the courts and why the preservation of these principles is essential to our liberty.

The contest is open to students, student groups and classes in grades 9-12. Students may submit an art piece that may be represented in two dimensions and can be in any medium, including drawings, paintings, films, photographs, graphic novels and comics.

The entry deadline is March 31. Click [here](#) for more information.

## Financial Literacy Teacher of the Year nominations open

Nominations are being accepted for the Kentucky Jump\$Start Coalition's Financial Literacy Teacher of the Year award, which honors a Kentucky teacher in grades K-12 who demonstrates an exceptional commitment to teaching financial literacy topics and motivating students to learn about personal finance.

The award winner receives paid registration for the 2016 LifeFundamental\$ Financial Literacy Summit this summer, and \$250 that can be used for financial literacy classroom materials or to attend additional training, such as the national [Jump\\$Start](#) teacher conference.

The application deadline is March 30. Click [here](#) for more information or a nomination form.



## Your child, teachers can win prizes for poetry

U.S.A. Gold pencils and Scholastic are conducting a poetry contest for students in grades 1-6 in conjunction with National Poetry Month in April. The theme, "What Makes the USA Special to You?" will inspire students to learn more about the United States and express their thoughts through hand-written poetry.

Students can win one of three \$500 grand prizes, and teachers of winning students will receive gift cards and products. The entry deadline is April 29. The entry form must include your child's teacher's name. Click [here](#) for more information.



## Parents can commit to prevent child abuse



How can you prevent child abuse? Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky (PCKA) is asking parents to Commit to Prevent during April, [Child Abuse Prevention Month](#).

There are many ways parents can offer support to other parents and bring awareness of the issue. Use the PCKA [Resource Guide](#) to plan an event, [distribute promotional items](#) or brochures, plant a [pinwheel garden](#), or get those running shoes on for the [3rd Annual 5K Run/Walk](#) on April 10 at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington.

Show your commitment to prevent child abuse by participating in the [Commit To Prevent® Wear Blue Day](#) on April 8 or by entering the month-long [photo contest](#). Enter the contest by posting the picture on social media using the hashtag [#CommitToPrevent](#).

Throughout the month, PCKA will celebrate everything that is being done to transform Kentucky communities into places that care about and actively support families and children.

PCKA is a statewide nonprofit agency focused on the prevention of child abuse and neglect. Learn more at [www.pckaky.org](http://www.pckaky.org).



# Students should take FAFSA verification process seriously



The federal government requires many students who submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid to verify the information on the FAFSA.

Used to apply for most federal and many state student aid programs, the FAFSA asks detailed questions about the income and resources of students. Parents are required to provide their information as well if their children are dependent students. Students are considered dependent if they are undergraduate students under 24 years old, not married, have no dependents of their own, are not veterans or were not orphans or wards of the court until age 19.

The college, or in some cases an agency working with the college, will contact students to let them know if their data is being verified.

Students and parents need to take that process seriously, according to the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA). Students chosen for verification cannot receive their financial aid until they have completed the process. As soon as they are contacted, they should provide any information that is required. Putting it off will only lead to frustration if the process isn't finished when classes are ready to start.

If students have decided not to attend a college that asked them for verification, they should let the college know so it will stop requesting information.

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.

To find links to other useful education websites, go to [www.gotocollege.ky.gov](http://www.gotocollege.ky.gov).

## Scholarship available to those providing early childhood education

Kentucky's child care providers and those who train child care providers may be eligible for the Early Childhood Development Scholarship to further their college education.

The application deadline for summer classes is April 15. The deadline for fall classes is July 15.

The scholarships are available to those who work at least 20 hours per week in a participating early childhood facility. Kentuckians employed as a preschool associate teacher in a state-funded preschool program are also eligible.

Recipients must be working toward an associate's or bachelor's degree in early childhood education or other approved credential. Depending on funding, the scholarship will pay up to \$1,800 for tuition each year. Students may not take more than nine hours of classes per semester.

The scholarship is administered by the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA), the agency that administers state aid programs, including the Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES).

To apply, students must submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and an Early Childhood Development Scholarship application. The FAFSA is available at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov). The scholarship application is available at [www.kheaa.com](http://www.kheaa.com). To complete the scholarship application, students must set up a KHEAA account. After registering, sign in, then select Apply Online for Scholarships.

To learn how to plan and prepare for higher education, go to [www.gotocollege.ky.gov](http://www.gotocollege.ky.gov).

