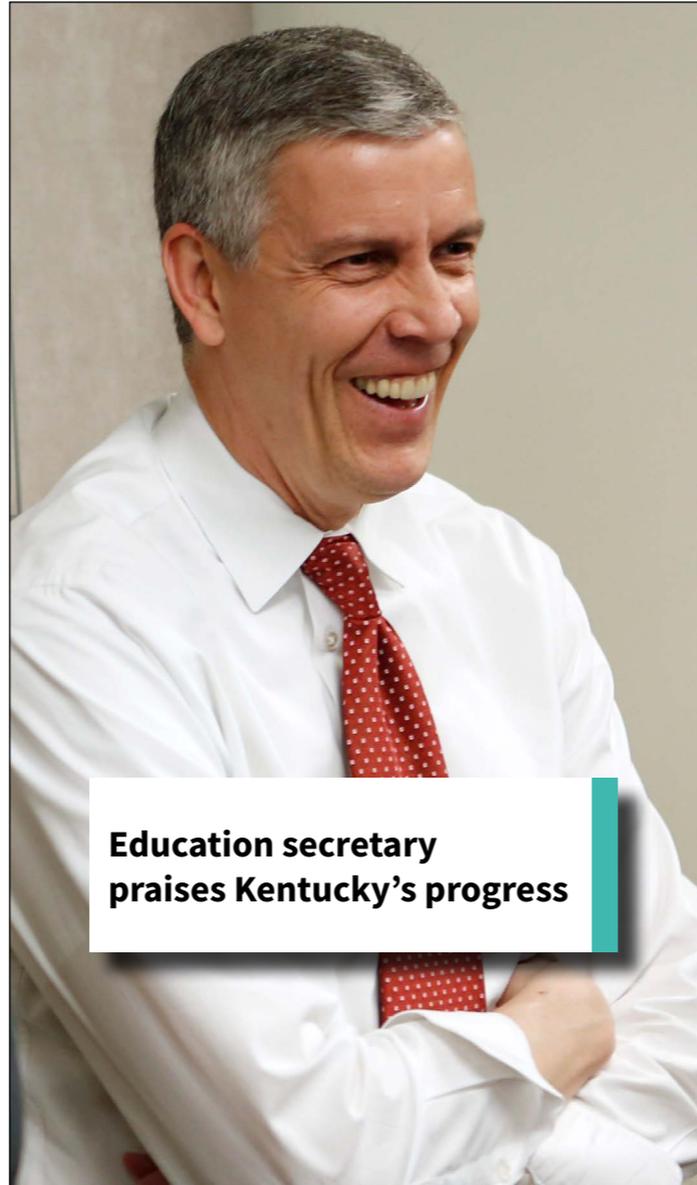


ParentInfo

News for a child's most important educator

May 15, 2015



Education Matters: Inside the Common Core



Keep the learning going with Camp Wonderopolis



Arts council summer program directory offers many opportunities for student artists

Links:

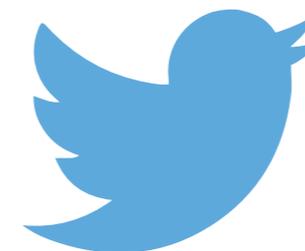
- [Kentucky schools named national green ribbon winners](#)
- [Assessment and accountability positions filled with veteran educators](#)



All photos by Amy Wallot unless otherwise noted

Additional content:

- [‘Surviving College’ booklets can help freshman, adults](#)



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.

Education secretary praises Kentucky's progress

U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan praised Kentucky for improving public education during a recent visit to the state where he saw firsthand of the progress the state has made.

Duncan, along with Kentucky Education Commissioner Terry Holliday, spent a day in Jefferson County starting at Fern Creek Traditional High School, once a persistently low-performing school which ranked in the bottom five percent of all high schools in the state. It is now at the 73rd percentile and classified a Proficient-Progressing school.

During a roundtable discussion, district administrators, teachers, students and a parent told Duncan how the school was able to turn things around with academic rigor and building relationships among faculty and students. According to school leaders, when Fern Creek started the turnaround process more than a third of its freshmen were failing. That's now under 10 percent. If the progress continues, Fern Creek is scheduled to exit Priority status in the fall.

Improving low-performing schools is one of the goals of the state's Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) flexibility waiver. The U.S. Department of Education recently granted the state a four-year extension of the waiver, which allows Kentucky to use a single system for state and federal accountability, among other things.

Throughout his visit, Duncan repeatedly stressed the importance of building a strong Pre-K through 14 education system.

"Early childhood is an investment, not an expense; working with parents on how to prepare their children for learning and success in school and expanding access to quality programs is critical if Kentucky is going to continue to make progress," Duncan said during a community conversation on early learning.

In recent years, Kentucky has expanded access to state-run preschool and is currently revising and expanding its childcare provider rating program with the help of a Race-to-the-Top early learning grant.

A stop at Jefferson Community and Technical College focused on college- and career-readiness and the transition from high school



U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan talks to students in the Toyota T-Ten program, a national model career training program at Jefferson Community and Technical College.



U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan, Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer and Kentucky Education Commissioner Terry Holliday talk with students at Fern Creek Traditional High School during Duncan's visit.

to postsecondary education and training. Duncan talked with the leaders of several innovative career pathway programs including Kentucky FAME program, which in partnership with the business community provides an apprenticeships for high school students in a manufacturing career path; the Toyota T-Ten program, a national model career training program for postsecondary students; and dual credit/early college programs that give students the opportunity to earn postsecondary credit before they graduate from high school.

"Every kid has to graduate from high school and that should be seen not as an end, but a beginning," Duncan said. "It's vital that we give students options for college and career. They need some sort of postsecondary education or training that leads to jobs."

During a news conference Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer, Commissioner Holliday and Gov. Steve Beshear, all echoed that goal.

"By making sure our children get a good start and graduate ready for the next step, we ensure a vibrant economic future for our state," Beshear said.

Holliday cited Senate Bill 1 (2009) as laying the groundwork for the state's progress.

"More rigorous standards, rethinking the way we deliver instruction, and providing students choices so they can find their passion has led to a dramatic improvement in the state's college- and career-readiness rate and graduation rate," Holliday said.

Duncan said he was impressed with what he saw in Kentucky. Acknowledging that the state still has work to do, he said, "Kentucky is progressing faster than most states, and it's important the state not lose its momentum."

Education Matters: Inside the Common Core

Host Bill Goodman and guests explore the implementation of the Kentucky Core Academic Standards in the state's classrooms. Video visits to two schools, Second Street Elementary in Frankfort and Lafayette High School in Lexington, demonstrate how teachers are successfully integrating the standards into their classrooms. Stream the video [here](#).



Education Matters host Bill Goodman talks with Mikkaka Overstreet, teacher in residence at Jefferson County's Cochran Elementary School, Alison Wright, a mathematics teacher in a Fayette County high school and teacherpreneur with the Center for Teaching Quality, and Karen Kidwell, director of program standards in the KDE office of Next-Generation Learners. (Provided by KET)

'Surviving College' booklets can help freshman, adults

"Surviving College," a guide that helps college freshmen succeed during their first year on campus, is available free from the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA).

The 36-page booklet includes the following sections:

- Majors and class schedules
- Staying healthy and safe on campus
- Learning styles and study tips
- Campus life
- Financial basics

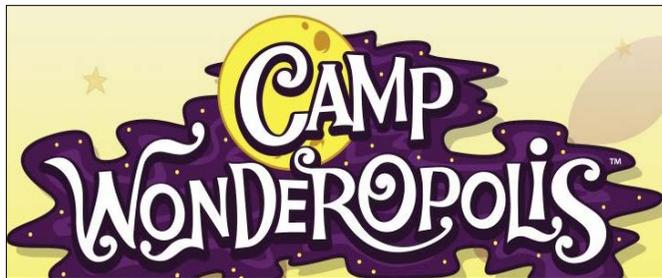
KHEAA also provides "Surviving College for Adults," which is geared toward nontraditional students. To order a free copy, email publications@kheaa.com. Please include your mailing address. Online versions of both are available on www.kheaa.com.

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



Keeping the learning going with Camp Wonderopolis



Parents looking for ways to keep their children entertained and learning this summer can sign up for Camp Wonderopolis, an online learning camp sponsored by the [National Center for Families Learning](#).

This year students will go on a Mission to Wonder that will have campers and counselors over the moon. Camp begins June 15, but parents can pre-register to make sure their children are ready for the summer-learning to begin.

This year the camp will feature six new tracks of Wonder and learning where children and their families can explore and learn together. Campers will be able to explore different tracks of STEM-based exploration. Along the way they will build their vocabulary, background

knowledge, and literacy skills.

Pre-registered campers and counselors will get an early invitation to camp check-in. [Read More About Camp Wonderopolis™ 2015](#).



Arts council summer program directory offers many opportunities for student artists



School is still in session across the Commonwealth, but it's not too early to start thinking about the summertime activities available from Kentucky's many arts organizations.

The Kentucky Arts Council publishes an online directory of summer arts camps, programs and activities hosted by Kentucky Arts Partnership organizations. Programs include a variety of disciplines such as

visual art, theater, music, writing, dance and more, all designed to provide children an enriching experience in the arts.

Heather Lyons, executive director of The Living Arts & Science Center in Lexington, said summer art activities are important because they allow students to delve more deeply into the arts in an arts-centered environment.

"Summertime gives students and teachers the opportunity to take greater time to really explore, experiment and imagine," Lyons said. "Not only can kids learn, they can think bigger, do things in a larger, more intense way than they may have in school. Summer gives students an opportunity to try out some things that they wouldn't have access to in a typical school year."

In 2014, Kentucky Arts Partnership organizations provided 1.4 million arts experiences to youths in all of Kentucky's 120 counties and surrounding states. The Living Arts & Science Center serves

approximately 1,200 students during its nine-week summer program. View a [complete list of summer camps](#).

The [Kentucky Arts Council](#), the state arts agency, fosters environments for Kentuckians to value, participate in and benefit from the arts. Kentucky Arts Council funding is provided by the Kentucky General Assembly and the National Endowment for the Arts. The arts council, along with the NEA, is celebrating 50 years of service in 2015, which the arts council is recognizing as the Year of the Arts in Kentucky.

