

ParentInfo

News for a child's most important educator

May 16, 2016



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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 Department of Education unveils new logo



Commissioner of Education Stephen Pruitt has unveiled a new logo and motto for the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE).

“The department is focused on improving P-12 education for the benefit of our children and ultimately our Commonwealth,” Pruitt said. “The new logo reflects

that and a commitment to equity, achievement and integrity for all of our students.”

The logo includes a silhouette of three students of varying ages centered on a gold-filled outline of Kentucky that includes an upward highlight. The state is surrounded by a blue circle that includes the words Kentucky Department of Education. The department’s new motto, “Our Children, Our Commonwealth” stands astride the state in blue.

Pruitt said each element of the logo was selected for a specific reason.

“At the very center are the three children – representative of all Kentucky students at the preschool/elementary, middle and high school levels. Students are the heart of what we do, so it is fitting that they

are at the center of the logo,” Pruitt said. “All decisions that are made should be focused on students and what is in their best interest.” Pruitt added that the silhouettes are of actual Kentucky students taken from photographs.

The students are centered on a gold Kentucky with a highlight that moves upward across the state from left to right.

“Gold is the color of achievement. It is important that each one of our students has the opportunity to achieve his or her full potential,” Pruitt said. “Also, we chose gold because I didn’t come to Kentucky to be second to anybody. Through collaboration and hard work, Kentucky will set the gold standard in education for the rest of the country.”

“The highlight shines a light on transparency and being open and honest about our work,” Pruitt said. “The light also represents hope for our students and ensuring they are prepared to move beyond high school graduation.”

The blue circle that surrounds the state represents unity and continuous improvement.

“It is vital that we collaborate and work together to give every child every opportunity for success,” Pruitt said. “It may take a village to raise a child, but it takes the entire Commonwealth to educate one.”

That idea also is reflected in the department’s new motto, “Our Children, Our Commonwealth.”

“It is our collective responsibility as a state to make sure future generations have the opportunity for the same or a better quality of life than their parents had,” Pruitt said. “A great education is the key not only to individual prosperity, but also a ready workforce and the prosperity of all Kentuckians.”

The logo was designed by KDE staff. The department will be rolling out the new logo on its various communications over the next few weeks.

KBE award honors businessperson’s service to education

The Kentucky Board of Education is accepting nominations for the 15th annual Joseph W. Kelly Award, which honors a businessperson who has offered outstanding leadership and service toward promoting school improvement and equity of educational opportunity for all Kentucky children.

The award is named for Joseph W. Kelly, who served on the KBE from 1989 to 1998 and was board chairman for seven years during a critical time of implementing and nurturing Kentucky’s nationally recognized school improvement efforts.

Nominations must be accompanied by an essay of 500 words or less describing how the nominee has enhanced educational opportunities for children at the school, community and/or state levels.

The nomination deadline is May 27. Email [Mary Ann Miller](#) for more information.

Commissioner Stephen L. Pruitt: Teachers are Kentucky's irreplaceable asset



As you might have heard me say, the second best professional decision I ever made was coming to Kentucky. The first was listening to my calling to become an educator. I am honored to consider myself among the ranks of the teaching profession.

Education is the greatest and most noble profession. It is the only profession that is

at the root of all others. I think it is time we remember that and remember that our teachers are our most precious resource in ensuring a better life for the students of Kentucky.

During Teacher Appreciation Week earlier this month, I encouraged our state to #ThankaKYTeacher by posting on Twitter their thoughts about that special teacher in their life. Based on those posts, I believe the people of Kentucky have written a better column collectively than I can alone, so I would like to share some of their tweets with you.

Erin Waggoner#@erinwaggoner

Thx Mrs. Gillum for making me (heart) school so much I cried on the LAST day, not the 1st. #ThankATeacher #thankakyteacher

Charlotte Goddard#@emmynickysmama2

Jennifer Willis, thank you for believing in Emily and empowering her! You have been a strong female role model! #GCMS #thankaKYteacher

Michelle Oakley#@OakleyMichelleM

Thank you, Mrs. Sheila Todd, my 5th grade teacher at Nancy Elementary for instilling my passion for becoming a teacher! #thankakyteacher

Courtney DeRossett#@CLDeRossett

Thank you Linda Dale & Nancy Cade for being the most inspiring teachers! Hard work & high expectations, forever grateful! #ThankAKYTeacher

JB#@kysphinx

I'm a better teacher bc of @adamspinks who always challenges me to reflect and improve upon what I do in my classroom.

#thankaKYteacher

Jo Allison Slone#@joallison_slone

HTA to Carolyn Gibson. My Knott Co Centr. Art tchr. 1990-1994 You taught me how to love students. Now kick cancer's butt! #ThankaKYteacher

McCreary Central HS#@McCrearyCentral

A special Thank You to Mrs. Opal Heth - she made the difference in 1972. The power of #thankakyteacher @KyDeptofEd

I am so honored to be an educator and to be in a state that values the education of its students. It is a vast understatement to say I appreciate our teachers – my gratitude and admiration goes far beyond appreciation. I am humbled by the Kentucky teachers who touch the lives of their students every day. Most of all, I am proud of their work, of their impact on our students and their willingness to stand for our students in a job that becomes tougher each year and unfortunately, more underappreciated.

So, please join me in thanking a teacher. We all have one or more that shaped us into who we are. Try to make time to drop them a note, post something on social media, send some flowers or even go by and say hello. And know that these efforts need not be confined to a certain day, week or month of the year. Anytime is the right time to thank a teacher for what they may have done to impact your life. I assure you, nothing means more to a teacher than a former student taking just a few moments to say thank you.

Teachers are an irreplaceable asset, please let them know it.

Keep your children learning this summer

The school year will soon be over, but that doesn't mean students should stop learning during the summer. Camps across the state offer learning opportunities for the summer months. Whether it's day camp while mom and dad work or sleep-away camp with friends, there is likely a camp dedicated to your child's interest.

Here some links to camps listings:

<https://www.uky.edu/hr/work-life/resources-for-parents/summer-camps-listings>

<http://www.louisvillesummercamps.org/>

<http://www.lexingtonky.gov/index.aspx?page=1417>

<http://fw.ky.gov/Education/Pages/Summer-Camps.aspx>

<http://www.mycamp.org/>

<http://interactives.courier-journal.com/community/camp-guide/#!/listings>

<http://history.ky.gov/camp-artyfact/>



State Textbook Commission seeks members



The Kentucky State Textbook Commission is looking for members. The commission meets every year to direct the process for selection of instructional resources that serve as the primary means of instruction in a content area for a grade level or course.

KDE is currently seeking teacher, administrator and parent members for the commission. Terms are four years and require 1-4 meetings per year in Frankfort.

State Textbook Commission Application: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/YSYD8FL>



Make college more affordable by saving on intangible costs

When it comes to comparing the costs of various colleges, remember that on the broadest level, costs can be tangible or intangible. To save money, follow these tips from the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA).

Tangible costs include tuition and fees and room and board.

Intangible costs include everything else: textbooks and supplies; computers and personal items, such as shampoo, clothes, entertainment, laundry and other expenses.

Students can save money, sometimes a lot of money, by controlling the costs of their lifestyle. That doesn't mean skimping on

shampoo, soap, food and doing laundry. But cutting costs by finding sales or using coupons. Always be looking out for buy one, get one free deals.

Students also can save quite a bit of money by cutting back on treats such as entertainment and dining out. Doing those things less often will make them even more special when students can treat themselves.

Remember: The less students spend on the intangibles, the less they will have to take out in student loans. That means that after graduation they can afford more of the things they enjoy.

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.

For more information about Kentucky scholarships and grants, visit www.kheaa.com; write KHEAA, P.O. Box 798, Frankfort, KY 40602; or call (800) 928-8926, ext. 6-7214.



Now is the time for your children to start planning for retirement

You may be planning for your retirement, but what about your children?

Retirement may be the furthest thing from college students' minds, but that is the time to start thinking about it. In fact, the further away it is, the better off you may be, according to the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA).

For decades, U.S. citizens have depended on Social Security for much of their retirement income. However, Social Security benefits for younger workers are not guaranteed.

Another source of retirement income for many people has been pensions. But many companies are scaling back or ending their pension plans.

When it comes to retirement, you should hope for the best but prepare for the worst.

Every time you get paid, set something aside for retirement. A little can go a long way. For example, if you save \$200 per month for 40 years without earning any interest, you will have saved \$96,000. If you can invest that money at 2.5 percent, you will have more than \$164,000 saved.

Develop and maintain a budget that includes saving as much as you can, then invest those savings wisely. When you begin your career, work with an investment professional to pick the plan that is best for you. Even if you don't have Social Security or a pension upon retiring, you will still have something to help get you through your retirement years.

KHEAA is the state agency that administers Kentucky's grant and scholarship programs, including the Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES).

KHEAA provides financial literacy videos at <http://itsmoney.kheaa.com>. KHEAA also provides free copies of "It's Money, Baby," a guide to financial literacy, to Kentucky schools and residents upon request at publications@kheaa.com.

For more information about Kentucky scholarships and grants, visit www.kheaa.com; write KHEAA, P.O. Box 798, Frankfort, KY 40602; or call (800) 928-8926, ext. 6-7214.