



ParentInfo

News for a child's most important educator

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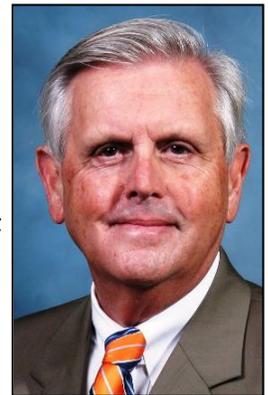


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KBE approves educator effectiveness system

At its meeting recently, the Kentucky Board of Education unanimously approved a new statewide evaluation system for teachers and principals and received an update on a new evaluation system for superintendents. The goal of the Professional Growth and Effectiveness System (PGES) model is that every student is taught by an effective teacher; every school is led by an effective principal; and every district is run by an effective superintendent.

Currently, multiple systems are being used across the state with no consistency or meaningful difference in performance levels or support.



Terry Holliday

Over the past four years, two steering committees and Kentucky Department of Education staff have developed a model for teachers and one for principals that focuses on professional growth and continuous improvement. It includes both short-term and long-term evaluation. Feedback from participants in a field test, statewide pilot and other stakeholders have helped shape the system.

"It's scary, it's change, but I have seen the benefit of it," Stephanie Harris, principal at Mapleton Elementary (Montgomery County), told the board during the work session. "What I'm most excited about is what this is doing for our kids. It's about continuous improvement for all."

Under 704 KAR 3:370, the Professional Growth and Effectiveness System, teachers and principals will be evaluated in two main areas: professional practice and student growth trends.

For teachers, the professional practice rating will be determined by evidence from observations, a student voice survey, professional growth plans and self-reflection and district-determined sources weighed against components and indicators of educator effectiveness in four domains: planning and preparation; classroom environment; instruction and professional responsibilities. Peer reviews, which were once a measure of effectiveness, only will be used to provide supportive feedback a teacher can use to improve professional practice. All evaluators and observers must be trained and tested before conducting evaluations.

See PGES, Page 2



Floyd County school district Superintendent Henry Webb, left, Kenton County Schools Superintendent Terri Cox-Cruey and Kentucky Department of Education Chief of Staff Tommy Floyd update the Kentucky Board of Education on the Superintendent Professional Growth and Effectiveness System. Photo by Amy Wallot.

PGES, from Page 1

Based on how they measure up, educators will receive a professional practice rating of ineffective, developing, accomplished or exemplary.

The student growth trend rating of high, expected or low will be based on professional judgment and three years of data - student growth percentiles on state K-PREP tests (how much a class improves from one grade level to the next comparing students in the class to their academic peers statewide) or rigorous, locally determined student growth goals, developed collaboratively between the teacher and evaluator.

Unless a district otherwise chooses, PGES will not be used to make personnel decisions until 2015-16. PGES now moves through the regulatory process.

During a review of the legislative session, the board was quick to praise the leadership of Gov. Steve Beshear, Education Commissioner Terry Holliday, education partners and lawmakers who passed a budget essentially restoring most K-12 funding for education to pre-recession levels.

"Our children can't wait, our kids can't wait. That was our unified message," KBE member Nawanna Privett said.

To view the full release, click [here](#).

Two elementary schools are National Title I Distinguished Schools

Two Kentucky schools, Beechwood (Independent) and Cuba (Graves County) elementary schools have been recognized as part of the National Title I Association's National Title I Distinguished Schools program. See the [news release](#) for more information.

Students in grades 6-12 needed to design digital Derby jockey silks

Middle and high school students can digitally design a jockey silk image to be electronically displayed and promoted on 2014 Kentucky Derby websites.

This project may be completed by a class, a team of students, a school club or organization or individual students. Each design should include the student name(s), school, district and a description of the project design (see *History of Colors* below). The silk is open for any design interpretation that creative minds discover.

History of the Colors

A jockey wears a colorful jacket called a jockey silk or racing colors. Every racehorse owner has a unique pattern for silks. The owner must register his/her colors with a company called Weatherbys. During a horse race, many attendees identify their selected horse by looking for specific colors and silks worn by the jockey.

Students should think about including the following:

- colors (why specific colors are chosen)
- pattern
- fabric
- design (the cut and shape; fastening)
- crest (representative design associated with a *fictitious* horse farm, organization or corporation)
- properties (weight, cool, warmth, waterproof)

The jockey silk may include colors, insignias and/or other watermarks chosen by students, but each must include a description of how and why the design was chosen and what the various shapes and colors represent. This may be done by providing a brief paragraph below the jockey silk design.

Completed jockey silk designs should be returned no later than April 30 to [Donna Melton](#). Please send your entries as soon as possible so they can be displayed on the website.

For more information or to get a silk outline, contact Melton at (502) 564-1473.

Schools awarded for green efforts

Gov. Steve Beshear and First Lady Jane Beshear marked Earth Week in Kentucky recently by congratulating several schools for efforts in energy conservation. The governor earlier proclaimed April 15-22, 2014, as Earth Week in Kentucky.

"We need our young leaders of today to be just as involved in Earth Day 2014 as their counterparts were in 1970 when we celebrated the first Earth Day," Gov. Beshear said. "That's why it is important to recognize the work that our students are doing in the classroom with programs like Green and Healthy Schools. Our students are becoming game changers, and we should encourage them to continue."

In ceremonies in Frankfort, First Lady Beshear recognized the following schools for their environmental related achievements, including:

- Wellington Elementary, Fayette County school district – Wellington Elementary was recognized as a Green Ribbon school for ensuring its students are aware of how to help the environment and are dedicated to sustaining a "green" school. Wellington, one of Fayette County's most energy efficient schools, has a student and teacher-led sustainability team that monitors and holds their school accountable for its sustainability initiatives. The Green Ribbon Schools program of the U.S. Department of Education recognizes the highest performing green and healthy schools in the nation. Third-grade teacher Brittany Phillips accepted the award.
- Farnsley Middle School, Jefferson County school district – Farnsley Middle was recognized as a Kentucky Green and Healthy School (KGHS), a project-based and student-centered program that empowers students and staff to move their school toward becoming safer, healthier and more environmentally sustainable. Farnsley principal Linda Hudson and teacher Marsha Buerger accepted the award.
- West Hardin Middle School, Hardin County schools district – West Hardin Middle has been recognized as a Model Kentucky Green and Healthy School (MKGHS). Model schools serve as mentors to other KGHS schools and continue their school improvement projects above and beyond the required nine categories. For the second consecutive year, West Hardin Middle was recognized as a MKGHS for revisiting at least one category during the school year and completing at least one new project. Science teacher Leslie Meredith accepted the award for West Hardin Middle.

"Instilling the importance of healthy eating and environmental awareness at an early age will help our students incorporate those values later in life," First Lady Beshear said. "I'm proud of the many healthy and energy efficient projects that teachers across Kentucky are incorporating in to their curriculum and I congratulate all of today's recipients for their outstanding 'green' projects and accomplishments."



Special report to air April 21 on KET

New parents often are taught how to feed and clothe their babies, but where do they learn how to help their children grow up to be emotionally strong and healthy?

New research shows that extreme childhood adversity and prolonged stress can have serious repercussions on the brain development and long-term health of a child. The good news is that secure relationships are a protective shield for all children, no matter what their circumstances.

KET's newest special report, *Safe and Sound: Raising Emotionally Healthy Children in a Stressful World*, highlights efforts in Kentucky to support and educate parents to be the best they can be.

This report will air Monday, April 21, at 9 p.m. ET on KET.

For more information about this program and to watch a trailer, visit www.ket.org/health/safe-and-sound.htm.

This program was funded, in part, by a grant from the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky.

Kentucky Department of Education

Address: Communications Division
6th floor CPT
500 Mero St.
Frankfort, KY 40601

Phone: (502) 564-2000, ext. 4621
Fax: (502) 564-3049

Contact: [Susan Riddell](mailto:Susan.Riddell@kentucky.gov)

KBE receives NASBE grant

The National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) has awarded \$11,500 to the Kentucky Board of Education to advance the state's education reform work on Kentucky Core Academic Standards (English/language arts, mathematics and science) and Measures of Deeper Learning.

Kentucky is one of only six state boards to receive a stipend award. The grant will support the board's efforts through December.

Kentucky's stipend will fund the exploration of innovative approaches to assessment and accountability that better measure a student's mastery of content as well as other non-cognitive "deeper learning" competencies..

NASBE's highly competitive state stipend program is part of the organization's ongoing efforts to strengthen state boards of education in their efforts to ensure that every student is prepared for college, career and civic success.

April is financial literacy month

Click [here](#) and have your child take the financial literacy challenge.

Click [here](#) to read more about Kentucky Department of Education financial literacy education initiatives.



In the new digital art competition, Ethan Carpenter of Second Street School (Frankfort Independent) took first place, and Lanta Willow Wright of Breckinridge County Middle School came in second. Carpenter's art is pictured here.

State agriculture department honors poster and essay contest winners

Winners of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's annual Poster and Essay Contest showed off their creativity with this year's theme, "Kentucky Farmers - Our American Heroes." Statewide winners in each grade were awarded \$100 each. Essay contest winners are listed below along with school and public district. If no district is listed, the student attends a private or home school.

Kindergarten - Cyrus Bivens, Abraham Lincoln Elementary, LaRue County
 1st grade - Rory Shields, Collins Lane Elementary, Franklin County
 2nd grade - Benjamin Wheat, Squires Elementary, Fayette County
 3rd grade - Sayaka Church, Mudge Elementary, Hardin County
 4th grade - Andy Peeples, Deer Park Elementary, Daviess County
 5th grade - Michael Brockman, Brockman Christian Academy
 6th grade - Kolby Hunt, McKell Middle School, Greenup County
 7th grade - Lilly Mooney, Mooney Home School
 8th grade - Kayla Wright, King Middle School, Mercer County
 9th grade - Chasity Bryant, LaRue County High School, LaRue County
 10th grade - Evan Clark, Daviess County High School, Daviess County
 11th grade - Hannah Mooney, Mooney Home School
 12th grade - Sarah Stultz, LaRue County High School, LaRue County

Poster contest winners in each grade were:

Kindergarten - Addison Carmack, Early Learning Village, Franklin County
 1st grade - Yaslynn Ponce, Hartstern Elementary, Jefferson County
 2nd grade - Bryceson Bidwell, Deer Park Elementary, Daviess County
 3rd grade - Lexi Tucker, Deer Park Elementary, Daviess County
 4th grade - Zoe Barker, Deer Park Elementary, Daviess County
 5th grade - Raven King, Whitley City Elementary, McCreary County
 6th grade - Miriam Moore, Faith Homeschool Group
 7th grade - Jason McCormick, Memorial Elementary, Hart County
 8th grade - Courtney Hardin, Memorial Elementary, Hart County
 10th grade - Eliza Kate Moore, Faith Homeschool Group
 12th grade - Morgan Johnson, Locust Trace AgriScience Farm, Fayette County

The Bonnie Plants Third Grade Cabbage Contest statewide winner is Anna Sawyer, a student at Saffell Street Elementary School (Anderson County). She received \$1,000 for her cabbage that weighed 10.5 pounds. For more information, go to www.kyagr.com/marketing/poster-essay-contest.html.