



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

NEWS OPPORTUNITY ADVISORY

No. 14-116

November 20, 2013

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KENTUCKY AMONG STATE LEADERS IN EFFECTIVE DATA USE

(FRANKFORT, Ky.) – Kentucky has earned the highest marks possible for its effective collection and use of educational data to improve student achievement. Kentucky is the only state this year to reach that milestone and joins Arkansas and Delaware in leading the nation around making sure data is used to support continuous improvement in education.

The assessment is part of [Data for Action 2014: Paving the Path to Success](#), a report released today by the [Data Quality Campaign](#), a nonprofit, nonpartisan, national organization that promotes better data, improved access, increased awareness on how to interpret and use data and long-term sustainability of longitudinal data systems –systems that allow for the comparison of the same data elements over time.

Each year, *Data for Action* measures the progress of every state toward implementing the 10 State

Actions to Ensure Effective Data Use:

- Link state K–12 data systems with early learning, postsecondary, workforce, and other critical state agency data systems.
- Create stable, sustainable support for longitudinal data systems.
- Develop governance structures to guide data collection and use.
- Build state data repositories.
- Provide timely, role-based access to data while protecting privacy.
- Create progress reports with student-level data for educators, students, and parents.
- Create reports with longitudinal statistics to guide system-level change.
- Develop a purposeful research agenda.
- Implement policies and promote practices to build educators' capacity to use data.
- Promote strategies to raise awareness of available data.

In *Data for Action 2014*, Kentucky is credited with carrying out all ten of the actions. Last year, Kentucky implemented nine actions, up from six in 2012 and only two in 2011. The average number of actions achieved by states increased from 4.7 in 2011 to 7.0 in 2014.

“In recent years, Kentucky has made significant progress in the effective collection and use of data,” said Education and Workforce Development Cabinet Secretary Thomas O. Zawacki.

(more)

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The [Kentucky Center for Education and Workforce Statistics](#) (KCEWS) is charged with maintaining the state's longitudinal data system. Kentucky's system collects and links data from the Kentucky Department of Education, the Council on Postsecondary Education, the Education Professional Standards Board, the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority, the Cabinet for Health and Family Services and the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet to evaluate education and workforce efforts in the Commonwealth.

"By building a system that connects multiple data collection systems, we can ensure parents, educators, policymakers and others have the information they need to make the best decisions," Zawacki said.

For example, educational data can help parents determine whether their kindergartener is starting school ready to learn, grow and succeed; whether their student is on track to graduate college/career-ready; and how their child's school compares with others.

"At the school level, early warning reports based on multiple data points identify students who are most likely to be at risk of academic failure or dropping out of school so educators can intervene before it is too late," Commissioner Terry Holliday said. "Teachers use a variety of student-level data every day in the classroom to inform their professional practice, tailor instruction to meet student needs and improve student learning."

Principals, superintendents, and other administrators use information on how the student body as a whole is performing to measure progress and make decisions to ensure that more students graduate ready for the rigors of postsecondary education and the workforce. Data about how their graduates fare after high school help them identify best practices or make adjustments to the school's programs or curriculum.

Policymakers use data to make difficult policy, program, and resource allocation decisions.

Kentucky is one of only 11 states the report cites for adequately addressing security through timely, role-based access to data.

"Kentucky takes seriously its responsibility to ensure that data are used appropriately and student data are kept private and secure," said Kentucky Department of Education Associate Commissioner David Couch. "Only those who need student-specific data have access to it."

Education data includes any information that supports student learning such as student and teacher attendance, services students receive, student academic development and growth, teacher preparation information, postsecondary success and remediation rates, test scores and more.

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