



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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HAMM NAMED STATE MANAGER FOR MONTICELLO INDEPENDENT DISTRICT

(FRANKFORT, Ky.) – James Hamm, a 29-year veteran educator, will serve as state manager of the Monticello Independent school district, the Kentucky Department of Education announced today.

He begins his new duties immediately. Hamm is already familiar with the Monticello Independent district. Since last year, he has been working as the Education Recovery Leader assigned to the district by the department.

“Jim Hamm has extensive experience in many areas of education from the classroom to central office,” said Kentucky Education Commissioner Terry Holliday. “In his time in the Monticello Independent district, he has gotten to know the issues it faces and what it will take for the district to once again operate in the best interest of students.”

Under the terms of his memorandum of agreement, Hamm will be paid \$528 per day for a maximum of 81 days during fiscal year 2013 and for a maximum of 240 days in fiscal year 2014. He will be reimbursed for travel expenses during this time. The Kentucky Department of Education will provide funding for the position and expenses; the Monticello Independent school district will reimburse the agency to the extent possible.

Hamm has been a consultant with the Kentucky Department of Education since 2010. Before that he served as the Director of Curriculum and Instruction in Washington County. Previously, he was an elementary and a high school principal in Madison County, where he also taught social studies.

Hamm holds a bachelor’s degree, a master’s degree and his superintendent certification from Eastern Kentucky University. He earned his Rank One, plus 15 additional credit hours in Educational Leadership from Union College.

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The Kentucky Board of Education placed the Monticello Independent school district under state assistance in December after a management audit showed a significant lack of effectiveness and efficiency primarily in the district's governance, finance and personnel operations. Earlier this month, the state board took further action to place the district under state management after a detailed financial analysis showed the district in a dire financial situation and facing shut down.

As a result of the state-managed designation and delegation of authority by the Kentucky Board of Education, all administrative, operational, financial, personnel and instructional aspects of management formerly exercised by the Monticello Independent Board of Education and district superintendent are now the responsibility of Commissioner Holliday. As state manager, Hamm will be the commissioner's on-site designee.

He will also assist the district in the development of its improvement plan which must be approved by the Kentucky Board of Education. The plan will include specific objectives and strategies to correct deficiencies in defined timeframes and the identification of local board and individual administrative staff responsibilities and activities. The district will provide to the commissioner monthly reports indicating the status of improvement activities in the district. The commissioner will report on the district's efforts at Kentucky Board of Education meetings.

Under [KRS 158.785](#), the district will be designated as "state-managed" until the Kentucky Board of Education determines that the pattern of ineffectiveness and inefficiency has ended and the deficiencies identified through the management audit have been addressed. State management may not continue for more than three years unless a follow-up management audit indicates a need for it to continue.

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