



# KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

## NEWS RELEASE

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## **HOLLIDAY WANTS COLLEGE/CAREER IMPROVEMENT PLEDGE**

(FRANKFORT, Ky.) – Kentucky Education Commissioner Terry Holliday is calling on public school district superintendents and local board of education chairs to sign a pledge to improve college and career readiness in their high schools.

On Friday, Holliday sent letters to superintendents and board of education chairs, asking them to pledge to increase the rates of college and career readiness in their high schools by 50 percent by 2015. The “Commonwealth Commitment to College and Career Readiness” pledge includes a goal statement designed to be tailored to each school district.

“College and career readiness is one of the most critical issues in Kentucky,” said Holliday. “The very future of Kentucky’s economy depends on our ability to prepare students for college and careers. We must not let our students down.”

Based on data collected in the 2009-10 school year, 34 percent of Kentucky’s public high school students are considered ready for college and careers.

With the passage of Senate Bill 1 (SB 1) in 2009, legislative leaders indicated their keen awareness for progress in this area. SB 1 requires that P-12 and postsecondary education leaders produce a plan to reduce remediation of high school graduates entering college by 50 percent. The plan includes acceleration, interventions, advising and supports for persistence to graduation.

(more)

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Page 2 – College/Career Readiness Improvement

In September 2010, campus presidents from Kentucky's colleges and universities signed a [resolution](#) pledging their commitment to be full partners with the Kentucky Department of Education in preparing high school graduates to be college- and career-ready.

SB 1 also mandates a new state accountability system for public schools that will include a college and career readiness measure to emphasize the importance of schools focusing on marked improvement in this area.

KDE will share statewide strategies to help districts deliver on this commitment and help increase college and career readiness across the Commonwealth. KDE also will track the responses and provide information about the status of the signed pledges.

See the attached document for the letter, pledge and background on this initiative.

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