



Steven L. Beshear
Governor

Terry Holliday, Ph.D.
Interim Commissioner of Education

**EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT CABINET
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

Capital Plaza Tower • 500 Mero Street • Frankfort, Kentucky 40601
Phone: (502) 564-4770 • www.education.ky.gov

May 27, 2014

Roger D. Cook, Superintendent
Taylor County Schools
1209 E. Broadway
Campbellsville, KY 42718

Dear Superintendent Cook:

As we make changes to address the needs of our students, we encounter the walls of the past. One goal of Kentucky Statewide Consolidated Monitoring (KSCM) is to help remove those walls wherever possible and create opportunities for the programs in our schools and districts to look at new ways to collaborate and collectively meet our ultimate goal: increasing student achievement while closing gaps and positioning our students to be college- and career-ready. The team members from your visit have engaged in this collaborative process in order to produce the attached Consolidated Monitoring Report.

During the 2013-14 school year, the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) conducted monitoring in Taylor County school district. During this process, KDE program staff, utilizing program-specific monitoring tools, conducted on-site visits for the following programs:

- Title I, Part A
- Title II, Part A
- Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA)
- Career and Technical Education

Each program involved in the KSCM has an impact on our goal.

For example, Career and Technical Education (CTE) impacts student success and helps to close the achievement gap by working to make all students career ready. Through the use of a sequence of courses known as career pathways, CTE ensures that all students have equal opportunity to develop skills in demand by local industry.

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) supports the vision of KDE by focusing the efforts of the state, districts, schools and teachers toward closing achievement gaps for students with disabilities and ensuring all students reach proficiency, graduate from high school, and successfully transition to a career or postsecondary education.

Title II, Part A focuses on improving teacher and principal quality to ensure that all students have equal access to highly qualified and effective teachers and leaders. Title I programs provide not only funding but guidance on working with disadvantaged students.

Superintendent Roger D. Cook
May 27, 2014
Page 2 of 2

Simply by reducing duplication of effort, these programs and the others engaged in consolidated monitoring can work together to achieve more collaboratively than any of them could alone.

This report is the result of what can be best described as a “snapshot” of the district taken during our visit. It begins with identifying “Effective Practices”. These are practices that the individual programs felt were effective, and in some cases innovative. We strongly suggest that the practices identified be submitted to the KDE Best Practices website.

In addition, the monitoring team collectively discussed the findings and concerns of each program to identify what is categorized as “Common Concerns”. This represents a consolidation of findings reported by individual programs that were similar in nature and therefore presented a potential opportunity for collaboration between identified programs. Each of these concerns has been identified by at least two programs. Any suggested or required actions will be addressed by the specified programs. During this collaborative time, team members from all programs discuss suggestions for potential opportunities to work across programs, streamline implementation and increase success within each program.

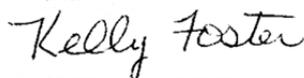
Each program has already provided an individual report as required by federal or state law. Any required actions are monitored by the programs through those individual reports. In order to help the collaborative work of the programs and provide districts with a way to document improvement efforts, we encourage you to utilize the Consolidated School and District Improvement Planning tools in ASSIST.

KDE is striving to provide examples of collaboration and continuous improvement. Our hope is that what we have begun becomes an example that can be replicated across the state.

Each district representative will have the opportunity to provide feedback on the consolidated monitoring process. In the meantime, if you have questions regarding specific program monitoring requirements, please contact the individual program contacts listed in this report. If you have questions concerning the consolidated monitoring process, please contact Claude W. Christian by e-mail at claudio.christian@education.ky.gov or by phone at (502) 564-3791. Information regarding education programs within the state of Kentucky may also be found at www.education.ky.gov.

Thank you for your work in improving Kentucky’s education programs to better provide for our children.

Sincerely,



Kelly Foster, Ed.D.
Associate Commissioner
Office of Next Generation Schools and Districts

2013-2014 Statewide Consolidated Monitoring Report

| | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| District: | Taylor County School District | | |
| Date(s) of Visit: | February 25, 2014 | | |
| Team Leads: <i>(List primary person on this visit for each program)</i> | | | |
| <i>Title I</i> Vicki Fosbender | <i>Preschool</i> N/A | | |
| <i>Title II</i> Jennifer Baker | <i>Career and Technical Education</i> Karla Tipton | | |
| <i>Alternative Programs</i> N/A | <i>IDEA</i> Veronica Sullivan | | |

Highlight of Effective Practice

| Programs Addressed <i>(Check all that apply)</i> | Title I | X | Preschool | Career and Technical Education |
|--|----------|---|-----------|--------------------------------|
| | Title II | | IDEA | Alternative Programs |
| <i>Clearly describe actions and/or practices that the team deems as effective</i> | | | | |
| Parent and community engagement Taylor County school district holds regular meetings of the District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC). This council is made up of district personnel, teachers and parents. These meetings give all parents of the district an opportunity to attend and have their voices heard. It is an excellent parent engagement activity and it fosters good community relations. | | | | |

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Common Issue

| Programs Addressed <i>(Check all that apply)</i> | Title I | X | Preschool | | Career and Technical Education | X |
|--|----------|---|-----------|--|--------------------------------|---|
| | Title II | X | IDEA | | Alternative Programs | |
| Common Issue <i>(Clearly describe Issue and its connection to each program)</i> | | | | | | |
| Documentation Procedures Upon review of financial documentation, it was found that the district needs to develop procedures for proper coding and the use of federal funds for allowable expenditures. | | | | | | |
| Common Solution(s)/Recommendation(s) | | | | | | |
| Review the funding matrix annually and ensure that program coordinator and financial officer effectively communicate regarding allowable expenditures and codes. Leadership should review all policies and procedures for funding for each program area, as outlined in guidance documents. Once district leadership has gained a proficient understanding of the various program funding guidelines, this information should be shared with principals, school councils, teachers and parents. | | | | | | |

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Final Overview

1. Clearly describe the following:
 - a. How program are effectively working collaboratively to better serve students
 - b. Suggestions for adjustments that could help programs begin or improve their collaborative efforts
 - c. Suggestions for how each program can further help with student success and closing gaps

Taylor County has worked to develop innovative practices to improve strategies for teaching and learning. They have worked to develop positive community partnerships, including with Campbellsville University, that lead to student achievement. The district should continue to build the relationship with Campbellsville University and other community partners.