

Matthew G. Bevin
Governor



Hai Heiner
Secretary
Education and
Workforce Development Cabinet

Stephen L. Pruitt, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Education

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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May 12, 2016

Mike Borchers, Superintendent
Ludlow Independent Schools
525 Elm Street
Ludlow, Kentucky 41016

Dear Superintendent Borchers,

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/or 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 2015-16 school year, the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) conducted monitoring in Ludlow Independent Public 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
- Title III, Part A
- Preschool
- Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA)

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 post-secondary education.

Superintendent Mike Borchers

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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. These programs and the others engaged in consolidated monitoring, simply by reducing duplication of effort, 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.

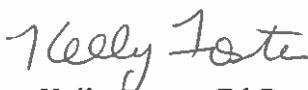
In addition, the monitoring team collectively discussed the findings and concerns of each program to identify what is categorized as “Common Concerns”. This represents a consolidation of findings reported by individual programs that were similar in nature and therefore presented a potential opportunity 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 Helen Jones by e-mail at helen.jones@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

KF/HJ/vb

Attachment

2015-2016 Statewide Consolidated Monitoring Report

District:	Ludlow Independent
Date(s) of Visit:	March 22, 2016
Team Leads: <i>(List primary person on this visit for each program)</i>	
<i>Title I: Helen Jones</i>	<i>Preschool: Bill Buchanan</i>
<i>Title II David Millanti</i>	<i>Career and Technical Education: N/A</i>
<i>Alternative Programs: N/A</i>	<i>IDEA: Robin Linton</i>
<i>ESL: Gary Martin</i>	<i>Gifted And Talented: Leann Pickerill</i>

Highlight of Effective Practices 1

Programs Addressed <i>(Check all that apply)</i>	Title I		Preschool	x	Career and Technical Education
	Title II	X	IDEA		Alternative Programs
	ESL		Gifted and Talented		
<i>Clearly describe actions and/or practices that the team deems as effective (Include impact on student achievement)</i>					
<p>District partnership with community stakeholders</p> <p>Ludlow Independent has established collaborative work processes between the schools, district and community to provide services which support student success. For example, a partnership with the local health department provides screenings for all students for vision, dental and other health services. Another community partnership with a local café provides preschool students with opportunities to learn about recycling, composting and gardening.</p> <p>In addition, Ludlow Independent collaborates with Gateway Community and Technical College (GCTC) to offer a <u>dual credit program</u> for high school juniors and seniors. Through the Gateway Regional Academy (GRA), students have the opportunity to gain college credit while finishing high school.</p>					

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Common Issue 1

Programs Addressed <i>(Check all that apply)</i>	Title I	Preschool	x	Career and Technical Education
	Title II	IDEA	x	Alternative Programs
	ESL	Gifted and Talented		
Common Issue <i>(Clearly describe issue as it relates to each program)</i>				
Student Files Some student folders were missing required documentation. There were examples of special education forms missing required parent signatures and some student cumulative folders were missing required documentation. IDEA also documented that current progress monitoring was not present.				
Common Solution(s)/Recommendation(s)				
Ludlow Independent should consider participating in data management training, conducting random cross-checks of student records to monitor accuracy, and evaluating progress with any revisions made to record-keeping procedures.				

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Final Overview

Clearly describe the following for the identified program(s):

How programs are effectively working collaboratively to better serve students

Suggestions for adjustments that could help programs begin or improve their collaborative efforts

Suggestions for how each program can further help with student success and closing gaps

Ludlow Independent is encouraged to continue efforts to build and expand collaborative relationships with local/regional businesses and agencies. Effective community partnerships are essential to closing achievement gaps and ensuring students are college and career ready. The district can further its success by developing a new process for student documentation. Monitoring and evaluating the accuracy of student records will further strengthen the district's focus on student success.