



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

August 9, 2013

Dear Superintendent Cook:

In an effort to reduce the burden on school districts, the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) began a consolidated monitoring program during school year 2011-2012. This effort combines required monitoring visits for state and federal programs in an intentional and concise timeframe.

During the 2012-2013 school year, the KDE conducted monitoring in Middlesboro Independent School District. During the monitoring 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)*
- *Kentucky Preschool Program*
- *Alternative Programs*

Each program has provided, at minimum, a preliminary report of findings based on the visit. This document represents the consolidation of findings that were similar in nature and therefore present an opportunity for consolidation of effort among the programs. Program monitors have noted some of the effective practices identified during the monitoring visit. In addition, team members have provided recommendations for addressing any noted concerns. These are coupled with suggestions for potential opportunities to work across programs, streamline implementation and increase success within each.

It is our pleasure to suggest that practices that have been noted as effective be submitted to the KDE Best Practices website under School Improvement. To ensure that we are able to meet our goal of providing ongoing technical assistance for all programs monitored, we encourage you to utilize the Consolidated School and District Improvement Planning tools in ASSIST to track your efforts to address any common concerns noted by the team.

So that we may improve our consolidated monitoring process, each school and program that has been monitored will soon have the opportunity to provide feedback. 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 email 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 education.ky.gov.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Claude W. Christian", with a long, sweeping horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Claude W. Christian
Project Manager
Statewide Consolidated Monitoring

2012-13 Statewide Consolidated Monitoring Report

District:	Middlesboro Independent
Date(s) of Visit:	April 30 - May 1, 2013
Team Leads: <i>(List primary person on this visit for each program)</i>	
<i>Title I</i> Monica Shack	<i>Preschool</i> Annie Rooney French
<i>Title II</i> David Simpson	<i>Career and Technical Education</i> N/A
<i>Alternative Programs</i> Tom Edgett	<i>IDEA</i> Debbie Mays

Highlight of Effective Practices 1

Programs Addressed <i>(Check all that apply)</i>	Title I	X	Preschool	X	Career and Technical Education	
	Title II		IDEA		Alternative Programs	X
<i>Clearly describe actions and/or practices that the team deems as effective</i>						
<p>Innovative use of technology</p> <p>During the consolidated monitoring at Middlesboro Independent school district, it was noticed that technology was being used efficiently to meet the diverse needs of all students. While using a variety of technology devices, students were well engaged. The technology initiative will help the district and students become more competitive in our global society.</p>						

Highlight of Effective Practices 2

Programs Addressed <i>(Check all that apply)</i>	Title I		Preschool	X	Career and Technical Education	
	Title II		IDEA	X	Alternative Programs	X
<i>Clearly describe actions and/or practices that the team deems as effective</i>						
<p>Focus on individual student needs</p> <p>There was a collaborative effort between the preschool and alternative programs to implement individualized programs that focused on meeting student needs. School faculty members worked together to meet the needs of all their students. Teachers and specialists worked together to implement special education services for the preschool students. This was achieved by special education personnel going into the preschool classroom to provide special education services in a collaborative atmosphere.</p>						

Highlight of Effective Practices 3

Programs Addressed <i>(Check all that apply)</i>	Title I	X	Preschool	X	Career and Technical Education	
	Title II		IDEA	X	Alternative Programs	
<i>Clearly describe actions and/or practices that the team deems as effective</i>						
<p>Remarkable management of documentation</p> <p>There is a wealth of knowledge among faculty and staff for providing strong programmatic district oversight practices. The district oversight focused on valuable programmatic documentation of data.</p>						

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Common Issue 1

Programs Addressed <i>(Check all that apply)</i>	Title I	X	Preschool		Career and Technical Education	
	Title II	X	IDEA	X	Alternative Programs	X
Common Issue <i>(Clearly describe Issue)</i>						
Lack of communication and collaboration with stakeholders The district has several barriers that negatively affect communication and collaboration with stakeholders outside the school facilities.						
Common Solution(s)/Recommendation(s)						
The district should work to improve collaboration with parents, colleges and universities. Work should be done to identify and collaborate with outside agencies that can share their community expertise to help the students of Middlesboro Independent school district achieve at higher levels. The district also may consider the following activities for improving stakeholder relationships: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ observe and collaborate with the early childhood program as a model for best practices for involving parents. ▪ identify communication barriers with stakeholders and strategically plan to tackle those barriers. ▪ work with parents, universities and outside agencies to identify key contact people and available services 						

Common Issue 2

Programs Addressed <i>(Check all that apply)</i>	Title I		Preschool	X	Career and Technical Education	
	Title II		IDEA	X	Alternative Programs	
Common Issue <i>(Clearly describe Issue)</i>						
Lack of documentation for various intervention levels The district doesn't properly document the process of students entering various intervention levels.						
Common Solution(s)/Recommendation(s)						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Teachers need more professional developments and trainings for Response to Intervention (RtI) and Kentucky Systems for Interventions (KSI) to ensure that they fully understand intervention processes and procedures. ▪ review and revise as necessary the RTI/ KSI procedures to assure effectiveness. ▪ assure that a process is in place for staff accountability, ensuring that the intervention procedures are used effectively. 						

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Final Overview

Programs Addressed <i>(Check all that apply)</i>	Title I	X	Preschool	X	Career and Technical Education	X
	Title II	X	IDEA	X	Alternative Programs	X
<i>Clearly describe actions and/or practices that the team deems as effective</i>						
<p>The district was well organized, and the fairly new district staff was quite knowledgeable of its individual programs. Overall, the district is focused on student achievement. The district truly helps students articulate their vision for the future and move forward with academic success. The district has a caring attitude for student interest when making decisions. With a few changes in the areas identified as common issues in this report, the district could make even greater improvement strides.</p>						