

## NGP Hot Topics

### Updated student voice survey information

Student Voice Survey implementation procedures have changed for the 2015-16 school year. Districts using *Infinite Campus* for survey administration may do so from **January 4, 2016 through March 4, 2016**. Districts using *paper/pencil* or other manual methods may schedule the surveys **according to the timeline established in the Certified Evaluation Plan**.



To see more student voice information, click [here](#).

### Why novice reduction?

Novice reduction in Kentucky is a great need based on the number of students who are scoring at this level in reading and mathematics. There are currently more than 80,000 students performing at the novice level in reading and more than 60,000 students performing novice in mathematics. This is an ethical and moral imperative for all educators in Kentucky. These are the students who struggle to meet college-career readiness benchmarks, who have potential to become a drop out, or may eventually need social services.

Click [here](#) to read the full Novice Reduction article.

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**PGES Quick Links:**  
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[@KyPGES](#)  
[@KyDeptofEd](#)  
[KDE Facebook page](#)

## Coach's Corner

### Engaging teachers in the peer observation process

Article by Sara Jennings and Diane Still--KDE PLEE Coaches

Classroom observations offer many learning opportunities for both teachers and instructional leaders. However, the peer observation process can be a source of tension for educators if a learning climate has not been established. If the goal of the peer observation process is to enhance learning through collegial conversations, then promoting an open culture in which every member of the school sees him or herself as a learner is an essential task of the principal. How can the principal create a context that allows teachers to participate in regularly observing and conferencing while maintaining a schedule that protects teachers' time?

To read the full article, including a collection of tips for principals, click [here](#).

## Teacher's Corner



### Peer observation through the eyes of a teacher

Article by Angie Gunter -- NBCT, teacher leader and Daviess Co. English teacher

When the peer observation lists were distributed to teachers in my district last year, I had to do a double-take. Did I read the list incorrectly? How was I going to effectively observe a classroom that was so different from my own? I've taught English for 13 years, and our district had several new English teachers who needed peer observers -- I couldn't imagine why in the world I had not been assigned to any of them.

Read more about Angie's experience with peer observations [here](#).

### TELL Winner's Circle Schools recognized

At the Continuous Improvement Summit on September 21, ten Kentucky public schools were recognized for outstanding teaching and learning conditions. These Winner's Circle schools were recognized for their effective teaching and school leadership practices and will be shared as models of best practices across the state. The Winner's Circle schools were selected based upon their 2015 TELL Kentucky Survey results, school safety and student achievement scores.

- Ballard Memorial High School, Ballard County
- Earlington Elementary School, Hopkins County
- North Marshall Middle School, Ballard County
- Park City Elementary School, Barren County
- Gamaliel Elementary School, Monroe County

- Chenoweth Elementary School, Jefferson County
- Carter G. Woodson Academy, Fayette County
- Arnett Elementary School, Erlanger-Elsmere
- Allen Central High School, Floyd County
- Thomas Nelson High School, Nelson County

The full story, including those schools receiving honorable mention recognition, is located in the [KDE press release](#) from September 21.

### NBCT Reimbursement Opportunity through NT3 Grant

In [studies](#), board certified teachers are more effective than non-board certified teachers at impacting student instruction. National Board is heavily rooted in the professional practices that support growth: reflection, communicating with families, collaboration, the analysis of student work, engaging students in learning, creating a classroom community, providing equity and access for all students, demonstrating content knowledge and knowledge of students, and differentiating instruction. It's a fact: teachers in schools without colleagues who are board-certified are **half** as likely to pursue National Board certification. To help achieve the goal outlined in [KRS 161.131](#) of having one National Board Certified Teacher in every Kentucky school by 2020, the Kentucky Network to Transform Teaching will reimburse candidates from schools without National Board Certified Teachers for up to \$275 of out-of-pocket expenses after the submission of one NBCT component, as long as funding allows and in the order [applications](#) are received. If you have any questions about this reimbursement, please e-mail [Suzanne.Farmer@ky.gov](mailto:Suzanne.Farmer@ky.gov).



### Equitable Access to Effective Educators Regional Work Sessions

As part of the Equitable Access to Effective Educators plan, districts and schools are charged with the task of analyzing their own data related to equitable access issues, determine root causes and develop solutions. An Equitable Access diagnostic must be completed as part of each Comprehensive District Improvement and School Improvement plan(s) in December of 2015.

KDE will host regional work sessions to assist districts with this process. Use this [link](#) for additional information regarding the work session, dates and locations. Regional cooperatives will be handling registration.

**Webpage Updates:**  
[PGES student growth webpage](#)  
 The PGES student growth webpage has been updated and now includes interactive graphics and combined resources. All steps of the student growth process are now located within a single [interactive graphic](#). Please visit the PGES student growth [webpage](#) to learn more.

PGES Point of Contact in Open House  
 All district PGES POCs should work with their district Web Apps Admin Point of Contact, WAAPOC, to ensure the PGES POC is accurately assigned.

## Upcoming webcasts

PGES Webcast – Thursday October 15th at 9:30 a.m. ET.  
 To watch the above webcast live please use the following link: [mms://video1.education.ky.gov/encoder3a](http://mms://video1.education.ky.gov/encoder3a). Please note this link does not work with iOS devices.  
 The following link does work with iOS devices: <http://mediaportal.education.ky.gov/watch-live/>.