

The background is a composite image. The top left shows a line of yellow school buses, with the number '32' visible on the front of one. The bottom left shows a classroom with blue walls, desks, chairs, and various educational materials. A white diagonal line separates the two images.

Superintendents Webcast

Dec. 10, 2024



Kentucky Department of
EDUCATION

Agenda

Welcome and Updates

Dr. Robbie Fletcher, Commissioner of Education

Kentucky Department of Education Updates

Jennifer Ginn, KDE Director of Communications

SEEK Roadshow

Associate Commissioner Matt Ross, Office of Finance and Operations

Town Halls

Dr. Robbie Fletcher, Commissioner of Education

Questions and Answers

KDE Leadership

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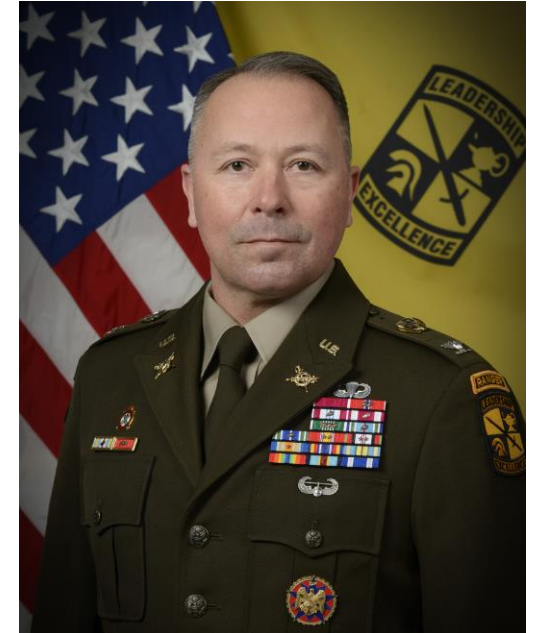
Welcome and Updates

Dr. Robbie Fletcher
Commissioner of Education



KDE Partners with U.S. Army to Start Statewide JROTC Program

- The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) has partnered with the U.S. Army Cadet Command to start a pilot program for a statewide Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) office.
- The JROTC program prepares high school students for leadership roles while making them aware of their rights, responsibilities and privileges as American citizens.
- As part of the new statewide office, Colonel (Ret.) Tim McDonald has been hired as the state director of Army instruction.
- McDonald and his office will provide administrative and logistics management for U.S. Army JROTC programs. McDonald's primary role also includes oversight of the 97 JROTC host programs operating in Kentucky schools and serving as Kentucky's representative and advocate in JROTC matters.

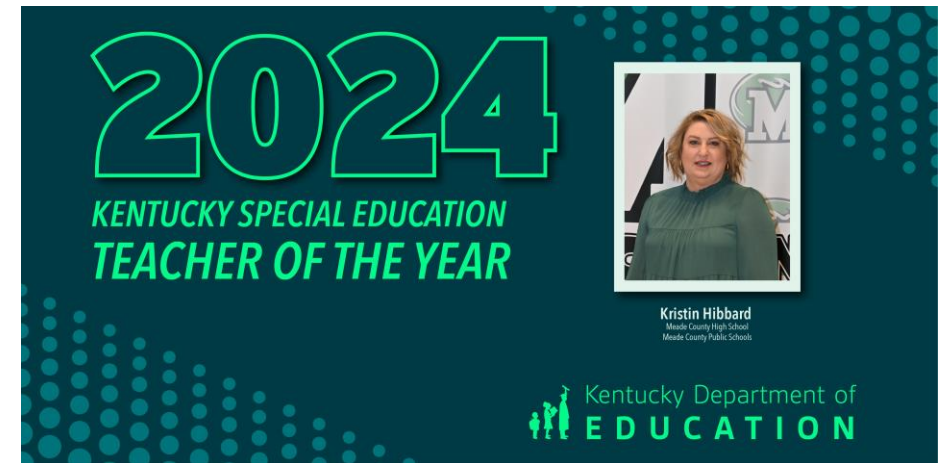


Colonel (Ret.) Tim McDonald



Meade County's Kristin Hibbard named 2024 Kentucky Special Education Teacher of the Year

- Kristin Hibbard, a moderate and severe disabilities educator at Meade County High School, was honored as the Council for Exceptional Children's 2024 Kentucky Special Education Teacher of the Year. The naming took place during the Kentucky Exceptional Children's Conference at the Galt House in Louisville on Nov. 25.
- The Kentucky Special Education Teacher of the Year award – which is open to any full-time special education teacher in the Commonwealth – is a way to highlight the work of outstanding educators.
- Hibbard started her career in education as a full-time substitute teacher for Jefferson County Public Schools in 2001. From 2002 to 2006, she worked at Meade County High School as a learning and behavior disorder and language arts educator. Hibbard has held her current position since 2006.



More than 50 Kentucky Schools Certified as 'Family Friendly Schools'

- The Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence kicked off Family Engagement in Education Week at the Kentucky State Capitol in November by honoring the 54 Kentucky schools and early care centers that earned Family Friendly Schools Certification in 2024.
- Gov. Andy Beshear signed a proclamation at the event declaring Nov. 18-22 Family Engagement in Education Week in the Commonwealth.
- The Family Friendly Certification process involves a multidisciplinary team of families, teachers and administrators using a self-assessment tool to evaluate the school's efforts toward increasing family engagement.
- [Find out which schools were honored on Kentucky Teacher.](#)



U.S. Department of Labor Recognizes KDE for its Commitment to Apprenticeships

- KDE's Office of Career and Technology Education received an [Apprenticeship Ambassador](#) Certificate of Recognition from the U.S. Department of Labor at a White House ceremony on Oct. 23.
- KDE was the only entity from Kentucky and the only state department of education to receive this recognition.
- Mary Taylor, industry training and development specialist from KDE's Division of Technical Schools and Federal Programs, accepted the award recognizing KDE for its commitment to expand and diversify [Registered Apprenticeship Programs](#).





KDE Updates

Jennifer Ginn

KDE Director of Communications



Competitive Grants from KDE

FY25 Kentucky Comprehensive Literacy (KyCL) Grant

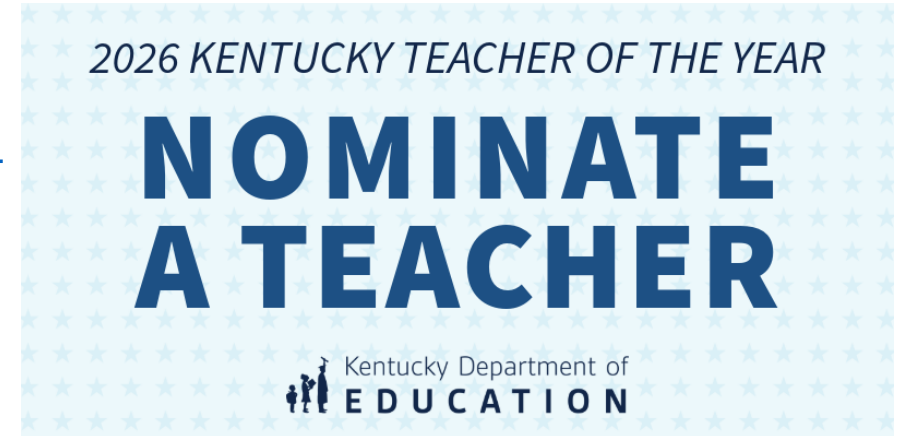
- Grant applications due: Wednesday, Dec. 18, at 4 p.m. ET
- Award Amount: \$213,000 - \$312,000 per year, up to five years, based on district size.
- Matching Funds Requirement: No

The Kentucky Comprehensive Literacy (KyCL) grant will provide five years of funding to purchase high-quality instructional resources (HQIRs) for literacy and curriculum-based professional learning and coaching to support the effective implementation of HQIRs to improve oral language, increase readiness for school, strengthen transitions between levels, and improve reading and writing instruction and student literacy outcomes for children birth through grade 12.

More information about grants can be found on the [KDE Competitive Grants webpage](#) or by emailing [Jennifer Bryant](#).

KDE Accepting Nominations for the 2026 Kentucky Teacher of the Year

- Nominations are now being accepted for the 2026 Kentucky Teacher of the Year awards.
- Any full-time public school teacher in the state with at least three years of experience is eligible. [Nominations may be submitted via the Kentucky Teach of the Year Nomination Form.](#)
- Nominations must be submitted by 6 p.m. ET on Jan. 3.
- All nominated teachers, if eligible, will be invited to complete and submit a formal application by Feb. 14.



The background of the slide is a collage of two images. The top-left portion shows a line of yellow school buses, with the number '32' visible on the front of the lead bus. The bottom-right portion shows a classroom with blue walls, several desks and chairs, and colorful balloons (purple, pink, yellow, and green) hanging from the ceiling.

SEEK Roadshow

Associate Commissioner Matt Ross
Office of Finance and Operations

KDE SEEK Roadshow

- **Dec. 13:** Southeast South Central (SESC) – London
- **Dec. 19:** Kentucky Educational Development Cooperative (KEDC) – Ashland
- **Jan. 22:** Kentucky Valley Educational Cooperative (KVEC) – Hazard
- **Jan. 24:** Ohio Valley Educational Cooperative (OVEC) – Shelbyville
- **Feb. 5:** Green River Regional Educational Cooperative (GRREC) – Bowling Green
- **Feb. 13:** Central Kentucky Educational Cooperative (CKEC) – Lexington
- **Feb. 19:** Northern Kentucky Educational Cooperative (NKEC) – Cold Springs
- **Feb. 26:** West Kentucky Educational Cooperative (WKEC) – Murray



Town Halls

Dr. Robbie Fletcher
Commissioner of Education



2025 Town Hall Confirmed Dates

Jan. 7: Southeast South-Central Educational Co-op (SESC)

Jan. 8: Northern Kentucky Cooperative for Educational Services (NKCES)

Jan. 15: Central Kentucky Educational Cooperative (CKEC)

Jan. 16: Kentucky Valley Educational Cooperative (KVEC)

Jan. 21: Green River Regional Educational Cooperative (GRREC)

Jan. 22: Kentucky Educational Development Corporation (KEDC)

Jan. 27: Hybrid Spanish Town Hall

Jan. 29: Ohio Valley Educational Cooperative (OVEC)

Jan. 30: West Kentucky Educational Cooperative (WKEC)

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Question and Answer Session

(Submit Questions in Teams)

KDE Leadership

 Kentucky Department of
EDUCATION

Important Dates

Education Professional Standards Board

Dec. 17

KDE Closed for the Holidays

Dec. 24-25 and Dec. 31-Jan. 1

Superintendents Webcast

Jan. 14

Kentucky Board of Education

Feb. 5-6