

Steven L. Beshear  
Governor



Terry Holliday, Ph.D.  
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](http://www.education.ky.gov)

February 4, 2011

Dear Superintendent:

I am writing to each superintendent about one of the most critical issues in Kentucky, the college and career readiness of our students. This is critical to the success of our students, communities and the economy of the entire state.

Our legislative leaders are keenly aware of the need for progress in this area, as evidenced by the passage of Senate Bill 1 (SB 1) in 2009. SB 1 requires P-12 and postsecondary education leaders to produce a plan to reduce remediation of high school graduates entering college by 50%. This plan has been produced collaboratively, with its key elements being acceleration, interventions, advising and supports for persistence to graduation. Additionally, the new state accountability model will include a college and career readiness measure to emphasize the importance of schools focusing on marked improvement in this area.

In September 2010, campus presidents from Kentucky's colleges and universities signed a resolution pledging their commitment to be full partners with the Kentucky Department of Education in preparing high school graduates to be college and career ready. Today, I am asking you and your local board to sign a similar pledge, "The Commonwealth Commitment to College and Career Readiness."

I ask that each local superintendent and board chair pledge to increase the rate of college and career readiness of their district's high school graduates by 50% between 2010 and 2015 by signing the attached "Commonwealth Commitment" pledge that includes a goal statement that you will tailor specifically for your district. To assist you in setting the goal, a spreadsheet of college and career readiness data for all districts is also attached. Please share this material with your local board of education members and ask them to support the signing of the pledge and your district's goal.

February 4, 2011

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The very future of Kentucky's economy depends on our ability to prepare students for college and careers. We must not let our students down. Please join me in this statewide, collaborative effort by electronically sending the signature page containing your district's goal statement, signed by both the superintendent and the local board chair, no later than April 1, to Dotty Raley at [dotty.raley@education.ky.gov](mailto:dotty.raley@education.ky.gov).

We have confidence that this goal is ambitious but achievable, and we will be sharing statewide strategies to help you deliver on your commitment and help increase college and career readiness across the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry Holliday". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Terry" and last name "Holliday" clearly distinguishable.

Terry Holliday, Ph.D.

TH:RW:dr

Attachments

# **The Commonwealth Commitment**

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*College and Career Ready*

## **Resolution Supporting the Role of Elementary and Secondary Education in Improving College and Career Readiness by Kentucky's Superintendents and Boards of Education**

WHEREAS, education is the cornerstone of a strong economy, and a sustained commitment to educational opportunity and student success can bring about fundamental improvement in the quality of life of all Kentucky citizens; and

WHEREAS, too many students graduate from high school underprepared for college-level work and careers; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 1, passed in the regular session of the 2009 General Assembly, led to the implementation of several key education initiatives to impact college and career readiness and college completion; and

WHEREAS, included in the legislation was a mandate for Kentucky's P-12 and postsecondary education leaders to align core academic standards and to develop a Unified Strategy for College and Career Readiness, a comprehensive plan to improve the success of students with readiness needs; and

WHEREAS, Kentucky's P-12 and postsecondary education leaders have agreed to focus their joint efforts on four key strategies to deliver the greatest impact on readiness, including acceleration, interventions, advising, and postsecondary persistence; and

WHEREAS, Kentucky's P-12 education system has a clear and significant responsibility to work closely with the postsecondary system to ensure that Kentucky's students benefit from high-quality teachers; engaged and progressive school leaders; and new college readiness strategies; and

WHEREAS, Kentucky's P-12 education system is responsible for implementing higher academic standards; accelerated learning opportunities in secondary schools; college and career advising; secondary interventions for students not ready for college and career; and supports for students to encourage persistence to graduation; and

WHEREAS, Kentucky's P-12 and postsecondary education systems must work together to help students and families understand that postsecondary education is an attainable and financially viable goal and that the future economic well-being of students is tied to education beyond high school.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that Kentucky's State Board of Education, Department of Education, local school superintendents and local boards of education pledge to continue and expand efforts to build stronger linkages between Kentucky's P-12 schools and postsecondary education; improve student transitions from high school to college; provide opportunities for career exploration; support an ongoing model of collaboration; and lead the P-12 system in the successful implementation of Kentucky's Unified Strategy for College and Career Readiness.

# THE COMMONWEALTH COMMITMENT TO COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS

## \_\_\_\_\_ **Public Schools**

The undersigned, on behalf of the \_\_\_\_\_ Public Schools, pledge to increase the rate of college and career readiness of the graduates in our school district from \_\_\_\_\_% in 2010 to \_\_\_\_\_% in 2015. To meet this goal, \_\_\_\_\_ students in the 2010-11 eighth grade class will need to be college and career ready, \_\_\_\_\_ more students than were college and career ready in the graduating class of 2010.

This \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2011.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Board Chair

**Note:**

The College and Career Readiness percentage rate is based on the individual goal for each district to increase its 2010 rate by 50% in 2015 (100% less 2010 rate; divided by 2; added to 2010 rate). The College and Career Readiness rate was published in September 2010 and is available on the KDE website. Each district has a unique goal.

<b>District Name</b>	<b>Percentage of Students College or Career Ready in 2009-10</b>	<b>2014 - 2015 Improvement Goal (50 Percent Improvement from 2009-10)</b>	<b>The Number of 2015 College or Career Students (the 2010-11 8th Graders) Needed to Reach Goal</b>	<b>Increased Number of College or Career Ready Graduates Needed (Comparing 2010 to 2015)</b>
Adair County	26%	63%	114	72
Allen County	32%	66%	143	83
Anderson County	39%	70%	206	105
Ashland Independent	41%	71%	156	72
Augusta Independent	19%	60%	15	10
Ballard County	33%	67%	78	50
Barbourville Independent	29%	65%	31	22
Bardstown Independent	35%	68%	113	75
Barren County	40%	70%	230	112
Bath County	23%	62%	95	68
Beechwood Independent	80%	90%	82	23
Bell County	13%	57%	125	103
Bellevue Independent	21%	61%	39	27
Berea Independent	17%	59%	46	36
Boone County	46%	73%	991	486
Bourbon County	29%	65%	129	84
Bowling Green Independent	45%	73%	212	107
Boyd County	31%	66%	171	104
Boyle County	38%	69%	135	51
Bracken County	28%	64%	59	34
Breathitt County	16%	58%	100	77
Breckinridge County	32%	66%	131	67
Bullitt County	27%	64%	601	382
Burgin Independent	31%	66%	15	5
Butler County	38%	69%	108	58
Caldwell County	28%	64%	109	71
Calloway County	30%	65%	148	89
Campbell County	40%	70%	246	118
Campbellsville Independent	34%	67%	50	30
Carlisle County	29%	65%	37	20

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Carroll County	41%	71%	90	38
Carter County	23%	62%	231	162
Casey County	30%	65%	109	64
Caverna Independent	13%	57%	31	26
Christian County	24%	62%	407	291
Clark County	42%	71%	295	155
Clay County	23%	62%	162	113
Clinton County	30%	65%	76	48
Cloverport Independent	27%	64%	20	16
Corbin Independent	43%	72%	156	79
Covington Independent	13%	57%	117	99
Crittenden County	24%	62%	58	39
Cumberland County	25%	63%	50	35
Danville Independent	30%	65%	81	49
Daviess County	37%	69%	503	242
Dawson Springs Independent	38%	69%	30	15
Dayton Independent	14%	57%	38	30
Edmonson County	30%	65%	102	62
Elizabethtown Independent	49%	75%	145	75
Elliott County	31%	66%	59	39
Eminence Independent	42%	71%	28	12
Erlanger-Elsmere Independent	29%	65%	93	66
Estill County	26%	63%	108	70
Fairview Independent	30%	65%	43	23
Fayette County	44%	72%	1,853	966
Fleming County	38%	69%	119	58
Floyd County	21%	61%	293	222
Fort Thomas Independent	72%	86%	174	38
Frankfort Independent	36%	68%	32	9
Franklin County	38%	69%	306	152

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Fulton County	32%	66%	26	11
Fulton Independent	29%	65%	12	3
Gallatin County	21%	61%	71	54
Garrard County	27%	64%	112	71
Glasgow Independent	35%	68%	84	42
Grant County	27%	64%	183	120
Graves County	38%	69%	258	130
Grayson County	31%	66%	195	108
Green County	34%	67%	76	37
Greenup County	26%	63%	144	92
Hancock County	44%	72%	93	50
Hardin County	31%	66%	702	420
Harlan County	19%	60%	188	144
Harlan Independent	43%	72%	45	22
Harrison County	26%	63%	151	96
Hart County	24%	62%	104	63
Hazard Independent	45%	73%	55	23
Henderson County	33%	67%	302	149
Henry County	25%	63%	101	68
Hickman County	26%	63%	40	29
Hopkins County	32%	66%	359	219
Jackson County	17%	59%	92	66
Jackson Independent	45%	73%	24	10
Jefferson County	31%	66%	4,536	2,852
Jenkins Independent	13%	57%	29	24
Jessamine County	42%	71%	399	208
Johnson County	34%	67%	173	94
Kenton County	43%	72%	760	387
Knott County	29%	65%	113	68
Knox County	15%	58%	194	157

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LaRue County	25%	63%	125	81
Laurel County	36%	68%	477	291
Lawrence County	21%	61%	96	68
Lee County	28%	64%	56	34
Leslie County	15%	58%	84	68
Letcher County	32%	66%	178	123
Lewis County	27%	64%	109	62
Lincoln County	23%	62%	183	125
Livingston County	22%	61%	59	42
Logan County	29%	65%	179	109
Ludlow Independent	36%	68%	42	16
Lyon County	36%	68%	48	22
Madison County	35%	68%	534	310
Magoffin County	27%	64%	110	73
Marion County	38%	69%	172	91
Marshall County	40%	70%	258	134
Martin County	19%	60%	84	62
Mason County	28%	64%	137	92
Mayfield Independent	29%	65%	71	47
McCracken County	39%	70%	335	178
McCreary County	13%	57%	110	84
McLean County	29%	65%	84	54
Meade County	35%	68%	275	140
Menifee County	28%	64%	58	40
Mercer County	27%	64%	143	83
Metcalf County	23%	62%	74	47
Middlesboro Independent	23%	62%	71	48
Monroe County	46%	73%	107	46
Montgomery County	37%	69%	230	140
Monticello Independent	19%	60%	37	27



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Morgan County	25%	63%	95	60
Muhlenberg County	36%	68%	243	129
Murray Independent	48%	74%	69	19
Nelson County	30%	65%	228	112
Newport Independent	22%	61%	59	37
Nicholas County	22%	61%	52	33
Ohio County	32%	66%	182	105
Oldham County	57%	79%	796	355
Owen County	44%	72%	85	44
Owensboro Independent	30%	65%	163	104
Owsley County	7%	54%	30	26
Paducah Independent	34%	67%	111	56
Paintsville Independent	60%	80%	45	17
Paris Independent	21%	61%	29	20
Pendleton County	35%	68%	120	52
Perry County	20%	60%	196	145
Pike County	31%	66%	458	251
Pikeville Independent	46%	73%	60	23
Pineville Independent	18%	59%	21	12
Powell County	22%	61%	116	83
Pulaski County	29%	65%	387	241
Raceland-Worthington Independent	26%	63%	62	43
Robertson County	3%	52%	13	12
Rockcastle County	32%	66%	146	85
Rowan County	38%	69%	170	87
Russell County	36%	68%	158	86
Russell Independent	45%	73%	117	51
Russellville Independent	30%	65%	50	24
Scott County	37%	69%	395	212
Shelby County	36%	68%	322	173

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Silver Grove Independent	21%	61%	10	7
Simpson County	35%	68%	157	89
Somerset Independent	46%	73%	69	20
Spencer County	17%	59%	130	99
Taylor County	37%	69%	150	76
Todd County	32%	66%	104	62
Trigg County	34%	67%	109	63
Trimble County	23%	62%	79	58
Union County	33%	67%	109	59
Walton-Verona Independent	56%	78%	79	26
Warren County	36%	68%	695	384
Washington County	39%	70%	91	40
Wayne County	33%	67%	127	79
Webster County	31%	66%	113	70
Whitley County	19%	60%	182	133
Williamsburg Independent	26%	63%	30	14
Williamstown Independent	43%	72%	50	26
Wolfe County	23%	62%	57	36
Woodford County	50%	75%	227	87