



# KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

## NEWS RELEASE

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## **DISTRICTS AWARDED NEW SKILLS FOR YOUTH GRANTS TO STRENGTHEN AND EXPAND CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES**

(Frankfort, KY) – The Kentucky Department of Education has awarded six Kentucky school districts with grants to strengthen and expand career and technical pathways for students. The planning grants (about \$115,000 each) are part of the [New Skills for Youth \(NSFY\) initiative](#), and provide an incentive for local districts to transition state-operated area technical centers and locally-operated technical centers into regional academies.

The winning districts and their partners in NSFY Cohort 2 are:

- **Breathitt Co. Board of Education** – Breathitt Area Technology Center, Jackson Independent Board of Education, Riverside Christian School, Hazard Community and Technical College, Juniper Health, Kentucky River Medical Center, AMTECK, Breathitt Co. Extension Office, East Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program, Morehead State University
- **Clinton Co. Board of Education** – Clinton Co. Area Technology Center, Cumberland Co. Board of Education, Campbellsville University, Keystone, The Medical Center of Albany, Somerset Community College, Tennessee College of Applied Technology, Clinton Co. Chamber of Commerce, Clinton Co. EMS
- **Hickman Co. School District** – Fulton Co. Area Technology Center, Fulton Co. School District, Fulton Independent School District, Hickman Co. School District, Carlisle Co. School District, Ballard Co. School District, Mayfield/Graves Co. Area Technology Center, Ballard Co. Area Technology Center
- **Logan Co. School District** – Logan Co. Career Technical Center, Logan Memorial Hospital, Southcentral Kentucky Community and Technical College, Graves Gilbert Clinic
- **Mason Co. Schools** – Mason Co. Area Technology Center, Augusta Independent Schools, Bracken Co. Schools, Robertson Co. Schools
- **Nelson Co. Schools** – Nelson Co. Area Technology Center, Bardstown City Schools, Larue Co. Schools, Marion Co. Schools

Through the collaboration of two or more school districts, a technical center, a postsecondary partner, a community partner, and employer engagement, New Skills for Youth seeks to transform the delivery of career and technical education in Kentucky by:

- Increasing student access to dual credit opportunities and seamless postsecondary pathways
- Allowing students to earn industry recognized credentials
- Providing students Work-Based Learning (WBL) experiences
- Including pathways leading to the top 5 industry sectors, as identified by the Kentucky Center for Education & Workforce Statistics (KCEWS)

“Exposing more young people to career opportunities in technical fields and better preparing them for the technical career opportunities of today and tomorrow is an imperative for our state and the Kentucky Department of Education,” Interim Commissioner of Education Wayne Lewis said. “When we align educational opportunities for students with the demands of the 21<sup>st</sup> century economy, students and their families benefit, schools benefit, and our Commonwealth benefits.

(more)

It's time to rethink how we offer career and technical education. In Kentucky, we are beginning the work of transforming students' high school experiences and better preparing them for the workforce. That work aligns with our priorities of improving students' transition readiness, closing achievement gaps, and our state goal of increasing Kentucky's labor force participation rate."

The grants are designed to aid school districts in the planning and development of regional career academies that are employer-driven, with business and industry partners providing direction in pathway decisions and work-based learning experiences. The academies are intended to be all-day learning environments that include both career and technical education and academic courses.

The first cohort of grant recipients – collaborative teams from Burgin Independent, Corbin Independent and Lee County school districts – are developing regional career academies focused on education pathways of the future including healthcare, advanced manufacturing, business and IT services. They expect to open their respective regional career academies in the 2018-19 school year.

The Round 2 awards are contingent on available funding and districts/schools meeting programmatic and budgetary requirements along with New Skills for Youth state review.

For more information on the NSFY initiative visit the [KDE's NSFY webpage](#).

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#### **About Kentucky NSFY**

*Kentucky is one of 10 states selected in January 2017 to receive a \$2 million grant to strengthen and expand career education pathways for students. The state grants, which are being distributed over three years, are part of the \$75 million, five-year New Skills for Youth Initiative developed by JPMorgan Chase, in collaboration with the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) and Advance CTE. NSFY aims to strengthen career-focused education starting in high school and ending with postsecondary degrees and credentials aligned with high-skill jobs.*

#### **About CCSSO**

*The [Council of Chief State School Officers](#) (CCSSO) is a nonpartisan, nationwide, nonprofit organization of public officials who head departments of elementary and secondary education in the states, the District of Columbia, the Department of Defense Education Activity, and five U.S. extra-state jurisdictions. CCSSO provides leadership, advocacy, and technical assistance on major educational issues. The Council seeks member consensus on major educational issues and expresses their views to civic and professional organizations, federal agencies, congress and the public.*

#### **About JPMorgan Chase & Co.**

*[JPMorgan Chase & Co.](#) (NYSE: JPM) is a leading global finance services firm with assets of \$2.5 trillion and operates worldwide. The firm is the leader in investment banking, financial services for consumers and small businesses, commercial banking, financial transaction processing, and asset management. A component of the Dow Jones Industrial Average, JPMorgan Chase & Co. serves millions of consumers in the United States and many of the world's most prominent corporate, institutional and government clients under its J.P. Morgan and Chase brands. The firm uses its global resources, expertise, insights and scale to address some of the most urgent challenges facing communities around the world including the need for increased economic opportunity.*

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