



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

INTERIM COMMISSIONER STATEMENT

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INTERIM COMMISSIONER ISSUES STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

(Frankfort, KY) – Interim Commissioner of Education Wayne Lewis has issued the following statement in response to National Education Association President Lily Eskelsen García regarding a management audit of the Jefferson County Schools and the interim commissioner's recommendation for state management of the district:

“Anyone who reads the Kentucky Department of Education’s audit and my recommendation should realize there is more than sufficient evidence to document a pattern of inefficiency and ineffectiveness in many key areas of the district. In fact, my opinion is that the audit findings are so overwhelming that it is akin to physical and academic abuse of students in specific areas such as physical restraint and the achievement gap of the district. Major findings such as these in Kentucky’s largest district also implicates the lack of accountability for the adults in that district as well.

“As a result, Kentucky law is very clear that state assistance or state management are legal and viable options that our General Assembly expects of the Kentucky Board of Education when circumstances so warrant and the board determines necessary. To suggest that my recommendation is some political game is an insult to the people of Kentucky and the people of Jefferson County who desire that all children learn in a safe and effective educational environment.

“What I have proposed is a collaborative model to address deficiencies under state management. I continue to hope the district will agree to that proposal. But either way, I will not stand by and do nothing when I am clearly given the tools under Kentucky law to effect change that will benefit thousands of young lives.”

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