



Jason E. Glass, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education and Chief Learner

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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May 9, 2023

Jeff Aulick, Superintendent
Bracken County Public Schools
1048 Bladeston Dr.
Brooksville, KY 41004

Dear Superintendent Aulick:

As you know, one goal of Kentucky Statewide Consolidated Monitoring (KSCM) is to help create opportunities for the programs in our schools and districts to look at new ways to collaborate and collectively meet our ultimate goal: increasing student achievement while closing gaps and positioning our students to be college- and career-ready. The team members from your visit have engaged in this collaborative process in order to produce the attached Consolidated Monitoring Report.

During the 2022-23 school year, the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) conducted monitoring in the Bracken County School District. During this process, KDE program staff, utilizing program-specific monitoring tools, conducted on-site visits for the following programs:

- Title I, Part A
- Title II, Part A
- Title IV, Part A
- Preschool
- Career and Technical Education (CTE)
- Gifted and Talented
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging

Each program involved in the KSCM has an impact on our goal. For example, Title II, Part A focuses on improving teacher and principal quality to ensure that all students have equal access to highly qualified and effective teachers and leaders. Title I programs provide not only funding, but also guidance on working with disadvantaged students.

This report is the result of what can be best described as a “snapshot” of the district taken during our visit. It begins with identifying “effective practices.” These are individual program practices that the team felt were effective, and in some cases innovative. We strongly suggest that the practices identified be submitted to the [KDE Best Practices website](#).

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Each district program has already been provided an individual report as required by federal or state law. All findings will need to be addressed by district program areas as specified in the individual reports.

In the meantime, if you have questions regarding specific program monitoring requirements, please contact the individual program contacts listed in this report. If you have questions concerning the consolidated monitoring process, please contact [Erin Sudduth](#) by email or by phone at (502) 564-3791, Ext. 4021. Information regarding education programs within the state of Kentucky may also be found at the [KDE website](#).

Thank you for your work in improving Kentucky's education programs to better serve our children.

Sincerely,

Kelly Foster, Ed.D.

Associate Commissioner

Office of Continuous Improvement and Support

KF/TR/ES/vb

Attachment: Consolidated Monitoring Report for Bracken County Public Schools

2022-2023 Statewide Consolidated Monitoring Report

District: Bracken County

Date(s) of Visit: Feb. 14-16, 2023

Team Leads:

- Title I, Part A – Amanda Reifsnnyder
- Title II, Part A – Kris Jarboe
- Title IV, Part A – Lalah Brewer
- Career and Technical Education – Karla Tipton
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging – Heather Bushelman
- Gifted and Talented – Kathie Anderson
- Preschool – Andrea Bartholomew

Effective Practice No. 1: Community

Program(s) Addressed: Title I, Part A; Career and Technical Education; Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging

Highlight of Effective Practice No. 1

Bracken County displays strength in connecting both the community with the schools for support purposes, and in helping students connect with the community to provide relevance for programming. Title I, Part A noted that collaboration between school family resource youth services center (FRYSC) directors and local businesses for family events provides mutual support for both the district and businesses, and the addition of what businesses are able to provide helps enhance district initiatives and increase family participation. Career and technical education (CTE) commended the high school for a strong CTE culture driven by community needs, labor statistics and student interest. The Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging team noted that while the district consistently spoke about the hurdle of chronic absenteeism, it is looking for ways to remove barriers starting with poverty and transportation. Putting intentional systems in place to overcome a problem that may look different for each student and family is an excellent example of district and school personnel using an equity lens.

Effective Practice No. 2: Parent and Family Engagement

Program(s) Addressed: Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging

Highlight of Effective Practice No. 2

FRYSCs in Bracken County collaborate with the local health department to distribute a survey to families, community members and students. This survey includes the question, “What can we do for you?” and is an excellent way to invite stakeholders to open communication with the district. FRYSCs also help lead a back-to-school bash that is free to families and helps drive engagement as the academic year begins.

Effective Practice No. 3: Student Service Plans

Program(s) Addressed: Career and Technical Education

Highlight of Effective Practice No. 3

Bracken County High School has been proactive at ensuring students understand what a pathway means, and they are intentional about helping students navigate scheduling to ensure they are completing pathways.

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Effective Practice No. 4: Professional Development

Program(s) Addressed: Title II, Part A

Highlight of Effective Practice No. 4

Title II, Part A noted strength related to the professional development opportunities Taylor Elementary staff are being provided in response to their recent designation as a targeted support and improvement (TSI) school. The designation is specific to exceptional learners, and the academic coach has taken a truly individualized approach to identifying which learning and instructional strategies are best for each individual student, providing appropriate training to teachers and paraeducators to begin utilizing new strategies. Beyond that, the coach has implemented a new feedback loop that allows staff to provide and be provided insight and is working with new teachers through a recently developed internship model.

Effective Practice No. 5: Leadership

Program(s) Addressed: Title I, Part A; Career and Technical Education

Highlight of Effective Practice No. 5

Bracken County has many staff members diligently serving students and families. Title I, Part A made note of the innovative and collaborative efforts of the counselor at Bracken County Middle School and the FRYSC director and grant writer at Taylor Elementary, as well as the attentive and knowledgeable efforts of the district finance officer. The CTE program noted the strength of leadership that intentionally supports CTE programming to make it a high priority for students.

Opportunity for Improvement No. 1: Policies and Procedures

Programs Addressed: Title I, Part A; Title II, Part A; Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging

Summary of Opportunity for Improvement No. 1

Title I, Part A noted missing policies and procedures for allowability in purchasing, safeguarding of assets, time and effort documentation and monitoring the expenditure of funds to meet the 15% carryover waiver limitation. The absence of these policies creates difficulty in achieving consistent fiscal management. No policies and procedures for regular evaluation of effectiveness of professional learning activities were observed by Title II, Part A. It was also noted that there was no written plan or process for the evaluation of the use of Title II, Part A funds. The DEIB team noted a need for stronger policies and procedures regarding individualized learning plans (ILPs) for the purpose of greater buy-in from all levels of stakeholders.

Common Solution(s)/Recommendation(s) for Opportunity for Improvement No. 1

It is recommended that Bracken County Schools develop standard procedures for allowability, time and effort documentation, safeguarding of assets and monitoring of carryover to ensure appropriate fiscal management. Additionally, development of policies and procedures for implementation and evaluation of programs such as Title II, Part A with regards to professional development and Individualized Learning Plans will allow these programs to become more meaningful and engaging elements of student education.

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Final Overview

Bracken County Schools is a vital part of the community, and the district's efforts to engage community partners and develop relationships with families has helped build systems of support and create cultural relevance for students. Staff go above and beyond to meet students' needs and lay the groundwork for increased opportunities across the district. Expanding on and further developing internal policies, processes and procedures will allow the district to address areas of concern and increase the effectiveness of programming, particularly during possible periods of staff transition. The written documentation of processes and procedures also provides a system of internal controls surrounding federal grants. Bracken County Schools shows a commitment to stakeholders and to its programs. Staff believe in the district and are working to ensure its growth and improvement. Personnel help push the district forward through the belief and investment they place in programs. The consolidated monitoring team appreciates the opportunity to see the work of the Bracken County School District first-hand, and for the collaborative efforts of school and district staff during the monitoring process. The team is confident that the district will use the feedback provided in this report to further the district's continuous improvement efforts.