



Robin Fields Kinney
Interim Commissioner of Education

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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May 28, 2024

Robert Tuck, Superintendent
Butler County Public Schools
203 N Tyler St.
Morgantown, KY 42261

Dear Superintendent Tuck:

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 2023-2024 school year, the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) conducted monitoring in the Butler 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 III, Part A
- Title V, Part B
- Alternative Education Programs
- Gifted and Talented
- Preschool

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](#).

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 Butler County Public Schools

2023-2024 Statewide Consolidated Monitoring Report

District: Butler County Schools

Date(s) of Visit: Feb. 20-21, 2024

Team Leads:

- Title I, Part A – Amanda Reifsnnyder
- Title III, Part A – Brandy Neal
- Title V, Part B – Shashawna Williams
- Alternative Education Programs – Leticia Porter
- Gifted and Talented – Kathie Anderson
- Preschool – Tammy Rutherford

Effective Practice No. 1: Community

Program(s) Addressed: Gifted and Talented

Highlight of Effective Practice No. 1

Gifted and Talented (GT) students can participate in a program called the "Day of Giving." This is a community service day which occurs the first Tuesday after Thanksgiving. The students choose a community organization to work with such as the animal shelter or food pantry.

Effective Practice No. 2: Student Services and Plans

Program(s) Addressed: Title V; Gifted and Talented

Highlight of Effective Practice No. 2

Using Title V funds, the district's partnership with the Render Center provides comprehensive mental health and academic intervention to students who experience difficulty in adapting to the regular classroom setting. Also, the gifted and talented teacher does an excellent job servicing some 100+ students across all of Butler County's schools by creating and maintaining learning plans for each student.

Effective Practice No. 3: Finance

Program(s) Addressed: Title V

Highlight of Effective Practice No. 3

Title V funds are spent in a timely manner to meet the identified needs outlined in the program application. At the time of review, no funds from the previous budget project and only 3% of funds from the current budget project remain to be spent.

Effective Practice No. 4: Leadership

Program(s) Addressed: Title I; Alternative Education

Highlight of Effective Practice No. 4

Principals at Title I schools greatly appreciate the leadership of the Title I coordinator and the clear cohesion and shared investment in the strategic plan to strengthen and improve Butler County Schools held by district leadership. Butler County Learning Center staff display high levels of respect for district leadership throughout the collaborative approach to shared decision-making, high expectations for the Alternative Education Program, and continuous monitoring of program quality.

2023-2024 Statewide Consolidated Monitoring Report

Effective Practice No. 5: Communication

Program(s) Addressed: Title III; Title V; Gifted and Talented

Highlight of Effective Practice No. 5

Communication between administration and Title III staff contributes to increased English language proficiency of students and a clear path to program completion. Communication was also noted as an asset toward timely expenditure of funds for the Title V program. The strong communication between the GT coordinator and teacher is an integral component of the successful design and implementation of individual GT student services.

Opportunity for Improvement No. 1: Policies and Procedures

Programs Addressed: Title I; Title III

Summary of Opportunity for Improvement No. 1

District level Title I policies and procedures are in need of updates to reflect current requirements of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The district Lau Plan for English learner students does not contain all the required information to ensure that the students' civil rights obligations are being met. The district does not have any written policies or procedures outlining how the language instruction education program will be evaluated for effectiveness.

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

Reviewing policies and procedures on an annual basis will help each program ensure that the documents are fully compliant and up-to-date. The district Lau Plan team should review all required components of the plan when making revisions. The policies and procedures for Title V and the Alternative Education Program presented a strength to programmatic implementation and outcomes. KDE encourages district staff to work together to better formalize policies and procedures to plan, implement, monitor and evaluate programs funded with federal funds. Having formal policies and procedures in writing ensures program integrity, particularly in periods of staffing transitions.

Final Overview

Butler 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 for Butler County Schools.

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.

Butler County Schools shows a commitment to stakeholders and to its programs. Staff believe in the district's mission and vision and are working to ensure its growth and improvement. The investment of Butler County Schools staff in its programs and students is pushing the district forward.

The monitoring team appreciates the opportunity to see the work of the Butler County School District first-hand, and for the collaborative efforts of school and district staff during the monitoring process. The team is confident the district will utilize the feedback provided in this report to further the district's continuous improvement efforts.