



Robin Fields Kinney  
Interim Commissioner of Education

**KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

300 Sower Boulevard • Frankfort, Kentucky 40601  
Phone: (502) 564-3141 • [www.education.ky.gov](http://www.education.ky.gov)

June 25, 2024

Vicki Jones, Superintendent  
East Bernstadt Independent Public Schools  
PO Box 128  
East Bernstadt, KY 40729

Dear Superintendent Jones:

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 East Bernstadt Independent 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 IV, Part A
- Title V, Part B
- 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 with 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 (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 East Bernstadt Independent Public Schools

# 2023-2024 Statewide Consolidated Monitoring Report

**District:** East Bernstadt Independent

**Date(s) of Visit:** April 16-18, 2024

**Team Leads:**

- Title I, Part A – Monica Higgins
- Title IV, Part A – Lee Bowling
- Title V, Part B – Shashawna Williams
- Gifted and Talented – Kathie Anderson
- Preschool – Tammy Rutherford

## **Effective Practice No. 1: Community**

**Program(s) Addressed:** Title I, Part A; Title IV, Part A; Title V, Part B; Gifted and Talented

### **Highlight of Effective Practice No. 1**

The district partners with the local educational cooperative to provide mentorship opportunities for teachers. The Gifted and Talented (GT) students created items to sell to the community at the Fall Festival and profits were used to purchase items for Teachers' Appreciation Day. The district regularly meets with the Title IV, Part A stakeholders to share data and gather input on the program. A wide variety of stakeholder input was gathered when developing the plan for the Title V, Part B program. The Family Resource and Youth Services Center (FRYSC) is closely connected with the community, providing a variety of additional resources and support to students and families.

## **Effective Practice No. 2: Parent and Family Engagement**

**Program(s) Addressed:** Title I, Part A

### **Highlight of Effective Practice No. 2**

The district has positive relationships with parents and families, who feel welcome in the school. The school provides multiple educational events and activities throughout the year, as well as volunteer opportunities for parents. Parents are comfortable providing feedback through surveys, conferences and informal conversations. The district and school use parent feedback to make program adjustments.

## **Effective Practice No. 3: Student Services and Plans**

**Program(s) Addressed:** Title V, Part B

### **Highlight of Effective Practice No. 3**

Title V funds are used to purchase reading intervention software programs and have been successful in helping improve the student's academic achievement. Student progress is regularly monitored to ensure all needs are being met.

## **Effective Practice No. 4: Finance**

**Program(s) Addressed:** Title I, Part A; Title IV, Part A; Title V, Part B

### **Highlight of Effective Practice No. 4**

The district ensures federal funds are spent in accordance with the program requirements. The finance officer meets with the district and school personnel regularly to review financial reports and ensure spending is aligned with the approved applications. MUNIS budget reports were aligned with the Title I, Title IV and Title V approved applications in the Grant Management Application and Planning System. Funds are spent on identified needs, such as the School Resource Officer (SRO) supported with Title IV, Part A funds, which increases safety measures for the school. At the time of the visit, the district had

# 2023-2024 Statewide Consolidated Monitoring Report

spent all of fiscal year (FY) 2023 and half of FY2024 Title V, Part B funds, indicating the district prioritizes the timely expenditure of funds. The district's Finance of Purchasing Procedures manual helps ensure that standard allowability procedures are followed.

## **Effective Practice No. 5: Professional Development**

**Program(s) Addressed:** Title I, Part A; Title V, Part B

### **Highlight of Effective Practice No. 5**

The district works with the local educational cooperative to provide professional learning opportunities for staff. The professional development focuses on providing effective instructional tools to enhance educator's skills and increase student achievement. A portion of the Title V allocation is used to fund a technology coordinator who provides helpful professional development sessions in addition to working with district technology systems.

## **Effective Practice No. 6: Leadership**

**Program(s) Addressed:** Title I, Part A; Title IV, Part A

### **Highlight of Effective Practice No. 6**

East Bernstadt is a small district, and the superintendent serves as the main point of contact for many programs. District leadership maintains a hands-on approach towards program management and diligently documents meetings and ensures that internal controls are being implemented. The district facilitates regular professional learning community (PLC) and leadership meetings where staff can engage in discussions surrounding data and effective instructional practices.

## **Effective Practice No. 7: Communication**

**Program(s) Addressed:** Title I, Part A; Title V, Part B; Gifted and Talented

### **Highlight of Effective Practice No. 7**

The district and the school communicate with families to meet student needs. Meaningful informal and formal conversations with families occur regularly. The GT Coordinator and GT Teacher communicate regularly to ensure the program runs smoothly and effectively. The finance officer communicates with program coordinators regarding the spending of funds and budget alignment.

## **Final Overview**

East Bernstadt Independent School District is committed to helping students thrive and places students at the center of all decisions. Staff have a collaborative approach to enhance student learning, working with a variety of community partners to create a supportive learning environment. The district has effective practices in place which allow it to operate multiple programs with a limited number of staff.