

Working Together to Educate All of Kentucky's Children



2010-2011

3rd Quarter Report

A Message from the Director



My Fellow Kentuckians,

“At the desk where I sit, I have learned one great truth. The answer for all our national problems - the answer for all the problems of the world - come to a single word. That word is ‘education.’”

Lyndon B. Johnson

Throughout the year, but especially during a legislative session, we spend a great deal of our time in Frankfort and traveling across the great Commonwealth to educate others about our students and their needs. This year several legislative initiatives were presented that had a direct impact on programs serving state agency children. Of particular interest was House Bill 225, commonly known as the graduation bill. This bill included language regarding alternative education in Kentucky and directed the Kentucky Department of Education to develop standards, collect data, track funding and examine teacher quality for all alternative programs. As those of you who work with KECSAC are fully aware, much of the data and directives included in the bill are already being tracked in our programs. As we move forward, KECSAC will continue to work with our elected officials, our state and local partners and others to educate them about the challenges our students face and the obstacles we help them overcome.

During the third quarter of this fiscal year, we have experienced many great accomplishments while also working with the legislature to advance the needs of the students we serve. We have embarked on a research project, ***Listen to the Children***, to capture the voices of our children so we will be better prepared to share their stories and experiences. We have worked with our local education partners to collect census data related to our students, teachers and administrators, and we have streamlined the ADM process to more accurately reflect our student population. In addition, we have continued to update our policy guidelines, implemented a new policy guidebook to enhance our services to the school districts we serve and revised our website to make it more user friendly. Also, we are pleased to share a new video describing alternative education in Kentucky and its impact on students being served in alternative settings, ***Alternative Education: Kentucky’s Customized Approach***.

These accomplishments, and many others, are highlighted in this quarterly report. You will find enclosed a summary of our work and accomplishments, as well as details related to our ongoing initiatives. The ambitious action agenda we are highlighting here could not happen without the broad base of support we have formed with our state agency partners, our local school districts and the teachers and administrators working on behalf of state agency children. We appreciate your continued support as we work to enhance the educational services provided to our students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronnie Nolan". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Ronnie Nolan, Ed.D.



Listen Up!

Listen up young ones.
I've seen people get hurt.
I've seen drugs being sold.
I've seen children get taken from their parents.
I've seen parents get taken from their children.

Hey, you over there, listen up!
I've seen people do drugs.
I've seen people get snatched up.
I've seen stores get robbed.
I've seen cars get stolen.

Come here young boys and girls and listen up.
I've seen people die.
I've seen people cry.
I've seen people lie.

Everyone Listen up!

Seventeen-Year-Old-Girl
From The Circle Four written by Ramey-Estep Students

Professional Development

Spring 2011 Critical Issues Series

The third installment in the 2010-2011 *Critical Issues Series* took place on March 16, 2011 at Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond, KY. Marti White presented the humorously titled “I Have One Nerve Left and You’re Getting on It,” and she kept the large audience entertained and involved throughout the six hour day. Ms. White put into practice her 28 years of regular, early childhood, exceptional and administrative experience to help our participants acquire the skills and strategies necessary to maintain a safe and caring classroom where teachers can teach and students can learn. She is the co-author of two nationally-acclaimed programs on conflict resolution and violence prevention as well as several other publications for teachers that reflect her positive discipline philosophy. Her interactive and high energy training covered a wide range of classroom management techniques that left even the most experience teachers in the room with some new strategies to try. The trainer not only described, but modeled effective teaching by using paired discussion, role play and group activities. She also incorporated an understanding of brain function’s effect on behavior as well as the importance of relationship building. Participants left the training with a renewed excitement for managing their classrooms so as to promote the highest level of student success possible.



Marti White explains the power struggle concept with the help of an audience member at the March 16, 2011 Critical Issues Series training.

The final Critical Issues Series event took place on March 30, 2011 at the Pulaski County Area Technology Center in Somerset, KY. A small group of KECSAC teachers and administrators was able to have a very interactive training with April Pieper, an Educational Program Consultant with the Kentucky Department of Education. The topic of the training was “KDE Core Content Areas & Resources,” but Ms. Pieper went into depth about resources available not only through the Department but those available for free to any educator through outside sources. An overview was presented about the new Common Core Standards in reading and math. Some of those present had not yet received training in the new standards or seen the very useful break-down of the standards that she presented. She was not only able to answer questions about the KDE standards and resources, but was able to follow-up with additional information during the course of the training and provide more in depth answers by the end of the day.

The opportunity to have a small group discussion about the changes facing every district and curriculum was invaluable to those present.

Teaching in Action – Bellewood

Bellewood in Jefferson County hosted a *Teaching in Action* training on March 2, 2011. This on-site interactive professional development series was designed to allow KECSAC programs to share successful teaching and administrative strategies with one another. Bellewood was named a Kentucky Department of Education Best Practice Site in 2010, a recognition of which the program and KECSAC are extremely proud. The school administrator, Teresa Landenwich, arranged for a full day of learning that the participants very much enjoyed, which was reflected in the evaluations. She began the day by welcoming participants into the bright and cheerful room where her students eat lunch. Ms. Landenwich introduced staff and described some of the practices that Bellewood uses to keep accurate records and aid in the transition of students. After observing some of the morning classes, the group toured the school and the adjacent cottages that house the youth. Following lunch, students proudly showed attendees around the impressive greenhouse located just behind the school. The young men were very knowledgeable about the variety of plants they helped to cultivate and expressed how much they enjoyed this part of their educational experience. More classes were observed in the afternoon, in which students showed off their artwork and other projects they had completed. A panel of students shared some of their background and answered questions. This was perhaps the most eye-opening part of the day’s activities. The students all seemed to feel that the teachers at Bellewood genuinely cared for them. When asked if that was the case, they unanimously replied, “Yes,” with one student saying, “Deeply. They wouldn’t be here if they didn’t.” Following a wrap-up discussion, the participants left the school with new ideas and refreshed motivation to incorporate some of the strategies they had learned at their own schools. Bellewood provided a wonderful day of learning and collaboration.



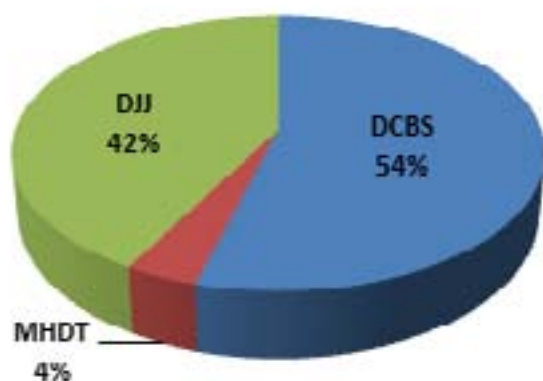
Teresa Landenwich explains the student “8-Pocket Folder” to participants in the bright and cheery lunchroom at the Bellewood Teaching in Action Series.

The annual child count conducted on December 1, yields valuable demographic information about the students served in KECSAC funded programs across Kentucky. This one-day snapshot provides educators, legislators and policy makers with a picture of what state agency children (SAC) look like.

On census day 2010, 2,829 students received educational services at the 100 KECSAC funded programs located in 54 Kentucky school districts. During the twelve month period between December 1, 2009 – December 1, 2010, over 15,000 state agency children have received educational services at a KECSAC funded program.

State agency children are served by one of Kentucky's three state agency programs that provide direct care to children: the Department for Community Based Services (DCBS), Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and the Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities. On December 1st 54% of all state agency children received services in one of 49 DCBS contracted programs. Forty-two percent of state agency children received services from one of DJJ's 23 operated residential programs or 22 contracted day treatment programs. Four percent of state agency children received services in one of seven Mental Health Day Treatment programs.

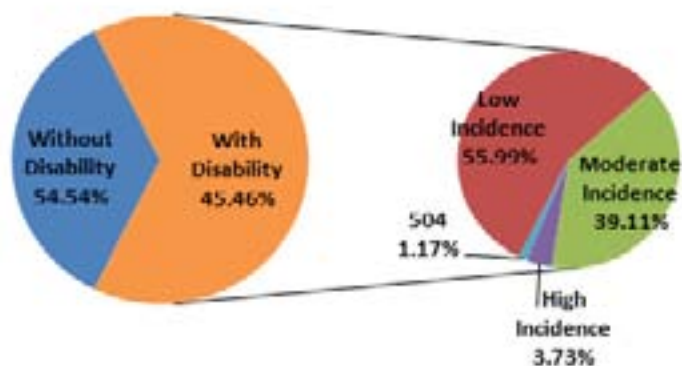
Percentage of State Agency Children By State Agency



Over 45% of all state agency children receiving services in a KECSAC funded program have been diagnosed with an IDEA or 504 recognized educational disability. In comparison, only 13% of Kentucky public school students ages 6 – 21 years of age have been diagnosed with an educational disability. Nearly 56% of the youth identified with an educational disability have been diagnosed with a Low Incidence disability. Low Incidence disabilities include autism, deaf or blindness, multiple disabilities, emotional/

behavioral and functional mental disability. Only 17% of Kentucky public school students identified with a disability (13% of the total population) have been diagnosed with a Low Incidence disability. Forty percent of all SAC identified with an educational disability have been diagnosed with an emotional/behavioral disorder, which is over six times the number of public Kentucky school students identified with EBD diagnoses (6%).

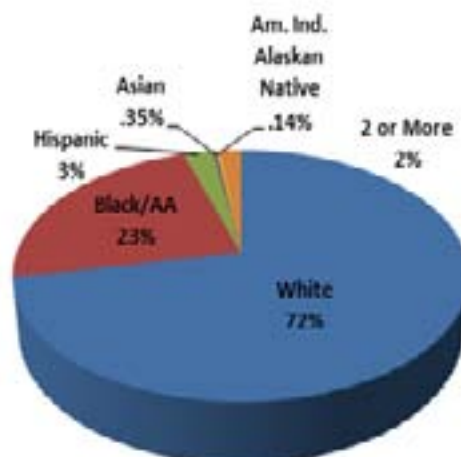
Disability by Incidence Category



Moderate incidence disability includes categories such as other health impairments, mild mental disability, specific learning, traumatic brain injury and hearing or vision loss. Over 39% of the SAC diagnosed with a disability have a Moderate Incidence disability. Less than 4% of SAC have a high incidence disability (speech and developmental delay) and approximately 1% has a 504 disability.

Seventy-two percent of all SAC are White while 23% are Black/African American with 3% Hispanic and 2% are multi-racial.

SAC by Race



Policies & On-going Initiatives

Alternative Education in Kentucky Video

During the third quarter, KECSAC has worked collaboratively with the Kentucky Center for School Safety (KCSS) to distribute the video **Alternative Education: Kentucky's Customized Approach**. Lee Ann Morrison, Training Coordinator for KCSS, took the lead in developing the video with significant input from KECSAC staff. The video looks at common components that, when combined, create an environment where all students can be successful. The hope is that the video will become a resource guide for school districts across the Commonwealth that want to create a new alternative education program or improve their current program. All KECSAC programs will receive a DVD copy of the video and it is available on both the KECSAC and KYSSC websites.

Interagency Advisory Group

KECSAC's Interagency Advisory Group met twice during the third quarter. The first meeting took place at the Perkins Conference Center, on the campus of Eastern Kentucky University, and the second meeting took place in Fayette County at Lexington Day Treatment. The group toured the facility, led by student volunteers, and was able to ask the students questions about their experiences at Lexington Day Treatment. Key topics of discussion for both meetings included the new **KECSAC Standards & Implementation Procedures Guide**, the Listen to the Children research project, the video **Alternative Education: Kentucky's Customized Approach**, organizing professional development events for the 2011-2012 school year, and the group reviewed the applications for KECSAC Student of the Year and voted on the winners who will be honored this July at the Alternative Strategies for Educating Students At-Risk conference.

KECSAC Standards & Implementation

The **KECSAC Standards & Implementation Procedures Guide** is now available on KECSAC's website, www.kecsac.eku.edu. It includes many of the state statutes and regulations that govern the administration of state agency programs as well as the standards and indicators used to evaluate the quality and sustainability of the services provided to state agency children. The information shall be used to create programs that are flexible and effective in assisting state agency children with overcoming academic, social, emotional, behavioral and psychological challenges so they can learn, graduate and become productive members of society.

Listen to the Children—Voices that Beg to be Heard: Interviews with State Agency Children

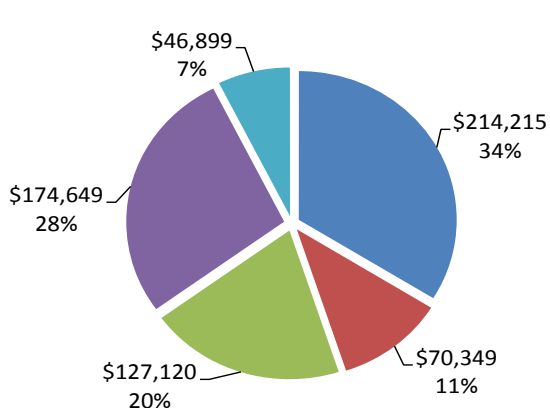
Thus far, the research team has conducted sixty-three interviews at seven KECSAC facilities with twenty-six more interviews scheduled at two other facilities in the coming weeks. In total, the research team hopes to interview one-hundred forty students by the end of June.

Designed to provide state agency children an opportunity to voice the successes and barriers they have encountered while receiving services at a state agency children's educational program, this research will provide background information about state agency children, their adversities, goals and expectations regarding their education. Information gained through this research will be used to inform state policy makers about the needs of this population of students and guide future initiatives aimed at improving the educational services provided to state agency children.

KECSAC Administrative Budget & State Agency Children's Fund

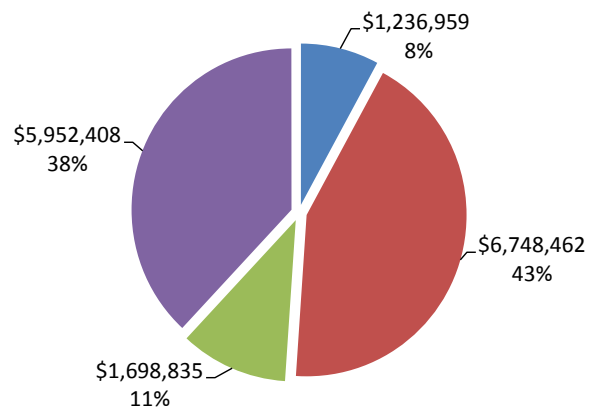
Administrative Budget

■ 1st Quarter ■ 2nd Quarter ■ 3rd Quarter ■ Remaining ■ Indirect and F&S



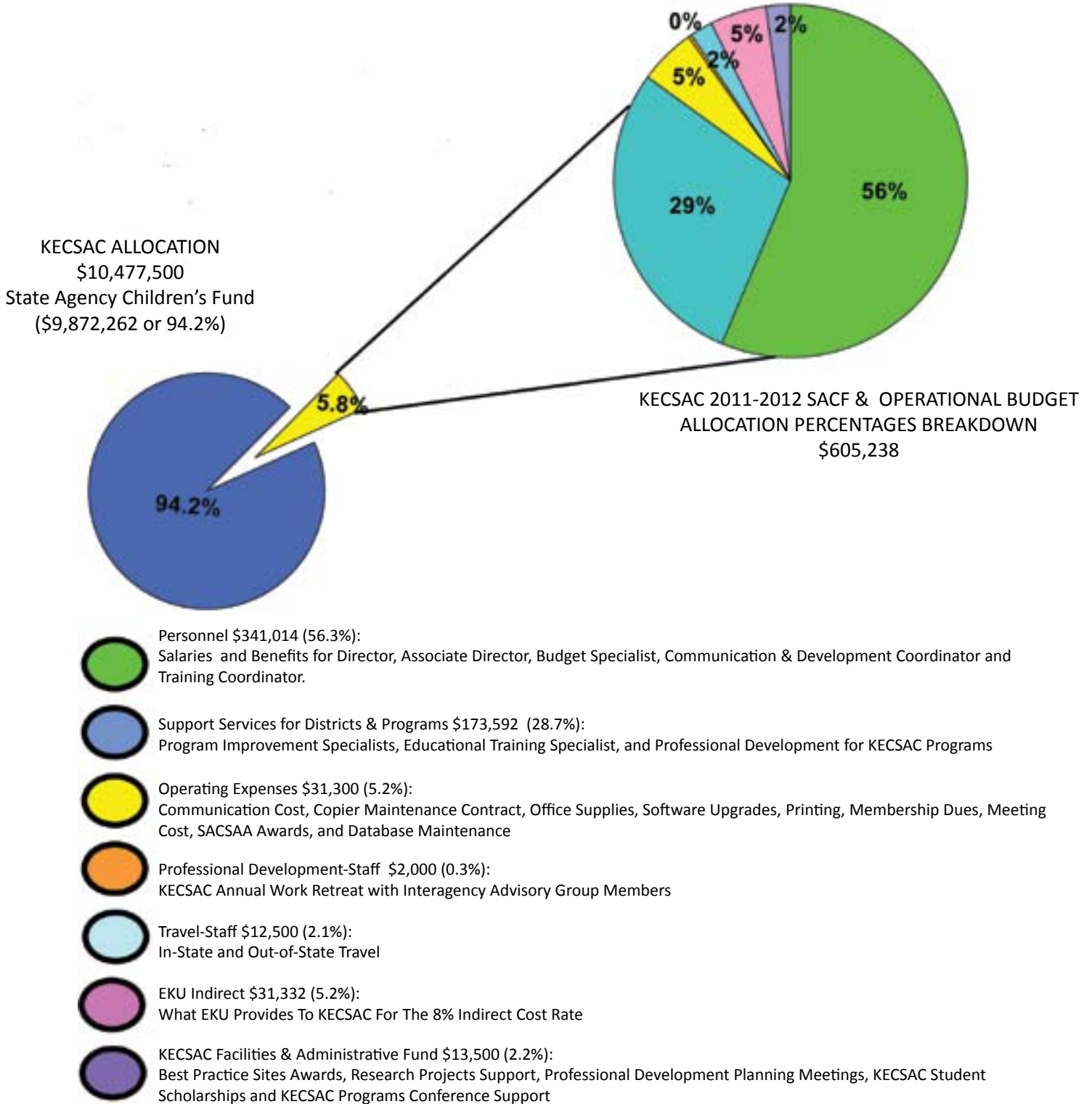
SACF

■ 1st Quarter ■ 2nd Quarter ■ 3rd Quarter ■ Remainder



KECSAC Proposal 2011-2012

In the third quarter, KECSAC submitted the 2011-2012 Program Proposal and Internal Budget to the Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice. The proposal outlines the contractual agreement between DJJ and Eastern Kentucky University and establishes administrative oversight of the KECSAC program to DJJ. The amount of the internal budget for KECSAC totals \$605,238, or 5.8% of the total allocation for the state agency children’s fund. In light of budget reductions across departments and programs in the Commonwealth, the internal KECSAC budget reflects a 4.4% reduction from the 2010-2011 internal budget. Below is a graphic breakdown of the state agency children’s fund and the KECSAC internal budget. As noted below, 94.2% of the overall state allocation, or \$9,872,262, is provided directly to local school districts serving state agency children. The remaining 5.8% is used to administer the program as outlined below.





KECSAC

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“Working Together to Educate All of Kentucky’s Children”

Kentucky Department of Education
Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice
Kentucky Department for Community Based Services
Kentucky Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities
State Agency Children School Administrator Association
Local Education Agencies
Eastern Kentucky University/College of Education

