

Commissioner's Report
February 2, 2011 Kentucky Board of Education Meeting
Commissioner Terry Holliday

Recommendations from the Governor's Task Force on Transforming Education in Kentucky

The report from the Governor's Task Force on Transforming Education in Kentucky will soon be released. The major recommendations (still in draft form) under consideration for inclusion in the report are found below:

- **Ensure that children are developmentally ready for school.**
 1. Reorganize the Early Childhood Development Authority; create a system of support, including parent education, for students at all levels of kindergarten readiness; and create common school readiness standards and instruments, beginning in 2011-2012.
 2. Include sufficient funding in the state budget, beginning in 2012-2013, to improve access to effective, high-quality preschool programs.
 3. Require, beginning in 2012-2013, collaboration among state-funded preschool, Head Start, and qualified child care programs in order to access state funding.
- **Identify more effective ways to support families and actively engage them in their children's education success and their own learning.**
 4. Create family literacy programs dedicating new state resources, beginning in 2012-2013, to provide comprehensive family engagement in all schools, especially the Commonwealth's lowest achieving schools.
- **Guarantee that all students graduate from high school prepared for college and careers.**
 5. Raise the compulsory school age, effective in 2016, from 16 to 18 with state-funded supports for students at risk of dropping out.
- **Enable students to experience the world outside of the classroom, with a focus on access to college courses.**
 6. Create an advisory council, the Advanced Credit Advisory Council, to recommend policies, legislation, and a comprehensive funding model for advanced secondary coursework, college credit during high school, and early graduation options for the 2012 General Assembly.
- **Elevate and integrate career and technical education opportunities for all students.**
 7. Establish a steering committee to develop a comprehensive statewide plan for implementing a new model of secondary career and technical education with an emphasis on innovation, integration of core academics, 21st century skills, project-based learning, and the establishment of full-time career and technical education programs, for implementation in the 2012 General Assembly.
- **Provide all students the opportunity for virtual learning and access to instruction enhanced by technology.**
 8. Implement policies, beginning in 2012-2013, to enhance and expand virtual and blended learning, including funding options to ensure equitable access to students across the Commonwealth.
- **Recruit, prepare and reward effective teachers and leaders.**
 9. Include funding in the state budget, beginning in 2012-2013, to expand programs in Kentucky to recruit high-quality teacher candidates, including those who may enter through alternative certification routes.

- **Implement strong student learning assessment systems.**

10. School districts should incorporate a balance of technology-enhanced formative and summative assessments that measure student mastery of 21st century skills.

Update on Work on Commissioner's Internal Goals for KDE

As agreed upon in my evaluation conversation, I am working on improving the customer service satisfaction rating of KDE by its customers to at least the 75% level as determined by a survey that can be accessed periodically in the e-mail of KDE staff. The results of the most recent survey showed the following:

- 24-hour response – 75.5% said yes and 23.5% said no.
- Concerns about accuracy of the response – 71.5% said they had no concerns about accuracy and 24.5% said yes they had concerns.
- Contact handled in a professional manner – 81.5% said yes and 16% said no.
- An additional question asked if the response addressed the need of the person. - 65.5% said yes, 18% said somewhat and 15.5% said no.

I am very pleased that we exceeded the 75% level in the areas of 24-hour response and handling contacts in a professional manner. However, I have asked staff to focus on improving making our responses as accurate as possible, and making sure our responses address the needs of the persons contacting KDE. We will issue the survey again in a few months and I will update you on our progress.

Additionally, I held my first “brown bag lunch with the commissioner” for KDE employees and had about 37 KDE staff that participated. There was good dialogue on possible outcomes of the legislative session. The next one will be on February 15.

The other internal meeting that I am holding is called “Conversation with the Commissioner” where six employees from the offices across KDE meet with me to discuss the working environment here at KDE. It also gives me a change to get to know employees on a more personal level. I have held two of these and the dialogue has been productive. After the third one, I will do a report to KDE staff to let them know of any themes I am picking up. I do these on a monthly basis.

Visits and Meetings

Since we last met, I have been out visiting many schools and districts. Those include: William H. Natcher Elementary (Blue Ribbon School) in Cloverport Independent, Cloverport Independent District-Wide Celebration, Hopkins County Annual Breakfast of Champions, Rowan County Middle School Dedication, Science Hill Independent School District, Somerset Independent School District, Pulaski County School District, Fulton County School District, Graves County School District, Franklin Elementary in the Simpson County School District and Meade County School District.

Meetings of note that I have attended include: Simpson County P-16 Council meeting, SREB Middle School Commission meeting, Congressional Staff Meeting in Washington, D.C., P-20 Innovation Lab Retreat, *Courier-Journal* Editorial Board meeting, Kentucky Association of Career and Technical Education meeting and the Council of Chief State School Officers Board meeting in Washington, D.C.