



Working Together to Educate All of Kentucky's Children



2009-2010 2nd Quarter Report

A Message from the Director



My Fellow Kentuckians,

During the second quarter of this fiscal year, we have experienced many great accomplishments while weathering the tough budget storm brewing across the Commonwealth. Kentucky has continued to experience an economic downturn, often requiring budget reductions and redistributions as we struggle to provide high quality education and state services with fewer funds. The Kentucky Educational Collaborative for State Agency Children has been fortunate in our efforts to maintain our current funding level throughout this economic crisis. As the economic outlook continues to provide challenges for our partnering agencies across the Commonwealth,

KECSAC, as a result of our strong advocates, has not received a budget reduction thus far. The children we serve in our education programs continue to be a priority for the Kentucky Board of Education and our political leaders. During this quarter, KECSAC presented to the Board of Education and other policy makers, sharing our continuing needs and accomplishments. The needs of our students continue to be a primary focus as countless advocates reaffirm their commitment to our students. At this time, in this economic state of affairs, we are awaiting news of the projected budget allocation for the upcoming biennial budget. State lawmakers are busy working on a new fiscal plan and we will keep our partners informed as decisions are made. Until then, we appreciate your continued support.

In addition, KECSAC has continued to make improvements in the quality of educational services provided to our state agency children. Program Improvement Specialists continue to provide monitoring and support to our local school districts and our programs through a comprehensive annual review process. KECSAC also has provided on-site technical support when requested to programs needing additional guidance in key academic, social and behavioral management areas. KECSAC continues to offer professional development opportunities for teachers and administrators who work with state agency children. A full review of those activities is included within the pages of this report.

These accomplishments, and many others, are highlighted in this second 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,

Ronnie Nolan, Ed.D.
Director

Kentucky Educational Collaborative for State Agency Children





“As we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.”

~Marianne Williamson

Professional Development

KECSAC staff strives to provide quality and relevant professional development trainings for educators and administrators who work with Kentucky's State Agency Children (SAC). Over the second quarter of 2009-2010, KECSAC provided two workshops, *Teaching in Action: All God's Children at the Providence School* and *Critical Issues Series: Bringing the Classroom to Life*, both designed to meet the special needs of the students we serve.

Teaching in Action:

All God's Children at the Providence School

In the second installment of the *Teaching in Action* series, KECSAC arranged a day at All God's Children at the Providence School in Nicholasville, Kentucky. Selected as a KDE Best Practice Site for Alternative Education, The Providence School was honored in all three categories in the Department's search for model programs.



The Providence School, Nicholasville, Kentucky.

Principal Denise Adams hosted a group of colleagues on December 4, 2009. Both students and staff shared their pride in TPS, as well as their strategies for overcoming the challenges that alternative education settings face.

Participants began the day by touring the facility with student leaders. The students had a wealth of knowledge to share about the educational program at TPS as well as their



A student panel shared their opinions about what aspects of the program helped them succeed and fielded questions from the participants.

own experiences there. Hearing the young men and women, who struggled in traditional schools before enrolling at TPS, describe their college goals was a wonderful motivator for the educators present. Following the tour and classroom visits, a student panel shared their opinions about what aspects of the program helped them succeed and fielded questions. One of the young ladies painted a picture of the environment at TPS by stating that "We're like a big family here. All the teachers are here to help. They're not just here to teach. They take care of you." The group then was able to meet with administration for a candid discussion regarding



One of the teachers volunteers with an archery club.

the obstacles to educating at-risk youth and the unique nature of TPS. The day ended with administrative and staff meetings in which attendees got to find out exactly how treatment and education are integrated within the school.

Critical Issues Series: Bringing the Classroom to Life

KECSAC, in collaboration with the College of Education at Eastern Kentucky University, is sponsoring three *Critical Issues* series workshops for KECSAC educators and education students throughout the 2009-2010 school year. The first of the series, *Bringing the Classroom to Life*, was on November 11th on the campus of Eastern Kentucky University at the Perkins Conference Center.

One-hundred twenty-two educators and students attended the workshop. The keynote speaker, Charles Beaman is a former middle and high school teacher, recently retired from the Metropolitan Nashville School System after serving for the last 30 years as an assistant principal and principal. Also an adjunct professor, Dr. Beaman has presented at

Professional Development



Dr. Beaman presents Bringing the Classroom to Life on November 11, 2009 at the Perkins Conference Center on the campus of EKU.

Dr. Beaman's presentation, *Effective Strategies for Differentiating Learning for At-Risk Students* really engaged the attendees. He was able to incorporate activities and audience participation that demonstrated concrete and interactive tools for learning for alternative classroom settings. One attendee exclaimed: "from start to finish the energy was great and made you want to get back to the classroom!"

The next two installments of the *Critical Issues Series: Downtown to Down Home*, will be held in the third quarter, on March 16, 2010 in Bowling Green and March 17, 2010 in Richmond.



One-hundred twenty-two educators and students attended the Critical Issues: Series Workshop Bringing the Classroom to Life on November 11, 2009.

numerous state and national conferences on motivating the marginal learner, effective classroom management and discipline strategies, stress and time management and innovative instructional practices. He consults frequently with schools, school districts and school organizations in the areas of school and classroom management, school climate, and working with difficult-to-reach students. Dr. Beaman's doctoral dissertation focused on the nature of adolescents and a developmentally responsive curriculum for middle school students. Dr. Beaman has consulted with schools in Bermuda, Mexico, and Haiti. He draws heavily upon his background as a language arts teacher, university professor, assistant principal and principal and his work with educators abroad, particularly in Germany.

Interagency Advisory Group



Roy Chapman, Program Improvement Specialist and Mary Salsman-Buckley, Branch Manager with the Department of Juvenile Justice.

KECSAC's Interagency Advisory Group (IAG) met on December 15, 2009 at the Berry Hill Mansion in Frankfort to approve the final draft of the new KECSAC Policy Manual and to discuss possible

budget reductions, a revised application for new programs, the State Agency Child Definition and the Professional Development Calendar for 2010-2011. During lunch, the IAG watched a video showcasing The Providence School, a 2009-2010 Best Practice Site, in Nicholasville.



Richard K. Thomas, Mary Salsman-Buckley, Russell Behanan, Garet Wells, Lue Cole and Roy Chapman.



Policy Manual

Over the past year KECSAC staff has worked to develop a written policy manual that will document guidelines, clarify expectations and summarize decision making processes within the statewide collaborative. These policies have gone through many reviews and revisions with input from state agency school administrators and our state agency partners. Written policies are important to ensure KECSAC actions are consistent with state and federal laws.

Clarification of the definition of state agency children, as defined by **KRS 158.135**, is among the most significant policy developed over the past year. With the help of attorneys from the Kentucky Departments of Education and Juvenile Justice, KECSAC's governing statutes and regulations, as well as other relevant laws, were closely examined to determine the population of students KECSAC was intended to serve.

Another policy with significant impact on SAC programs include the ADM Appeal Process which specifies a process whereby programs can appeal the average daily membership count derived from the three designated reporting dates used to determine their annual funding. The ADM appeal process will provide programs the opportunity to explain extenuating circumstances that might cause their attendance to be lower than normal.

In addition, the policy called Educational Passport specifies that Infinite Campus, the electronic student data collection system used by the Kentucky Department of Education, may serve as the standard educational passport for state agency children.

Finally, the long process of developing written policies is complete. In December, the policy manual received final approval from the Interagency Advisory Group. The policy manual will be posted on the KECSAC website, allowing for easy accessibility for our statewide partners. Revisions and additions to the manual will be made when deemed necessary by KECSAC staff or the IAG.

Revised Application for SACF Funding

New programs applying for State Agency Children Funds will have to complete a revised, more extensive application beginning in January 2010. Previously, the application was a one page application that required little more than a name and supporting state agency. The revised application will provide more information to the applicant about requirements for receiving KECSAC funding and will require the applicant to provide details about the proposed state agency program, including an overview of the educational program, an action plan for developing the educational program, assurance that collaboration between education and treatment staff will occur, a description of how students will be evaluated for progress, and how planning for student transition will occur. An interagency agreement between the agency providing treatment and the local school district must also be included with the application packet.

The revised SACF application is designed to ensure applicants are fully prepared to serve the target population and have developed a quality program that will meet the treatment and educational needs of this unique population of at-risk youth. The application is available on-line at: www.kecsac.eku.edu/documents.php or from the KECSAC office.

State Agency Children Definition

Clarification of the legal definition of state agency children has been a much discussed topic during this quarter as staff and state agency partners continue to refine the definition and analyze the impact this will have on state agency children programs across the Commonwealth. One expected impact is a decrease in the number of students who qualify as state agency children according to the legal definition provided in KRS 138.135. Because of the expected decrease in the number of qualifying state agency children, the per child rate for the 2010-2011 school year is expected to increase, providing additional funding to districts providing educational services to state agency children.

BEST Study

KECSAC continues to partner with the Department of Occupational Therapy at Eastern Kentucky University in a research project designed to develop best practice sites for transition services of state agency children. The research team is working with Ramey Estep Home High School, Warren County Regional Juvenile Detention Center, Madison County Day Treatment, Fayette Regional Juvenile Detention Center and Model Laboratory School. Each site is working independently with a researcher to develop specific transition programming. The study is expected to be completely in the Spring 2010 semester with results being shared shortly thereafter.

Outside Evaluator

During the past quarter KECSAC staff worked to develop a request for proposal for an outside evaluator that will conduct a program evaluation to:

- Identify future goals and priorities that will best serve state agency children.
- Evaluate and examine effectiveness of current KECSAC staff in working with state agency programs and meeting the needs of educators and administrators who provide services to state agency children.
- Identify areas of needed improvement.

These activities are part of KECSAC's ongoing mission to ensure state agency children receive a quality education that is equitable to the education provided to all Kentucky public school children.

The selected vendor will be asked to conduct a program evaluation to examine:

- How well KECSAC is operating.
- How consistently the services actually delivered are aligned with the current goals of KECSAC.
- How well the service delivery is organized.
- The effectiveness of KECSAC management.
- Effective use of program resources.

The purpose of the evaluation is to gain knowledge about KECSAC's impact on state agency children programs, the structure of KECSAC, the quality of administration and how to improve the services KECSAC provides.

The RFP will be posted on EKU's website during the 3rd quarter and the selected vendor will begin the evaluation as soon as possible.

Outstanding State Agency Child Award

Since September, a committee of KECSAC school administrators has worked to develop a selection process for the *KECSAC Outstanding Student of the Year* award. This \$500 scholarship will be awarded to a high school senior who has exhibited exemplary efforts in overcoming personal and educational obstacles to obtain educational goals. The student must be enrolled in a state agency program at the time the nomination is submitted and must submit a written essay about overcoming adversity as well as two letters of recommendation. The school administrator must also submit a written recommendation for the nominated student.

A committee of selected SACSAA members will review the nominations and, based on a selection criteria matrix, select four nominations to forward to the KECSAC director. The Interagency Advisory Group will make the final selection. The \$500 nonrenewable scholarship may be used at any Kentucky post-secondary educational program that follows federal student loan guidelines.

The first *Outstanding Student of the Year* award will be awarded to the selected student on July 27, 2010, during the annual **Alternative Strategies for Educating Students At-Risk Conference** held at the Perkins Conference Center on the campus of Eastern Kentucky University.



KECSAC

104 Case Annex
Eastern Kentucky University
521 Lancaster Avenue
Richmond, Kentucky 40475
www.kecsac.eku.edu

452018

"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

