1st Quarter Report
2012 - 2013
KECSAC
Investment in education seems to be a hot topic these days, what with politicians and others openly debating the value of federal involvement, state oversight, local control and parental participation. While I certainly don’t have the answers to the many questions brought up in these debates, I do know that we have to invest in the education of our children. We really have no choice, for failing to do so will, without question, end our great society as we know it. Our children, especially those in our care in state agency programs, need the skills, the knowledge and the experience that education provides. As a child living in poverty and growing up in the mountains of eastern Kentucky, I know firsthand the life changing power of education. I feel it daily, I know it in my heart, and I see it in my community. Indeed, Benjamin Franklin was correct in his assertion that “an investment in knowledge pays the best interest.” As a community of leaders and learners, we have to find common ground to help our students move forward into a life of prosperity, of purpose and of promise. I know our teachers and administrators working in state agency programs across the Commonwealth are doing just that. Every day they walk into their classrooms with the shared goal of helping our students, the Commonwealth’s most at-risk student population, to obtain a true education that will help them become productive citizens of our great state and our world. They are on the forefront of making life-changing differences for our children, and their work should be applauded. As we continue the political discourse in our state and across the country, I hope we remember that at the end of the day, our children are our best investment and we’ll all be better together in the end because of the foundation we provided today.

During the first quarter of this fiscal year, we have experienced many great accomplishments while continuing to share the needs of our children with our state agency partners, legislators and policy makers. Our professional development series continues to impress our educators while providing much needed, hands-on, implementable skills for our teachers and administrators. Nearly 300 of our teachers and administrators participated in the largest alternative education conference in Kentucky, hosted by KECSAC and sponsored by DJJ, KECSAC and the Kentucky Center for School Safety, learning from other teachers who are actively implementing challenging and rigorous academic offerings in their programs across the Commonwealth. In addition, our new educators training was restructured as a result of a year-long reflective research study of its impact. The newly implemented format included smaller group discussions with current practitioners and large group instruction with experts in various fields of education. We are also spending quite a bit of time preparing for and responding to the changes in managed care and the impact those changes are having on our mental health day treatment programs. The Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities is an active partner in these discussions and are leading the way as we develop plans for how best to serve students with intense psychological, emotional and behavioral needs.

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,

Ronnie Nolan, Ed.D.
Director, KECSAC

*Cover art and other art throughout this report are courtesy of the students of Sunrise Children’s Services Morehead Center.
The Kentucky Educational Collaborative for State Agency Children (KECSAC) is committed to the belief that all children can learn and have a right to quality education. KECSAC protects and assures this right by accessing resources and providing support to programs that educate state agency children.

Those children who do not receive an education of quality cannot realize their greatest potential.

We believe these goals are achieved through the process of interagency collaboration.

To accomplish the mission, all members of this statewide partnership must exemplify and publicly promote collaborative relationships with its partners and other associates.

### Our Mission

**Working together to educate all of Kentucky’s Children**

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### Interagency Advisory Group

- **Sherri Clusky**  
  Department of Education
- **Kara Fresh**  
  Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities
- **Janice Johnston**  
  Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities
- **Sonny McManus**  
  Graves County School District
- **Melissa Rogers**  
  Franklin County School District
- **Paula Saenz**  
  Department for Community Based Services
- **Mary Salsman-Buckley**  
  Department of Juvenile Justice
- **Richard Thomas**  
  Department of Juvenile Justice
- **Denise Weider**  
  Department for Community Based Services
- **Lu Young**  
  Jessamine County School District
KECSAC hosted the 11th Annual “Alternative Strategies for Educating Students At-Risk” Conference on July 24-26, 2012 for approximately 300 dedicated professionals from Kentucky and as far away as Belize, Central America. The conference is designed to provide educators and administrators who work with state agency children and other at-risk students the skills and resources they need to adequately meet the various challenges they face in the classroom. This training opportunity highlights instructional strategies, curriculum innovations, assessment techniques, enrichment activities and service projects that may help to bridge treatment and education in KECSAC programs as well as motivational tools for working with students at-risk.

The opening keynote really wowed the audience with her candor, humor and experience. Debbie Silver, Ed.D., is truly a “teacher’s teacher!” She is an award-winning educator with 30 years of experience as a classroom teacher, staff development instructor and university professor. Her numerous recognitions include being named the 1990 Louisiana State Teacher of the Year and the 2007 Distinguished Alumnus from the College of Education at Louisiana Tech University. Along the way she has taught almost every grade level and most every kind of student. Dr. Silver is the author of the bestselling book, Drumming to the Beat of Different Marchers: Finding the Rhythm for Differentiated Learning. She is co-author of Because You Teach and Middle School Matters.

Dynamic teacher, speaker and author Ron Clark closed the conference on the third day. Mr. Clark is a true innovator in education, having turned around schools in both rural North Carolina and inner city Harlem, New York. Mr. Clark founded The Ron Clark Academy, an inner-city school serving students from across metro Atlanta. The privately-funded institution is unique for its innovative teaching methods and curriculum based on worldwide travel. Each year the students, grades 5 through 8, apply their in-class lessons to international adventures. By the time of graduation, each child will have visited six of the seven continents. Teachers from around the world visit the Academy to observe the innovative and “out-of-the-box” methods for achieving student success. Mr. Clark is the author of the New York Times Bestselling book The Essential 55, The Excellent 11, and most recently, The End of Molasses Classes: 101 Extraordinary Solutions for Parents and Teachers.

A highlight of the conference was the SACSAA award ceremony. Each year, KECSAC and the State Agency Children School Administrator Association recognize exemplary educators and support personnel, as well as outstanding students. These honors are designed to highlight the dedication and skill that teachers, administrators, and support staff in KECSAC programs bring to the education of students at-risk. Today, outstanding teachers, school administrators and staff persons seek out positions in KECSAC programs because they can immediately see the impact they have on these vulnerable students’ lives and careers. These students come to KECSAC programs with a multitude of challenges; many are several grade levels behind in both reading and math. When they finally get the individualized attention of truly excellent teachers, they

Ron Clark and KECSAC School Administrator Dr. Ann Lyttle-Burns

Professional Development
Professional Development

The districts are facing fiscal challenges, and to make quality professional development available to as many educators as possible, the organization offers this and other training opportunities free of charge.

New Educator’s Training

Because of the information gained during a year-long research project, the New Educator’s Training held September 5, featured a new format. New Educators’ training has traditionally been a two-day training; however, after analyzing data from the survey, Dr. Nolan and staff changed to a one-day training, freeing up valuable time for educators at the beginning of the school year and reducing costs for both school districts and KECSAC. This year’s training also featured shorter sessions and more sessions geared specifically toward the educational needs of state agency children as well as a session by a current teacher who discussed specific ways she handles the difficult task of working with a class of students on different grade and ability levels. Attendees were also provided an opportunity to meet with state agency representatives, KECSAC Program Improvement Specialists and veteran teachers currently working in KECSAC programs who shared tips for creating success stories for this vulnerable population of youth.

With 50 teachers and administrators from 34 programs across the state in attendance, this training continues to provide valuable information and resources to educators new to state agency children programs and demonstrates the need for KECSAC to continue to analyze the training evaluations to ensure we are providing what teachers need to academically advance state agency children.

thrive. So these “outstanding” awards are really going to the most “outstanding” of a highly qualified, professional and inspiring population of educators. The student of the year awards recognize and reward those students who have overcome personal and educational obstacles with the help of KECSAC programs in order to become model students and young adults for their peers.

The First Lady of the Commonwealth, Mrs. Jane Beshear, was present to honor four outstanding educators and two inspirational students. The First Lady shared with the group the importance of their work of educating Kentucky’s at-risk students and presented the awards.

Student of the Year award winners meet First Lady Jane Beshear. From left to right: Sonny McManus, SACSAA President; Ritchie Delk, award winner; First Lady Jane Beshear; Marcus Lundin, award winner; Dr. Ronnie Nolan, KECSAC Director

Those awards went to: Jim Green of Green River Youth Development Center in Butler County School District, Outstanding School Administrator; Valerie Kazee of Morehead Youth Development Center in Rowan County School District, Outstanding Teacher of the Year; Elizabeth Guthrie of Brooklawn School in Jefferson County School District, Outstanding Teacher of the Year; Felicia Johnson of Lexington Day Treatment in Fayette County School District, Outstanding Support Staff of the Year; Ritchie Delk, graduate of Ramey-Estep High School in Boyd County School District, Outstanding Student of the Year; Marcus Lundin graduate of Boys’ Haven School in Jefferson County School District, Outstanding Student of the Year.

For the fourth year in a row, thanks to the generosity of KECSAC’s state agency partners, the conference fee of $150 was waived for all participants. KECSAC recognizes that
Kentucky Hosting the National Dropout Prevention Conference

KECSAC has been an active partner of the National Dropout Prevention Network for several years, working collaboratively to implement the 2007 national conference in Louisville. We are happy to announce that Kentucky has once again been selected to host the national conference in November, 2014 at the Galt House in Louisville, KY. The National Dropout Prevention Network, housed at Clemson University, has officially notified the Commissioner of Education about the selection. KECSAC, in partnership with KDE, submitted the winning proposal to host the event. Sherri Clusky of the Kentucky Department of Education has been named chairperson of the event planning committee. KECSAC staff will work closely with Ms. Clusky to help make the 2014 National Dropout Prevention Conference even better than before.

KDE Announces Best Practice Sites in Alternative Education

Alternative education in Kentucky has gained tremendous attention in the preceding years with the Kentucky Department of Education and several members of the General Assembly shining a light on the work being accomplished in non-traditional educational settings across the Commonwealth. This renewed focus on the effective delivery of Kentucky’s Core Content of Study in varying, often innovative ways, has resulted in the search for best practices in alternative education in Kentucky. The Department of Education implemented a thorough review process for alternative education programs in an effort to select model programs. The process involved a self-nomination period by the local education agency superintendent, an internal review of the applications, site visits to each location and a final summary report review. Ten programs were selected as best practice sites, including seven KECSAC programs. Alternative sites selected for this award will receive official recognition at a future State Board of Education meeting as well as a $1,000 educational support stipend.

Ongoing Initiatives

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<th>2012 Best Practice Sites</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Boyd County</strong></td>
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<td>Ramey-Estep High School (KECSAC)</td>
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<td>Exemplary in all three categories</td>
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<td><strong>Calloway County</strong></td>
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<td>Calloway County Day Treatment (KECSAC)</td>
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<td><strong>Jefferson County</strong></td>
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<td>Brooklawn School (KECSAC)</td>
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<td><strong>Jefferson County</strong></td>
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<td>Maryhurst School (KECSAC)</td>
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<td><strong>Jefferson County</strong></td>
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<td>Peace Academy (KECSAC)</td>
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<td><strong>Jessamine County</strong></td>
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<td>Providence School (KECSAC)</td>
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<td><strong>Laurel County</strong></td>
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<td>McDaniel Learning Center</td>
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<td><strong>Monroe County</strong></td>
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<td>Monroe County Falcon Academy</td>
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<td>Exemplary in Category 1</td>
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<td><strong>Rowan County</strong></td>
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<td>Morehead Youth Development Center (KECSAC)</td>
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Mental Health Day Treatments

The Kentucky Department of Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities (DBHDID) and the Kentucky Educational Collaborative for State Agency Children (KECSAC) are working together to address multiple concerns related to the implementation of managed care in Kentucky. After being contacted by multiple programs about issues related to student services in mental health day treatment programs, as a direct result of managed care, DBHDID and KECSAC are reviewing the policies and procedures that currently govern the programs. DBHDID is working with their contracted mental health service providers to outline expectations for treatment services for children being served in KECSAC mental health day treatment programs. DBHDID is in the process of meeting with each mental health provider and will visit each program to discuss service expectations. It is anticipated that by February of 2013, DBHDID will release updated treatment service guidelines for mental health day treatment programs.

Unified Juvenile Code Task Force

Representative John Tilley, D-Hopkinsville, and Senator Katie Stein, R-Southgate, are co-chairs of Kentucky’s Unified Juvenile Code Task Force. The task force was created to address concerns about the number of children in Kentucky who are detained because of noncriminal issues, such as school truancy. Kentucky currently ranks third in the nation for the largest number of noncriminal children who are detained in the juvenile system. Over the course of the preceding year, the task force has been meeting with key stakeholders to discuss potential changes in the unified juvenile code. Dr. Ronnie Nolan, director of KECSAC, was invited to present to the task force in September, 2012 to discuss educational issues for children in the care or custody of the Commonwealth. Dr. Nolan provided an overview of the educational services as well as four key recommendations for future legislative review. These included the implementation of a universal pre and post academic assessment of all children in state agency programs, a review of the technology use and access policy of the Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice, a unified graduation policy for state agency children who are relocated outside their home school district and the development and implementation of a transition plan for children moving out of state care and back to their home school environment. The task force will continue meeting throughout the coming year to discuss these recommendations and many others gathered by the panel.

Fall Statewide SACSAA Meeting

The State Agency Children School Administrator Association (SACSAA) met on September 7, at the Elizabethtown Tourism Center for the annual statewide meeting. During the meeting, SACSAA President Sonny McManus, announced the appointment of Melissa Rogers, administrator at The Academy in Frankfort, as the new president-elect. Ms. Rogers replaces Debra Hauser, who left her position as school administrator at the Laurel County Day Treatment to accept the position as Director of Pupil Personnel for the Laurel County School District.

During the meeting, Dr. Nolan presented awards of recognition to the administrators of the seven KECSAC programs selected as a Best Practice Site in Alternative Education by the Kentucky Department of Education. Dr. Nolan also recognized the recipients of the SACSAA awards presented during the Annual Alternative Strategies for Educating Students At-Risk Conference.

Participants had rich discussions regarding numerous topics surrounding alternative education in Kentucky, including state assessment and accountability, restraints and seclusion and the Transitional Living Support Bill, HB 213. A networking session was built in to the meeting to allow administrators the opportunity to talk with each other about the issues that surround state agency children. Evaluations from the meeting indicate that administrators value the SACSAA meeting and gain worthwhile information about topics important to their program.

Search for Communication and Development Coordinator

KECSAC is currently in the process of selecting an applicant for the position of Communication and Development Coordinator. Heather Carpenter left the job in August to accept a position at the University of Kentucky Honors Program as a Student Affairs Officer. As an honor student herself, Heather felt her skills and experiences would be an asset as UK seeks to build up the Honors Program at UK. While she said she enjoyed her time at KECSAC, she was looking forward to a new opportunity and even exploring the possibility of furthering her education while at UK. We wish Heather all the best in her new endeavors.
KECSAC
104 Case Annex
Eastern Kentucky University
521 Lancaster Avenue
Richmond, Kentucky 40475
www.kecsac.eku.edu

“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