Kentucky Educational Collaborative for State Agency Children

Mission

We are 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.

Interagency Advisory Group

Doug Bennett, Laurel County School District
Sue Buley, SACSAA President, Adair YDC
Sherri Clusky, Department of Education
Erica Fort, Youth Representative
Barbara Hamilton, Department of Juvenile Justice
Diane Gruen-Kidd, Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities
Chrissy Jones, Franklin County School District
Sylvia Kuster, Department of Juvenile Justice
Paula Saenz, Department for Community Based Services
Jill Tabor, SACSAA President-Elect, Maryhurst, Inc.
Denise Weider, Department for Community Based Services

"Working Together to Educate All of Kentucky’s Children"

In accordance with the KECSAC regulations, 505 KAR 1:080, the Kentucky Educational Collaborative for State Agency Children has a governing structure that includes oversight by an Interagency Advisory Group (IAG) composed of representatives of the state agencies, KDE, the State Agency Children School Administrators’ Association (SACSAA) and a superintendent from a school district that provides education to state agency children. This group is to provide recommendations for policy and procedure development for KECSAC. The independent representatives of the state agencies, including KDE, are appointed to serve on the IAG by their respective commissioners. The president and president-elect of SACSAA serve on the IAG and are elected to those positions by the membership of the independent organization. The superintendent member of the IAG is selected by standing members of the IAG, based on recommendations or nominations by SACSAA membership. All members of the IAG serve without compensation from KECSAC.
A Message from KECSAC Director Dr. Ronnie Nolan

My Fellow Kentuckians,

The third quarter always seems the most action packed especially considering the annual legislative session and when coupled with the record snow fall we received this year, our programs across Kentucky were kept busy delivering quality educational services to our students. KECSAC staff spent considerable time working with our legislative partners in Frankfort during this short session to build relationships and continue our advocacy for state agency children. We also continued our efforts to educate our state agency partners about the financial needs of our school districts and our children.

In addition, KECSAC partnered with KDE during this quarter to develop protocols for identifying alternative programs of distinction. While serving alongside leadership at KDE, our team visited 16 alternative education programs in our efforts to identify programs of distinction for alternative settings. Our travels took us from Covington Independent to Laurel County to Graves County and many other wonderful locals along the way. The programs selected as alternative programs of distinction will be announced in the coming weeks and are expected to be recognized at the Kentucky Board of Education meeting on June 3 in Frankfort.

KECSAC has also 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. We also initiated a full review of our program improvement tool during this quarter with a goal of fully aligning the tool with the AdvancEd standards for school improvement. We also anticipate our work team developing multiple tools for use in the wide variety of programs across Kentucky. 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.
Each year KECSAC takes a count of every child receiving educational services in a KECSAC funded program. This one-day “snapshot” provides valuable information to KECSAC, our state agency partners, and legislators about this vulnerable population of youth. This count is taken on December 1 in conjunction with the IDEA Child Find program.

On December 1, 2014, 2,379 received all or part of their educational services from one of 88 KECSAC funded located in 52 school districts throughout the state. Administrators report that 13,015 different youth received educational services during the 12-month period between December 2, 2013 and December 1, 2014.

Care to state agency children is provided by one Kentucky’s state agencies that provide direct care to children: Department for Community Based Services (DCBS), Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and the Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities (DBHDID).

Fifty-eight percent of all state agency youth receive educational services while living in one of 42 programs contracted with DCBS. These students may live in group homes, psychiatric residential treatment facilities, hospital settings, treatment centers, or temporary shelters. DCBS contracts with private providers to administer the necessary care and treatment for these students. Programs operated by or contracted with DJJ provided educational services to 40 percent of all SAC in one of 44 operated or contracted programs. DJJ operates 17 residential facilities, five day-treatment programs and two group homes. Youth in DJJ-operated programs have been adjudicated by the courts and committed or probated to the custody of DJJ for a specific period of time. DJJ also contracts with 19 local school districts to provide 20 day treatment programs. As shown, 19 percent of youth in DJJ programs are in residential facilities while 21 percent attend day treatment programs. Just two percent of students in KECSAC funded programs attend mental health day treatment programs.

Information provided on December 1 shows that 41 percent of all youth receiving educational services in a KECSAC funded program had been identified with an educational disability that adversely affects their educational progress. In comparison, only 13 percent of all Kentucky public school students have been diagnosed with an educational disability. Of the 41 percent of state agency children identified with an educational disability, 53 percent have been diagnosed with a Low Incidence disability. Low Incidence disabilities include autism, deaf or blindness, multiple disabilities, emotional/behavioral disorder and functional mental disability. Forty-six percent of state agency children diagnosed with an educational disability have been diagnosed with a Moderate Incidence disability, which includes educational disabilities such as other health impairments, mild mental disability, specific learning disability, traumatic brain injury and hearing or vision loss.
Just one percent of all state agency children with an educational disability have been diagnosed with a Speech and Language disability. Speech and Language disabilities are the ones most often seen in the general public and usually require the least intensive educational support. In comparison to state agency children, 27 percent of all diagnosed educational disabilities in Kentucky public schools are Speech disabilities.

According to the December 1 census, 70 percent of SAC are White while 23 percent are Black/African American. In comparison, 80 percent of all students in Kentucky public schools are White and 10.5 percent are Black/African-American. With over twice the percentage of Black students in state agency programs than in regular Kentucky public schools, a disproportional number of Black/African-American youth are being educated in state agency programs. Youth classified as Two or more represent 4 percent and youth identified as Hispanic/Latino account for 4 percent of SAC. Just 0.4 percent of all SAC in a KECSAC funded program on December 1 was identified as Native American or Alaskan Native, or Asian.

The average age of a youth in a KECSAC funded program is 14.8 years old. The largest group of state agency children on December 1, is 17 year olds, followed closely by 16 year olds, with 43 percent of the entire population in these two age groups. As in previous years, the largest number of students are in the 9th or 10th grade with 45 percent of the entire population.

The 52 school districts contracted with KECSAC employ the equivalent of 333 full-time certified teachers who provide educational services to youth in KECSAC programs across the state. Of these teachers, 57 percent are certified in special education, which means they have received training in adapting and modifying instruction to meet the individual needs of each student. Just 4 teachers in KECSAC funded programs are emergency certified. Many districts provide a full-time administrator to oversee the educational component of the state agency children program; however, the number of districts doing so has decreased from 74 in 2011 to 62 in 2014. School districts also provide 163 full time equivalent teaching assistants, and 100 educational support staff to meet the intense educational needs of state agency children.
Policies and Ongoing Initiatives

KDE Alternative Programs of Distinction Updates

The Kentucky Department of Education initiated a new program to identify “Alternative Programs of Distinction.” The goal of the program is to recognize the provision of high quality educational services in alternative education programs. Nominees for the honor were submitted by the superintendent of the district where the program is located. The Kentucky Department of Education invited members from KECSAC to serve on the planning team as part of the alternative education cadre. Programs selected as an Alternative Program of Distinction will be recognized at an upcoming meeting of the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE), featured in Kentucky Teacher, and may be invited to serve as a hub alternative program for professional development. The planning team developed a nomination form, scoring rubric and site visit process for nominated programs. Approximately 25 programs from across Kentucky were nominated and the selection team visited 16 finalists. Programs selected for this honor are expected to be recognized in the coming weeks.

2015 Legislative Update and Summary

The Kentucky General Assembly kicked into high gear in the closing days of the short session. By directive from the Kentucky Constitution, the General Assembly can only meet for 30 legislative days during an odd numbered year. This year’s session was marked by many in the public eye as slow in the initial days, with very little legislation moving forward. However, in the last five days of the session and particularly in the last two days, many important pieces of legislation found the support they needed to move forward. Topping the list of priorities that were passed in the closing hours of the session were bills to address the heroin epidemic in parts of Kentucky and legislation providing greater protections to individuals who experience dating violence. The legislature created a gas tax floor, expanded the use of ignition interlock systems for DUI offenders, as well as increased standards for booster seat requirements. Education related issues were not as pressing during this session; and while much attention was focused on the teachers retirement system, no legislation successfully passed both chambers. We expect this to continue being debated in the upcoming session, along with many other bills that failed to pass this session. These include private public partnerships, a statewide smoking ban, pension reform, right to work and felon voting rights.

Our attention now turns to the upcoming 2016 session and the 2015 interim joint legislative session, where standing committees can call for testimony to study any potential bills. The upcoming session promises to be an exciting one, with a great deal of work to be accomplished. Kentucky will have a new governor for the first time in eight years and his agenda may well heavily impact legislative priorities. Most critically for the 2016 session is the development of the biennium budget. Kentucky has faced incredible budget shortfalls in recent years and we expect this to continue into the years ahead, so the biennium budget negotiations will continue to be heavily debated as we work together to meet the needs of the Commonwealth. Legislators will be faced with some difficult choices related to funding priorities and we must begin our outreach now to highlight the needs of state agency children.

KECSAC Program Improvement Tool Revision

This quarter work began on revising the program improvement tool used by KECSAC program improvement specialists to audit the educational component of KECSAC funded programs. A draft document, which is a crosswalk between the Standards and Indicators for School Improvement (SISI) document we currently use as our tool and the AdvancED Standards for Quality Schools, was developed by KECSAC staff. This draft document was emailed to a team of KECSAC school administrators who had previously agreed to serve as a policy review committee. This team has begun the process of reviewing and editing the draft document to ensure it continues to meet needs of the KECSAC program improvement process and will guide the improvement of our unique programs. Our goal is to complete the review/editing process before the revised document is presented to the entire KECSAC community. We plan to begin utilizing the new tool in the 2015-2016 school year.
Policies and Ongoing Initiatives

Program Improvement Update

As part of KECSAC’s ongoing program improvement process and continual growth model for helping local school districts meet the educational needs of state agency children, KECSAC Program Improvement Specialists perform annual site visits and monitoring of each of the 88 funded KECSAC programs, operating in 52 local school districts across the Commonwealth. Throughout the monitoring period (which coincides with the school year) programs receive individual visits, or “team” visits where two or all three of the Specialists conduct a joint monitoring at the same program.

Program Improvement Specialists use the Program Improvement Tool, which is aligned with the Kentucky Standards and Indicators, to audit the educational services provided. As a companion to the Program Improvement Tool, KECSAC has developed the Standards, Indicators, Descriptors and Evidence (SIDE) document that provides examples of what the Specialists will need to see to earn a “Fully Functioning” score. To determine if the Kentucky Standards and Indicators, as well as standards pertaining to SAC, are developed and implemented accordingly, specialists observe classrooms, review prepared evidence, and interview the school administrator, program administrator, teacher(s), and students. If needed, recommendations for improvement are communicated to the program and a follow-up visit is scheduled. Attention is also paid to progress made from the previous year’s report to ensure programs are continuing to meet standards and improve curriculum. To date, Program Improvement Specialists have visited 77 programs during the 2014/2015 school year. If you have questions about the Program Improvement Process feel free to contact Dr. Ronnie Nolan or Cindy Held at (859) 622-6552.

Interagency Advisory Group and SACSAE Meetings Affected by Winter Weather

The third quarter of the 2014/2015 school year not only saw winter weather impacts for districts across the Commonwealth, but KECSAC’s February 17 Interagency Advisory Group (IAG) meeting and the March 6 State Agency Children School Administrator’s Association meeting were both canceled due to snow. Several large snowstorms during February and March shut down most school districts in the state for many days, as well as Eastern Kentucky University where KECSAC central offices are located. It was therefore decided travel for the meetings was not in the best interest for attendees.

The KECSAC IAG did however, meet on April 14, 2015 to discuss topics and issues surrounding state agency children and the agencies serving them. The meeting took place at Corbin Educational Center in Corbin, KY. Members of the KECSAC IAG discussed many upcoming training events including the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Transition Summit held in Louisville June 2-3 and the KECSAC Alternative Strategies for Educating Students At-Risk conference on July 29-30 held at EKU’s Perkins Conference Center. Each partnering state agency representative also shared current initiatives of their organizations, and after the meeting a tour of the school was conducted.
35 KECSAC Programs Awarded Mini Grants During Third Quarter

While state agency programs strive to provide the best learning environment for Kentucky’s most at-risk students, the reality of educational budgets often means some supplies, technology, and projects that enhance learning aren’t feasible. In order to help this deficit for academic initiatives in currently funded programs, KECSAC initiates a special mini-grant Request for Proposal (RFP) process each year, if there is an availability in funds. As in years past when mini-grant funds have been available, the intent is to help programs implement projects designed to meet the significant academic achievement needs of the state agency children they serve.

“During the year we had some programs receiving KECSAC funding close for various reasons, and we also reserve a certain amount in the event of a reduction in budget during the year by the state,” Director Dr. Ronnie Nolan explains. When it is clear there will not be a reduction mandated by state government for the year, and with the funds from closed programs, the result is an excess in the budget. “Some of those funds go back to the programs as an increased per-child rate. But we also want those funds to benefit students in a more direct way. So as in years past, we opened this competitive allocation for programs to implement specific projects or initiatives they wouldn’t otherwise have the funds for,” Dr. Nolan said.

For the 2015 mini-grants KECSAC began accepting RFPs from late January through March 4, 2015. By the deadline for submissions, 37 proposals were received highlighting the use of varied projects and initiatives, as well as supplies, textbooks, and technology, to enhance student learning that fell under the criteria of the grants. Of the proposals, 35 were awarded funding after a thorough assessment by a review panel.

Each request was limited to $5,000 per program, per district and submissions outlined details, goals and the impact of the project/initiative if it were awarded. All mini-grant recipients are also required to report back to KECSAC to share measurable outcomes and successes of their projects.

You can review the list of KECSAC programs receiving mini-grants and a very brief description of projects and supplies to be funded in the table on the next page.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Requested Items/Projects</th>
<th>Funding Awarded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adair County</td>
<td>Adair YDC</td>
<td>Computer numerical control program</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barren County</td>
<td>College Street Campus</td>
<td>Computers (7)</td>
<td>$4,812.85</td>
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<td>Boyd County</td>
<td>Ramey-Estep High School</td>
<td>Subscription renewal for Accelerated Reading and Math, hosting fees, headphones, and school supplies</td>
<td>$4,996.40</td>
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<td>Breathitt County</td>
<td>CLEP</td>
<td>Dell Computers (15)</td>
<td>$4,950.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bullitt County</td>
<td>Bullitt Alternative Center</td>
<td>Lego Mindstorms robotics sets (8), and computers</td>
<td>$4,873.45</td>
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<td>Bullitt County</td>
<td>Sunrise - Spring Meadows</td>
<td>3D printer</td>
<td>$4,973.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Butler County</td>
<td>Green River YDC</td>
<td>Computers (6) and Windows update</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Calloway County</td>
<td>Calloway Co. Day Treatment</td>
<td>Achieve 3000 and BrainPOP subscriptions</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Campbell County</td>
<td>Campbell Co. Day Treatment</td>
<td>Champions Program and 25 personal radios</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christian County</td>
<td>Christian Co. Day Treatment</td>
<td>Accelerated Reader and Math, Kindle books, 120 books</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clinton County</td>
<td>Foothills Academy</td>
<td>Promethean Activeboard, Keyboards (24), and active hub</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corbin Independent</td>
<td>Corbin Educational Center</td>
<td>Textbooks</td>
<td>$4,992.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daviess County</td>
<td>Valley School</td>
<td>Textbooks and binders</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graves County</td>
<td>Mayfield YDC</td>
<td>Jefferson Co. Curriculum, headphones, and graphing calculators</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackson County</td>
<td>Barnabas Home</td>
<td>Computers and headphones (6)</td>
<td>$4,997.58</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jefferson County</td>
<td>Audubon YDC</td>
<td>Shakespeare Behind Bars Art Program</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
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<td>Jefferson County</td>
<td>Uspriritus - Bellewood</td>
<td>iPromise Garden project, cameras, microscopes, thermometer</td>
<td>$4,700.00</td>
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<td>Jefferson County</td>
<td>Maryhurst, Inc.</td>
<td>Harnessing the Healing Power of Nature program and garden curriculum project</td>
<td>$4,300.00</td>
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<td>Jessamine County</td>
<td>All God's Children</td>
<td>Field trips and a kitchen lab</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
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<td>LaRue County</td>
<td>The Life Connection</td>
<td>Equipment and materials for reading comprehension (SRA programs)</td>
<td>$2,500.00</td>
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<td>Laurel County</td>
<td>Laurel Co. Day Treatment</td>
<td>Garden Project</td>
<td>$4,347.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>McCracken County</td>
<td>McCracken RJDC</td>
<td>First Steps, Stars fees</td>
<td>$4,206.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Menifee County</td>
<td>Frenchburg Group Home</td>
<td>iPads (8) and protective covers</td>
<td>$3,352.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mercer County</td>
<td>Mercer Co. Day Treatment</td>
<td>Outdoor science lab</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
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<td>Montgomery County</td>
<td>Gateway Children’s Services</td>
<td>Science and English AGS materials (15), 7 field trips, incentives and supplies for &quot;School Store&quot;</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Montgomery County</td>
<td>Hillcrest Hall/Pathways, Inc.</td>
<td>Library Expansion Project (Books &amp; eBooks)</td>
<td>$4,994.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montgomery County</td>
<td>Hope Hill Youth Services</td>
<td>Life skills/college and career readiness class, science materials and equipment</td>
<td>$4,998.51</td>
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<tr>
<td>Morgan County</td>
<td>Woodsbend YDC</td>
<td>Computers (4)</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pulaski County</td>
<td>Pulaski Somerset Day Treatment</td>
<td>Textbooks, books, and calculators</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pulaski County</td>
<td>Sunrise - Cumberland Adventure Program</td>
<td>Textbooks</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rowan County</td>
<td>Morehead YDC</td>
<td>Fine Art Project: cameras, accessories, software, printer, materials</td>
<td>$4,998.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rowan County</td>
<td>Sunrise - Morehead Center</td>
<td>Materials for class projects, photography, art projects and field trips</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Warren County</td>
<td>Warren Co. Day Treatment</td>
<td>Laptops (16)</td>
<td>$4,640.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wayne County</td>
<td>Otter Creek Academy</td>
<td>Art Program Ceramics, sound system, song books (3), calculators (15), Apple TV converter (4), and LCD projector</td>
<td>$4,990.48</td>
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<tr>
<td>Woodford County</td>
<td>Safe Harbor Academy</td>
<td>Student garden and supplies</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$167,621.27</strong></td>
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Quarterly Budget Updates

Administrative Budget

- 1st Qtr: 33.6% ($185,290.17)
- 2nd Qtr: 18.3% ($100,935.62)
- 3rd Qtr: 24.2% ($133,211.76)
- Remaining: 23.8% ($131,323.45)

State Agency Children’s Fund*

- 1st Qtr: 15.92% ($1,512,272.78)
- 2nd Qtr: 56.18% ($4,976,512.62)
- 3rd Qtr: 20.90% ($1,985,562.65)
- Remaining: 7.00% ($665,459.95)

* SCAF fund reflects budget information totals submitted by districts as of 04/14/15

Professional Development Updates

KECSAC Presents...

Teaching in Action

April 29
Maryhurst School
Louisville, KY

A professional development series highlighting successful strategies used to educate state agency children. Tour the program, network with colleagues, gain and share valuable tips and techniques!

Visit www.kecsac.eku.edu to register!
Contact Katie Helton for more information.
katie.helton@eku.edu
895-622-8538
KECSAC Presents...

Teaching in Action

May 20
Children’s Home of Northern Kentucky Covington

A professional development series highlighting successful strategies used to educate state agency children. Tour the program, network with colleagues, gain and share valuable tips and techniques!

Visit www.kecsac.eku.edu to register!
Contact Katie Helton for more information.
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Save the Date

14th Annual
Alternative Strategies For Educating Students At-Risk

A Conference for Educators in Alternative Settings

July 29-30, 2015
Perkins Conference Center
Eastern Kentucky University
KECSAC
Martin House
Eastern Kentucky University
521 Lancaster Avenue
Richmond, KY 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