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

Ben Annis, SACSAA President-Elect, Green River YDC
Dan Belding, SACSAA President, College Street Campus
Doug Bennett, Laurel County School District
Sherri Clusky, Department of Education
Diane Gruen-Kidd, Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities
Barbara Hamilton, Department of Juvenile Justice
Chrissy Jones, Franklin County School District
Sylvia Kuster, Department of Juvenile Justice
Paula Saenz, Department for Community Based Services
Denise Weider, Department for Community Based Services
Christina Weeter, Department of Education

“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.
Dear Fellow Kentuckians,

As the second quarter of our year came to a close, the third has already started out full speed, with the legislative session already underway, and with multiple bills already moving to the Governor’s desk for signature. In the fast pace of the season, this mid-year report provides us with the opportunity to reflect on the great accomplishments we have made together and of the great work we have ahead. We are privileged to have a unified team of servant leaders, working together across Kentucky to meet the ever increasing needs of state agency children. While we have much to celebrate, we also have much to do.

Our partners across Kentucky know that state agency children are saddled with many barriers to academic preparedness, including family support as well as emotional and behavioral issues. However, we also know that our work has never been more important in meeting the needs of these students. We are on the front lines of service to our state’s most vulnerable student population and we are working collaboratively with multiple agencies to provide the kind of wrap-around services our children and youth need to become successful, contributing citizens of our Commonwealth.

Our work is focused on increasing the academic preparedness of our students while also addressing critical social and behavioral goals, which will help our students build the foundation necessary for successful transition to adulthood. The KECSAC program improvement specialists have partnered with our school districts to ensure high academic standards, while our state partners at DJJ, DCBS, KDE and Behavioral Health are diligently working to meet the treatment needs of our students. This collaborative approach demonstrates a concerted, comprehensive effort in serving state agency children.

These efforts are detailed within this report, along with many others on behalf of the children and youth we serve. Enclosed you will find 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.
Policies and Ongoing Initiatives

KECSAC Sponsors Innovative Strategies Series Featuring Ron L. James

In a partnership with Mercer County Day Treatment, KECSAC’s Innovative Strategies Series focused on students this fall in a presentation held on October 24 at the program. Staff at the day treatment center identified a speaker that they thought would provide a useful and heartfelt message to their students. Ron L. James visits educators and youth all over the country to share his history of poor decisions and the good choices that led him out of the cycle of substance abuse and incarceration.

Mr. James emphasizes personal responsibility and the freedom each individual has to shape his or her future as part of CHOICES: Make your Next Choice your Best Choice. Mercer County welcomed several other state agency programs to experience Mr. James’ assembly. Approximately 150 students and 40 staff attended from Mercer County Day Treatment, as well as other programs including The Academy in Franklin County, Pulaski Somerset Day Treatment in Pulaski County, The Providence School in Jessamine County, and Otter Creek Academy in Wayne County. Staff and students remained engaged throughout the presentation, and many students took part in the interactive program. Other state agency programs invited Mr. James to speak to their students following the Mercer County event, including Breathitt Regional Juvenile Detention Center and Foothills Academy in Mercer County. KECSAC would like to thank the staff of these programs and Mr. James for collaborating to provide students with strategies for academic and behavioral improvement.

FAIR Team Referrals for Day Treatment Programs

Day Treatment programs are an essential and valuable community resource designed to provide on-going, wrap-around services to students who need additional resources. These resources include educational support in a smaller classroom environment, extended school calendar, and weekly group and individual counseling. Historically these programs have served youth who are court-ordered to attend the program, as well as students who reside in DJJ residential group homes. Currently, students who are referred to a DJJ day treatment program by a local FAIR team are not eligible for supplemental educational support from the Kentucky Educational Collaborative for State Agency Children (KECSAC). By virtue of no longer being involved with the Kentucky court system, youth being referred to day treatment programs by FAIR teams are no longer considered state agency children and are therefore not eligible for KECSAC funding. This has resulted in a decrease of more than 20% in the number of students in day treatment receiving supplemental funds during the last year. In essence, while school districts are continuing to serve the same population of students in the day treatment program, the funds to support those services have been eliminated.

Senate Bill 200 has created an opportunity for local communities, including local education agencies, to become more engaged in the on-going efforts to reduce the number of students placed in out of home environments,
Policies and Ongoing Initiatives

while increasing community-based wrap-around services for students with exceptional needs. One of the many community resources identified in SB200 is the DJJ day treatment program. However, as noted above, the current structure for referrals to the programs has impacted the supplemental funding that local school districts may qualify for to support those wrap-around services. The solution is simple; include an option in legislation for students who are referred by the local FAIR team to be eligible for KECSAC funds.

During the second quarter KECSAC has been working diligently to express the current situation, its impact on school districts and a solution to our community partners, including our state legislators. The Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice in response to our request has identified this issue as one of their top five legislative priorities in the current legislative session. In addition, KECSAC was invited to present this issue to the State Interagency Advisory Council. It is our goal to find a solution to this issue and to ensure students who need these critical services are afforded the opportunity, in their home community instead of in out of home placements.

State Advisory Panel for Exceptional Children

The State Advisory Panel for Exceptional Children (SAPEC) held their second meeting of the fiscal year in Louisville, KY on November 20-22, 2016. It coincided with the Kentucky Council for Exceptional Children Conference held at the Galt House. KECSAC Director Dr. Nolan, serving a second three-year term, completed his term as secretary. During the meeting, members held a public hearing, reviewed the Kentucky Department of Education’s (KDE) recommendations for the State Systemic Improvement Plan as well as the State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report. In addition, members continue to provide feedback and advice related to the implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Other issues discussed during the public forum included special education services offered at the Kentucky School for the Deaf in Danville, KY, the need for continued and increased focus on life skills training for students with exceptionalities and the use of reasonable accommodations during state-required assessments. The next SAPEC meeting is scheduled for February 23-24, 2017 at the Capital Plaza Hotel in Frankfort, KY. A public hearing is scheduled for February 23 at 6:30 p.m. at the hotel.

Financial Mapping: Kentucky’s Expenditures for Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health Services

KECSAC, as an active partner with the Kentucky Department of Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities, has been involved in a large scale project to map and summarize expenditures for behavioral health services to Kentucky’s children, adolescents, and young adults for the calendar year of 2014. During the preceding year, KECSAC has provided detailed financial data reports related to the services provided in KECSAC funded educational programs. In addition, KECSAC staff have provided technical support as the final report has entered the editing phase, prior to official publication. The report not only maps and summarizes expenditures, but also provides detailed recommendations for consideration by Kentucky’s policymakers. These recommendations are related to the following areas: IMPACT Plus, reducing the number of out of home placements for behavioral health services, the use of Medicaid in DCBS, targeted case management services, and aligning financial support from the Commonwealth and other sources to target substance use and recovery efforts. A full report is expected to be released during the third quarter.
KECSAC Program Improvement Process Updates

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 85 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. At the time of this quarterly report 53 visits had been conducted for the year.

KECSAC will continue to use the updated Program Improvement Monitoring Tool and SIDE document that aligns our monitoring standards to AdvancED standards, which KDE uses for their school monitoring. In addition to the AdvancED standards, the monitoring tool also includes standards that relate to alternative settings and KECSAC requirements as well.

KECSAC IAG Meets Twice During Second Quarter

During the second quarter of the 2016/2017 school year, KECSAC’s Interagency Advisory Group (IAG) met on October 25 at the Pulaski Somerset Day Treatment in Somerset, KY, and again on December 13, at the KECSAC central office located on Eastern Kentucky University’s campus in Richmond, KY.

At the October meeting, much of the discussion focused on recommended changes to language in Senate Bill 200 regarding Fair Team Referrals to Day Treatment Programs, as well as the ongoing process to allow exceptions to GED requirements in order for students under 18 and not able to make up credits in time, eligible to take the test early. The group also discussed pertinent partner updates and toured the day treatment program with Program Administrator Tammy Roberts.

During the December meeting, members of the board were updated on many KECSAC–related issues including the overview of a recent Legislative Program Review that included KECSAC as part of its purview, and budget updates including the projected per-child rate for the 2017/18 school year. Partners also shared and discussed important updates such as changes within the Department for Community Based Services as the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) is being implemented. Since the December meeting also acts as a holiday meeting for the group, a catered meal was also provided for members.

IAG Members were lead on a tour of the Pulaski Somerset Day Treatment program by administrator Tammy Roberts. She explained the educational components of the programs and showcased door art decorations made by students and hallway murals.
KECSAC Projected Per-Child Rate for 2017/18

On December 1 of each year, KECSAC is required to inform currently-funded programs of a projected funding rate for the upcoming school year. The per child amount is only a projection and is contingent upon the total amount of funding available and the final budget allocation provided by the Kentucky General Assembly as well as the total number of state agency children being served in our programs, which can be impacted by new programs since programs may apply for KECSAC funding until the deadline of April 1, 2017. The addition of new programs will decrease the allocation totals for all programs.

**The KECSAC State Agency Children’s Fund (SACF) allocation projection for the 2017-2018 school year is $3,750 per child.**

This total SACF will be allocated to existing and pre-qualified programs. The distribution of SACF will be based upon Average Daily Membership (ADM) from the 2016-2017 school year for programs operated and/or contracted with the Cabinet for Health and Family Services or the Department of Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities. Youth Development Centers and Juvenile Detention Centers are funded based on seventy-five percent of the rated capacity of the program or the ADM, whichever is higher. All other DJJ programs, including day treatment programs, are funded on the Average Daily Membership (ADM).

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KECSAC Operating and SACF Totals for Second Quarter

![Chart showing administrative budget and SACF fund distributions for 1st Qtr, 2nd Qtr, and Remaining amounts.](chart.png)

*SACF fund reflects budget information totals submitted by districts as of 01/13/17*
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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