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**, *Superintendent 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*
- **Sylvia Kuster**, *Department of Juvenile Justice*
- **Denise Weider**, *Department for Community Based Services*
- **Christina Weeter**, *Department of Education*
- **Lorraine Wilbur**, *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.
My Fellow Kentuckians,

The Kentucky Educational Collaborative for State Agency Children (KECSAC) continues to work on behalf of state agency children to ensure quality educational services across the Commonwealth. During the second quarter of this fiscal year, we experienced many great accomplishments while working with our legislative leaders to address the needs of our kids. As we move into a legislative session that is focusing primarily on the biennial budget, we are reminded of the very difficult economic climate of our state. According to nearly every report published recently, Kentucky is facing a pension crisis unlike any we have witnessed. The Governor and our legislative leaders are publicly discussing ways to close a $1 billion gap in the state budget to fund the pension efforts. With this in mind, we know the upcoming legislative session will be one filled with many tough decisions and we continue to collaborate with our school districts, teachers, administrators and legislative leaders to highlight the very real needs of the children we are fortunate enough to serve. We believe our programs offer an essential government function, as they directly serve children and youth who are in the care or custody of the Commonwealth and provide direct educational services to some of our state’s most vulnerable populations.

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, when the Governor issued an across the board mid-year budget reduction, KDE and the state board placed our children as a priority and made minimal reductions to our allocation. This resulted in our ability to meet the budget reduction internally without sacrificing services to the children and youth we serve. At this time, in this economic state of affairs, we are awaiting news of the projected budget allocation for the upcoming biennial budget. The governor and 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 continues 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 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 and a review of our program budget. 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 Director Appointed to Juvenile Justice Oversight Council

The director of the Kentucky Educational Collaborative for State Agency Children, Dr. Ronnie Nolan, was appointed by Kentucky Governor, Matthew G. Bevin, to serve on the Juvenile Justice Oversight Council. The JJOC was created for the purpose of providing independent review of the state juvenile justice system and providing recommendations to the General Assembly. The council is to actively engage in the implementation of juvenile justice reforms, collect and review performance measurement data, and continue to review the juvenile justice system for changes that improve public safety, hold youth accountable, provide better outcomes for children and families, and control juvenile justice costs. Dr. Nolan will serve a term ending in August, 2018, unless appointed for an additional two year term. The council shall terminate on July 1, 2022, unless the General Assembly extends the term of the council.

Legislative Program Review of Kentucky’s Foster Care System

During the 2016 interim legislative session the Kentucky General Assembly initiated a program review of the foster care system in Kentucky. The review included an overview of the educational services provided to children and youth who are enrolled in state agency programs across the Commonwealth. During the first meeting of the interim committee, KECSAC Director Dr. Ronnie Nolan, along with Paula Stafford, school administrator in Rowan County (currently in Montgomery County), and a youth from the Lake Cumberland Youth Development Center, presented a detailed analysis of the Kentucky Educational Collaborative for State Agency Children. The findings of the legislative committee were released in the second quarter of 2017 and are included in the attached link. Several recommendations were presented for legislative action in the 2018 legislative session. These recommendations ranged from more comprehensive data collection and analysis related to child placements to a more broad review of the adoption process for children and youth in the care or custody of Kentucky. In the final report the Kentucky Educational Collaborative for State Agency Children was not specifically mentioned for legislative action. You can view the full findings by clicking the following link: https://goo.gl/BGBTJM. Or visit the documents page on our KECSAC website at www.kecsac.eku.edu/documents.

Peggy Shearer joins KECSAC as Eastern Region Program Improvement Specialist

KECSAC is pleased to welcome Peggy Shearer to our team as our new program improvement specialist. Peggy is the former principal of the Otter Creek Academy In Wayne County where she served for the preceding seven years. Peggy formerly served for 10 years as principal of Wayne County High School, three years as assistant principal of Wayne County High School, and a combined 20 years in the classroom teaching English and language arts in both Shelby and Wayne Counties. She is a veteran teacher, bringing more than 38 years of direct education experience to our programs.

We are confident that Peggy will continue her lifelong mission of improving educational outcomes for our children and youth. We are thrilled to have her on board and look forward to our shared work. Peggy will be charged with serving the eastern region of Kentucky and has already hit the ground running. Please join us in welcoming Peggy Shearer to the KECSAC team.
KECSAC Projected Per-Child Rate for 2018/19

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, 2018. 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 2018-2019 school year is $4,223 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 2017-2018 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 fifty 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). Any new and expanded programs for the 2018-2019 school year will be approved based upon the availability of funding. The KECSAC office anticipates sending the Memorandums of Agreement (MOA) for the 2018-2019 school year in May 2018. The actual per child rate will be included with the MOA.

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 83 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 both Specialists conduct a joint monitoring at the same program. At the time of this quarterly report 34 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 2017/2018 school year, KECSAC’s Interagency Advisory Group (IAG) convened twice. Their first meeting of the quarter took place on October 10 at Northern Kentucky Youth Development Center in Crittenden, KY, and the second meeting took place on December 12 at the KECSAC central office located at the Martin House on Eastern Kentucky University’s campus in Richmond, KY.

At the October IAG meeting the group first discussed the possible impacts of a state budget reduction proposed by the governor. Dr. Nolan then shared updates on the process of hiring a new Program Improvement Specialist as well as a vacancy on the board for a superintendent. The group also discussed future out-of-state training opportunities through a new professional development series that would be offered by KECSAC. Partner updates included KDE sharing how they are looking to use Title 4 monies to help with budget cuts as supplemental funds for various projects. DCBS representatives also discussed the barriers foster youth are facing in getting IDs in response to new driver's license laws. After the group discussion concluded, School Administrator Doug Doan conducted a tour of Northern Kentucky Youth Development Center, which especially highlighted the number of vocational programs and technical certifications they offer youth there.

The December meeting, which was held at the KECSAC office, also served as the holiday meeting for the group. Once again, state budget reduction impacts were discussed among the group, and Dr. Nolan reviewed the most recent internal administrative budget, the first quarter 2017/2018 SACF budget, and the projected per child rate for the following fiscal year. Members then shared various updates about their agencies as they applied to state agency children.

At the October 10 IAG meeting, members of the group toured Northern Kentucky YDC and saw the many vocational lessons available to students. One such offering was the masonry class that allowed students to learn how to lay brickwork, and work with cement safely.
Budget Updates

KECSAC Operating and SACF Totals for Second Quarter

Administrative Budget
- 1st Qtr: 24.3% ($151,980.04)
- 2nd Qtr: 54.7% ($342,550.28)
- Remaining: 21% ($131,538.68)

State Agency Children’s Fund*
- 1st Qtr: 69.29% ($6,527,060.52)
- 2nd Qtr: 14.33% ($1,349,815.28)
- Remaining: 16.38% ($1,543,469.20)

*SACF fund reflects budget information totals submitted by districts as of 01/18/18

KECSAC Special Education Training

January 29, 2018
9:00 am - 3:00 pm Eastern Standard Time

Regional Video Conference Locations

For School Administrators, Program Administrators & Directors of Special Education in KECSAC Districts.

Join us for an important training geared toward meeting special education requirements in KECSAC programs as related to KDE Consolidated Monitoring Visits!

Register at 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