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, Green River YDC
Doug Bennett, Superintendent, Laurel County School District
Sherri Clusky, Department of Education
Diane Gruen-Kidd, Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities
Justin Hubbard, SACSAA President-Elect, Mayfield YDC
Sylvia Kuster, Department of Juvenile Justice
Dee Dee Ward, Department for Community Based Services
Christina Weeter, Department of Education
Lorraine Wilbur, Department for Community Based Services

“In 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,

As we wrapped up the second quarter of our year, the third quarter got off to a fast start as legislative leaders gaveled in for the short session on January 8th. While we have been working with our partnering school districts across Kentucky, several legislative priorities have already found their way into committees and on the floor for full chamber votes. In the fast pace of the legislative season, this quarterly 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 fortunate to work with servant leaders across Kentucky, in our schools and districts and at the state level with our agency partners. Our shared work and shared vision for providing quality educational services has been a leading force in our efforts to ensure our students have the resources and skills they need and deserve. And, while we still have a great deal of work ahead, we also have much to celebrate.

During this quarter, education officials at the state and national level have focused much of their attention on raising the bar for all Kentucky graduates; something we have been working on for quite some time. While the discussions about pathways forward were tumultuous at times, we are excited and eager to partner with our districts to help our students earn meaningful diplomas so they, like other Kentucky public school graduates, can have full lives of promise and purpose. Our work has always been 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 approach to serving state agency children and, I believe, is a model for how we could most effectively meet the needs of all students in Kentucky.

These efforts, along with many others, are detailed within this report. 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

Alternative Programs of Distinction

The Kentucky Department of Education, Division of Student Success, hosted school administrators from the 2018 Alternative Programs of Distinction during this quarter. The education programs selected were invited to participate in a professional development cadre focused on developing strategies for enhancing other alternative education programs across Kentucky. Topics discussed included persistence to graduation, and early warning tools for identifying students who may need additional supports for successful school completion. In addition, Damien Sweeney, a KDE consultant, led a discussion on implementing the ILP in alternative settings. While members of the cadre engaged in active learning on various topics, the highlight of the program included the exploration of math and literacy strategies for school improvement. April Pieper, a KDE consultant in the Office of Teaching and Learning, introduced members to research-based, results-oriented learning strategies, and an online toolkit. Following the cadre meeting, KECSAC programs across the Commonwealth, not just those alternative programs of distinction, received a copy of the resource guide, “Learning Intervention Manual” by Hawthorne publishing.

Kentucky Young Adults Diversion Partnership

The Kentucky Educational Collaborative for State Agency Children is excited to partner with the Kentucky Adult Education Skills U and other state and private agencies across Kentucky in the Kentucky Young Adults Diversion Partnership. This project is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education (OCTAE) and is focused on developing strategies to reduce recidivism among the state’s justice-involved youth. The partnership is a network of state, regional, and local agencies working together to successfully transition justice-involved young adults into adulthood by supporting their attainment of academic and employment success to gain economic self-sufficiency through collective diversion strategies. Objectives of the group include, increasing community understanding of young adult opportunities; increasing employer hiring opportunities; leveraging career pathways opportunities; promoting best practices and strategies for providing services to young adults; and, growing the KY Young Adults Diversion Partnership network.

Currently, members of the partnership are spotlighting partner agencies and their roles in serving young adults in Kentucky. Recently the Kentucky Department of Corrections shared information related to clients in their care who are between 18-24 years of age and who are participating in career pathways trainings and educational programs. This included a review of vocational training programs available in the adult corrections system while identifying potential gaps in service and next steps in developing a supportive network of opportunity for young adults transitioning from adult corrections to the general population. In addition to Adult Corrections, the Cumberlands Workforce Development Area presented on career and educational program options in their region.

KECSAC is an active collaborative partner as we work to identify viable educational and career options for young adults aging out of the state system of care. Each year state agency children across Kentucky “age out” of state care and must be adequately prepared to transition into a career, continued secondary training, or post-secondary educational programming. This newly developing and emerging partnership will help identify programming options for state agency children.
KECSAC Says Farewell to Program Improvement Specialist

Sonny McManus, KECSAC program improvement specialist for the Western area of the state since 2015, submitted his resignation in December. McManus cited health concerns as his reason for his leaving the position. Dr. Ronnie Nolan, Director, stated that KECSAC staff and programs, “will miss his unwavering support of state agency children, his incomparable skill in helping our programs continually improve, and his wonderful sense of humor.” We extend our best wishes to Sonny, his family and his medical team as he begins his journey towards healing. A statewide search for a new specialist began immediately after Dr. Nolan accepted Sonny’s resignation. Interviews for the position will be held in January and KECSAC expects a new specialist to be on the job by early February.

Census Collection

Preparation for the 2019 census collection of state agency children began by updating the collection tools and instructions for completing the census documents. The census collection date is December 3rd. KECSAC census collection is part of the federal Child Find process completed each year. Child Find requires all school districts to identify, locate and evaluate all children with disabilities, regardless of the severity of their disabilities. The published census data provides valuable information about state agency children to stakeholders across the state.

KECSAC Projected Per-Child Rate for 2019/2020

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, 2019. 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 2019-2020 school year is $3,860 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 2018-2019 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 2019-2020 school year in May 2019. The actual per child rate will be included with the MOA.
Policies and Ongoing Initiatives

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 80 funded KECSAC programs, operating in 51 local school districts across the Commonwealth. Throughout the monitoring period (which coincides with the school year) programs receive individual visits, or “team” visits where all of the Specialists conduct a joint monitoring at the same program. At the time of this quarterly report 31 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 On November 1 During Second Quarter

During the second quarter of the 2018/2019 school year, KECSAC’s Interagency Advisory Group (IAG) convened on November 1 at the Louisville Day program in Louisville, KY. The group first discussed several statewide policy updates including changes to ILP and ILPA requirements, updates to 505 KAR regulation, and the possible graduation requirement changes proposed by the Kentucky Board of Education. Dr. Nolan also reviewed the most recent internal administrative budget, the first quarter 2018/2019 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. After the meeting concluded, Heather Moss, principal of state agency schools in Jefferson County, and DJJ administrator John Ellington facilitated a tour of the program for the group.

During a tour of the Louisville Day program, IAG members got to see what students were working on in shop and masonry classes.
Budget Updates

KECSAC Operating and SACF Totals for Second Quarter

Administrative Budget
- 1st Qtr: 53.93% ($335,753.56)
- 2nd Qtr: 20.95% ($130,404.68)
- Remaining: 25.12% ($156,409.76)

State Agency Children’s Fund*
- 1st Qtr: 81.42% ($6,996,548.79)
- 2nd Qtr: 12.46% ($1,070,967.07)
- Remaining: 6.12% ($525,508.14)

*SACF fund reflects budget information totals submitted by districts as of 01/15/19

KECSAC offers online professional development videos that are available at your convenience and offer EILA credit hours.

Visit kecsac.eku.edu/professional-development to check out our videos and learn more about KECSAC’s professional development opportunities.
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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