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, SACSA 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, SACSA 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

“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 annual legislative session certainly seems to be the busiest time of the year for our central office; it’s followed closely by the brief summer months where professional development trainings take a front seat for educators across Kentucky. This third quarter was filled with activity. Our staff have been busy working with legislators and our state agency partners during the legislative session, partnering to update our administrative regulations while keeping folks abreast of the needs of 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.

These efforts culminated in our mini-grant application process for school districts serving state agency children. During this quarter KECSAC initiated the mini-grant program and received numerous quality applications outlining programs designed to positively impact student achievement. The proposals are outlined in more detail in this full report, but ranged from greenhouse garden projects to technology updates. We are excited about the opportunity to showcase many of these exceptional programs in the coming months and can’t wait to see the impact on our students’ achievement. During this quarter we also continued providing on-site technical support to our programs while maintaining a high quality program improvement process. We welcomed a new member to our program improvement team and partnered with another to complete our monitoring process. A full review of these activities is included within the pages of this report.

These accomplishments, and many others, are highlighted in this third 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 since KECSAC began in 1992, as part of the Department of Education’s Child Count, KECSAC staff have gathered and reported demographic information about the students served in KECSAC-funded programs. The information received from the December 3, 2019 census provides a one-day descriptive snapshot of the students educated in KECSAC-funded programs, including but not limited to: age, grade level, race, gender, identified disability, the number of students in the program on that particular day, and the total number of children served during the previous 12-month period. The census also gathers information about where the youth come from when entering a state agency program, as well as where they transition to when leaving the program.

On Dec 3rd, it was reported that 2,101 students received all or part of their educational services from one of 80 KECSAC-funded programs located in 51 school districts throughout the state, that have contracted with KECSAC through a Memorandum of Agreement. KECSAC also asked administrators to report how many different youth they served in their program during the 12-month period between December 1, 2017 and December 3, 2018. Administrators report that 11,226 different youth received educational services during that period.

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

Sixty-five percent of all state agency youth received educational services while living in one of 39 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 33 percent of all state agency children in one of 39 operated or contracted programs. DJJ operates 13 residential facilities, six day-treatment programs and two residential group homes. Youth in DJJ-operated residential programs have been adjudicated by the courts and committed or probated to the custody of DJJ for a specific period of time. Forty-three percent of the DJJ population are in residential programs. DJJ also contracts with local school districts to provide 18 additional day-treatment programs. Youth in contracted day-treatment programs are court ordered to attend the program as an attempt to stabilize the youth before placement in a more restrictive environment, such as a residential program, or as a requirement of probation. Fifty-seven percent of the DJJ population attend day-treatment programs. In 2018, two percent of all youth in KECSAC-funded programs received services from one of two mental health day treatment (MHDT) programs.

The KECSAC census, conducted as part of the IDEA Child Find project, identifies state agency children who have been diagnosed with an IDEA educational disability. On December 3, forty-two percent (n=898) of all youth receiving educational services in a program funded by KECSAC had been identified with an educational disability that adversely affects their educational progress. Thirty-eight percent of all children identified with an educational disability and receiving educational services in a KECSAC-funded state agency program on December 3 have been diagnosed with an emotional-behavioral disorder (EBD) while 24 percent of SAC diagnosed with an educational disability have a disability in the Other Health

Impairment category. Disabilities in this category include chronic or acute health problems such as attention deficit disorder (ADD) or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), diabetes, epilepsy, a heart condition, leukemia, and Tourette syndrome. From year to year, the types of disabilities diagnosed most often in the state agency children population
changes. Although the types of educational disabilities change, one thing stays constant. Students in the care and custody of the state and placed in a SAC program continue to have extensive educational needs because of the severity of the educational disabilities they exhibit.

The census taken each year provides valuable information about the race and ethnicity of the youth in state care. According to the December 3 census, 69 percent of SAC are classified as White while 22 percent are classified as Black/African American. In comparison, 77.4 percent of all students in Kentucky public schools are classified as White and 10.6 percent are classified as Black/African-American. With more than 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 races represent 5 percent, and youth identified as Hispanic/Latino account for 4 percent of all SAC. Just 0.3 percent of all SAC in a KECSAC-funded program on December 3rd was identified as Native American or Alaskan Native; Asian; or Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander.

KECSAC-funded state agency educational programs provide services to students between the ages of 5 and 21. The largest age group of SAC was 17-year-olds with 23.9 percent of the population followed by 16-year olds with 18.1 percent. Just 0.3 percent are age 5, the youngest child funded by KECSAC, and 0.3 percent are age 20.

The largest numbers of SAC were in 9th and 10th grade, representing 43.3 percent of the entire SAC population in a KECSAC-funded program. Youth in grades 11 and 12 represent 24.6 percent of the SAC population while 19.5 percent are in grades 6 through 8. Students in Kindergarten, Grade 14, and Graduate/GED/Vocational represent just 2.1 percent of the SAC receiving educational services in a KECSAC-funded program.

Local school districts employ the equivalent of 290 full-time certified teachers who provide educational services to youth in KECSAC funded programs across the state. These teachers generally teach in classrooms located at the treatment program (not in a district building) and may teach several grade levels in one classroom. Of these teachers, 56 percent are certified in special education. Thirteen teachers in KECSAC-funded programs were emergency certified. School districts also provide 135 full-time equivalent teaching assistants and 84 full-time equivalent educational support staff to meet the intense educational needs of state agency children (SAC). Sixty districts provide a full-time administrator to oversee SAC programs.
Policies and Ongoing Initiatives

KECSAC Awards “Mini-Grants” to Enhance Educational Offerings for Students

There is no denying that state agency programs across Kentucky are doing amazing things to provide the best learning environment for Kentucky’s most at-risk students. However, the reality of educational budgets often means that 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.

Each year a certain amount of State Agency Children Funds (SACF) are earmarked for programming intending to directly impact the achievement gap our students face, and sometimes funds also become available if programs close during the academic year. “Some of the SACF funds that are set aside 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,” KECSAC Director Ronnie Nolan explained.

The KECSAC office began accepting RFPs from February 8th through February 28th, 2019. By the deadline for submissions, 25 proposals from different KECSAC programs were received highlighting the use of varied projects and initiatives, including school supplies, technology for the classroom, textbooks, library books, science tools and curriculum, gardening equipment, music and art supplies, and much more. This year, each request was limited to $10,000 per program, 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. The KECSAC team reviewed each proposal carefully based on the RFP guidelines and allowable criteria for funds. This year all submitted RFPs were either fully or partially funded.

You can review the list of KECSAC programs that received mini-grants and a very brief description of projects and supplies to be funded in the table on the next page.
## Policies and Ongoing Initiatives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bowling Green Ind.</td>
<td>Warren Regional JDC</td>
<td>Student and Family Counseling Program Intervention, Family Resource Worker Training, Assessment Tools, Extended Counselor Hours, Rewards</td>
<td>$10,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boyd County</td>
<td>Ramey Estep High School</td>
<td>Gardening Program and Supplies, 6 Computers, Credit Recovery Instruction</td>
<td>$10,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boyle County</td>
<td>Boyle Count Day Treatment</td>
<td>Library Books</td>
<td>$1,180.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calloway County</td>
<td>Calloway County Day Treatment</td>
<td>4 Dell Computer Workstations</td>
<td>$3,100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campbell County</td>
<td>Alexandria Educational Center</td>
<td>Gardening Program, SMART Board, Books, Headphones, Audible Subscription, Classroom Equipment, Sports Equipment</td>
<td>$7,750.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clark County</td>
<td>Phoenix Academy</td>
<td>Fitness Training Software, CrossFit Training Program, Transportation, Athletic Wear</td>
<td>$9,549.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinton County</td>
<td>Foothills Academy</td>
<td>50 Graphing Calculators</td>
<td>$7,690.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daviess County</td>
<td>Owensboro Day Treatment</td>
<td>3D Printer, iPad, Computers, Project Lead The Way</td>
<td>$9,794.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daviess County</td>
<td>Valley School</td>
<td>Classroom Organization, Mindfulness Games, Metacognition Strategies/Fidgets, and Bibliotherapy Books</td>
<td>$3,175.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graves County</td>
<td>Mayfield YDC</td>
<td>Code Combat Curriculum Licenses, Pinewood Derby Track and Set, LEGO Robotics Classroom Sets</td>
<td>$5,127.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hopkins County</td>
<td>Hopkins County Day Treatment</td>
<td>Greenhouse and Garden Program and Equipment</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knox County</td>
<td>Knox Appalachian School</td>
<td>Science Lab Kits and Materials, Engineering Makerspace</td>
<td>$1,200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larue County</td>
<td>Life Connection</td>
<td>Scholastic Subscriptions, 2 Interactive Display Monitors</td>
<td>$7,858.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Menifee County</td>
<td>Frenchburg Group Home</td>
<td>S.P.A.R.K. Physical Education and Mentoring Programs, Aggression Replacement Training, STEM Activities, Career Development Curriculum</td>
<td>$8,300.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mercer County</td>
<td>Mercer County Day Treatment</td>
<td>Podcast Studio Equipment, Apple Computers</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montgomery County</td>
<td>Hope Hill Youth Services</td>
<td>Study Island Licenses, Field Trips, Fitness Equipment</td>
<td>$9,414.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montgomery County</td>
<td>Gateway Children's Services</td>
<td>Physical Education Equipment, Classroom Equipment, Audio/Visual Equipment, Science and Art Kits, Apple Computers and</td>
<td>$9,920.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montgomery County</td>
<td>Hillcrest Hall, Pathways Inc.</td>
<td>Field Trips, Physical Education Equipment</td>
<td>$2,600.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pike County</td>
<td>Pike County Day Treatment</td>
<td>15 Computer Workstations</td>
<td>$9,900.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulaski County</td>
<td>Pulaski County Day Treatment</td>
<td>Trauma Sensitive Program, Teen Health and Substance Abuse Counseling Modules, Calming Classroom Equipment</td>
<td>$10,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pulaski County</td>
<td>Pulaski Sunrise</td>
<td>Computers, Laptops, Headphones, Materials for Academic and Behavioral Incentive Program</td>
<td>$9,924.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rowan County</td>
<td>Morehead YDC</td>
<td>Laptops, Academic and Vocational Online Program Licenses</td>
<td>$9,968.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wayne County</td>
<td>Otter Creek Academy</td>
<td>Gardening Program and Materials</td>
<td>$5,293.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wayne County</td>
<td>Lake Cumberland YDC</td>
<td>Materials for Accelerated Reading/Behavioral Incentive Program, Physical Education Equipment</td>
<td>$8,400.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wolfe County</td>
<td>Dessie Scott Children's Home</td>
<td>GoTalk20 Communication Program, Headphones, Tablets</td>
<td>$3,296.00</td>
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**Total** $173,438.00
Legislative Updates

The Kentucky General Assembly kicked into high gear the closing days of the legislative session. By directive from the Kentucky Constitution, the General Assembly can only meet for 30 legislative days during an odd year session and they used every single day to reach agreements on a multitude of bills. While hundreds of bills were proposed during the session, a limited number made it to the Governor’s desk, with the overall top priority for both the Senate and the House being Senate Bill 1, the school safety bill. This comprehensive school safety reform bill overhauls the states approach to school safety issues while creating a reorganized school safety board and adding a school marshal position. Funding for this bill has been noted as a top priority for the upcoming biennial budget session slated to start in January 2020.

In addition to a slew of education bills, the General Assembly also made requested changes to the KECSAC regulation. With leadership from the Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice, 505 KAR 1:080 was updated to reflect recent changes in special education statutes at both the state and federal level. In addition, the change expanded the notification window for districts to notify KECSAC of service changes from 6 months to a minimum of 2 years. This was necessary to align any service changes with the biennial budget.

Our attention now turns to the upcoming 2020 biennial budget session and the 2019 interim joint legislative session, where standing committees can call for testimony to study any potential upcoming bills. The looming session promises to be an exciting one, with a great deal of work to be accomplished. As always, with the support and collaboration of our state agency partners, KECSAC will continue advocating for appropriate funding to support our educational programs.

Alternative Programs of Distinction Cadre

The Kentucky Department of Education recently hosted member representatives from the current Alternative Programs of Distinction. The cadre of educational leaders have been collaborating over the last year on best practice approaches to alternative education, while also serving as hubs for regional professional development programs. During the recent Cadre meeting, members participated in a Google classroom training session, discussed restorative justice practices with members of the restorative justice movement in Kentucky, and learned to identify human trafficking practices for vulnerable student populations. In addition to the learning opportunities provided by KDE, members also networked and shared ideas around meeting the diverse learning needs of students being served in alternative settings. While the Kentucky Department of Education did not initiate a new application process for alternative programs of distinction this quarter, they did work collaboratively to continue enhancing learning opportunities for the current member teams.

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 71 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 Welcomes New Program Improvement Specialist**

KECSAC is excited to welcome Angela Austin, former head teacher at Owensboro Day Treatment, as our new program improvement specialist for the western region. Mrs. Austin brings more than 30 years of outstanding education experience to this new role and will be working with the western region for the remainder of this school year. Prior to serving at Owensboro Day Treatment for eight years, Angie was a middle school teacher for 22 years in the Daviess County school district. We are pleased Angie is part of our team working to provide the best educational opportunities to all children in our state!

**KECSAC IAG Meets February 5 During Third Quarter**

KECSAC’s Interagency Advisory Group (IAG) met on February 5, 2019 at the KECSAC office located on Eastern Kentucky University’s campus in Richmond, KY. During the meeting the group discussion focused on KECSAC budget information in an effort to continually keep partners updated with the ongoing State Agency Children Fund and Internal Operating budgets. The group also discussed the issue of educating and monitoring students who have already earned a diploma and are still in care. Partners also shared news relating to their respective state agencies.

**SACSSA Meets for Annual Spring Meeting via Webinar During Third Quarter**

During the third quarter KECSAC conducted the Spring Statewide State Agency Children School Administrator Association (SACSSA) Webinar on March 1, 2019 in order to meet MOA requirements and keep school administrators informed of SAC news. SACSSA members were able to log in via a webinar platform called ZOOM where Dr. Nolan and SACSSA President Ben Annis presented SACSSA updates and KECSAC news through video and PowerPoint slides. Attendees were also able to ask or type questions and comments throughout the meeting.
Budget Updates

KECSAC Operating and SACF Totals for Third Quarter

Administrative Budget
- 1st Qtr: 31.96% ($198,968.34)
- 2nd Qtr: 25.12% ($156,409.76)
- 3rd Qtr: 20.95% ($130,404.68)
- Remaining: 21.97% ($136,785.22)

State Agency Children’s Fund**
- 1st Qtr: 52.99% ($4,659,163.42)
- 2nd Qtr: 12.18% ($1,070,967.07)
- 3rd Qtr: 22.51% ($1,979,309.14)
- Remaining: 12.32% ($1,083,688.37)

*SACF fund reflects budget information totals submitted by districts as of 04/15/19
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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