

**Kentucky Educational Collaborative
for
State Agency Children
2005-2006
Annual Report**

*Promoting a Quality Education for
State Agency Children
Through Statewide Collaborative Relationships*

Message from Director



Dear State Agency Partners and Friends,

Please find within this document a summary of the highlights of KECsac activities over the past year. Once again, the projects and activities were many. The KECsac staff and our ECU student assistants worked extremely hard to meet our set deadlines and to complete the mandated tasks as prescribed in our annual work plan.

As you will note in this report, the state agency children population continues to increase at an average percentage rate. The issue of funding that is consistent with this student increase is an ongoing necessity and a strategic challenge. There must be an established funding mechanism to accommodate the growth in the state agency student population and the related school district expenses. Much of our effort in the coming year will focus on this critical need.

There were several significant achievements during this past year. Among the most noteworthy was the increase in our State Agency Children Fund annual allocation. This was the result of much support from legislative leaders, our statewide school administrators and educators. We also greatly appreciate the letters and supportive efforts made by our superintendents and school district partners.

The program improvement specialists expanded their technical support services to the programs. The program improvement process continues to be refined. This past year began the requirement that all KECsac funded education programs submit annual program improvement plans. We have also implemented the practice of conducting selective unannounced site visits and conducting site visits during the extended education days.

One other important achievement this year was the upgrading and the reclassification of two central office positions. This will enable us to attract a wider range of applicants for central office positions as they become vacant.

The quality of the content and number of participants at our conferences increased significantly during the past year. During the coming year, further emphasis will be placed on topics related to narrowing the achievement gap and quality curriculum and instruction.

Have a great year!

All the best,

Dr. Norman W. Powell
Director

Background

In 1990, the Kentucky General Assembly passed the landmark Kentucky Education Reform Act (KERA). KERA called for sweeping changes in the funding and delivery of elementary and secondary education in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. However, it did not specifically address the needs of State Agency Children. In response to this deficiency, the Kentucky General Assembly passed Senate Bill 260, which called for the establishment of the Kentucky Educational Collaborative for State Agency Children (KECSAC). In March 1994, the definition of state agency children broadened the eligibility for State Agency Children beyond those located in state operated and contracted day treatment, group homes, and residential placements to include youth placed or financed through the Cabinet for Families and Children in other residential treatment programs.

In 1996, the General Assembly established the Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice and transferred responsibility for youthful and public juvenile offenders to the new agency. In 1998, the statute was again revised with the passage of House Bill 447 and House Bill 689, which expanded the definition of State Agency Children to include youth in therapeutic foster care placements and those confined in state operated juvenile detention facilities.

The Commonwealth of Kentucky annually provides residential and community based services to over 21,000 youth. These State Agency Children (SAC) are the responsibility of the Kentucky Departments of Juvenile Justice, Community Based Services, and Mental Health and Mental Retardation, which operate, fund or contract for services from a variety of programs including residential facilities, group homes, and day treatment centers. These three state agencies, along with the Kentucky Department of Education, comprise the core membership of this innovative statewide collaborative dedicated to the quality education of State Agency Children. The College of Education at Eastern Kentucky University, the State Agency Children School Administrator Association, and a superintendent from a local education agency also play critical roles as partners in this unique collaborative. The educational services for State Agency Children are the responsibility of local education agencies in the school district where the program for youth is located. State Agency Children also reside in private childcare and mental health (contracted) programs operated by non-profit and for-profit child welfare agencies and organizations.

The education of at-risk youth represents a significant component of most agencies' treatment interventions. Prior to the establishment of the Kentucky Educational Collaborative for State Agency Children, the education programs for SAC were traditionally limited by complex funding, management, and limited coordination of services. The different levels of educational services provided to youth compounded the inequities that existed in the delivery of educational services to many at-risk and delinquent youth in Kentucky.

Fiscal Year 2005-2006 is the 14th year the Kentucky Educational Collaborative for State Agency Children has worked with local education agencies and programs to provide an education that meets the varying needs of State Agency Children. This education includes academic, pre-vocational, vocational, special education, social skills, and post-secondary offerings, which are in compliance with state and federal educational laws and regulations.

KECSAC Timeline

- 1990 - Kentucky Education Reform Act (KERA)
- 1992 - Senate Bill 260 passed
 - Kentucky Educational Collaborative for State Agency Children established. (KRS 158.135)
- 1994 - House Bill 826 passed
 - Definition of State Agency Children expanded to include youth placed or financed through the Cabinet for Families and Children and other residential treatment programs
- 1996 - House Bill 117 passed
 - Department of Juvenile Justice established.
- 1998 - House Bill 447 passed
 - Definition of State Agency Children expanded to include youth in therapeutic foster care and juvenile detention facilities.

Census

The Kentucky Educational Collaborative for State Agency Children (KECSAC) conducted a census of State Agency Children (SAC) on December 1, 2005. On this date there was a total of 3,377 (Chart 1) SAC whose education was

The 3,377 children enrolled in a SAC program on December 1, 2005 represent a small number of the total number of students served in programs over the twelve month period. Each year since 1998, the census has asked educational programs to provide a count of the number of different children (not including repeat admissions of the same child) who have been served since the last census date. Between December 1, 2004 and December 1, 2005 an estimated 21,328 SAC were provided educational support in 112 programs. This represents an increase of 3,311 or 18.4% above the 2004 figure.

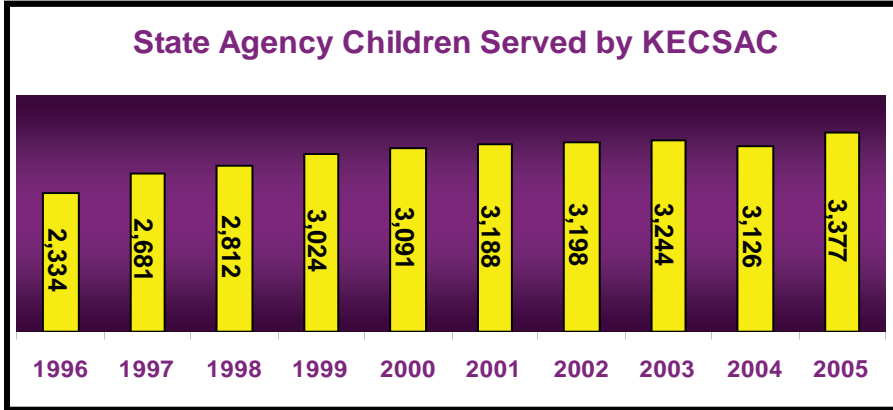


Chart 1

provided or supervised by programs receiving support from the State Agency Children Fund (SACF). This represents an increase of 251 children or 8% over the 2004 count. During the same time period, the number of school districts participating in KECSAC remained the same at 54, while the number of programs decreased from 113 to 112.

Based on new programs scheduled to open in 2006, including a new mental health Day treatment program, and requests from several new school districts, KECSAC is anticipating an increase in State Agency Children during the 2006-2007 fiscal year.

Forty-four and one-half percent (44.5%) were children educated in programs of the Department for Community Based Services, forty-three and

Agency Population of SAC

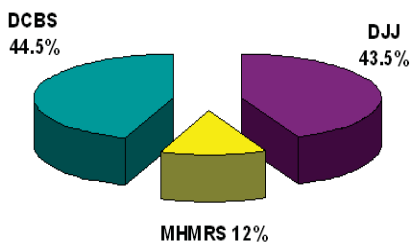


Chart 2

one-half percent (43.5%) of these programs were operated or contracted by the Department of Juvenile Justice, and twelve percent (12%) were children in the department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation Services programs (Chart 2).

On December 1, 2005, 49.5% of all State Agency Children in KECSAC supported programs were classified as having one of the three major categories of incident disability. As Chart 3 at the left indicates, 32% of SAC had a low incident disability (the most severe type), 17% had a moderate incident disability, and 0.5% had a speech disorder. The percent of SAC with no identified disability was 50.5%.

Profile of State Agency Children by Category of Disability December 1, 2005

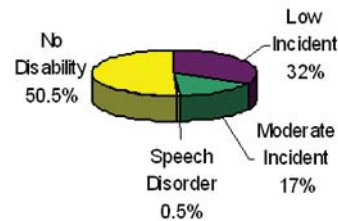


Chart 3

In addition, the majority of SAC were enrolled in high school programs (69%), while the other SAC were enrolled in programs ranging from pre-primary to post-secondary. Chart 4, below, indicates the changes in enrollment in each type of educational program over the last three years.

Grade Levels	02-03	03-04	04-05
Pre-Primary	3	3	4
K-3	116	142	178
Intermediate	154	124	178
Middle School	821	789	865
High School	2,134	2,082	2,327
Post Secondary	16	17	6

Chart 4

Achievements

External Evaluation

During the 2005-2006 fiscal year, KECSAC contracted with Rona Roberts, Roberts & Kay, Inc., to conduct an outside evaluation of KECSAC programs and services. The study focused on a qualitative evaluation of the services provided to state agency children programs.

The evaluation was conducted in two phases. The first phase was a survey designed to determine areas of needed improvement. After analysis of responses from Phase I open-ended questions, Ms. Roberts and KECSAC staff narrowed the evaluation to areas important to all state agency children and the programs who serve them: program monitoring and student transition.

Phase II of the evaluation allowed stakeholders to provide input about program monitoring, student transitions and interagency collaboration. Throughout the evaluation period, Ms. Roberts carried out observations, interviews, focus groups, on-site visits, surveys and material analysis to identify ways to build on KECSAC strengths.

Ms. Roberts presented her final report in December 2005. As a result of her findings, KECSAC is working with state agency partners to streamline program monitoring. For school year 2006-2007, DJJ, KECSAC, DCBS and Title I will jointly monitor programs. Joint monitoring will reduce lost instructional time for educators and will require less time preparing documentation.

EKU College of Education

This past year has been a time of transition for the College of Education. Dr. Powell served on a search committee commissioned to locate and hire a new dean. The committee interviewed the most highly qualified applicants before selecting Dr. William Phillips as the new college of education dean. Additionally, Dr. Nolan served on the Ed.D development committee. This committee is working in conjunction with Western Kentucky University to develop a proposed joint doctoral program at EKU and WKU.

Education and Mediation

KECSAC staff provided mediation services to Safe Harbor - Methodist Home for Children and Woodford County in an ongoing effort to increase the effective collaboration between education and treatment of

SAC. KECSAC coordinated with the Kentucky Department of Education to conduct two site visits at Safe Harbor - Methodist Home for Children.

KECSAC staff also met with the superintendent of Jackson County and the education staff at Barnabas Home to discuss ongoing concerns regarding the education of students at the Barnabas Home.

In collaboration with the Department of Juvenile Justice, KECSAC invited Phil Davis, creator of the drug prevention game "Decisions," to present a drug prevention workshop to 60 DJJ employees. This drug prevention workshop was also presented to 250 students at Ramey Estep High School in Rush, Kentucky.

New Mental Health Day Treatment

Over the past year, Dr. Nolan worked with Jessamine County superintendent, Lu Young, as well as representatives from MHMRS and KDE, to develop and open a new mental health day treatment facility in Jessamine County. The new mental health day treatment, the first to open in Kentucky in several years, will have a capacity to serve fifteen youth.

SOP Handbook

KECSAC staff has worked to create a Standard Operating Procedures handbook. The handbook details specific office procedures and will be a valuable tool for new employees. A final draft of the SOP handbook was presented to the Interagency Advisory Group in December 2005.

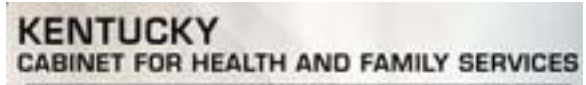
Funding Increased

This past year brought the first State Agency increase in funding since 1998. Norman Powell, Director and Ronnie Nolan, Associate Director, met with members of house and senate appropriations and education committees to discuss state agency children's needs. During the Kentucky Legislative budget meetings, KECSAC's annual budget was increased by \$1 million for the biennium.



KECSAC Staff

Top to bottom: Dr. Norman W. Powell, Director; Kristine Estill, Budget Specialist; Dr. Ronnie Nolan, Associate Director; and Kaye Parker, Communication and Development Coordinator.



KECSAC Students Associates

left to right: Tiffany Beddoe and Elisabeth Greene. Not pictured: Shae Prater.

“Quality is never an accident; it is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, intelligent direction and skillful execution; it represents the wise choice of many alternatives.”

Willa A. Foster

Dr. William L. Phillips selected to serve as dean of ECU's College of Education.

Dr. Phillips has served since 1999 as Dean of the College of Education and Human Services at Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania, a state-supported institution with an enrollment of about 5,500. While at Lock Haven, Dr. Phillips initiated a systematic program review process for undergraduate and graduate programs; developed graduate programs in Teaching and Learning and Alternative Education; implemented general education overlays in writing, critical thinking, external experience and information literacy; created two on-line degree programs; and secured more than \$10 million in external funding for a math and science education center, to improve student retention and to provide professional development, among other accomplishments.

From 1994 to 1999, Dr. Phillips was chair of the Department of Special Education and Director of International Teacher Education at Brigham Young University-Hawaii. While there, he created K-16 partnerships with several Pacific countries and launched the Department of Special Education. He also previously taught at Eastern Illinois University.

Dr. Phillips earned a bachelor's degree in special education from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1976, a master's degree in special education from the University of Mississippi in 1978 and a doctoral degree in special education from Southern Mississippi in 1987.



KECSAC Mission Statement

KECSAC is committed to the belief that all children can learn and have a right to a 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 that 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 our partners and other associates.

State Agency Children's Fund

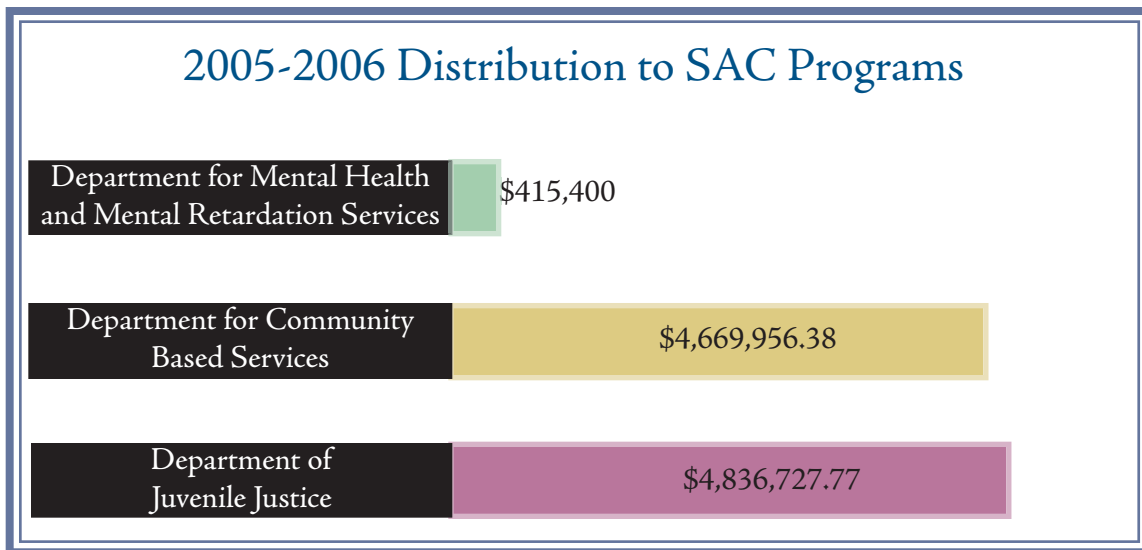
Established by the General Assembly in 1992, the State Agency Children's fund is collaboratively managed by KECSAC and the Kentucky Department of Education through a contract with the Department of Juvenile Justice. These funds are provided quarterly to support the education of SAC in local school districts

During the 2005-2006 School Year, the State Agency Children Fund for existing programs was distributed on a uniform formula rate of \$2,680 per child regardless of the type of program. New programs were funded at a lower level, approximately 62% of existing funding rates.

School Districts receive notification of an estimate of the per child amount for the coming fiscal year every December. The purpose of this notification is to enable school districts to project their budgets.

A Memorandum of Agreement is established annually between KECSAC and participating local school districts. Through a reimbursement system, all expenses are reported in the MUNIS format and the payment checks are distributed quarterly back to local districts by the Kentucky Department of Education.

For the 2005-2006 fiscal year, KECSAC distributed a total of **\$9,922,084.15** to **115** programs in **55** school districts throughout the State of Kentucky.



Achievements *(continued from page 5)*

Central Staff Reclassification

To attract and retain the highest quality KECSAC staff, two central office staff positions were reclassified to more accurately reflect job duties and level of responsibility. The position of Reporting and Communication Specialist was reclassified to become Development and Communication Coordinator. The position of Training Specialist was reclassified to become Training and Technology Support Specialist.

Presentations and Special Meetings

KECSAC staff conducted regional, statewide and national presentations, and attended special board meetings to promote KECSAC and its mission. These meetings and presentations included the following:

- | | |
|---|---|
| Department of Juvenile Justice | Department of Community Based Services |
| Kentucky Department of Education | EKU College of Education |
| Community Stakeholders | Southeast/South Central Educational Co-Op |
| Kids Hope United - Annual Board Meeting | Inter Association Child Care Conference, PA |
| State Interagency Council for Services to Children with Emotional Disabilities (SIAC) | |

Program Improvement

In an effort to ensure a quality education to children in state agency programs, KECSAC Program Improvement Specialists conducted site visits to each of the state agency children programs. Using a Program Improvement Tool based on Kentucky Standards and Indicators, programs were evaluated as to how well they met Kentucky Educational standards. Summary reports of each site visit were submitted to KECSAC central office and copies returned to the programs.

This past year, based on a recommendation by the Kentucky Board of Education, KECSAC requested that each program complete a program improvement plan. KECSAC provided regional training workshops to assist in developing individualized program improvement plans, as well as developed a template programs could use when creating their plan. Plans used the site visit report, CATS data, and student assessments to identify improvement needs. Programs were asked to identify specific needs, develop a goal to address the need, identify causes of the need, and detail strategies and activities designed to achieve the goal. While submitting a program improvement plan was optional this past year, all KECSAC programs will be required to submit a program improvement plan with their MOA for the 2006-2007 school year.

If a program was identified during the monitoring site visit as having technical assistance needs, KECSAC staff scheduled qualified consultants to make follow-up visits and provide training in the specific areas of need. Assistance was provided in areas of improvement planning, curriculum development, differentiated learning, and lesson planning.

KECSAC Program Improvement Specialists began conducting site visits during the 35-extended days education program. Visits to programs during the extended days will become a regular part of the KECSAC education accountability process.



KECSAC Program Improvement Specialists
Left to right: Russell Behanan, Central Region; Lue Cole, Eastern Region; and Roy Chapman, Western Region.



Professional Development

KECSCAC staff strives to provide quality and relevant professional development training for educators and administrators who work with Kentucky's state agency children. Over the past year KECSAC provided twelve workshops designed to meet the special needs of the students we serve.

KECSAC hosted the 4th *Annual Educating Kentucky's At Risk Students in Alternative Settings*, July 19 – 21, 2005, at the Perkins Conference Center on the EKU campus in Richmond. This conference brought together educational experts, administrators, and practitioners to share best practices in regular, nontraditional and alternative classroom settings.



Attendees in the *Extreme Science Teaching for Learners At-Risk* workshop at the *New Educators' Training* make soda pop.

The conference focused on the importance of relationship building and the necessity of a mutual understanding and professional respect between treatment and education. One hundred twenty-one people, including 38 graduate students who received three hours of graduate credit for participation in a weeklong training, attended this conference.

Eighty-three educators and administrators new to KECSAC programs attended the two-day *New Educators' Training*, September 7 - 8, 2005, at the Perkins Conference Center in Richmond. Attendees were treated to speakers who shared personal messages



Garet Wells and Jill Mayhew, from *Safe Harbor* in Woodford County, develop quality open response questions during training provided in Richmond.

ranging from overcoming negative stereotypes of poverty, to meeting the challenges of a classroom, to raising awareness of the gang phenomenon and how it influences our schools. This conference featured hands-on workshops that provided innovative and non-traditional approaches to teaching at-risk learners.

Eighty-six KECSAC school administrators from across the state gathered at the Galt House East in Louisville, Kentucky to attend the annual statewide *State Agency Children School Administrator Association* meeting (SACSAA). The meeting was held in conjunction with the 11th Annual Safe Schools Conference, September 20, 2005. SACSAA Outstanding teacher awards were presented at this meeting. Ruthanne Dobbins, Fayette County, was named Administrator of the Year and Teacher of the Year awards went to Jerry Spaeth of Kenton County, and Jason McAllister of Raceland-Worthington Independent School District. Virginia Flynn of Pulaski County was named Outstanding Support Person of the Year. Dr. Steve Hyndman, EKU Technology Coordinator, introduced the on-line discussion board created specifically for state agency children educators and administrators.



Becky Tonietti presents SACSAA's Administrator of the Year award to Ruthanne Dobbins of Fayette County.

KECSAC presented *The Program Improvement Plan Development Workshop* in three regional trainings during October 2005. KECSAC Program Improvement Specialists provided attendees

with step-by-step instruction on how to create a program improvement plan using CATS and other student achievement data. Attendees left the training with an improvement plan template to use as they created an improvement plan for their program. Trainings were held in Bowling Green, Louisville, and Richmond. A total of 81 KECSAC administrators and educators attended this training.

On December 2, 2005, KECSAC hosted A *Collaboration Workshop* in Richmond. Facilitator Skip Stuck, National Director of Consultation and Training for Kids for Hope United, offered education and treatment staff strategies for working together to meet the needs of state agency children. This interactive workshop focused on the importance of education and treatment working together for the good of the at-risk student. Twenty-six education and treatment staff attended this workshop.

SACSAA regional meetings were held in March. The Western Region meeting was held in Bowling Green on March 1, and the Eastern Region meeting was held on March 3, 2006. Trainers from the Kentucky Association of School Councils provided training on developing successful open response questions. Elections were held for SACSAA leadership positions. Donna Buckley, Hardin County, was elected president-elect. She will work with President Robbie McKinney over the next two years. Bob Spears, Cropper Day Treatment, will continue to serve as treasurer. A plaque of appreciation was presented to out-going president, Becky Tonietti, for her years of service to the state agency children of Kentucky.

KECSAC co-sponsored the *5th Annual Diversity Conference* held at the Perkins Conference Center on



Dr. Eric Anderman, University of Kentucky College of Education, provides an overview of sexual development during workshop.

the EKU campus. Approximately 150 educators attended this conference.

In a continuing effort to recognize issues critical to state agency children, KECSAC provided three area workshops aimed at addressing sexual development issues in state agency children. *Managing Sexual Development in State Agency Children* was held in Bowling Green, Louisville, and Richmond on March 22, 23, and 24, 2006. The goal of this workshop was to provide attendees with the opportunity to discuss a difficult issue with others who face similar challenges. The workshop included normal sexual development in adolescents, identifying and working with survivors of sexual abuse, managing sexual identity development, and strategies for working with juvenile sexual offenders.

Vision

As the Collaborative enters the 14th year of operation, a critical component of continued success will involve cooperation among the Kentucky Departments of Education, Community Based Services, Mental Health and Mental Retardation Services, Juvenile Justice, local education agencies, and private residential treatment providers throughout the Commonwealth.

The paramount task facing the staff of KECSAC is to continue to maintain a spirit of trust and cooperation among the various groups concerned with the education of State Agency Children while adapting to program and legislative changes. The guiding principle of KECSAC's effort in this area will be to work for the best interest of Kentucky's State Agency Children.



“Working Together to Educate All of Kentucky’s Children”

Kentucky Department of Education
Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice
Kentucky Department of Community Based Services
Kentucky Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation Services
State Agency School Administrator Association
Local Education Agencies
Eastern Kentucky University/College of Education

Kentucky Educational Collaborative for State Agency Children

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