

Kentucky Educational Collaborative for State Agency Children 2006-2007 Annual Report



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

Message from the Director



Dear State Agency Partners and Friends,

Here, for your review, is the report of highlights, annual activities and outcomes of our work for the past year. The number of teachers and education administrators who attended our professional development conferences continued to increase during the year.

We focused on topics and issues directly and indirectly related to student academic achievement. The workshop evaluations submitted by participants consistently indicated high approval of the invited speakers and the workshop topics.

The years activities also focused on the areas of teacher quality, assessment approaches, extended instruction, program improvement plans and student transition. KECSAC joined in collaboration with members of Eastern Kentucky University's occupational therapy department to conduct a statewide research study of the status of state agency children's education programs. This study will be conducted during the coming fiscal year. The purpose of the study will be to assess the current state of transition services, identify the needs, and make recommendations for improvements.

The KECSAC Program Improvement Specialists continued to provide quality program monitoring and technical support to the 110 state agency education programs and to the 54 KECSAC school districts. This year began the requirement that all KECSAC programs develop and submit a program improvement plan for their students.

We look forward to the challenges of the coming year and extend our expressions of sincere appreciation to each of our state agency partners, and district staff for your ongoing support and demonstrated commitment to the "education of all of Kentucky's children."

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Norman W. Powell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Norman 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 1992. 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 2006-2007 is the 15th year that 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.

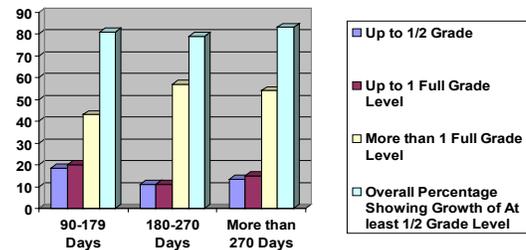
Academic Outcomes

The Kentucky Educational Collaborative for State Agency Children and the 400 teachers and administrators who work in the 110 education programs statewide, are committed to providing quality education to the 23,000 students who are served annually in Kentucky's state agency programs. While the average length of stay for a student in our programs is less than 84 days, we continue to provide academic instruction designed to close the achievement gap between students in these A-6 programs and those in regular schools.

In an effort to illustrate some significant academic growth of our students, KECSAC, along with the coordinators of the State Title I program have collected assessment data for our students. The data was collected from July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006 and consists of pre- and post tests in the areas of reading and math. Because there is no singly utilized assessment instrument, the data was collected using various assessments tools. This data is in addition to the annual Kentucky CATS assessment administered by the state. The data detailed below was collected from all KECSAC programs receiving Title I, federal funding.

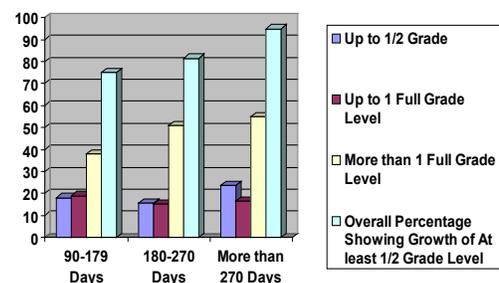
During the time period stated above, 1,923 students were enrolled in the programs for more than 90 days. Of this number, 1,514 tested below grade level in reading upon entry to the program. This information was collected at the enrollment assessment which was administered to every student who enrolled in a KECSAC program. Due to the fluid nature of the system, many students transitioned out of the program with little or no prior notification provided to the education administrators or to the school districts providing services. This resulted in 1,192 students participating in both the pre- and post test assessments. Chart 1 illustrates the academic growth in reading of students in the programs with various lengths of stay, including those who were enrolled consecutively for 90-179 days, 180-270 days and more than 270 days. As noted in the Chart, eighty-one percent of students in the programs showed improvement of at least ½ grade level in reading. It can also be noted that sixty-three percent of students increased at one full grade level during the illustrated time periods.

Chart 1. Academic Performance in Reading



KECSAC programs experienced equally significant achievement in the area of math. Again, between July 1, 2005 and June 30, 2006, the number of students who were assessed in math was 1,798. Of those students assessed, 1,514 tested below grade level in math upon entry to the program. Students participating in both the pre- and post test in math totaled 1,075. Chart 2 below illustrates the academic growth in math of students in the programs with various lengths of stay, including those who were enrolled consecutively for 90-179 days, 180-270 days and more than 270 days. As noted in the Chart, eighty-four percent of students in the programs showed improvement of up to ½ grade level in math. It can also be noted that sixty-five percent of students increased one full grade level during the illustrated time periods.

Chart 2. Academic Performance in Math



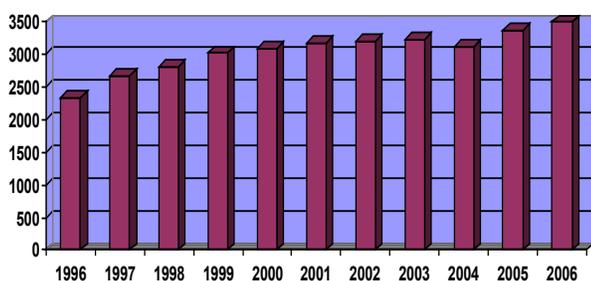
While we continue to emphasize the need for our programs to continually improve academic performance and focus particular attention on the CATS assessments, this report provides empirical evidence of the academic growth occurring for students in state agency programs. We believe that this method of assessing the students' progress at the pre and post periods of their stay in a state agency program provides a more accurate indication of their academic achievement while in a state agency education program.

The Kentucky Educational Collaborative for State Agency Children (KECSAC) conducted a census of State Agency Children (SAC) on December 1, 2006. On this date there was a total of 3,498 SAC whose education was provided or supervised by programs receiving support from the State Agency Children Fund (SACF). This represents an increase of 121 children or 3% over the 2005 count. During the same time period, the number of school districts participating in KECSAC decreased to 54, while the number of programs decreased from 111 to 110.

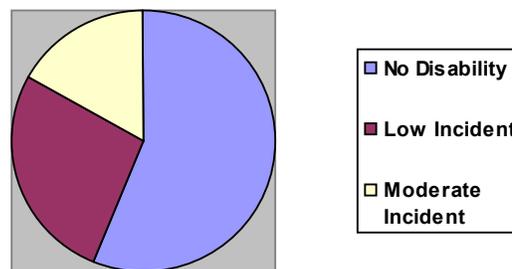
Fifty percent (50%) of all SAC were children educated in programs of the Department of Community Based Services, which represents an increase of 5.5% of the overall

Between December 1, 2005 and December 1, 2006 an estimated 21,144 SAC were provided educational support in 110 programs. This represents a decrease of 184 students below the 2005 figure. On December 1, 2006, 44% of all State Agency Children in KECSAC supported programs were classified as having one of the three major categories of incident disability. As the chart below indicates, 27% of SAC had a low incident disability (the most severe type), and 17% had a moderate incident disability. The percent of SAC with no identified disability was 56%.

Number of State Agency Children Served by KECSAC
December 1, 2006

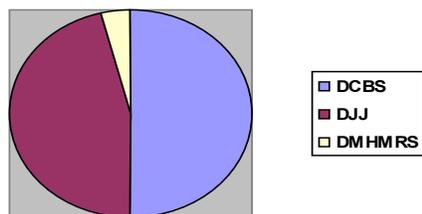


Profile of State Agency Children
by Category of Disability
December 1, 2006



population since December of 2005. Forty-six percent (46%) of SAC were educated in programs that were operated or contracted by the Department of Juvenile Justice, and four percent (4%) were children in department of Mental Health/Mental Retardation Services programs. (See chart 2)

Agency Population of SAC
December 1, 2006



In addition, a 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. The chart below indicates the changes in enrollment in each type of educational program over the last four years.

Grade Level	02-03	03-04	04-05	05-06
Pre-Primary	3	3	4	2
K-3	116	142	178	175
Intermediate	154	124	178	242
Middle School	821	789	865	633
High School	2,134	2,082	2,327	2,431
Post Secondary	16	17	6	15

The 3,497 children enrolled in a SAC program on December 1, 2006 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 (non-duplicated admissions).

Professional Development

KECSAC 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 nine workshops designed to meet the special needs of the students we serve.

KECSAC hosted the **5th Annual Educating Kentucky's At Risk Students in Alternative Settings Conference**, July 25 – 27, 2006, 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. The conference focused on developing thematic units in curriculum in order to accommodate various learning styles and multiple



David Enzweiler and Erica Thomas receiving their awards at the State Agency Children School Administrator Association meeting on September 22, 2006.

intelligences, fully utilizing technologies and research resources with at-risk youth, recognizing and responding to school climates and school cultures, and featured speaker Erin Gruwell, educator and author of *The Freedom Writers*, which was made into a feature film starring Hilary Swank. Ms. Gruwell spoke about the harmful myth of the “unteachable” student and how through real educational commitments and resources seemingly lost students can be transformed. Two-Hundred Twenty people attended, including 21 graduate students who received three hours of graduate credit for participation in a weeklong training.

One-hundred two educators and administrators attended the three-day **New Educators' Training**, September 6 - 8, 2006, at the



The 5th Annual Educating Kentucky's At Risk Students in Alternative Settings, July 25 – 27, 2006, at the Perkins Conference Center on the EKU campus in Richmond.

Perkins Conference Center in Richmond. Attendees were treated to the speaker Hasan Davis, who shared his personal story of over-coming a troubled adolescence and who credits teachers who allowed him to explore his own fears and concerns about the world around him for his survival. This conference, designed for educators new to KECSAC programs, featured hands-on workshops that provided innovative and non-traditional approaches to teaching at-risk learners.

On September 22, 2006, seventy-nine KECSAC school administrators from across the state gathered at the Elizabethtown Tourism and Convention Center in Elizabethtown, Kentucky to attend the Autumn **State Agency Children School Administrator Association Meeting (SACSAA)**. SACSAA awards were presented at this meeting. David Enzweiler of the Campbell County Central Alternative Program was awarded the Outstanding Teacher of the Year and Erica Thomas of the same program was named Outstanding Support Staff of the Year.



Educators' Training, September 6 - 8, 2006, at the Perkins Conference Center in Richmond.

From October 2-3, 2006, KECSAC Co-sponsored the **12th Annual Safe Schools Conference** at the Galt House in Louisville, Kentucky.

The conference was the result of the successful collaboration between a number of state agencies including the Kentucky School Boards Association, the Kentucky Center for School Safety, the Kentucky Department of Education, the Office of Drug Control Policy, the Kentucky Center for Instructional Discipline, and KECSAC. The conference emphasized the connection between school safety, student discipline, and a range of positive outcomes such as decreased drop out rates, improved attendance, and higher levels of academic achievement that are associated with safe and healthy learning environments.

From October 25-27, 2006, KECSAC hosted the **Critical Issues Series: Strategies to Enhance Student Achievement and Reduce the Achievement Gap** at three locations, October 25th, the Carroll Knicely Conference Center in Bowling Green, October 26th, the Perkins Conference Center in Richmond, and October 27, the Brooklawn Services Alternative School in Louisville. Mindful of the 2014 challenge to have all public schools achieve academic proficiency, this conference examined the dangers that significant gaps in achievement pose for districts, schools, and ultimately our children. This conference reviewed best practice and strategies for successfully confronting achievement gaps. A total of eighty-two educators and administrators attended the series.



The 5th Annual Educating Kentucky's At Risk Students in Alternative Settings, July 25 – 27, 2006, at the Perkins Conference Center on the ECU campus in Richmond.

From February 8-9, 2007, KECSAC co-sponsored the **6th Annual Diversity Conference** held at the Perkins Conference Center on the Eastern Kentucky University campus. The conference emphasized our collective commitment to help public and private school educators to provide an inviting environment where all students feel valued as members of their schools and their communities.

On March 8, 2007, sixty-six KECSAC school administrators from across the state gathered at the Elizabethtown Tourism and Convention Center in Elizabethtown, Kentucky to attend the Spring **State Agency Children School Administrator Association Meeting (SACSAA)**.

Krista Krampe and Bill Berdine with the Com-

monwealth Center for Instructional Technology and Learning (CCITL) presented an overview of a web-based tool designed to help educators locate and implement evidence based strategies to enhance the educational experience of students with learning challenges. In addition, KDE representative Kim Baldwin provided a brief overview and answered questions regarding the Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES) program.

Vision

As the Collaborative enters the 15th 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.

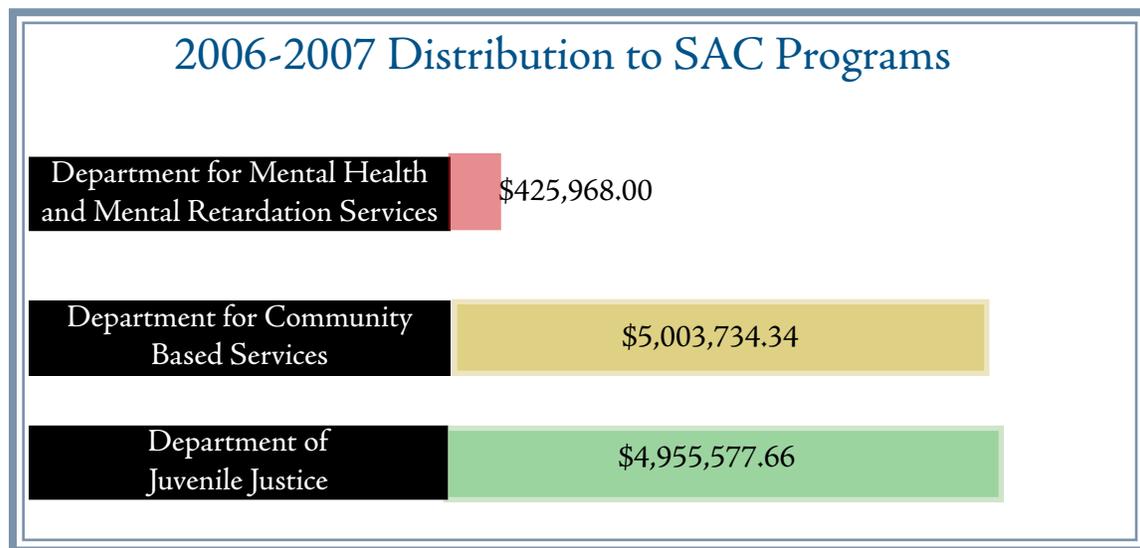
State Agency Children's Fund

During the 2006-2007 School Year, the State Agency Children Fund for existing programs was distributed on a uniform formula rate of \$2,696 per child regardless of the type of program. Two new programs were opened during the year and both were funded at 100% of their capacity.

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 2006-2007 fiscal year, KECSAC distributed a total of \$10,385,280 to 112 programs in 54 school districts throughout the State of Kentucky.



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.

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.

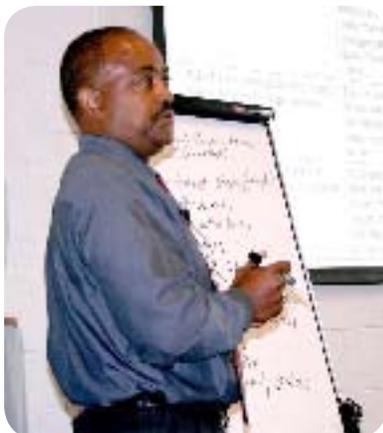
This past year, based on a recommendation by the Kentucky Board of Education, KECSAC required each program to complete a program improvement plan during the 2006-2007 academic year. In order to help facilitate the planning process, KECSAC provided regional training workshops to assist in developing individualized program improvement plans, as well as developed a template programs could use when creating their plan. Program improvement is a vital component of developing academic programs to help close the achievement gap for state agency children. Programs are required to integrate the improvement plan into their daily program to help meet student needs. In addition, as part of the planning process, programs are asked to continually update and self monitor their plan for effective implementation. The goal of program planning is to positively impact student academic outcomes and prepare state agency children for productive, contributing lives.

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 coordinating site visits with the Department of Juvenile Justice and Title I in order to reduce the overall out of class time for educators serving state agency children. Prior to this coordination, all three agencies conducted separate site visits. This collaborative site visit plan will be continued in the coming years. In addition, KECSAC Program Improvement Specialists continued conducting site visits during the 35-extended day education program.



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



Achievements

Additional Funding Opportunities for SAC Programs

KECSAC was awarded \$20,000 from the ECU Foundation as part of the one-time campus-wide solicitation for projects and initiatives. These funds partially funded a workshop series entitled **Investing in the Future of Kentucky's Students At-Risk: A Skill Building Seminar Series for Educators**. For this series, KECSAC developed three one-day skill building seminars designed to develop the competency of teachers who provide instruction to students at-risk in regular and alternative classrooms. Workshop topics included: classroom behavior management, culturally responsive teaching, and differentiated instruction. The target audiences for the seminars were ECU students in teacher certification programs, ECU alumni working in education, and educators currently working in alternative education programs throughout the state of Kentucky.

Collaboration with the College of Education (COE)

- Dr. Norman Powell attended bi-weekly meetings of the College of Education Directors and Department chairs.
- Dean Bill Philips attended the statewide SACSAA meeting in Elizabethtown, Kentucky.
- Kristine Estill, budget specialist, attended regular meetings for program administrative assistants coordinated by College of Education Dean's office.
- KECSAC staff regularly attended the College of Education monthly staff meetings.
- KECSAC co-sponsored the annual Diversity Conference with the College of Education.

Committee Work

University Wide and College of Education Committees

Dr. Powell: Chair of the Diversity and Multicultural Issues Committee for the College of Education, member of the Professional Advisory Diversity Council for the College of Education, the Faculty Advisory Council for African and African American Studies Program for the College of Arts and Sciences, and the Chairs and Directors Dean's Council for the College of Education.

State & Regional Committees

Dr. Powell: Transition Council for Students with Disabilities, and the Transition Research Team for State Agency Children.

Dr. Nolan: The Department of Community Based Services, Community Stakeholders Taskforce and the Kentucky Safe Schools Conference Planning Committee.

International and National Committees

Dr. Powell: Child & Youth Care Certification Board, which is responsible for the monitoring and establishing standards for the certification of individuals who work for programs that serve children and youth.

Dr. Nolan: National Dropout Prevention Conference Planning Committee.

Educating State Political Leaders as to Funding, Critical KECSAC Needs, and Other Issues.

- Every legislative member received a packet of information highlighting KECSAC, the at-risk population served, and critical funding needs.
- Dr. Powell and Dr. Nolan presented an update to the Kentucky Board of Education about KECSAC initiatives aimed at increasing student achievement in state agency programs.
- Dr. Powell and Dr. Nolan met with representatives of KDE to discuss A6 CATS data and develop a plan for accurately collecting all necessary CATS data.
- Dr. Powell and Dr. Nolan met with DJJ the Commissioner to discuss funding procedures in DJJ programs.
- Dr. Powell and Dr. Nolan met with the KDE Deputy Commissioner on March 30th, to discuss a proposal that would increase KECSAC funding. The proposed increase would help fund several initiatives designed to increase student achievement.

KECSAC Grants

Through a competitive Request for Proposal process, KECSAC recently awarded \$68,129 to programs serving state agency children. KECSAC asked for project proposals designed to meet the significant academic achievement needs of state agency children. Funds for this one-time grant opportunity were available due to the closing of several KECSAC programs during the year. KECSAC selected 16 programs in 15 counties to receive additional funds for the 2006-2007 school year.

KECSAC Staff Professional Development Opportunities

- Two central office staff enrolled in university courses.
- Central office staff held regular weekly meetings throughout the year.
- Kristine Estill, budget specialist, attended regular meetings for program administrative assistants coordinated by College of Education dean's office.
- Two central office staff members attended the National Drop-Out Prevention Conference held in San Antonio, Texas the week of October 22 – 25, 2006.
- KECSAC Program Improvement Specialists, Lue Cole, Russell Behanan, and Roy Chapman, as well as Dr. Powell and Dr. Nolan, attended scholastic audit training provided by the Kentucky Department of Education.



Left to right: Heather Carpenter, Ronnie Nolan,

Kristine Estill, Norman Powell, and Cindy Held.

*“Leadership can be thought of as a capacity to define oneself to others in a way that clarifies and expands a vision of the future.”
Edwin H. Friedman*

- Dr. Powell and Dr. Nolan presented a workshop about KECSAC at the National Drop-Out Prevention Forum in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.
- One central office staff member also attended the National Drop-Out Prevention Forum in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

Public Awareness related to State Agency Children

- Dr. Norman Powell, Director and Dr. Ronnie Nolan, Associate Director met with representatives from the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) and the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) to discuss areas of legal responsibility relating to state agency children.
- Dr. Powell and Dr. Nolan participated in the KDE A5/A6 committee. The committee, consisting of representatives from KDE, KECSAC, Kentucky Center for School Safety, Kentucky Youth Advocates, and Martin Luther King Academy, met in September. In a separate meeting held after the meeting, Dr. Nolan and Dr. Powell presented detailed information about the types of program and students served by KECSAC to representatives of KDE and the Kentucky Youth Advocates.

Research Programs

To Assess Status of Transition Services Provided by State Agency Children Programs

Dr. Powell and Dr. Nolan established a partnership with ECU's Occupational Therapy program to study state agency children transitions. The study will be one year long and will research the quality and quantity of transition services offered to state agency children.

A Pilot Study of an Academic Assessment Tool

KECSAC has implemented a pilot study utilizing Achieve 3000, a web based differentiated instructional program, at Madison County Day Treatment and Lexington Day Treatment as a means for accessing academic progress of State Agency Children.

Technological Improvements and Web-Based Initiatives

- The 2006-2007 KECSAC Directory of Programs was distributed in September 2006. This year the Directory will also be available on the KECSAC website and will be updated quarterly to ensure the most current information is available to all KECSAC partners.
- The Collaborative" Newsletter is available online.

Technical Support through Facilitation, Mediation, and/or Dissemination of Information

- Dr. Powell, Dr. Nolan, Program Improvement Specialist Lue Cole, and KDE representative Nijel Clayton, met with Ralph Hoskins of Jackson County to discuss ongoing concerns about the educational services provided to state agency students at the Barnabas Home. The meeting included an unannounced visit to the Barnabas Home classrooms.
- KECSAC contracted with Ruthanne Dobbins to provide three days of training for the education staff at the Barnabas Home in Jackson County. Topics included differentiated learning, lesson planning, and classroom management.
- KECSAC provided two days of training to educators at Newton Education Center in Campbellsville Independent school system.
- Dr. Powell facilitated a meeting between Daviess County Superintendent, Tom Shelton and Mary Salsman, Department of Juvenile Justice to discuss issues pertaining to the memorandum of agreement between the district and DJJ and the district and KECSAC.
- Dr. Powell accompanied Daviess County Superintendent Tom Shelton on a site visit to Warren Regional Juvenile Detention Center in the Bowling Green Independent School District. The purpose of the visit was to allow Superintendent Shelton to visit a highly effective education program for at-risk students.
- Dr. Powell and Dr. Nolan provided technical support to the following programs:
 - Graves County – Genesis Home
 - Clinton County – Foothills Academy
 - Boyd County – Ramey Estep



“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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