Table of Contents

3 Mission, Timeline & Background
4 Interagency Advisory Group
5 A Message From the Director
6 SACSAA & Student Awards
8 2015 Annual Census Data
10 Professional Development Review
14 Annual Budget Review
18 Achievements & Updates
21 KECSAC Staff

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

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KECSAC Directory
Resources
Documents
Professional Development Calendar
Publications
Budget
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.

Timeline & Background

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

In 1992, the Kentucky General Assembly passed Senate Bill 260, which called for the establishment of the Kentucky Educational Collaborative for State Agency Children (KECSAC). The Commonwealth of Kentucky annually provides residential and community based services to nearly 13,000 youth. These state agency children (SAC) are the responsibility of the Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice, Department for Community Based Services, and the Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities, 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 assuring a quality education for state agency children.

The education of at-risk youth is 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 inequitable funding, management, and service coordination. The different levels of educational services provided to youth compounded the inequities that existed in the delivery of educational services to at-risk and delinquent youth in Kentucky.
Interagency Advisory Group

The Interagency Advisory Group is comprised of members from partner state agencies who assist KECSAC with developing policies and guidelines for its funded programs. The group analyzes the goals, needs and requirements of KECSAC and recommends strategies for the benefit of the nearly 13,000 state agency children educated annually.

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Dear Friends,

As I travel across Kentucky and meet with education leaders at both the district and state levels, I am reminded of the commitment they have to serving the needs of our children and youth. Recently, I was talking with a school district superintendent about the needs of the students being served in his district. He, like so many of our partners, was adamant that our students need and deserve the very best education we can offer. It is not enough to provide an equal education; for our students, we must provide more. Equity is about leveling the playing field, it is not about offering everyone the exact same thing. There has never been a more critical time to explore this concept. As he looked at his school district and the many programs offered, he recognized the need to invest deeply, even sacrificially in the students who have the greatest need. We discussed at great length the investment he was making, in not only the quality of teachers in the program, but also in the curriculum, the technology, and the wrap-around services. He realized we have to serve the whole child and that means we can’t simply teach calculus or basic mathematics, it means we have to offer the full array of services. It’s an investment in our future that he and his school board are making every single day.

This particular district, like so many of our others, has built a quality program that provides varied instructional strategies, equitable resources, teachers, administrators and others who are dedicated to serving the needs of our state agency children. They recognize and celebrate the service they provide to our larger community. They see the value in addressing the social and emotional needs of our children and youth, so that our neighborhoods will continue to flourish. Beyond all this, they see the opportunity to give our students a new life; one filled with purpose and promise. This is who we are as an agency. This is who we are as a community of learners. And, this is why I am so proud to work with such inspiring leaders from across Kentucky.

This transformative conversation, and many more like it, came at a time when our state is working diligently to address the needs of our students. Our governor and First Lady have made valiant efforts to address the needs of our state agency children through the development of internship programs, apprentice programs and ongoing open dialog with our students. And while we are faced with continued economic uncertainty, we remain as committed today to our students’ success as ever. Even in the face of an economic crisis, our leaders are doing what is right for our kids.

In our pursuit of educational excellence for state agency children, KECSAC has continued to make improvements in the quality of services provided to our state agency children. Program Improvement Specialists continue to provide ongoing monitoring and support to our local school districts and our programs through a comprehensive annual review process. We also continue to offer professional development opportunities for teachers and administrators who work with state agency children. A full review of those activities is included within the pages of this report.

These accomplishments, and many others, are highlighted in our annual 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.
Outstanding Student & SACSAA Awards 2015-2016

Since the 2015-2016 SACSAA Award recipients are named at the end of the school year, we recognized them during the 15th Annual Alternative Strategies for Educating Students At-Risk Conference, held July 26-27, 2016. The list of award recipients recognized during the At-Risk Conference held in July 2015 is located in the Professional Development section on pages 10-11.

This year we had a unique Outstanding Student of the Year nomination. No regular nominations had been received during the year, but at the Interagency Advisory Group Work Retreat this summer, the story of one student featured as a speaker at a Dept. of Juvenile Justice training was brought up as a recipient. Since the student, Gage Ramage, met all the qualifications for the award and clearly demonstrated his journey to overcome personal and educational obstacles to become a successful student, a special election was held to recognize him as Student of the Year. The group then unanimously decided that Gage Ramage would be the 2016 KECSAC Outstanding Student. The award the recipient receives is a $500 scholarship to help reach their goals in higher education, with the hope their journey is made just a little easier. Their accomplishments and recognition also serve as a message to other students in their situation: that success is possible for you, and education is essential to that success.

KECSAC’s Outstanding Student of the Year: Gage Ramage

Gage Ramage is a resident of Lake Cumberland Youth Development Center in the Wayne County school district, and has been a resident in DJJ facilities for five years. He arrived at Lake Cumberland YDC with his GED, which he earned at the age of 16. He pursued his GED at an early age because he did not enjoy or appreciate the rhetoric of the daily school routine. However, Gage learned to appreciate the advantages education could provide him, and he is currently enrolled as a freshman in Somerset Community College (SCC). He had attempted to attend two previous semesters, but he was not able to due to obstacles that could not be resolved. Instead of giving up, he continued to overcome setbacks and continue to pursue his welding degree. At this time, Gage has just completed his first semester of college with a course load of 15 credit hours, and maintained a 3.0 GPA. He has also received 13 more credit hours of articulation credits in welding through the collaboration of the SCC welding teacher and the welding instructor at Lake Cumberland YDC. Gage’s goal is to earn an associate in welding degree and pursue a career in that field.

As his teachers and administrators can attest, Gage has shown himself to be motivated, resilient, and fully understands that his future will be impacted by the positive decisions he makes today.

SACSAA Awards

Our 2016 SACSAA Award winners embody the characteristics of exemplary educators, support personnel, and involved community members. They possess the dedication and skill needed to provide the best education possible to students at-risk. All the nominations were evaluated and decided by the KECSAC Interagency Advisory Group.

School Administrator of the Year

The 2015/2016 School Administrator of the Year award was presented to Angela Austin of Owensboro Treatment Center and Owensboro Day Treatment in the Daviess County School District. Having been with the programs since 2010, Mrs. Austin serves as administrator and head teacher for both. She has also been an educator in the Daviess County school system since 1988 when she began her career. Her exceptional leadership has contributed to many achievements for her programs, including recent participation in the “Unbound” literacy initiative sponsored by The Center for Educational Excellence in Alternative Settings (CEEAS), which included an ODT staff member winning the national “Above and Beyond Award” and a student receiving the national “Most Inspired Student” Award. She has been instrumental in acquiring more technology for the classrooms, and in creating a successful greenhouse program that helps build valuable workplace training for students. Mrs. Austin's colleagues praise her inclusive leadership style, which has built a very cooperative team environment in her programs. She is also credited as going above and beyond her job to provide the best educational experience for students, while also serving as a dependable, friendly role model for teachers and staff alike. Her efficient and positive leadership has not only met the expectations of the position but has surpassed them.
Outstanding Support Staff of the Year

One of the individuals who was awarded Support Staff of the Year was Naomi Coogle, who is a teacher’s assistant at Lincoln Village Regional Juvenile Detention Center in the Hardin County School District. Mrs. Coogle has served many invaluable roles during her 25-year tenure with alternative programs in Hardin County. In addition to her many clerical duties providing essential support to teachers, administrators and students alike, she is also actively involved in assisting in the classrooms. She is particularly helpful in the program’s math classes where she provides uninterrupted, one-on-one support to newly transitioned students and students who might need additional help with lessons. She is described as someone the students connect with, and who gains their confidence with her helpful and patient instruction. She has also been instrumental in developing the program’s greenhouse program, and providing assistance to the vocational program at the school by arranging speakers and planning events. She can often be found volunteering her free time to help the school and students as well. Mrs. Coogle has been praised by her colleagues as compassionate, hard-working, and someone who always gets the job done, so it’s no surprise she has earned this recognition!

Outstanding Teachers of the Year

Our second Support Staff of the Year award was presented to Ben Wilson, the Evaluation Coordinator at Adair Youth Development Center in the Adair County School District. Mr. Wilson has been at Adair YDC for more than 11 years, and he is steadfast in his commitment to providing each student with the educational and treatment plan that best benefits them. He is a strong advocate for vocational programs in alternative settings as well, so students have the chance to enter back into the community with marketable skills. His colleagues praise him as a hard worker, dedicated problem solver, and someone who communicates and collaborates between the academic and treatment staff seamlessly. His dedication to the success of his students is definitely commendable.

Our first Outstanding Teacher of the Year award was presented to Erica Goins-Brooks, who is the second and third grade Special Education teacher at Western Day Treatment in the Jefferson County School District. Mrs. Goins-Brooks was a substitute teacher with Jefferson County public schools for two years while obtaining her Master’s, and then taught fourth and fifth grade for two years at the Uspriritus-Brooklawn school before transferring to Western Day Treatment where she has taught for the past four years. She is passionate about creating a personal relationship with every student and providing educational interventions based on their individual needs. She is persistent in finding learning strategies that work for students, including the incorporation of innovative technology aides, and hands-on instruction in the classroom. Her colleagues describe her as a natural leader who infuses the program with her enthusiasm and instructional expertise. It is this commitment to her students and their educational journey she exhibits every day that make her more than deserving of this award.

Our second Outstanding Teacher of the Year award was presented to David Sullivan, who is a teacher at Mercer County Day Treatment in the Mercer County School District. Mr. Sullivan has been an educator in Mercer County for 13 years, and joined the Day Treatment program two years ago. In his short time there he has been credited with helping establish direction and identity in the program. Mr. Sullivan was instrumental in bringing many new educational offerings to the day treatment including the Lego Robotics Program, an outdoor classroom, greenhouse and hydroponics system, as well as a healthy eating program in conjunction with the county extension office. His students praise him as being someone kind and caring they can relate to, while also preparing them to deal with the realities of life. His ability to connect with students can be seen in his teaching strategies as well, since he strives to adapt learning to help students who struggle in a traditional classroom setting. His classroom management skills have also been praised by colleagues and students alike. It is clear that Mr. Sullivan’s passion to help all his students succeed make him a worthy recipient of this award!
KECSAC Annual Census Data for 2015

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 1 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 December 1, 2015, a total of 2,108 students received all or part of their educational services from one of 85 KECSAC-funded programs located in 51 school districts throughout the commonwealth 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 2, 2014 and December 1, 2015. Administrators report that 12,592 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 (DBHID).

As shown, 64.6 percent of all state agency youth receive educational services while living in one of 38 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 33.8 percent of all state agency children in one of 45 operated or contracted programs. DJJ operates 17 residential facilities, five day-treatment programs and two 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. Nineteen percent of the DJJ population are in residential programs. DJJ also contracts with 20 local school districts to provide 21 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. As shown, 14.7 percent of the DJJ population attend day-treatment programs. In 2015, less than two percent of all youth in KECSAC-funded programs receive services from a mental health day treatment (MHDT) program.

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 1, 41 percent (n=873) 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. As illustrated 38 percent of all children identified with an educational disability and receiving educational services in a KECSAC-funded state agency program on December 1 have been diagnosed with an emotional-behavioral disorder (EBD). Nearly 25 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 1 census, 71 percent of SAC are classified as White while 22 percent are classified as Black/African American. In comparison, 79 percent of all students in Kentucky public schools are classified as White and 10.5 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 3 percent, and youth identified as Hispanic/Latino account for 4 percent of all SAC. Just 0.5 percent of all SAC in a KECSAC-funded program on December 1 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. On December 1, 2015, the average age of a youth in KECSAC-funded programs was 14.6 years old. The largest age group of SAC is 16-year-olds; however this census shows the count of 16 and 17-year-olds to be virtually the same with just one-tenth of a percent, or 3 students, difference between the two age groups.

The largest numbers of SAC were in 9th and 10th grade, representing 44.6 percent of the entire SAC population in a KECSAC-funded program. Youth in grades 11 and 12 represent 23.4 percent of the SAC population while 20.9 percent are in grades 6 through 8. Students in grades 1 through 5 represent 9 percent of the population. Students in Kindergarten, Grade 14, and Graduate/GED/Vocational represent just 1.8 percent of the SAC receiving educational services in a KECSAC-funded program.

The gender division of youth in KECSAC-funded programs changes very little from year to year. According to information submitted on December 1, males represented 67 percent (n=1421) and females represented 33 percent (n=687) of the total population.

Local school districts employ the equivalent of 338 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. Just three teachers in KECSAC-funded programs were emergency certified. School districts also provide 152 full-time equivalent teaching assistants and 103 full-time equivalent educational support staff to meet the intense educational needs of state agency children.

The length of time a youth continues to receive education services from a state agency education program varies based on the type of program as well as the behavioral, emotional, and educational needs of the youth. For youth in a DJJ operated facility, a judge determines the length of stay, while youth in a DCBS group home may stay until the treatment program is complete, or until a permanent or foster home is available. Youth receiving education services at a mental health day treatment program may stay for a specific treatment period or until a mental health professional approves the transition back to a regular classroom. The average length of stay for a youth in a KECSAC-funded program is 146 days in 2015.
Another Successful At-Risk Conference Ushers In the New School Year

The 14th Annual Alternative Strategies for Educating Students At-Risk Conference returned home to Eastern Kentucky University this year on July 29-30. Educators from all over the Commonwealth engaged in learning and networking while attending keynote addresses and breakout sessions presented by their colleagues and other experts in the field of educating at-risk students. The young men of Cadet Leadership Education Program started off the conference with their Presentation of Colors during the National Anthem. Dr. Diane Heacox, noted differentiation expert, kicked off the two days of training with her opening keynote address and training session by sharing crucial strategies for differentiating instruction, a key skill for KECSAC and traditional classroom teachers. Breakout sessions throughout the conference focused on a wide range of topics, from classroom management and behavioral health challenges to technology use and core content curriculum.

Highlights included a presentation by Animal Tales, LLC., an educational organization that brings science lessons to life for students using reptiles and other exotic animals. Conference goers got to meet a large tortoise, snakes, lizards and other exciting creatures as they learned about how they can bring Animal Tales to their students.

Those participants wishing to enjoy some fresh air could go outside and visit the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA) College Info Road Show Bus. This mobile classroom is a fantastic resource available to Kentucky teachers and can aid in some of the vital steps of preparing their students to continue their education after graduation.

A featured session at the end of day one allowed everyone in attendance to take part in Current Drug Trends with Officer Adam Argullin. Officer Argullin is a very popular trainer and his sessions in the past have been standing room only. This full group featured session ensured that all of the participants could gain valuable information about an issue that can affect all of Kentucky’s at-risk students.

Commissioner of the Department of Juvenile Justice Bob Hayter shared remarks and awarded winners during the Annual State Agency Children School Administrator Association (SACSAA) Awards Luncheon. SACSAA awards deserving teachers, support personnel, administrators, students, and community members each year for their dedication to serving this special population of students. Several award winners were on hand to receive their awards from Commissioner Hayter and celebrate the day with their colleagues and families.

The conference ended on a particularly high note with the closing keynote address by Dr. Debra Peppers. Dr. Peppers is a former at-risk student who, through the hard work of some dedicated teachers, found education to be the way to a better life. She became a National Teachers Hall of Fame inductee and has spent her career teaching, speaking, training, and giving back to the profession that became her calling.
Our Annual SACSSAA Awards were presented to the deserving 2015 winners during our 14th Annual Educating Students At-Risk Conference as well. From left to right: Commissioner of the Department of Juvenile Justice Bob Hayter presented the awards; Kristin Humphrey, a science instructor at Bullitt Alternative Center in the Bullitt County School District was awarded Teacher of the Year; Reverend Damon Horton was one of the Community Members of the Year for his services to Fayette Regional Juvenile Detention Center in Fayette County; Susanne Jones, an instructional aide at Morehead Youth Development Center in the Rowan County School District was recognized as Staff Person of the Year; Michael Little was another Community Member of the Year for his services to Ramey-Estep High School in Boyd County; Sonny McManus of Mayfield Youth Development Center in the Graves County School District was awarded School Administrator of the Year (accepted by Justin Hubbard); and KECSAC Director Dr. Ronnie Nolan recognized these outstanding educators, staff and community members!

KECSAC would like to thank the generous sponsors and planning committee members who helped to make this conference a success. We look forward to working with all those agencies again to make the next conference even better!

New KECSAC Educators Participate in Training and Orientation

Each new school year brings the challenges of new students and requirements for all teachers. But for teachers and administrators new to a state agency children’s program, there is even more to learn and become accustomed to. That is the objective of KECSAC New Educators’ Training – to orient our new colleagues to working in a program that educates students in the care of the state and involve one or more custodial state agencies. Those new team members joined one another on August 28 to kick off their new adventure, get some of their questions answered, and gather resources to use in the coming year. We asked some of our new colleagues what they were looking forward to about working with state agency children, and the upcoming year and this is what they had to say…

Scott Morton - Special Ed. Teacher
The Academy
“I am looking forward to receiving resources that will help me become prepared to teach our students.”

Bo Burkett - Math Teacher
Bullitt Alternative Center
“I look forward to being a powerful role model for my students and challenging them to raise the bar for their own lives.”

Christie Stamper - Principal
Buckhorn Children’s Center
“I am looking forward to helping my students become life-long learners, so they can become successful adults after they leave my school.”

Professional Development: 2015-2016 In Review

Professional Development: 2015-2016 In Review

Bo Burkett - Math Teacher
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“I am looking forward to helping my students become life-long learners, so they can become successful adults after they leave my school.”
Bullitt Alternative Center Shares Their Best Practices At November Teaching In Action

Bullitt Alternative Center in Shepherdsville hosted a KECSAC Teaching in Action Training on November 20. Staff from other state agency children programs, the Department of Education and KECSAC joined Principal B.J. Ritter as he welcomed the group and shared the mission and vision of the education program. Bullitt Alternative Center is a Kentucky Department of Education School of Distinction in Alternative Education for 2015.

This model program uses data-driven instruction and interventions to help each child find success, which is manifesting itself in a greatly reduced recidivism rate among Bullitt County students. Mr. Ritter attributes part of this success to the staff’s targeted efforts around transitioning students back to their sending schools and using data on behavior referrals to reduce and prevent disruptions.

The center has an outstanding group of staff who use and develop best practices in the areas of standards based grading, building resiliency, behavior management, transition, and college and career preparation. The teachers, counselors, instructional aids and other staff all exude an excitement and a level of dedication to their students that is felt throughout the building.

KECSAC would like to thank the staff of Bullitt Alternative Center for welcoming us into their school and sharing valuable resources with colleagues from around the state.
Professional Development: 2015-2016 In Review

Breakdown of EILA Hours Awarded in 2015/2016

Total Hours: 3,401.5

- **89.96%**
  - At-Risk Conference
  - July, 29-30, 2015
  - 255 Attendees
  - 12 Hours Offered
  - 3,060 Total Hours Awarded

- **8.30%**
  - New Educators’ Training
  - August 28, 2015
  - 47 Attendees
  - 6 Hours Offered
  - 282 Total Hours Awarded

- **0.70%**
  - Teaching In Action: Bullitt Alternative Center
  - December 1, 2015
  - 8 Attendees
  - 3 Hours Offered
  - 24 Total Hours Awarded

- **0.53%**
  - KECSAC Live: CHOICES
  - Online Training
  - 18 Participants
  - 1 Hour Offered
  - 18 Total Hours Awarded

- **0.51%**
  - KECSAC Live: Drugs 101
  - Online Training
  - 18 Participants
  - 2.5 Hours Offered
  - 17.5 Total Hours Awarded
2015-2016 KECSAC SACF and Operational Budget

KECSAC was allocated $10,096,500 for the 2015 Fiscal Budget Year. The allocation is placed with the Kentucky Department of Education as a line item. The following graph outlines the 2015-2016 final Operational Budget in detail. The chart on pages 16 -17 details the final State Agency Children Fund (SACF) allocations for the 2015-2016 year.

Total KECSAC Allocation
$10,096,500
- Directly allocated to Local School Districts (94.1%)
- KECSAC Operating Budget (5.9%)

2015-2016 KECSAC Operational Budget Breakdown

Personnel $343,807 (57.43%):
Salaries and Benefits for Director, Associate Director, Budget Specialist, Communication & Development Coordinator and Training Coordinator

Support Services for Districts & Programs $150,661 (25.17%):
Program Improvement Specialist, Educational Training Specialist and Professional Development for KECSAC Programs

Operating Expenses $38,161 (6.37%):
Communication Cost, Copier Maintenance Contract, Office Supplies, Software Upgrades, Printing, Membership Dues, Meeting Cost, SACSAA Awards, Technology and Database Maintenance

Professional Development-Staff $5,735 (1.31%):
KECSAC Annual Work Retreat with Interagency Advisory Group Members

Travel-Staff $8,439 (1.41%):
In-State and Out-of-State Travel

EKU Indirect $31,042 (5.19%):
EKU Provides office space, legal services, meeting space, technology support and administrative support

KECSAC Facilities & Administrative Fund $13,303 (2.22%):
Best Practice Sites Awards, Research Projects Support, Professional Development Planning Meetings, KECSAC Student Scholarships and KECSAC Programs Conference Support

State Agency Children’s Fund (SACF)
$9,497,844 (94.1%)
Distributed directly to programs through a Memorandum of Agreement with District
2016-2017 KECSAC SACF and Operational Budget

The following graph outlines the projected 2016-2017 KECSAC Operational and SACF Budget in detail.

Total KECSAC Allocation
$10,096,500
- Directly allocated to Local School Districts (94.2%)
- KECSAC Operating Budget (5.8%)

2016-2017 KECSAC Operational Budget Breakdown

Personnel $382,984 (65.9%): Salaries and Benefits for Director, Associate Director, Budget Specialist, Communication & Development Coordinator and Training Coordinator

Support Services for Districts & Programs $127,264 (21.9%): Program Improvement Specialist, Educational Training Specialist and Professional Development for KECSAC Programs

Operating Expenses $20,640 (3.5%): Communication Cost, Copier Maintenance Contract, Office Supplies, Software Upgrades, Printing, Membership Dues, Meeting Cost, SACSAA Awards, Technology and Database Maintenance

Professional Development-Staff $2,500 (0.4%): KECSAC Annual Work Retreat with Interagency Advisory Group Members

Travel-Staff $5,000 (0.9%): In-State and Out-of-State Travel

EKU Indirect $30,150 (5.2%): EKU Provides office space, legal services, meeting space, technology support and administrative support

KECSAC Facilities & Administrative Fund $13,303 (2.2%): Best Practice Sites Awards, Research Projects Support, Professional Development Planning Meetings, KECSAC Student Scholarships and KECSAC Programs Conference Support

State Agency Children’s Fund (SACF)
$9,515,041 (94.2%)
Distributed directly to programs through a Memorandum of Agreement with District
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**Totals** | **$9,266,061.00** | **$9,497,844.00**
Achievements & Updates

Program Updates for 2015-2016

In the past year there were 85 KECSAC-funded programs in 51 school districts across the Commonwealth. Approximately 12,592 students were served by KECSAC programs as well. The following are program changes that took effect during the 2015-2016 year:

New Programs Approved for 2016/2017 Funding
• The Children’s Home of Northern Kentucky: Burlington Campus – Boone County School District

Other Program Statuses
• Peace Academy and Peace Academy Day Treatment combined programs – Jefferson County School District
• Methodist Home (Safe Harbor Academy) is moving to Jessamine County – Woodford County School District

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 performed annual site visits and monitoring of each of the 85 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 two or all three of the Specialists conduct a joint monitoring at the same program. This year saw a change in staffing of the program improvement specialists since at the end of the 2014/2015 school year our long-time monitor Lue Cole, decided to step down from her position. After listing the position and conducting interviews last summer, KECSAC hired former state agency school administrator Sonny McManus (whom you can read more about below) as our new specialist.

During the 2014/2015 school year, a work group of KECSAC staff and school administrators was created to revise our Program Improvement Monitoring Tool and SIDE document in order to align 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. After collaborating many times and offering input, the group approved a final tool that was implemented during the 2015/2016 school year and will continued to be used in coming years. KECSAC staff and partners continue to evaluate the monitoring tool in order to provide the best feedback and monitoring experience for our programs.

KECSAC Welcomes Sonny McManus as New Program Improvement Specialist

Sonny McManus is a life-long resident of Graves County, Kentucky. He attended Wingo High School, Freed-Hardeman College, and Murray State University. He earned his B.S. with a double major in math and speech, an M.A. in secondary education, and Rank I in administration, all from Murray State University. Mr. McManus recently retired from the Graves County School District after 27 years of service where he served as a math teacher for 17 years and KECSAC school administrator for the past 10 years.

Sonny is married to Jane Foy McManus who also recently retired from the Mayfield Independent School District after 29 years of service in the finance office. They have two grown daughters and one granddaughter. Sonny likes to walk, ride bicycles, and play his guitar. He is also active in his local church missions where he serves as education director. Sonny says he is very excited about his new position as Program Improvement Specialist and returning to KECSAC, and we are pleased to have him join the team!
State Agency Children School Administrator Association (SACSAA)

Each year KECSAC school administrators are required to attend two annual SACSAA meetings in order to stay updated with other school administrators serving state agency children, and to discuss the timely and pertinent topics and issues affecting state agency children. The Fall SACSAA meeting, which was held September 11, 2015 in Elizabethtown, Ky. at the Tourism and Convention Center, opened by recognizing all the new School Administrators in KECSAC programs for the 2015/2016 school year. The discussion then focused on the impact Senate Bill 200 has had on some programs and how we might address that, as well as a discussion about the new Program Improvement Process and what programs can expect with those changes in the coming year. Windy Newton from KDE offered training on Infinite Campus updates to all members and they were also able to participate in a networking session to discuss issues with other school administrators from similar programs.

For their annual spring meeting, the SACSAA group met at eight different video conferencing locations across the state on March 4, 2016. The discussions at this meeting focused on many legislative and KECSAC updates and also focused on voting for a new President-Elect of the Association, since the former administrator to hold the position, Jill Tabor of Jefferson County, took a job outside of a state agency program. Two candidates were nominated for the position, and after votes were tallied, Dan Belding of the College Street Campus in Barren County was named to the position. The President-Elect typically serves a two-year term and then assumes the President position for two years, but since outgoing SACSAA President Sue Buley of Adair Youth Development Center in Adair County, will be ending her tenure in the Fall of 2016, Mr. Belding will assume the President position at that time.

Interagency Advisory Group (IAG) & KECSAC Annual Work Retreat

Each year the KECSAC Interagency Advisory Group meets every two months to discuss important issues pertaining to KECSAC programs and offer guidance for KECSAC procedures and initiatives. Each meeting is detailed in the KECSAC quarterly reports, and since the third quarter report, the IAG met for their final meeting of the year and two-day work retreat on June 8-9, 2016 held at Natural Bridge State Resort Park. During the annual retreat the IAG discussed routine end-of-year business such as the work plan overview, census data review, budget updates and policy updates for KECSAC as well as partnering agencies. During the retreat the SACSAA and Student of the Year Awards for 2016 were also reviewed and voted on by the group.
Four KECSAC Programs Receive Award for Innovative Alternative Education

In an effort to recognize the work of educators and programs that serve at-risk students, this past spring the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) named seven Alternative Programs of Distinction for 2016. The programs were recognized June 8, 2016 at the Kentucky Board of Education’s regular meeting in Frankfort. Four of the programs, Bullitt Alternative Center, the Transformational Learning Center, Western Day Treatment, and McCracken Regional School, are also KECSAC-funded programs.

An alternative education program exists to meet the needs of students that cannot be addressed in a traditional classroom setting, but can be met through the assignment of students to alternative classrooms, centers or campuses that are designed to remediate academic performance, improve behavior or provide enhanced learning experiences. Alternative education programs do not include career or technical centers or departments.

Each program selected as an Alternative Program of Distinction received $2,000 from the Kentucky Department of Education and $1,000 from the Kentucky Center for School Safety for instructional support. Information on the schools will also be posted on the KDE website www.education.ky.gov so other schools can use the programs as models.

The seven programs named as Alternative Programs of Distinction for 2016 were:

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<td>The McDaniel Learning Center</td>
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<td>McCracken County</td>
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KECSAC Staff

Dr. Ronnie Nolan
Director

Kaye Parker
Associate Director

Kristine Smith
Budget Specialist

Katie Helton
Training Coordinator

Cindy Held
Communication & Development Coordinator

Program Improvement Specialists

Russell Behanan
Central Region

Roy Chapman
Eastern Region

Sonny McManus
Western Region

KECSAC
Martin House
Eastern Kentucky University
521 Lancaster Avenue
Richmond, Kentucky 40475
www.kecsac.eku.edu
“Working Together to Educate All of Kentucky’s Children”

Kentucky Department of Education
Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice
Kentucky Department for Community Based Services
Kentucky Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities
State Agency Children School Administrator Association
Local Education Agencies
Eastern Kentucky University/College of Education