

Local School Board Members Advisory Council

Communications Update

[Toni Konz Tatman](#), Interim Communications Director

Sept. 3, 2020

2021 KENTUCKY TEACHER OF THE YEAR

NINE SEMIFINALISTS



Donnie Piercey
Samuel J. Northern
Donnie Wilkerson

Scott Wade
Christopher McCurry
Lori Knapp-Lindsay

Tia Wood
Laura Peavley
Jeannette M. Teater



KENTUCKY TEACHER

supporting Kentucky's public schools and families

New Metcalfe County Superintendent Josh Hurt has passion for teaching and coaching

By Sky Carroll - August 28, 2020

389 0

Like 501 Tweet



Josh Hurt, Metcalfe County's new superintendent, got into education to positively impact others. Here he loads packaged food as meals for students onto buses amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Photo submitted

[New Metcalfe County Superintendent Josh Hurt has passion for teaching and coaching](#)

For new Rockcastle superintendent, the job means homecoming

By Jim Gaines - August 12, 2020

830 0

Like 827 Tweet



Carrie Ballinger, Rockcastle County's new superintendent, works at her desk in Mt. Vernon. Ballinger, who previously served as Rockcastle's director of student services, said she wants to push Rockcastle schools forward by continuing work on instructional improvements. Photo submitted

[For new Rockcastle Superintendent Carrie Ballinger, the job means homecoming](#)

KENTUCKY TEACHER

supporting Kentucky's public schools and families

New Christian County superintendent Bentzel hopes to help students take advantage of opportunities

By Sky Carroll - August 7, 2020

674 0

Like 240

Tweet



Christian County's new Superintendent Chris Bentzel said he wants to fully support students to help prepare them for their future. After leaving the U.S. Army, he taught 5th-grade social studies for four years in Christian County, then went on to be an elementary school principal, middle school principal and high school principal there.
Submitted photo

[New Christian County superintendent hopes to help students take advantage of opportunities](#)

Alexander seeking positive experiences for students as new Edmonson County superintendent

By Sky Carroll - August 5, 2020

429 0

Like 195

Tweet



Brian Alexander, the new superintendent for Edmonson County schools, started out his teaching career as a business teacher at Warren Central High School (Warren County). He has spent much of his educational career in Edmonson County, serving as a teacher, assistant principal, principal and director of pupil personnel.
Photo submitted

[Alexander seeking positive experiences for students as new Edmonson County superintendent](#)

KENTUCKY TEACHER

supporting Kentucky's public schools and families

Service to others inspires Martin, new Meade County superintendent

By Sky Carroll - July 29, 2020

871 0

Like 412

Tweet



Mark Martin, the new superintendent for Meade County Schools, is a third generation Kentucky educator. Here he presents to Meade County teachers at Meade County's 2019 Close the Gap professional development training, a training that focuses on instructional strategies to create a learning culture that removes educational barriers for all students.
Submitted photo

[Service to others inspires Martin, new Meade County superintendent](#)

Damian Johnson's heart lies at Jenkins Independent

By Jacob Perkins - July 24, 2020

664 0

Like 325

Tweet



Damian Johnson gives a presentation on education legislation. Johnson, the 1993 valedictorian at Jenkins High School, plans on establishing a culture of high expectations, hard work and accountability during his tenure as superintendent of Jenkins Independent Schools.
Submitted photo

[Damian Johnson's heart lies at Jenkins Independent](#)

KENTUCKY TEACHER

supporting Kentucky's public schools and families

Sugg seeks continuity on return to Shelby County

By Jim Gaines - July 21, 2020

717 0

Like 250 Tweet



Sally Sugg, the new superintendent of Shelby County Schools, reads with a student during her visit to Shelby County's Northside Early Childhood Center. Photo submitted

[Sugg seeks continuity on return to Shelby County](#)

Family guides Thomas, new Todd County superintendent

By Jim Gaines - July 17, 2020

Like 18 Tweet



Todd County superintendent Mark Thomas, left, reviews district plans with Assistant Superintendent Camille Dillingham and South Todd Elementary 5th-grade teacher Rachel Meyer. Submitted photo

[Family guides Thomas, new Todd County superintendent](#)

Déjà vu for Leon Smith at Russellville Independent Schools

By Jim Gaines - July 14, 2020

726 0

Like 73 Tweet



Russellville Independent School District Interim Superintendent Leon Smith, left, prior to his retirement from the same district, stands in 2017 with Stevenson Elementary Principal Robin Cornelius, right, to recognize that school's BornLearning Academy student achievements. When Bart Flener announced he was leaving the district in May, the Russellville board of education asked Smith to come back until a new permanent superintendent is hired. Submitted photo

[Déjà vu for Leon Smith at Russellville Independent Schools](#)

Nineteen new students selected for 2020-2021 KDE Commissioner's Student Advisory Council



The new members include:

- **Wallace Caleb Bates**, 12th grade, Breathitt County High School
- **Trevin Bevins**, 11th grade, Shelby Valley High School (Pike County)
- **Gavin Breunig** – 10th grade, Elizabethtown High School (Elizabethtown Independent)
- **Drake Calhoon**, 10th grade, Calloway County High School
- **Sofia Farmer**, 12th grade, Gatton Academy (Danville Independent)
- **Soleila Elliott González**, 11th grade, Ballard High School (Jefferson County)
- **Peyton Hall**, 12th grade, Fleming County High School
- **Nae'Shon Harrison**, 11th grade, Phoenix School of Discovery (Jefferson County)
- **Amy Yang**, 12th grade, Craft Academy (Rowan County)
- **Viviana Heredia**, 12th grade, Ryle High School (Boone County)
- **Jack Johnson**, 10th grade, Marshall County High School
- **Logan Justice**, 11th grade, Paul Laurence Dunbar High School (Fayette County)
- **Anna Williams**, 12th grade, Anderson County High School

- **Loren Little**, 10th grade, Clinton County High School
- **Miles McGinnis**, 12th grade, South Oldham High School (Oldham County)
- **Anastasia Panaretos**, 10th grade, South Oldham High School (Oldham County)
- **Kade Scott**, 12th grade, Floyd Central High School (Floyd County)
- **Gracie Smith**, 10th grade, Kentucky School for the Blind (Hardin County)
- **Lohith Tummala**, 12th grade, Paul Laurence Dunbar High School (Fayette County)

They join 9 returning members, including:

- **Madelyn Blankenship** – 11th grade, Pulaski County High School
- **Mi'Keyla Crumble** – 12th grade, Hickman County High School
- **Reece Dicken** – 12th grade, Barren County High School
- **Rohin Dutt** – 11th grade, duPont Manual High School (Jefferson County)
- **Laila Hayes** – 12th grade, duPont Manual High School (Jefferson County)
- **Elizabeth Holcomb** – 12th grade, Kentucky School for the Deaf
- **Solyana Mesfin** – 11th grade, Eastern High School (Jefferson County)
- **Lauren Shackelford** – 12th grade, Corbin High School (Corbin Independent)
- **Samuel Smith** – 11th grade, Daviess County High School



Coverings for




KIDS

- Initially announced by First Lady Britainy Beshear during the Aug. 4 Superintendents' Webcast; later shared at Gov. Beshear's press conference
- As of today, **85** local school districts (100 % of those responding so far) have appointed coordinators and will begin collecting face coverings and masks!
- Districts have received outreach packet, including language, graphics, drafted social media posts and emails for promotion.
- Districts will decide the ultimate use of the masks



COVID-19: Answers to FAQs for Kentucky's Schools and Districts

(Last updated Aug. 20. 895 questions answered.)

2		<p>Note: Responses provided herein are based on the best information available to the Kentucky Department of Education, Kentucky Board of Education and Commissioner of Education when published and do not constitute medical or legal advice. Responses are subject to change and are for general information purposes only. If you are seeking medical advice, please see https://govstatus.egov.com/kycovid19 and consult with a medical professional. If you are seeking legal advice, please consult with an attorney.</p>			
3	What question(s) do you have about COVID-19? How can we help you?	KDE staff response	Available link for districts to use?	Date updated	
4	<p>If district is choosing a split inperson/virtual week and a parent of a student with special needs requests in-person attendance all 5 days stating it is their LRE, how do we handle this?</p>	<p>Please contact Veronica Sullivan at veronica.sullivan@education.ky.gov or Sylvia Starkey at sylvia.starkey@education.ky.gov in the Office of Special Education and Early Learning to discuss the specific situation.</p>		<p>8/4/2020</p>	
5	<p>Incoming kindergarten students are assessed using BRIGANCE at the start of each school year. Since several districts are beginning school either virtually or with a hybrid model, will this be waived for the 2020-21 school year?</p>	<p>Virtual administration of assessments within the BRIGANCE Screens III is not recommended at this time. The procedure for administering the Screens III does not easily lend itself to videoconferencing technology and, therefore, Curriculum Associates has not validated administration of the BRIGANCE Kindergarten screen (the K screen) through a virtual approach. At its August 2020 meeting, the Kentucky Board of Education will consider a waiver to expand the timeframe of testing and reporting. The board will also discuss giving the Commissioner of Education the authority to exempt schools from screening students who may not attend schools in person.</p>		<p>8/4/2020</p>	
6	<p>Must school-based preschool programs follow childcare guidelines and maintain a class size of 10?</p>	<p>KDE recommends using the room capacity calculator to determine the class size. A link is adjacent.</p>	<p>https://education.ky.gov/comm/Documents/RoomCapacityCalculator.xlsx</p>	<p>8/4/2020</p>	
7	<p>What precautions should schools take if a student has medical waiver from the mask requirement and is in a classroom with medically fragile students? Who can attend school in that classroom?</p>	<p>Students should not be excluded from school if they do not or cannot wear masks, but extra precautions should be taken when medically fragile students are involved. In this situation, districts must be vigilant about everyone else following the</p>	<p>https://education.ky.gov/comm/Documents/Safety%20Expectations_FINAL%20DOC.pdf</p>	<p>8/4/2020</p>	

Kentucky Department of Education – Main Webpage

COVID-19 Alert - For the latest information on the novel coronavirus in Kentucky, please visit kycovid19.ky.gov

Ky.gov An Official Website of the Commonwealth of Kentucky

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Information

Learn what precautions you can take about the coronavirus.
Call the KY Department for Public Health's COVID-19 hotline at (800) 722-5725 or visit its [COVID-19 webpage](#).
More information also is available on [KDE's COVID-19 webpage](#).

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Our Children, Our Commonwealth

Assessment/Accountability • Career and Technical Education • Commissioner of Education • Communications • District/School Support • Educational Programs • Educator Development and Equity • Exceptional Children • Federal Programs • Kentucky Board of Education • School Improvement • Standards/Content Areas • Kentucky School for the Blind • Kentucky School for the Deaf

Updates on 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Our Vision
Each and every student empowered and equipped to pursue a successful future.

Mission Statement
To partner with districts, schools, families, students, business and industry, and communities to provide leadership and support to ensure success for each and every student.

Our Core Values
The department's core values are equity, achievement, collaboration and integrity.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Information

Learn what precautions you can take about the coronavirus.
Call the KY Department for Public Health's COVID-19 hotline at (800) 722-5725 or visit its [COVID-19 webpage](#).
More information also is available on [KDE's COVID-19 webpage](#).

KDE COVID-19 Webpage

COMMUNICATIONS
COVID-19 Updates and Information for P-12 Education
Published: 7/21/2020 2:27 PM

- TEACHING
- LEARNING
- EDUCATE
- FEED
- FEEDING SITES
- CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS
- SUPPORT
- FINANCE AND OPERATIONS
- NEWS AND GUIDANCE
- PARTNERING AGENCY GUIDANCE
- REOPEN
- KDE REOPENING GUIDANCE
- NON-KDE RESOURCES
- IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

Overview of KDE Guidance Issued for Reopening Schools



In response to the COVID-19 crisis, KDE has been committed to providing guidance and solutions that focus on educating and feeding our children and providing support to our districts.

*Since May 15, we have been releasing **weekly** guidance documents to all of our superintendents and districts regarding reopening schools for the 2020-2021 year.*

We also created this “KDE Reopening Guidance” tab on our COVID-19 website, where you can find all of the guidance and our weekly Special Superintendents’ Webcasts, which we have been holding since March.



To Date: KDE COVID-19 Guidance Issued for Reopening of Schools

May 15: [Initial Guidance for Districts and Schools](#)

May 26: [Supporting Student and Staff Wellness](#)

June 1: [Academic Re-entry, Stage One: Drafting an Adjusted Curriculum](#)

June 1: [Evaluating Students' Academic Readiness](#)

June 8: [Alternative Learning Design Strategies](#)

June 15: [Intermittent School Closures](#)

June 22: [Food Service Operations - USDA School Meal Programs](#)

June 24: [\(With Kentucky DPH\) Safety Expectations and Best Practices Guidelines for Kentucky Schools \(K-12\)](#)

June 25: [Pupil Transportation](#)

To Date: KDE COVID-19 Guidance Issued for Reopening of Schools

June 29:

- [Facilities and Logistics](#)
- [Plan for Reopening Secondary Career and Technical Education \(CTE\) Facilities for Completion of Industry Certifications and Lab-Based Dual Credit Coursework](#)

July 6:

- [Workplace Health and Safety](#)

July 13:

- [Academic Re-entry, Stage Two: Meeting Learners' Academic Needs](#)

July 20:

- [Exceptional Learners and Preschool Students](#)
- [Compensatory Education and Extended School Year Services](#)
- [Daily Participation and Non-Traditional Instruction](#)

To Date: KDE COVID-19 Guidance Issued for Reopening of Schools

July 24:

- [*Flexibility for Assigning Staff in the COVID-19 Instructional Settings*](#)

July 27:

- [*Food Service Operations – Waivers for USDA School Meal Programs*](#)

Aug. 10:

- [*Library Media Center*](#)
- [*Class Sizes in Virtual Programs and Courses*](#)

Aug. 17:

- [*Welcoming Students for Orientation and Targeted Services*](#)
- [*2020-2021 Participation Tracking in Infinite Campus*](#)

Aug. 31:

- [*Frequently Asked Questions about English Learner Programs at Reopening*](#)