

SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS

LEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVES DISTRICT FACILITY PLAN RECOMMENDED BY LOCAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

Every four years local boards of education have the opportunity to develop a District Facility Plan (DFP). A DFP is the comprehensive review and evaluation of a school district's facilities. This evaluation is undertaken by a Local Planning Committee with the assistance of district administrative staff, architects, engineers, Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) and other consultants. The DFP is the determinate of a district's Needs Calculation and the trigger for expending restricted construction funds (funds that can be used for facility renovation/construction only).

The DFP planning process allows school districts to chart a course in their construction planning that will provide for equitable and adequate facilities for the students they serve. Lee County School District's current DFP was developed in 2000. The school district requested and was granted waivers to develop a DFP in the 2004 and 2008 cycles. Development of a new DFP was necessary to address current district needs.

A first step in the development of a school district's DFP involves the formation of a Local Planning Committee (LPC) comprised of parents, teachers, building administrators, facilities directors, central office staff, local board members, local governmental officials, and the school superintendent. The LPC's role is as an advisory committee to the local board of education charged with the development of a four (4) year DFP. The

LPC studies information included in the architect's evaluations of the district's facilities, financial information, demographics, and other information at its discretion to develop a plan for addressing the district's construction needs.

School district's are required to select an architectural/engineering consultant to complete an evaluation of all facilities as part of the DFP development. The architect must address the following for each facility in the district: evaluate building and site conditions; create inventories and analyze building and site needs, provide plan drawings for each building floor and site; identify deficiencies, and provide construction cost estimates to correct deficiencies. The Alt 32 Architect Firm was selected to assist in the development of Lee County School District's DFP. Mr. Mike Sparkman, president of Alt 32, and Michael Meade, internist, completed the facility evaluations and assisted the LPC with gathering and assessing information needed to develop the plan. The LPC also completed a physical tour of each facility to complete a visual inspection and identify needs/deficiencies.

Following a series of advertised meetings and public forums held to solicit public input on Lee County Schools' DFP, on April 11, 2013, the LPC approved the Lee County Schools' District Facility Plan as presented by Mike Sparkman of Alt 32 with a majority vote of 9 for and 6 against. The DFP was

then presented to the Lee County Board of Education for their review at a special meeting held April 16, 2013. The Lee County Board of Education voted unanimously to approve the Lee County District Facility Plan as presented.

As part of the approved DFP, Beattyville Elementary School was identified as a Transitional Facility. This means that the local board of education has determined that this facility will be phased out as an educational center. The facility will not be eligible for new construction or major renovation without the Kentucky Department of Education's approval. Only minor renovation projects required to maintain the building in a safe condition or offer a healthy environment are permissible. The facility will not be included on the DFP as a priority item and may not be replaced if destroyed. School district's have up to a five (5) year window in which to phase out transitional facilities.

Following a Public Hearing process, Lee County School District's DFP will be sent to the Kentucky Board of Education for final approval. If the DFP is approved, Beattyville Elementary will be phased out, Southside Elementary will be renovated to accommodate additional students and staff, and the elementary schools will be consolidated into one elementary school at the current Southside Elementary location.

May 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 <i>Lee Co. Bd. Of Ed. Meeting @6:00 P.M.—Board Office</i>	15	16 <i>Last day of school for students</i>	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 <i>SBDM Training - Board Office</i>	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

SARAH THORPE HIGHLIGHTED IN APRIL 2013 ISSUE OF The GEAR UP Kentucky Gazette

GEAR UP Kentucky is a U.S. Department of Education grant administered by the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education. Each month, GEAR UP Kentucky publishes the GEAR UP Kentucky Gazette which is shared as an insert in the Lexington Herald newspaper.

As the month of March was designated Operation Preparation month in Kentucky, April's issue of the Gazette focused on notable examples of Operation Preparation at work in GEAR UP schools. Sarah Thorpe's work in Lee County was highlighted as one of those great examples. Sarah is employed by GEAR UP as the Kentucky College Coach serving Lee County Schools. Lee County Schools are part of the GEAR UP Appalachia! Project administered by Berea College.

District Contact Information

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LEE COUNTY SCHOOLS' SPRING TESTING WINDOW SET FOR APRIL 23RD THRU MAY 6TH

The Spring testing window for Lee County High School opens April 23, and closes April 30th. The Spring testing window for Lee County Middle, Beattyville Elementary, and Southside Elementary Schools will open April 30, and close May 6. During this time-frame, students will complete tests administered at their grade level. Parents play a vital role in their child's success. We ask that you assist us in helping your child to do his or her best by adhering to the following test tips:

- *Please don't schedule appointments, trips or other interruptions during testing.*
- *Make sure your child gets the proper amount of sleep each night.*
- *Make sure your child has a proper balanced diet. Studies indicate those students who eat well balance meals perform better on tests.*
- *Encourage your child to review beforehand and do his/her best on testing day.*
- *Remind your child of the importance of reading directions carefully and not rushing through a test.*
- *Remind your child about the importance of test scores now and the impact they can have on his or her future.*

For your convenience and information, we have included excerpts below from *A Parent's Guide to Testing in Kentucky* which we felt would be helpful to parents and students prior to testing. To view the complete *A Parent's Guide To Testing in Kentucky*, and for more information on standards, assessments or accountability check out the KDE website, www.education.ky.gov and click on the Unbridled Learning logo on the left side of the page. You may also view *A Parent's Guide to Accountability* for an explanation of Unbridled Learning and how schools and districts are held accountable for educating Kentucky's children.

Why give state tests?

State tests, such as the K-PREP tests, are given to measure how well students have learned content based on academic standards. EXPLORE, PLAN and ACT tests show whether students are on course to graduate college-ready. Results from these tests are used to determine where students may need help or accelerated learning opportunities and are also used for school and district accountability.

When are state tests given?

PLAN and EXPLORE tests are given in September. The ACT is administered to all juniors in March. End-of-Course exams are given when coursework is completed in the tested subjects. K-PREP tests are administered in the last 14 days of the school year, which means they may be given at different times in different districts. On-demand writing assessments are administered in the spring of the year for all grade levels.

When will results be available?

Test results will be available near the beginning of the next school year and reported to parents. Parents will receive an individual report on the achievement of their child compared to school, state and national results, including information that identifies strengths and academic deficiencies. Because the standards on which some tests are based are more rigorous than in the past (to ensure students are competitive), scores may decline in the short term but should show

improvement as teachers and students become more comfortable with the standards.

Is there any testing before 3rd grade?

Yes. Each school that enrolls primary students (those in grades kindergarten through 3) must use diagnostic assessments that measure readiness in reading and mathematics. The schools may use commercial products, use district-developed products and procedures or develop their own diagnostic procedures, but they must be developmentally appropriate. The results are used to inform teachers and parents/guardians of each student's skill level.

What happened to tests in arts and humanities and practical living/career studies and the writing portfolio?

Instead of assessing student performance as previously done, schools conduct annual Program Reviews in these areas. Other Program Reviews will be added for K-3 programs and world languages. These reviews, which are done by school personnel, are designed to show whether schools are: improving the quality of teaching and learning for all students in all programs ensuring all students have equal access to the skills that will assist them in being productive citizens allowing students to demonstrate understanding beyond a paper-and-pencil test ensuring a school-wide integration of the program skills across all content areas

Are students tested on writing?

Yes, Writing is tested in grades 5, 6, 8, 10 and 11. Writing portfolios may be used as instructional tools, but are no longer mandated as part of the accountability system.

What kind of responses will students be asked to provide?

It depends on the test. Multiple-choice questions have one or more introductory sentences followed by a list of response options. Students are asked to select the correct answer among several alternatives. Constructed-response describes any type of item where students must develop or build a response to a question or prompt and include short answer and extended response types.

Will my special needs child be tested?

Yes. Students identified with educational disabilities are assessed. Some students with disabilities will take the assessment without accommodations, some with accommodations and some through an Alternate Assessment process.

What is the Alternate K-PREP?

The Alternate K-PREP serves 1% of students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. These disabilities may require an alternate means of participation in Kentucky's statewide assessment to demonstrate achievement. The Alternate Assessment is designed to address the needs of the students by allowing greater depth of adaptations, modifications and alternative modes of participation.

Can accommodations be used?

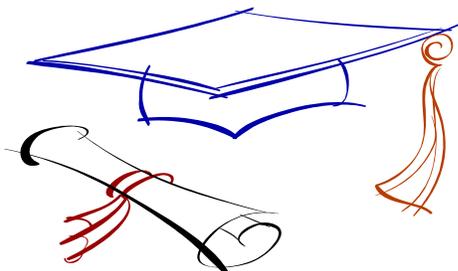
For students with disabilities, most accommodations included on a student's current IEP, 504 Plan or Program Services Plan are permissible. However, these accommodations must have been used regularly in instruction and assessment during the school year. Check the KDE website, www.education.ky.gov, for more specific information regarding accommodations.



IMPORTANT NOTES



- April 22nd, Superintendent/Parent Breakfast at 9:00 a.m. Lee County Board of Education
- April 23rd, Lee County High School Spring Testing Window Opens
- April 30th, Lee County Middle School, Beattyville Elementary School, and Southside Elementary School Spring Testing Windows Opens
- April 30th, Lee County High School Spring Testing Window Closes
- May 4th, Lee County High School Prom
- May 6th, Lee County Middle School, Beattyville Elementary School, and Southside Elementary School Spring Testing Windows Closes
- May 16th, @ 7:00 P.M.
Lee County Middle School 8th Grade Promotion
- May 19th, @ 3:00 P.M.
Lee County High School Graduation



ATTENTION PARENTS WHO HAVE STUDENTS ENTERING KINDERGARTEN DURING THE 2013-2014 SCHOOL YEAR

In order to plan for the upcoming school year, the Lee County School District held a kindergarten registration on March 15th, 2013. On that day, only a limited number of parents attended the registration with their incoming kindergarten student(s).

To be eligible to attend kindergarten during the 2013-2014 school year, a child must be five (5) years of age by October 1, 2013. All children must successfully complete kindergarten prior to enrolling in the first grade.

The following is a list of enrollment and school health documents required by the state of Kentucky and Lee County Board of Education:

- ⇒ Current Immunization Certificate
- ⇒ School Physical Examination
- ⇒ Eye Examination
- ⇒ Dental Screening/Exam
- ⇒ Certified Birth Certificate
- ⇒ Social Security Card
- ⇒ Legal Custody Documents (if applicable)
- ⇒ Student Registration Form

It is important that these enrollment and school health forms be completed and submitted to the Lee County Board of Education prior to the start of school. Central Office staff need this documentation in order to enroll students in the Lee County School District. School personnel will pick up kindergarten student folders during the summer months. If you have questions, or need a registration packet, please contact Susan Pettit at the Lee County Board of Education Central Office (606) 464-5000 extension 100.