

SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS

MISSION: The mission of the Lee County School District is to foster trust, growth, and accountability in partnership with students, staff, parents, and the community.

Our Students Need and Merit the Support of All Lee County Stakeholders: Please Help Us Provide Them an Excellent Education

(The article below contains information regarding the Recallable Nickel Tax)

First and foremost, we want to share our vision and mission for the Lee County School District. This vision and mission was developed as part of the Strategic Planning process last spring by a group of students, parents, educators, and community stakeholders. Strategic Planning is a systemic process for envisioning a desired future.

The vision of the Lee County School District is: **Lee County Schools, creating a successful future one student at a time.** Our mission statement reads: **The mission of the Lee County School District is to foster trust, growth, and accountability in partnership with students, staff, parents, and the community.** If we are to succeed with our vision and mission for Lee County students, it is imperative that we have the support of ALL Lee County Stakeholders.

A steady decline in student population, and as a result a decrease in SEEK funding, combined with federal, state, and local budget cuts has made it more and more difficult to adequately fund education programs here in Lee County. School Board members, the school district superintendent, and school administrators must be innovative and creative as they endeavor to maintain quality services to Lee County students while sustaining additional budget cuts and adjustments each school year.

Gone are the years when school budgets had a surplus carryover in Lee County. Our contingency fund has steadily decreased over the past 10 plus years as revenues decreased while expenditures increased. Given the budget cuts and adjustments our local school district has made in recent years, there is simply very little, if anything else, left to cut. Additional cuts could possibly result in larger class sizes, fewer course offerings, loss of extracurricular activities, and possible teacher and staff lay-offs. A loss in educational programs and services could put our students at a disadvantage when competing for college or careers that would provide a standard of living they so richly deserve.

Identifying Beattyville Elementary as a transition facility and renovating Southside Elementary so that all elementary students can be educated in one facility has become a necessity as student enrollment has steadily decreased year after year. We simply do not have the student population, nor the funds, to warrant operating two elementary schools any longer. When renovations and additions are complete at the current Southside Elementary location, Lee County elementary students will have the opportunity to attend classes with their peers in a unified, state of the art educational facility.

Superintendent Evans and members of the Lee County Board of Education recognize that a world class education is essential for the future success of today's schoolchildren. Therefore, on April 9, 2014, upon Superintendent Evans' recommendation, board members voted unanimously to set a proposed tax rate of 35 cents on Real Property and 35 cents on Personal Property.

At 29.5 cents, Lee County currently has the lowest tax rate of any school district in the State of Kentucky. Even with the proposed rate of 35 cents,

which includes the 5.5 cents recallable nickel, Lee County School District would retain the lowest Real and Personal Property tax rates in the Commonwealth. We have included a complete listing of 2013-2014 Kentucky School District tax rates on pages two (2) and three (3) of this newsletter. Please review these rates for yourself in order to get the true picture. You can find this complete document along with other tax information on the Kentucky Department of Education's web page at: <http://education.ky.gov/districts/SEEK/Pages/Taxes.aspx>

Kentucky Legislators have established sources of additional funding for school districts who adopt the recallable nickel tax. These school districts whose communities support education through local funding (recallable nickel) receive matching funds earmarked for facilities (building fund) use only. **While the tax increase is minimal to property owners, 5.5 cents per one hundred dollars of assessed value, the district's bonding potential for facilities is increased greatly.** The information below was taken from the *Nickel Facts* document produced by the Kentucky Department of Education, Division of District Support Services, District Funding & Reporting Branch. Please take a moment to review this information. **If you have additional questions regarding the proposed Recallable Nickel Tax, please speak with Superintendent Jim Evans, or Lee County School Board members William Owens, Larry Burgess, Curtis Davis, Janie Thorpe, or Melissa L. Judd. We want to make certain you understand the necessity for this proposed rate. Thank you for the support you provide for our district and students.**

In the past decade, the General Assembly has created additional funding sources for facility construction to address specific characteristics or needs of local school districts. Nickels are levied by districts that meet criteria of a growth district based on growth in the number of students, bonded indebtedness, current student enrollment in excess of available classroom space, facility plan requirements, debt service, and renovations. Legislation and budget language created opportunities for districts meeting specific criteria to increase tax rates at the local level. The tax rate increase is referred to as Nickel Tax Levies. Local school building taxes are called nickels because they are five cent equivalent taxes.

The actual tax rate that districts levy to produce the five cents equivalent tax is greater than five cents because the SEEK calculation takes into consideration that the tax is exclusively applied to real estate and personal property. However, it is not applied to motor vehicles and also adjusts in anticipation that districts will collect less than one hundred percent of the actual tax revenue owed. Regardless of the amount of tax collection, districts are required to transfer the exact amount produced by five cents per one hundred dollars of assessed value of property and motor vehicles to their building fund. Source: *Office of Education Accountability, Tax Issue Paper, "Understanding How Tax Provisions Interact with the SEEK Formula"*

2013-2014 Tax Rates Levied

District	Total Real Estate	Total Tangible	Motor Vehicles Levy	Rate Levied Type
001 Adair County	50.1	50.1	56.3	4%
005 Allen County	57.4	57.4	51.8	Compensating
006 Anchorage Independent	98.2	98.2	110	Other
011 Anderson County	57	57	51.3	Other
012 Ashland Independent	57.9	57.9	51.4	Compensating
013 Augusta Independent	61.3	61.6	57.6	Compensating
015 Ballard County	49.9	49.9	47.9	Compensating
016 Barbourville Independent	49.3	49.3	53.9	4%
017 Bardstown Independent	72.7	72.7	53.1	4%
021 Barren County	61.5	61.5	49.2	4%
025 Bath County	44	44	46.5	4%
026 Beechwood Independent	81.1	81.1	57.4	4%
031 Bell County	53.4	53.4	56.6	Compensating
032 Bellevue Independent	76.5	76.5	101.4	4%
034 Berea Independent	83.7	87.1	59.1	4%
035 Boone County	62.2	62.2	49.7	4%
041 Bourbon County	57.6	57.6	54.7	4%
042 Bowling Green Independent	75.6	75.6	60.2	4%
045 Boyd County	53.9	53.9	54.7	Other
051 Boyle County	63.5	63.5	53.9	4%
055 Bracken County	36.5	36.5	52.5	Compensating
061 Breathitt County	41.3	41.3	49.2	4%
065 Breckinridge County	51.4	51.4	55.7	4%
071 Bullitt County	61.8	61.8	47.7	4%
072 Burgin Independent	61.6	61.6	54.6	4%
075 Butler County	37.7	37.7	45.9	Other
081 Caldwell County	37.6	37.6	53.8	4%
085 Calloway County	40.4	40.4	52.1	4%
091 Campbell County	59.2	59.2	52.2	4%
092 Campbellsville Independent	53.3	53.3	55.3	4%
095 Carlisle County	52.9	52.9	47.8	Compensating
101 Carroll County	56.5	56.5	55.7	Other
105 Carter County	46.5	46.5	47	Compensating
111 Casey County	43.5	43.5	56.3	4%
113 Caverna Independent	69.4	69.4	62.7	4%
115 Christian County	39.8	39.8	56.6	4%
121 Clark County	55.9	55.9	53.5	4%
125 Clay County	55.5	55.5	48.7	Other
131 Clinton County	40	40	53	4%
132 Cloverport Independent	64	64	56.9	4%
133 Corbin Independent	56.2	56.2	69.3	4%
134 Covington Independent	115.3	115.3	85.9	Compensating
135 Crittenden County	46.1	46.1	54.1	Compensating
141 Cumberland County	37.1	37.1	53	4%
143 Danville Independent	83.7	83.7	66.9	4%
145 Daviess County	61.2	61.2	49	Other
146 Dawson Springs Independent	67.9	67.9	68.7	Compensating
147 Dayton Independent	102.9	102.9	85.9	4%
149 East Bernstadt Independent	41	41	35	4%
151 Edmonson County	40.8	40.8	50.3	4%
152 Elizabethtown Independent	69.9	69.9	53.8	4%
155 Elliott County	40.7	40.7	56.5	Compensating
157 Erlanger-Elsmere Independent	81.7	81.7	67.1	4%
161 Estill County	45.5	45.5	54.8	4%
162 Fairview Independent	69.5	69.5	60.3	Compensating
165 Fayette County	69.6	69.6	59.2	4%
171 Fleming County	41	41.9	55.9	Compensating
175 Floyd County	57.9	57.9	55.4	Compensating
176 Fort Thomas Independent	98.6	98.6	92.5	4%
177 Frankfort Independent	76.3	76.4	47.4	Compensating
181 Franklin County	62.3	62.3	51	4%
185 Fulton County	48.6	48.6	55.7	Compensating
186 Fulton Independent	73.5	73.5	78	Compensating
191 Gallatin County	66.6	66.6	55.7	Other
195 Garrard County	64	64	55.1	Compensating
197 Glasgow Independent	81.2	81.2	55.4	Compensating
201 Grant County	56.1	56.1	55.3	4%
205 Graves County	38.3	38.3	46.4	4%
211 Grayson County	46.1	46.1	46.3	4%
215 Green County	46.6	46.6	53.9	Compensating
221 Greenup County	80.4	80.4	49.4	Compensating
225 Hancock County	58	58	40	Compensating
231 Hardin County	60.7	60.7	54	4%
235 Harlan County	40.8	40.8	33.6	4%
236 Harlan Independent	41.5	41.5	52.3	4%
241 Harrison County	45.2	45.2	50	4%
245 Hart County	50.5	50.5	55.1	Compensating
246 Hazard Independent	54.2	54.6	50.9	Compensating
251 Henderson County	52.9	52.9	54.8	Compensating
255 Henry County	65.7	65.7	55.3	4%
261 Hickman County	53.5	53.5	54.7	4%
265 Hopkins County	60	60	54.7	Other
271 Jackson County	59.7	59.7	56.8	Compensating
272 Jackson Independent	43	43	49.2	Compensating
275 Jefferson County	71	71	58.5	Other
276 Jenkins Independent	79.9	79.9	69	House Bill 940
281 Jessamine County	64.4	64.4	54.7	Other
285 Johnson County	36.9	36.9	52.5	Other
291 Kenton County	57.7	57.7	63.5	4%
295 Knott County	51.4	51.4	47.1	Compensating
301 Knox County	49	49	50.2	4%
305 LaRue County	45.3	45.3	55.2	Compensating
311 Laurel County	49	49	46.3	4%
315 Lawrence County	49.9	49.9	22	4%
321 Lee County	29.5	29.5	52.3	4%
325 Leslie County	51.1	51.1	47.3	Compensating
331 Letcher County	50.9	50.9	49.6	4%
335 Lewis County	41.3	41.3	49	Compensating
341 Lincoln County	45.8	45.8	54.2	4%
345 Livingston County	44.6	44.6	44.6	Compensating
351 Logan County	39	39	46	Other
354 Ludlow Independent	78.4	78.4	74.6	4%
361 Lyon County	42.5	42.5	43.6	Other
365 Madison County	60.1	60.1	55.8	4%
371 Magoffin County	46.1	47	57.6	Compensating
375 Marion County	53.8	53.8	52.6	Other
381 Marshall County	41.3	41.3	40	4%
385 Martin County	60.2	60.2	22.3	4%
391 Mason County	46.9	46.9	55.5	4%
392 Mayfield Independent	68.3	68.3	68.9	Compensating
395 McCracken County	50.4	50.4	52.9	Other
401 McCreary County	39.4	39.8	30	Compensating
405 McLean County	53.9	53.9	51.5	4%
411 Meade County	48.1	48.9	54.6	4%
415 Menifee County	43.8	43.8	49.2	Compensating

2013-2014 Tax Rates Levied

District	Total Real Estate	Total Tangible	Motor Vehicles	Rate Levied Type
421 Mercer County	62.6	62.6	49.1	Other
425 Metcalfe County	49.9	49.9	56.6	Other
426 Middlesboro Independent	50.8	50.8	56	4%
431 Monroe County	48	48	56.2	4%
435 Montgomery County	49.4	49.5	42.4	Compensating
441 Morgan County	52.7	52.7	53.3	4%
445 Muhlenberg County	49.7	49.7	49.7	Compensating
446 Murray Independent	59.5	59.5	54.4	4%
451 Nelson County	69	69	54.8	Other
452 Newport Independent	97.7	97.7	99.3	Compensating
455 Nicholas County	38.7	38.7	55.5	Compensating
461 Ohio County	47.7	47.7	51.8	Compensating
465 Oldham County	73.4	73.4	64.3	4%
471 Owen County	60.6	60.6	56	4%
472 Owensboro Independent	82.2	82.2	64.1	Sub [1]
475 Owsley County	45.3	45.3	57.8	Compensating
476 Paducah Independent	76.7	76.7	56.6	4%
477 Paintsville Independent	85.5	85.5	72.7	4%
478 Paris Independent	64.1	64.1	55.3	4%
481 Pendleton County	61.2	61.2	55	Compensating
485 Perry County	50.2	50.2	49.7	4%
491 Pike County	56.7	56.7	55.3	Compensating
492 Pikeville Independent	71.7	71.7	79.3	4%
493 Pineville Independent	62.2	62.2	55.3	4%
495 Powell County	37.8	37.8	50.2	4%
501 Pulaski County	48.6	48.6	50.3	4%
502 Raceland Independent	91.6	91.6	65.8	4%
505 Robertson County	58.4	58.4	55.9	4%
511 Rockcastle County	40.4	41.2	48.3	Compensating
515 Rowan County	55.2	55.2	49	4%
521 Russell County	50.4	50.4	52.2	4%
522 Russell Independent	75.6	75.6	50.4	4%
523 Russellville Independent	78.4	78.4	53.9	Other
524 Science Hill Independent	58.2	58.2	53.2	4%
525 Scott County	47.2	47.2	54.8	4%
531 Shelby County	71.5	71.5	46.5	Other
533 Silver Grove Independent	129.3	129.3	89.6	Compensating
535 Simpson County	47.6	47.6	54.6	4%
536 Somerset Independent	64.8	64.8	56.8	4%
537 Southgate Independent	97.9	97.9	50.4	4%
541 Spencer County	61.5	61.5	56	Other
545 Taylor County	51.8	51.8	53.7	4%
551 Todd County	38.7	38.7	52.4	4%
555 Trigg County	48.9	48.9	45.9	Compensating
561 Trimble County	62.4	62.4	55.4	Compensating
565 Union County	54.2	54.2	55.7	4%
567 Walton Verona Independent	104.7	104.7	90.7	4%
571 Warren County	42	42	54.5	4%
575 Washington County	57.6	57.6	55	4%
581 Wayne County	41.6	41.6	52.8	Compensating
585 Webster County	47.6	47.6	48	4%

District	Total Real Estate	Total Tangible	Motor Vehicles	Rate Levied Type
586 West Point Independent	102.6	102.6	58.2	4%
591 Whitley County	38.6	39.8	55.2	Other
592 Williamsburg Independent	43.3	43.3	54	4%
593 Williamstown Independent	88.4	88.4	59.1	Other
595 Wolfe County	34	34	45.9	Compensating
601 Woodford County	62.2	62.2	50.9	4%

**Kentucky Department of Education
Office of Administrative Services
Division of District Support**

ATTENDANCE & T-TRUANCY
T-TIDBITS BY RAY SHULER, DPP

The current district-wide attendance rate is 93.32%, up from the rate of 92.612% this same time last year.

Total student enrollment for the district is 1,037 as of March 11th, 2014; down 38 students from last year.

BUDGET BRIEF - With Superintendent Jim Evans

MONTH /YEAR	FUND 1 GENERAL FUND	FUND 2 SPECIAL REVENUE	FUND 310 CAPITAL OUTLAY	FUND 320 BUILDING FUND	FUND 400 DEBT SERVICE FUND	FUND 51 FOOD SERVICE FUND	% OF ANNUAL BUDGET
March 2014 REVENUE	\$462,275.29	\$504,071.70	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$65,244.70	60.7% COLLECTED
March 2014 EXPENDITURES	\$470,961.85	\$122,392.44	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$241,487.02	65.7% USED

SPRING TESTING SCHEDULES SET FOR LEE COUNTY SCHOOLS



District and school personnel recognize the crucial role parents play in the academic success of their child(ren); whether it be assisting with homework; providing well balanced meals; or ensuring students are well rested for the next school day. As a school district, we want to support our parents by providing timely communication of important test dates, as well as guidance tips to help students be better prepared.

This May (2014), K-PREP tests will be administered in the last 14 days of the school year. End-of-Course or EOC exams will be given when coursework is completed in the tested subjects. EOC subjects which are tested include: English II, Algebra II, Biology and U.S. History. EOC results should count for at least 20 percent of a student's final grade. Advance Placement Exams (AP) will be given upon completion of AP courses. Lee County High School AP courses tested in May will include: AP Computer Science, AP Calculus, and AP U.S. History. Students earning a score of three or above on AP exams may qualify for college credit.

Listed below, you will find 2014 Spring Testing Schedules for all four (4) Lee County Schools, as well as informational excerpts from "A Parent's Guide to Testing in Kentucky" published by the Kentucky Department of Education. A complete copy of the guide may be found online at: [http://education.ky.gov/comm/UL/Documents/Parents Guide Testing 082812.pdf](http://education.ky.gov/comm/UL/Documents/Parents%20Guide%20Testing%20082812.pdf).

Lee County High School Spring 2014 Testing Schedule

May 6th	AP Computer Science Exam
May 7th	AP Calculus Exam
May 14th	AP U.S. History Exam
May 19th	English I End of Course (EOC) Exam English II End of Course (EOC) Exam
May 20th	Algebra II End of Course (EOC) Exam Geometry End of Course (EOC) Exam
May 21st	Biology End of Course (EOC) Exam
May 22nd	U.S. History End of Course (EOC) Exam Algebra I End of Course (EOC) Exam
May 23rd	Make Up Testing
May 26th	Make Up Testing
May 27th	On Demand Grade 10 On Demand Grade 11
May 28th	Make Up Testing

Lee County Middle School Spring 2014 Testing Schedule

May 20th–May 26th Testing Morning & Afternoon Each School Day

Beattyville Elementary School Spring 2014 Testing Schedule

May 20th– May 26th Testing Each School Day

Southside Elementary School Spring 2014 Testing Schedule

May 20th–May 26th Testing Each School Day

Excerpts From A Parent's Guide to Testing in Kentucky

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 achieve-

ment 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.

Tips for Test Success

- **Know when tests are scheduled and keep up with results.**
- **Don't schedule appointments, trips or other interruptions during testing.**
- **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.**
- **Review results with your child. Praise success and talk about what can be done for areas in need of improvement**
- **Remind your child about the importance of test scores now and the impact they can have on his or her future.**

Lee County 2013-2014 School Calendar
Final Revision April 9, 2014

Aug. 1	Thurs.	Professional Development
Aug. 2	Fri.	Professional Development
Aug. 5	Mon.	Opening Day (No Students)
Aug. 6	Tues.	Planning Day (No Students)
Aug. 7	Wed.	Planning Day (No Students)
Aug. 8	Thurs.	First Day for Students
Sept. 2	Mon.	Labor Day Holiday
Oct. 24	Thurs.	Professional Development
Oct. 25	Fri.	School Dismissed
Oct. 28	Mon.	School Dismissed
Nov. 27	Wed.	School Dismissed
Nov. 28	Thurs.	Thanksgiving Holiday
Nov. 29	Fri.	School Dismissed
Dec. 20	Fri.	Last Day of School Before Christmas Vacation
Dec. 25	Wed.	Christmas Holiday
Jan. 1	Wed.	New Year's Holiday
Jan. 6	Mon.	First Day back after Christmas Break
Jan. 20	Mon.	School Dismissed
Jan. 29	Wed.	Planning Day (No Students)
Jan. 30	Thurs.	Planning Day (No Students)
Apr. 4	Fri.	School Dismissed (KEA)
June 5	Thurs	Last Day of School for Students
June 6	Fri.	Closing Day for Staff
June 8	Sun	High School Graduation Ceremony
June 9	Mon.	Planning Day (No Students)

- Lee County High School Graduation Sunday, June 8th, 2014 @ 3:00 P.M.
- Lee County Middle School Eighth Grade Promotion Thursday, June 5th, 2014 @ 7:00 P.M.
- Beattyville Elementary Kindergarten Promotion Wednesday, June 4th @ 1:00 P.M. & Fifth Grade Promotion Thursday, June 5th @ 10:00 A.M.
- Southside Elementary Kindergarten Promotion Wednesday, June 4th @ 1:00 P.M. & Fifth Grade Promotion Thursday, June 5th @ 1:00 P.M.