

## SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS

### LEE COUNTY SCHOOLS SCORE HIGH

#### DISTRICT CLASSIFIED AS A PROFICIENT AND HIGH PROGRESS DISTRICT

Release of the 2012-2013 state assessment scores indicate that all Lee County Schools made significant gains during the 2012-2013 school year. The District improved from the 32nd percentile in 2011-12 to the 84th percentile in 2012-13. Due to the large gain in scores, Lee County School District was classified as a **Proficient and High Progress** District. A high progress district is one that has met their current annual measurable objective established by the Kentucky Department of Education, has met participation rate, has a graduation rate above 60 for the prior two years, and has an improvement score indicating the district is in the top 10% of schools improving.

In comparing each school's progress from the 2011-2012 school year to the current 2012-2013 data, you can see that every school in the district made improvement.

- Southside Elementary improved from the 14th percentile to 86th percentile;
- Beattyville Elementary improved from the 62nd percentile to the 76th percentile;
- Lee County Middle School improved from the 24th percentile to the 62nd percentile;
- Lee County High School improved from the 57th to 80th percentile; and
- Lee County High School also improved their college and career readiness from 62.5 to 80.1 and graduation rate from 68.6 to 89.2

Staff at each school, and the district office, are analyzing the current assessment data in order to pinpoint strengths/weaknesses, so they can continue to grow and prepare all students to be college and career ready when they graduate Lee County High School.

Lee County School Superintendent Jim Evans and the Lee County Board of Education commends all teachers, administrators, support staff, students and parents for their hard work and academic success.

For additional information regarding performance scores for Lee County School District and individual schools, please visit our district website at

[www.lee.kyschools.us](http://www.lee.kyschools.us) and click on the



link to access the School Report Card. A comparison chart which ranks Lee County Schools with districts in our region and others in central Kentucky may also be accessed from the district web page.

We encourage all Lee County Stakeholders to join us in recognizing our students and staff for their hard work and academic achievement.



#### **NOVEMBER 12, 2013 LEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING TO BE HELD AT LEE COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL LIBRARY**

The Lee County Board of Education Regular November 12th, 2013 meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. in the Lee County Middle School Library at 601 Lee Avenue.

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## **BUDGET BRIEF**

### ***With Superintendent Jim Evans***

In last month's budget article, I provided a description of the funds from the Chart of Accounts used by the Lee County School District. This month, I would like to share information on the way in which the district budget is generated. School districts run on a fiscal year instead of a calendar year. Lee County School District's fiscal year begins July 1<sup>st</sup> and ends June 30<sup>th</sup>. Therefore, the 2013-2014 school year or FY14 school year began July 1, 2013 and will end June 30, 2014.

The Lee County School District Budget is prepared in three steps: The Draft Budget, the Tentative Budget, and the Working Budget. Budget preparations for the upcoming fiscal year actually begin in January.

I, along with the District Finance Officer, must prepare and generate a draft budget in MUNIS for annual funds. MUNIS is the acronym for Municipal Uniform Information System. Kentucky school districts along with other municipalities throughout the country, use MUNIS for data processing of accounts payable, personnel, payroll processing, and general ledger, etc. The draft budget contains projected revenues and expenditures for the upcoming fiscal year. These are projected figures as the actual state and federal fund allocations are not yet known. As per State law, the local board must review the Draft Budget by January 31st of each year. NOTE: Draft budgets for Fund 2 and Fund 360 are not needed. A budget for Fund 2 is entered in the Tentative Budget. [\*Munis®\*](#)

Around the first of May each year, we begin preparing the Tentative Budget. Again, the Tentative Budget contains projected revenues and expenditures for the coming fiscal year. We may have more information to work with at this time, but all actual state and federal allocations are still not known. State law requires that the local board adopt a Tentative Budget by May 30th of each year.

The Working Budget is completed during the month of September. The Working Budget compares **actual** revenues and

expenditures for the past two years with the Current Year Budget. As per state law, the Working Budget must be adopted by the local board by September 30<sup>th</sup> of each year.

Lee County has completed all three steps in the budget process for FY14. The Working Budget was adopted by the Lee County Board of Education on September 24, 2013 and submitted to the Kentucky Department of Education. A monthly budget report for September 2013 is listed below:

FUND	REVENUE	EXPENDITURES
<b>1 General Fund</b>	<b>\$441,808.87</b>	<b>\$467,255.23</b>
<b>2 Special Revenue</b>	<b>\$55,565.03</b>	<b>\$160,068.12</b>
<b>310 Capital Outlay</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>320 Building Fund</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>400 Debt Service Fund</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$36,802.32</b>
<b>51 Food Service Fund</b>	<b>\$70,383.01</b>	<b>\$64,725.89</b>

## **LEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Williams Owens, Chairman**  
**Curtis Davis, Board Member**  
**Melissa Lacy Judd, Board Member**

**Larry Burgess, Vice Chairman**  
**Janie Thorpe, Board Member**

**James Evans, Jr., Superintendent - (606) 464-5000 Extension 130**

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

As part of our ongoing effort to communicate with, and inform all stakeholders, we have begun adding what we hope will be instructive and useful sections to our district newsletter "Spotlight On Success". What follows is the initial information article regarding student attendance. We felt it would be important to share the Kentucky Revised Statutes pertaining to compulsory student attendance as well as practices in place at the school and district levels to encourage student attendance. We hope you find the information contained herein helpful. An attendance update will be included in future issues of the district newsletter.

### Philosophy Statement

The Lee County Board of Education firmly believes that attendance is a student, parent, and community responsibility. The intent of the attendance procedure is for students to receive the maximum benefits from the instructional program. All students are expected to attend class every day that school is in session. The progress of a student at school depends greatly on the punctuality and regularity of attendance.

### What is Truancy

Truancy is any intentional unauthorized or illegal absence from [compulsory education](#). The term describes absences caused by students of their own free will, and usually does not refer to legitimate "excused" absences, such as ones related to medical conditions. Kentucky Revised Statute

(KRS) 159.150 defines Truancy as follows: Any child who has been absent without a valid excuse for three or more days is a truant; any child who has been reported as being truant two or more times is a habitual truant. The Director of Pupil Personnel (DPP -Truant Officer) may file with the court after habitual truancy has taken place and a FINAL NOTICE served. KRS 159.990 states: Any parent, guardian, or custodian who intentionally, fails to comply with the requirements of 159.010 to 159.170 shall be fined \$100 for the first offense and \$200 for the second offense. According to KRS 530.070, A person is guilty of unlawful transaction with a minor in the 3<sup>rd</sup> degree when they knowingly induce assist, or cause a minor to become a habitual truant.

### Practices in Place at the School and District Level to Encourage Student Attendance

Attendance clerks at each school will send a letter to parents upon students receiving three (3) or more unexcused absences. Another letter is sent to parents when the student receives six (6) unexcused absences. The Director of Pupil Personnel (DPP -Truant Officer) makes parent contacts upon the third and sixth unexcused absence. Students in the Middle School are offered the chance to participate in the Truancy Diversion Program (sponsored by the court system).

All excuse slips/notes are due within five (5) days of the student returning to school. It is important for parents to make

sure the attendance clerk at their child's school has received the excuse documentation within this time frame.

Excused absences include:

- doctor/dental notes
- death in family
- religious holidays
- EHO (Educational Enhancement Opportunities) up to 10 days pre-approved by principal for educational trips
- principal approved absences for extenuating circumstances
- parent notes (limited number per semester/year) – see parent/pupil handbook for your child's school for the number of acceptable parent notes

The Lee County Board of Education recognizes how very important regular student attendance is in order for students to gain the maximum benefits from the instructional program. To this end, the Board has allocated funds to each school to be used for awards, field trips, and other recognition programs of their choice to promote good student attendance.

Should you have questions about student attendance/truancy, feel free to call your child's school or Mr. Ray Shuler, DPP at (606) 464-5000 extension 120. Additional information may also be found by visiting the Pupil Personnel section of the Lee County Schools website at [www.lee.kyschools.us](http://www.lee.kyschools.us).

### October 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>13 National School Lunch Week</i>	14	<i>15 LCHS Open House 4-6 p.m.</i>	16	17	<i>18 Southside Appalachian Day</i>	19
<i>20 KY Safe Schools &amp; Bus Safety Week</i>	<i>21 ACT Prep LCHS 3:30 - 5:30</i>	22	<i>23 Miss KY to Visit Beatyville Elem.</i>	<i>24 No School for Students</i>	<i>25 No School for Students</i>	26
27	<i>28 No School for Students</i>	29	30	<i>31 Trick or Treat On Main 5:00-7:00</i>		

## HIGHER STANDARDS FOR SCHOOL LUNCHES

School cafeterias across the nation are meeting tough new federal nutrition standards for school meals, while ensuring that meals are well-balanced and provide students all the nutrition they need to succeed at school.

We have all heard the discouraging statistics regarding the childhood obesity rate, which has tripled over the past 30 years. One (1) in five (5) American children is obese. Obesity increases a child's risk for diseases like diabetes, heart disease and some cancers. To help combat obesity, as well as to improve student health in other ways, children are seeing new nutrition standards implemented in their school meals. These new standards were established to ensure that:

- ◆ students are offered both fruits and vegetables every day (students must take at least one serving of either)
- ◆ whole grain-rich foods offerings are increased
- ◆ only fat-free or low-fat milk (flavored milk must be fat-free) is offered
- ◆ calories allowed in each meal are limited based on the age of the children being served; and
- ◆ our focus on reducing the amounts of saturated fat, trans fats and sodium in meals is increased

Schools must offer a wider variety of vegetables, including dark green and red/orange vegetables and legumes. The rules aim to introduce more nutrients to growing kids and also to make old favorites healthier – pizza with low-fat cheese and whole-wheat crust, for example, or baked instead of fried potatoes.

Students may complain that they are hungry. This may be due to the fact that, for the first time, school lunches cannot exceed a maximum calorie count, or it may be because some students don't eat the fruit and vegetable component of their lunch. Students may still purchase additional a la carte food items in other parts of the lunchroom and the school. Separate USDA rules to make these a la carte foods healthier could go into effect as soon as next year.

Parents, you can help school food personnel successfully implement these new nutrition standards by:

- ◆ reviewing the school menu and asking your child what he or she ate at school
- ◆ talking with your children about how the school lunch will make them healthier, stronger and happier
- ◆ feeding your child more fruits, vegetables and whole grains at home so they are familiar with them at school

Together, we can educate students on the benefits of choosing healthy, well-balanced meals which can improve student health and provide the nutrition they need to succeed at school.



## LEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION SIGNS PROCLAMATION DECLARING OCTOBER 20-26, 2013 SAFE SCHOOLS WEEK FOR LEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

### Proclamation

#### To All To Whom These Presents Shall Come:

- WHEREAS,** Schools make substantial contributions to the future of America and to the development of our nation's young people as knowledgeable, responsible, and productive citizens; and
- WHEREAS,** Excellence in education is dependent on safe, secure, and peaceful school settings; and
- WHEREAS,** The safety and well-being of many students, teachers, and school staff are unnecessarily jeopardized by crime and violence, such as substance abuse, gangs, bullying, poor discipline, vandalism, and absenteeism in our schools; and
- WHEREAS,** All leaders-especially those in education, law enforcement, government, and business-should eagerly collaborate with each other to focus public attention on school safety and identify, develop, and promote answers to these critical issues; and
- WHEREAS,** Numerous schools and school districts throughout the country, along with national programs, are among those innovative answers; and
- WHEREAS,** The observance of Safe Schools Week encourages students, parents, educators, and the community to "Join the Team" and S.T.O.P. the Bullying, Violence and Risky Behavior in our schools to promote safe and secure learning climates:

**Now,** Therefore, we, do hereby proclaim October 20-26, 2013 as  
"SAFE SCHOOLS WEEK"

And encourage all fraternal, legal, government and professional associations, students and educators in America's schools to formally adopt similar resolutions and proclamations so that we may enthusiastically work together to make our schools safe, secure, and peaceful places for learning, teaching, and working, free of drugs, alcohol, weapons, and fear.

Done this 8TH day of October, in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Thirteen.  
LEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

William Owens School Board Chairman    Larry Burgess School Board Vice Chairman

Janie Thorpe School Board Member    Melissa L. Judd School Board Member

James Evans, Jr. Superintendent of Schools

**Join the Celebration in your School, Town and County!**



**Parents, Students, Staff, and Community Join Us:**

**Take the Online S.T.O.P.P! Pledge at: [www.kysafeschools.org/stoppledge](http://www.kysafeschools.org/stoppledge)**