



# OWEN COUNTY SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

1600 Hwy 22 East  
Owenton, KY 40359  
Phone (502) 484-3934  
Fax (502) 484-9095

*Our mission at Owen County Schools is to provide opportunities and resources where all students will develop perseverance and a passion for life-long learning in a safe and supportive educational environment*

November 18, 2019

## Director of Special Education Training Updates

Training events have included the OVEC Preschool Cadre and the CASE / NASDSE Conference.

During the Preschool Cadre, information from First Steps regarding Service Coordinators was shared with everyone. In addition, the Preschool Grant Application Process was shared for the 20-21 school year. Teacher certification is a known issue. As a district, we are providing our emergency certified teachers with the resources necessary to become fully certified. That includes information regarding the Kentucky Traineeship Scholarship Program for certified teachers and distributing information regarding the Early Childhood Development Scholarship to our classified staff members currently working in our preschool program. The importance of KEDS data review was emphasized. Our data is due on November 15, 2019. ECERS Training for all new staff will be completed by the end of November and is being funded by the Regional Training Center. Number sense and early literacy professional development resources were shared through consultants at OVEC and it was suggested that they come to our districts in the spring. We want to make this part of our long-term plan, especially since we have many new emergency certified staff.

The CASE / NASDSE Conference afforded me with many immediately useful tools surrounding High-Leverage Practices in Special Education and the Use of Paraeducators in Inclusive Schools. During the conference, a visit to vendors yielded the reward of a SEL Teen Literacy Library (valued at approximately \$799) and a collection of graphic novels fiction, and non-fiction high-interest low reading level books for our middle school / high school aged students. In addition, an email indicated an award of a Life Skills Curriculum (valued at approximately \$770). A formal, hand-written thank-you card will be sent indicating our appreciation of their generosity. The resources made available / information learned will be shared with teachers at a January Special Education Team Meeting.

## Owen County Schools Preschool

Currently, we are servicing the following students in preschool:

Preschool Grade	At-Risk	Disability	RtI
Grade 97		2	1
Grade 98		5	11
Grade 99	28	23	5
TOTAL = 75			

We have 4 students scheduled to be evaluated from First Steps and three currently awaiting screening.



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The KEDS Spring 2019 Data Profile for Owen County has been received. The report provides feedback to districts regarding the completeness of data received by KEDS (Kentucky Early Childhood Data System).

Districts are to ensure that KEDS is receiving complete data for all required students by meeting two goals:

Goal 1: All students have complete demographic data.

Goal 2: All students required to participate in KEDS have complete assessment data.

Owen County received 100% - Status Met for Goal 1 and 91% - Status Not Met for Goal 2 for Spring 2019.

The KDE KEDS District OSEP Report summarizes assessment results for 27 exiting preschool students with IEPs and 21 students without IEPs. Our students with IEPs did not meet the KY Target for any of the three outcomes, but 12% of students who entered the program below age expectations in the area of Social Skills substantially increased their rate of growth by the time they exited preschool.

Likewise, 30% of the students with IEPs substantially increased their Cognitive Abilities, and 22% of the students substantially increased their Adaptive Behavior skills by the time they exited preschool. A second assessment of student progress measured the percentage of students who exited preschool at age-appropriate levels. Our students with IEPs did not meet the KY Target, but 19% made significant progress in the area of Social Skills, 33% made significant progress in the area of Cognitive Ability, and 26% made significant progress toward age appropriate levels in the area of Adaptive Behavior. Our students without IEPs EXCEEDED the state target in all three areas in order to be classified as making significant progress upon exiting preschool. However, they were functioning within age expectations at a lower than expected level when compared to the KY Target with 10% exiting with age appropriate Social Skills, 29% exiting with age appropriate Cognitive Ability, and 14% exiting with age-appropriate Adaptive Behavior Skills.

The Kentucky Department of Education / Kentucky Preschool Evaluation System KPES Final Report has been received. Owen County Preschool had no findings out of compliance. The report included some recommendations for the preschool handbook to include verbiage about the federal poverty level for income-eligible 4 year olds, the wearing of safety helmets when riding wheeled toys, and literature to address some social skills needs observed during an ECERS rating. Strengths noted included professional development training, classroom space / centers and materials, the staffs' use of vocabulary, and positive classroom climate in which staff exhibited kindness and respect toward all the children.

### **Corrective Action Plan Update**

The Fifth Submission has been accepted. The PowerPoint Training Module has been received and reviewed by the DoSE and will be presented to Administrators and Special Education Staff on Wednesday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019. In addition, the decision was made to purchase two resources that will be immediately useful to administrators titled, "Discipline of Students with Disabilities: Essential Points to Remember" and "What All Principals Should Know About Special Education." These are Lucky 21 booklets published by the Council of Administrators of Special Education and are easy to read desk references to assist principals with urgent questions.