

# Kentucky All-STARS Quarterly Report

★ Third Quarter 2014

In December 2013, Kentucky was awarded \$44 million dollars from the United States Department of Education and the United States Department of Health and Human Services to ensure more high-needs kids have access to high quality early care and education.



The Governor's Office of Early Childhood has three main strategies to achieve school readiness throughout the Commonwealth:

1. Improving the quality of all early care and education programs,
2. Engaging families as their child's first and best teacher,
3. And enhancing our ability to measure the impact of our work by improved data collection and integration.

The work of Kentucky All-STARS, the name of Kentucky's Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge work, is organized into seven different projects in order to support delivery of these objectives. This quarterly report is presented to Governor Beshear in October 2014 to include updates on the first three quarters of the grant and hereafter, every quarter of the four year grant cycle.

A guide to each planned project strategy is included with this report; subsequent quarterly reports will not include this guide. This report will serve as a formal update to the Governor's Office and Cabinet Leadership on Kentucky's progress, including a dashboard of project updates, significant accomplishments and challenges.

## ★ Project Guide Planned Strategies

### **Project 1: Grant Management**

Kentucky will work through the three parts of their existing business model which are: Supporting High-Quality Learning Environments, Supporting Families, and Increasing Access to Data by achieving the objectives planned in the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge grant. Project one monitors the key activities that must be completed for grant work to move forward.

### **Project 2: Expand Rating System – STARS Redesign**

Kentucky will seek to shift the current rating system from voluntary to inclusive for all licensed and school-based early learning and development programs, ensuring each program with two or more non-relative children 1) meets a minimum level of quality, 2) pursues a process of continuous improvement and 3) has access to the necessary supports and technical assistance to achieve high levels of quality.

### **Project 3: Integrate Early Childhood Standards**

The expanded rating system will include all early learning and development environments and will support the growth of quality for educators by providing low-cost, standards-based training to all. The system will further ensure quality by providing incentives to participants who fully utilize and integrate the standards in their curriculum, instruction, and assessment.

### **Project 4: United Way Born Learning® Academies supported by Kentucky All-STARS**

Kentucky will expand the United Way Born Learning® Academies by 150 schools statewide. This program is a Kentucky product, the result of a partnership between Toyota and United Way of Northern Kentucky. By 2017 there will be a total of 200 United Way Born Learning® Academies statewide, sponsored in part by Toyota and in part by Kentucky All-STARS.

# Kentucky All-STARs Quarterly Report

## ★ Third Quarter 2014

Each quarter, the Governor's Office of Early Childhood will provide an at-a-glance update for each project. Projects as a whole are determined to be "In Progress," "On Track" or "At Risk," with consideration for the most recent quarter.

### KEY

- **In Progress:** most steps have been completed or will be completed by the deadline.
- **On Track:** significant deadlines will be met, but some intermediate deadlines may not.
- **At Risk:** some intermediate deadlines are delayed and significant deadlines may not be met.

### Status Project Name

- In Progress ..... Grant Management
- On Track ..... Expand Rating System – STARs Redesign
- In Progress ..... Integrate Early Childhood Standards
- In Progress ..... United Way Born Learning® Academies supported by KY All-STARs
- In Progress ..... Strengthening Families Framework
- On Track ..... Responsive PD System & Unified Registry
- On Track ..... Integrate Data into Longitudinal Data System

### Significant Accomplishments

#### Improving Early Care and Education Programs

- The Governor's Office of Early Childhood, The Kentucky Department of Education and the Cabinet for Health & Family Services have key staff in place and on board.
- The Governor's Office of Early Childhood and participating state agencies have established an effective partnership to ensure that grant work is moving forward.
- Legislation was introduced to transition to inclusive rating system participation and was generally well-received, but did not pass.
- Basic quality standards for early care and education programs have been drafted and submitted for national technical assistance.
- Work has begun on expanding professional learning opportunities around six high priority areas.
- Regulation filed that will require programs that receive CCAP to participate in STARs.

#### Engaging Families

- \$144,000 was granted to twenty-four schools that were selected for the United Way Born Learning® Academies supported by Kentucky ALL-STARs.
- Work on integrating the Strengthening Families Framework throughout the Commonwealth has begun with the Kentucky Strengthening Families Leadership Team which includes twelve state agencies and five private agencies.

#### Enhancing Data Collection and Integration

- The Early Childhood Profile for 2014 was completed in March.
- Some MOU's are completed for data sharing.

### Significant Challenges

- The Kentucky Department of Education has hired four out of eight staff.
- STARs revisions have progressed more slowly than expected because key staff were not in place until after the expected date, and essential changes to contracts were needed and ability to access national technical assistance has been slower than anticipated.
- Legislation strategy for next session not identified.

## ★ Project Guide Planned Strategies

### Project 5: Strengthening Families Framework

Kentucky will implement the Strengthening Families Framework, a research-based, cost-effective strategy to increase family strengths, enhance child development and school readiness. It focuses on building six Protective Factors that will be embedded in the expanded rating system and in state agencies that support families with young children.

### Project 6: Responsive Professional Development System & Unified Registry

Enhance Kentucky's high quality system for early childhood professional learning to allow early childhood educators easy access to knowledge and skills that increase school readiness. Kentucky will expand and unify the training data systems that track the early childhood workforce and professional learning.

### Project 7: Integrate Data into Kentucky Longitudinal Data System

The Kentucky Center for Education and Workforce Statistics (KCEWS), which houses Kentucky's Longitudinal Data System (LDS), has successfully linked education, post-secondary and workforce data together.

Applicable early childhood data will be integrated into the existing LDS infrastructure. Once integrated, Kentucky will have a birth to workforce system.

