

Kentucky and The Southern Regional Education Board

This report details Kentucky's participation in SREB programs and services from June 2014 through May 2015. Appropriations from member states support SREB's core operations and general services. SREB leverages the long-standing commitment of member states to attract external funding for an array of targeted projects for educational improvement in states. Kentucky receives a number of general services, plus access to programs funded by grants, contracts and fees for specific services.

Leadership

SREB Board

Matt Bevin, Governor

Wayne D. Andrews, President, Morehead State University

Mary Ann Blankenship, Executive Director, Kentucky Education Association

Derrick W. Graham, State Representative, Frankfort

Joseph U. Meyer, Covington

SREB Legislative Advisory Council

John "Bam" Carney, State Representative, Campbellsville

Derrick W. Graham, State Representative, Frankfort

Jody Richards, Speaker Pro Tempore and State Representative, Bowling Green

Wilson Stone, State Representative, Scottsville

Johnny Ray Turner, State Senator, Prestonsburg

Mike Wilson, State Senator, Bowling Green

Max Wise, State Senator, Campbellsville

Representative Richards is the longest-serving member of the Council, since 1978.

Policy

Goals for education | Monitoring state policies

Monitoring, measuring and reporting through comparative and state-specific reports to assist education leaders and policymakers as they shape public policy in education. SREB tracks trends and analyzes the progress of all 16 SREB states in each area in the Challenge to Lead 2020 Goals for Education and provides Legislative Reports that detail legislative and budget actions in each state.

Kentucky information is included in all reports, as applicable, and several are targeted specifically for Kentucky. Reports published in 2014-15:

Kentucky: Taking Stock and Moving Forward

2014 State Progress Report on the Challenge to Lead 2020 Goals for Education

High School to College and Careers, 2014

The ACT and SAT: No Longer Just College Admission Tests

SREB States Transform School Accountability with NCLB Waivers, 2014

Workforce Development in SREB States: The Role of Two-Year Colleges in Preparing Students for Middle-Skill Jobs

Focus on Compulsory Attendance Policies: About Age or Intervention?

Notes on School Finance: Selected Information on Funding for Low-Income Students in SREB States

Legislative Reports and Legislative Briefing

More information: Joan.Lord@SREB.org or Jeff.Gagne@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211

College and career readiness

Intensive work to help states implement essential components of SREB's recommendations for statewide college and career readiness.

1. Adopt statewide readiness standards for literacy and mathematics skills.
2. Assess high school juniors to determine their progress toward the standards.
3. Offer transitional readiness courses. Require juniors assessed as underprepared to take the courses in 11th or 12th grade.
4. Apply the standards in deciding whether students need learning support after admission to college.
5. Hold schools accountable for increasing postsecondary readiness.

Kentucky has been a national leader in implementing all steps of the readiness recommendations and was the first of eight states to pass legislation supporting parts of the readiness agenda.

SREB has supported the work of Kentucky policymakers in implementing the recommendations.

More information: Dave.Spence@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/Readiness

Benchmarking State Implementation of College- and Career-Readiness Standards

Tracks and reports state progress on how states are implementing college- and career-readiness standards.

SREB launched a new phase of benchmarking in February 2015. In this work, SREB tracks and will report on implementation of standards and related reforms in **all 16 SREB** states.

Publications

In January 2015, SREB published ***Benchmarking State Implementation of College-and Career-Readiness Standards, Aligned Assessments and Related Reforms***. Six reports make up the set covering 14 states: a cross-state findings report that describes trends across the states — plus five reports with detailed state profiles by topic.

The reports note Kentucky as a **leading state** for standards and assessments, professional development and accountability; and a **strong state** for aligned teaching resources and teacher evaluation.

Support for States

SREB convened leaders from eight SREB states — including staff from the **Kentucky Department of Education** — to share information about and resources for implementation of standards. National experts also attended the meeting in August 2014 in Atlanta.

SREB's benchmarking staff provided information and support to state leaders on the implementation of standards and related reforms during fall 2014 and winter 2015.

Benchmarking staff presented on implementation of college- and career-readiness standards to:

- SREB Board and Legislative Advisory Council members, including attendees from Kentucky, at SREB's 2014 Annual Meeting in June.
- Legislative and governors' staff, including attendees from Kentucky, in October 2014

More information: Kim.Anderson@SREB.org | (404) 775-9366 | SREB.org/1600

English Learners

Conference on preparing English language learners for college and career, co-hosted in May 2014 by SREB, the National Council on La Raza and the Hunt Institute.

Kentucky sent a team to the conference, and a **fact sheet for Kentucky** includes population trends, state and federal policies, and programs, standards and assessments for English learners.

More information: Dave.Spence@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/1785

Educator effectiveness

Helps states create policies that support teacher effectiveness so students learn more in the classroom. SREB staff work with policymakers and state agencies in all member states to help them translate current research on what works into evaluation systems that create an environment where teaching improves.

At the request of the Kentucky Department of Education, the SREB educator effectiveness team traveled to Louisville to **consult school district leaders on their evaluation plans** at a workshop in June.

Representatives from the Kentucky Department of Education **co-presented recent findings on classroom observations** with members of the SREB educator effectiveness team during the State Consortium on Educator Effectiveness meeting held by the Council of Chief State School Officers in Atlanta in April.

Representatives from Kentucky participated in **three webinars hosted by SREB** in February and March on educator evaluation and state teacher equity plans.

Representatives from the Kentucky Department of Education shared their experience building and implementing educator evaluation systems and networked with other **SREB state representatives at SREB's annual educator effectiveness convening** in Atlanta in February.

The SREB team refreshed the **educator effectiveness Bill Tracker** in January, which allows Kentucky policymakers to track bills across eight topics, including teacher preparation, evaluation and professional learning.

Educator effectiveness staff updated Kentucky representatives on recent changes in **educator evaluation** at SREB's Legislative Advisory Council meetings in December, and at the Meeting of Legislative and Governors' Staff in October.

The team released the **Elements of Evaluation interactive database** in October, which allows Kentucky policymakers to explore policies across 16 states on classroom observations, student growth measures and professional learning systems.

Staff shared expertise on how educator evaluation systems align with new standards with the Kentucky officials who attended the Benchmarking State Implementation of College and Career Readiness Standards meeting in August 2014.

SREB staff traveled to Frankfort in July to share with the Kentucky Department of Education findings and recommendations on their educator evaluation system, based on focus groups SREB conducted across the state with teachers and administrators.

Throughout the year, the educator effectiveness team provided technical assistance to **Kentucky Department of Education** staff who are leading the implementation of the state's new educator evaluation system.

More than 1,000 policymakers and practitioners across the 16 SREB states receive the bi-weekly educator effectiveness e-newsletter.

The SREB educator effectiveness team provided technical assistance, brokered expertise and provided policy and practice resources to Kentucky:

- SREB Board and LAC members
- State legislators and legislative staff
- Governor's staff
- State education agency staff
- District superintendents
- School principals
- Teachers

More information: Andy.Baxter@SREB.org | (704) 247-7497 | SREB.org/EE

Early childhood education

SREB Early Childhood Commission

Convenes leaders to recommend policies that will give more young children a solid start when they enter school. The Commission's focus is on access to high-quality programs and the importance of highly skilled teachers to young children's learning experiences. The Commission will present draft recommendations for the SREB Board to consider in summer 2015 and will publish its report later in 2015.

Sharon Darling, President and Founder, National Center for Families Learning

Derrick Graham, State Representative

Terry Tolan, Executive Director, Governor's Office of Early Childhood

Mike Wilson, State Senator

More information: Mark.Emblidge@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org//EarlyLearning

Career and technical education

State Leaders' Forum

Convenes state education leaders and policymakers to consider policies for high-quality career and technical education. Co-sponsored with the State Consortium for Improving High School Career and Technical Studies.

Kentucky attendees at the November 2014 Forum: 5

More information: Gene.Bottoms@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211

SREB Commission on Career and Technical Education

Explored optional career pathway programs of study to help more students acquire the academic and technical knowledge and skills to earn industry and postsecondary credentials and secure high-skill, high-wage, high-demand jobs.

The Commission's April 2015 report, *Credentials for All: An Imperative for SREB States*, offers states policies and practices to build high-quality career pathways that transform their educational systems, increase postsecondary credential and degree attainment and ensure their future economic security.

Kentucky members of the Commission:

Steve Beshear, Governor, Commission Chair

Jay Box, Chancellor, Kentucky Community and Technical College System

Derrick Graham, State Representative

Greg Higdon, President, Kentucky Association of Manufacturers

Terry Holliday, Commissioner, Kentucky Department of Education

Joe Meyer, Special Consultant to the Commission

Dennis Parker, Assistant Manager, Toyota Motor Engineering and Manufacturing

Tim Shaughnessy, Associate Provost for Academic Affairs, Gateway Community and Technical College

James R. Stone III, Director, National Research Center for Career and Technical Education

Mike Wilson, State Senator

Dale Winkler, Associate Commissioner, Office of Career and Technical Education, Kentucky
Department of Education

Tom Zawacki, Secretary, Education and Workforce Development Cabinet

More information: Gene.Bottoms@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/CTECommission

Postsecondary education

Two commissions carried SREB's completion initiative into the states in 2014 and 2015 with strong emphasis on readiness and pathways for community colleges and affordability for all students. Building on the success of the 2011-14 regional working groups of legislators to vet issues and craft recommendations, both commissions included Board and Legislative Advisory Council members and other key policymakers in the states.

SREB Community College Commission

Charged with recommending statewide strategies to strengthen the role of community and technical colleges in raising educational attainment in Southern states.

Kentucky members of the Commission:

Mike McCall, Former President, Kentucky Community and Technical College System

Tim Shaughnessy, Associate Provost for Academic Affairs, Gateway Community and Technical College,
Commission Co-chair

More information: Cheryl.Blanco@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/CommunityColleges

SREB Commission on College Affordability in the South

Charged with recommending postsecondary policies that lead with the need for affordability and adjust institutional appropriations, student aid and tuition policies accordingly.

Kentucky members of the Commission:

Wayne Andrews, President, Morehead State University

Robert King, President, Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education

Tim Shaughnessy, Associate Provost for Academic Affairs, Gateway Community and Technical College

Arnold Simpson, State Representative

More information: Cheryl.Blanco@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/Affordability

State Services

Connects policymakers with custom information, presentations and assistance on education issues as they arise.

SREB staff met with legislative and governor's staff in November 2014.

Custom information by request of Kentucky policymakers and staff:

Legislator: educational progress

Legislative staff: regional contract program

Legislator: regional contract program

Legislative staff: achievement gaps

Staff: use of evaluation data in school report cards

More information: Gale.Gaines@SREB.org | (404) 879-5582 | SREB.org/StateServices

Professional Development for Teachers, Principals and Counselors

Literacy Design Collaborative

A teaching framework to help students learn the literacy skills of college- and career-readiness standards.

Teachers learn to design assignments that engage students to learn subject content, while advancing reading and writing skills. SREB's innovative training starts with exemplary teachers, who then work with other teachers to help them adopt the strategies.

Kentucky's participation in 2014-15:

Teacher experts trained by SREB: **112**

Additional teachers trained by teacher experts: **336**

Number of schools: **28**

Kentucky schools are featured in the SREB case study *Literacy-Rich Instruction Gets Results in Two Kentucky School Systems*.

King Middle School, Harrodsburg

Mercer County Senior High, Harrodsburg

Tichenor Middle School, Erlanger

"Ultimately, our writing program is better preparing students to transition to college and careers."

— Stephen Boggs, Principal, **Letcher County Central High School**

"Our students are doing higher-order levels of reading and writing. Test scores are now above the state average."

— Terry Gordon, Principal, **King Middle School**

Several Kentucky schools are featured for their Literacy Design Collaborative implementation in a September 2014 SREB publication of vignettes, *Students Step Up When Teachers and Leaders Transform Classrooms*.

Jackson County Middle School, McKee
King Middle School, Harrodsburg
Letcher County Central High School, Whitesburg
Mercer County Senior High School, Harrodsburg
Tichenor Middle School, Erlanger

Mathematics Design Collaborative

A teaching framework to help students understand basic mathematics concepts, become fluent with mathematics procedures, and develop the reasoning to apply them to solve problems. MDC teachers use formative assessment lessons — a hybrid of assessment and instruction — to help students master college- and career-readiness standards. SREB's innovative training builds the capacity of lead teachers to become trainers of other teachers.

Kentucky teacher experts trained by SREB in 2013-14: **56**

Additional Kentucky teachers trained by teacher experts: **112**

Number of Kentucky schools: **28**

“LDC and MDC have been the main initiatives in improving instruction and increasing student learning across content areas.”

— Kathy Burkhardt, Superintendent, **Erlanger-Elsmere Independent School District**

More information: Dan.Mollette@SREB.org | (404) 962-9623 | SREB.org/LDCMDC

High Schools That Work Staff Development Conference

Annual conference for thousands of school leaders, teachers and counselors from middle grades, high schools and technology centers across the country. The 2015 conference will be held in Atlanta July 15-18.

Kentucky attendees at the July 2014 conference: **123**

More information: Anna.Johnston@SREB.org | (404) 962-9629 | SREB.org/SummerConference

College- and Career-Readiness Standards Networking Conference

Conference on the proven strategies of the Literacy and Mathematics Design Collaborative frameworks. More than 1,200 teachers and leaders attend to collaborate and share effective instructional strategies. The 2015 conference will be held in Atlanta July 13-15.

Kentucky attendees at the July 2014 networking conference: **115**

More information: Anna.Johnston@SREB.org | (404) 962-9629 | SREB.org/NetworkingConference

National Professional Development Workshops

Intensive two- to three-day workshops that address current priorities for school improvement. Attendees leave with a plan of action for their schools. During the 2014-15 school year, SREB offered the Aligning High Schools and Middle Grades With Emerging Priorities for College- and Career-Readiness workshop and the National Technology Centers That Work Leaders' Forum.

Kentucky teachers, counselors and leaders who participated: **11**

More information: Anna.Johnston@SREB.org | (404) 962-9629 | SREB.org/PD

Teaching to Lead

SREB helps states redesign programs that prepare business professionals to become career and technical education teachers through a nontraditional certification route. SREB's Teaching to Lead program provides new CTE teachers knowledge and skills to manage a classroom of diverse students; plan challenging, work-related assignments that will improve students' academic, technical and problem-solving skills; motivate students to complete assignments; and assess student progress.

Kentucky teachers served with professional development: **20**

More information: Nancy.Headrick@SREB.org | (573) 680-0476

Principals

Learning-Centered Leadership Program

Works with district, state and university partners to prepare aspiring principals and school leadership teams to lead school reform to ensure that students are ready for college and careers. This program offers training, guidance and technical assistance.

Kentucky attendees at the 2015 Annual Leadership Forum: **4**

More information: Jon.Schmidt-Davis@SREB.org | (404) 879-5591 | SREB.org/Leadership

High School and Middle Grades Improvement

Kentucky Middle Grades Schools of Innovation

The partnership between SREB, the Kentucky Department of Education and school districts to work with **25 middle grades schools** across the state was extended one year to help ensure sustainability of improvement efforts. SREB is working closely with Department of Education staff to ensure that all teachers in participating schools use the Literacy Design Collaborative and Mathematics Design Collaborative tools.

Among the **13 middle grades schools** that participated all three years, 11 showed improvement on the ACT EXPLORE sub-tests in reading, English and science. **Tichenor Middle was named a Kentucky Rapid Progress School**, among the state's top 10 percent in student achievement growth.

Among schools participating in the project two years or more, 18 of 19 improved the percentage of students scoring at or above proficient on the state K-PREP reading test. As a result of SREB Counseling for Careers training, all participating schools have established effective **advisory programs**, and at least three schools are planning high school transition courses.

For more information: Scott.Warren@SREB.org | (404) 879-5613

SREB Readiness Courses Math Ready and Literacy Ready

Ready for postsecondary study

SREB courses that teach the reading, writing and mathematics skills young adults must have to succeed in college study and the workplace after high school — how to think independently, read for information and solve problems. Developed by teams of educators and faculty from partner states around the nation, they are being field tested in several states and are available at no cost.

Kentucky is one of the five original members of the consortium of states established to develop the SREB Readiness Courses and contributed a team of talented writers from K-12 and higher education. SREB has worked closely with Kentucky K-12 and postsecondary agencies to implement the courses.

Kentucky has implemented its own state-developed transitional courses, which will be revised to align with state college- and career-readiness standards. Schools in Kentucky have the option of using the state curricula or the SREB Readiness Courses for their transitional classes. **Five Kentucky schools** are participating in the SREB field-test during the 2014-15 school year.

Ready for high school

SREB is now working with states to develop courses for the transition from middle grades to high school. The courses will be available for underprepared eighth- and ninth-grade students starting in 2016-17.

Middle school and high school teachers from Kentucky are participating in the development of the new courses.

More information: John.Squires@SREB.org | (404)-875-9211 | SREB.org/Ready

Advanced Career

A new approach to career and technical education that combines college-readiness academic content with a sequence of four courses designed around hands-on, project-based assignments. The aim is to prepare more students for as many career options as possible in emerging high-demand, high-wage fields such as health informatics and energy and power.

Kentucky is one of nine states in the Advanced Career consortium that has worked with SREB and local postsecondary education and economic development leaders to develop the pathways. Kentucky is one of only two members of the SREB AC consortium to develop two pathways:

integrated production technologies

informatics

In fall 2014, three high schools in other states adopted Kentucky's the pathway courses. Three Kentucky schools began implementing integrated production technologies; each school implemented AC clean energy technology, global logistics and health informatics in fall 2014.

Five schools in other states will implement integrated production technologies in fall 2015.

2014-15:

Kentucky teachers participated in summer teacher training for AC pathways.

Thirteen Kentucky schools administered AC end-of-course assessments for students.

More information: Gene.Bottoms@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/AC

Enhanced Project-Based Learning in CTE

Training model for existing career and technical education programs in high-demand, high-skill, high-wage fields. Teachers improve assignments and assessments by working with business and industry partners to develop projects that require students to apply technical, academic, college- and career-readiness and technology skills.

2014-15:

Kentucky teachers participating in SREB training and follow-up coaching: **154**

Kentucky administrators participating in SREB training: **34**

Kentucky schools involved: **23**

2015-16:

Eight schools and more than 140 teachers and administrators will participate in training and follow-up coaching from SREB.

More information Sandy.Culotta@SREB.org | (302) 258-5787

High Schools That Work

Helps states transform public high schools into places where all students learn at high levels and complete at higher rates. Reforms create career pathway roadmaps for college and career readiness to meet regional and state workforce needs. HSTW serves more than 1,350 schools in 30 states. Schools receive services through membership in the HSTW state network or through contracts for intensive, customized support.

HSTW State Network

Member states select schools to receive services. The fee for state membership in the consortium covers several services and visits.

Kentucky is a member of the High Schools That Work state network, in which **26 schools** were active in 2014-15.

Dale Winkler, Director of Career and Technical Education, Kentucky Department of Education, serves on the HSTW Board from Kentucky.

Linda Floyd, Kentucky Department of Education, is the Kentucky HSTW State Coordinator.

More information: Gene.Bottoms@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/HSTW

Contracts for Direct Support

Schools, districts and states contract with SREB for targeted school improvement services such as on-site coaching, technical assistance and professional development.

Three high schools in Kentucky contracted with SREB for direct services through HSTW in 2014-15. SREB delivered 434 days of on-site coaching and six days of on-site staff development.

More information: Cindy.VanBuren@SREB.org | (803) 984-5986 | SREB.org/HSTW

HSTW Assessment

Subject tests, along with student and teacher surveys to establish baseline data, track progress and identify areas for improvement.

In Kentucky, **three high schools** participated in the 2014 HSTW Assessment.

More information: Fran.Cowart@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/HSTW

Special Board Meeting

SREB's HSTW initiative held a special board meeting in March devoted to strengthening the HSTW instructional design to build college and career pathways that link high schools, workplace learning, and community and technical colleges. The goal is to increase the percentage of young people who earn a credible credential by age 25.

Kentucky participants in the March 2015 HSTW board meeting:

Kentucky Department of Education: Linda Floyd

Kentucky Department of Education: Carole Frakes

Kentucky Department of Education: Dale Winkler

Making Middle Grades Work

Engages state, district and school leaders in partnerships with teachers, students, parents and the community to raise student achievement in the middle grades. The network includes 663 schools in 20 states.

Kentucky participates in Making Middle Grades Work.

In 2014-15:

Schools active in the network: **32**

Schools contracted with SREB for direct services: **19**

Days of on-site coaching delivered to schools: **152**

Days of on-site staff development delivered to schools: **262**

Jefferson County Middle Grades of Innovation is a three-year effort — involving the Kentucky Department of Education, Jefferson County Public Schools and SREB — working in 10 Kentucky middle schools. Specific services in the first year, 2014-15, include: two-day district site development workshop, eight days of Literacy Design Collaborative professional development, eight days of Mathematics Design Collaborative professional development, three days of training on connecting LDC and MDC best practices with the Kentucky Effective Teaching Framework, 12 follow-up coaching visits per school, four days of professional development to create a counseling for careers focus, and quarterly progress and planning district meetings.

MMGW Student Survey

During 2014, **one Kentucky school** participated in the MMGW Teacher Survey or the MMGW Student Survey, which measures student perceptions of school and classroom practices.

More information: Deborah.Bass@SREB.org | (404) 788-1235 | SREB.org/MMGW

Technology Centers That Work

Helps shared-time centers produce high-demand, high-wage graduates. SREB provides staff development, technical assistance, publications and assessment services. The network includes almost 200 sites in 18 states.

In Kentucky during 2014-15:

Centers as active members: **18**

Days of on-site coaching delivered to centers: **12**

Days of on-site staff development delivered to centers: **11**

Participating centers in the HSTW Assessment: **3**

Institutional reviews: **6**

SREB works to ensure that every student at career and technical education centers in the Technology Centers That Work network receives a comprehensive, personalized program of study by engaging all centers in developing three-to-five year strategic plans for improvement.

SREB is also preparing CTE teachers to engage students with more intellectually demanding assignments that require a mix of academic and technical skills to complete.

More information: Gene.Bottoms@SREB.org or Lynda.Jackson@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/TCTW

National Research Center for Career and Technical Education

Provides policy and practice solutions to challenges facing career and technical education today, including better engaging students in school; improving academic and technical achievement; and better transitioning high school students to college and to careers.

Professional development provided in 2014-15:

Jefferson County received professional development in project-based learning.

More information: James.Stone@SREB.org | (502) 322-6260

Higher Education Programs and Services

Tuition savings, access to uncommon degrees

Academic Common Market

Provides in-state tuition access to degree programs not available in a student's home state. Approximately 2,500 new students participate each year in 1,900 programs at 150 institutions.

Participating Kentucky students, calendar year 2014: **145**

Kentucky ACM Representative:

Kim Arington, Senior Associate for Academic Affairs, Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education

A Kentucky representative attended the 2015 Academic Common Market annual meeting webinar.

Electronic Campus

Partners with colleges and universities to give students access to almost 37,000 online courses and more than 3,400 online degree programs.

Programs provided by Kentucky institutions as of April 2015: **160**

Kentucky EC Representative:

Paul Blankenship, Senior Associate, Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education

Kentucky representatives attended the 2014 Electronic Campus annual meeting.

Regional Contract Program

Gives students the opportunity to earn a professional health degree from participating institutions in other states through in-state tuition rates at public institutions or reduced tuition at private institutions. SREB is fiscal agent and handles administrative duties without additional fees to the state, institutions or students. More than 700 students participate each year.

This SREB program makes it possible for Kentucky residents to enroll in professional degree programs in **optometry** at Southern College of Optometry and the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and **veterinary** medicine at Auburn University and Tuskegee University.

Other SREB states contract with the University of Louisville for spaces in **dentistry**. For providing this contract service, the University of Louisville receives more than **\$30,000** from other states. In 2014-2015, **192 students** participated in Kentucky programs.

RCP Kentucky Representative:

Shaun McKiernan, Senior Associate, Budget and Finance, Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education

SREB Electronic Campus Regional Reciprocity Agreement

*Allows institutions to be authorized by their home state to eliminate the need for individual approvals in SREB states where they serve students online. SREB states opt in to SECRRRA. A new, nationwide system of reciprocity — **SARA**, or the **State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement** — will open more high-quality online offerings for students and ease regulatory burdens on institutions.*

Kentucky participates in SECRRRA.

More information: Mary.Larson@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/1083

Comparative data

SREB-State Data Exchange

Collects, compiles and publishes data and descriptive statistics on postsecondary education. Data are updated annually on a wide range of policy topics: degree and certificate completion, student persistence and progression, time- and credits-to-degree, student credit hours (including those taken in high school), tuition and fee levels and policies, and faculty salaries. Postsecondary agencies in each SREB state participate and appoint coordinators.

Participating agency and its Data Exchange Coordinator for 2015-16:

Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education: Joy Mordica, Director, Data and Information

SREB Fact Book on Higher Education

One of the nation's most comprehensive collections of comparative data. The Fact Book keeps policymakers informed with trend data for all 50 states on the population and the economy, college enrollment, degrees awarded, tuition and fees, student financial aid and cost of attendance, faculty and administrators, as well as revenue and expenditures including state appropriations. Fact Book tables are updated regularly at SREB.org/Data.

Kentucky leaders receive the annual **SREB-State Data Exchange Indicators Report**, the **SREB Fact Book on Higher Education**, as well as **Kentucky: Featured Facts from the SREB Fact Book on Higher Education**, **Fact Book Bulletins** and special reports.

More information: Susan.Lounsbury@SREB.org | (404) 879-5546 | SREB.org/Data

Nursing education

Council on Collegiate Education for Nursing

Helps expand and strengthen schools of nursing to reduce the critical shortage of nurse educators needed to educate the nation's registered nurses. The Council surveys institutions for nursing education trends and shares online graduate nursing courses.

In Kentucky, **five institutions** participate in the Council.

Representatives from each institution, with leadership positions on the Council:

Eastern Kentucky University: Deborah Whitehouse, Dean; Nursing Council: Membership Committee

Kentucky State University: Indira D. Tyler, Chair

Morehead State University: Lynne Parsons, Chair

University of Kentucky: Janie Heath, Dean

Western Kentucky University: Mary Bennett, Head

More information: Eula.Aiken@SREB.org | (404) 879-5567 | SREB.org/Nursing

Minority Ph.D. scholars

SREB-State Doctoral Scholars Program

Supports minority students to help them earn their Ph.D.s and seek employment that helps colleges and universities diversify their faculties. The Doctoral Scholars Program hosts the annual Institute on Teaching and Mentoring, the nation's largest gathering of minority doctoral scholars — with more than 1,200 attendees.

Scholars funded by Kentucky in 2014-15: **11**

2014 Institute attendees from Kentucky: **46**

Doctoral scholars Kentucky has supported since joining in 1994: **121**

Graduates since 1994: **79**

Graduates currently employed: **70**

Percent employed in education: **83**

Kentucky-supported students have attended these institutions since 1994:

Tulane University

University of Kentucky

Doctoral Scholars Program Regional Advisory Committee Representative:

Rana Johnson, Chief Diversity Officer, Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education

More information: Ansley.Abraham@SREB.org | (404) 879-5573 | SREB.org/DoctoralScholars

Interstate Cooperatives

Educational Technology Cooperative

Membership group of state K-12 and higher education coordinating and governing boards representing more than 800 colleges and universities and 3,100 school districts in SREB states. The ETC focuses member agencies and state policymakers on using technology wisely, reports on educational technology topics and connects members.

Kentucky member agencies and representatives for 2014-15:

Kentucky Department of Education:

David Couch, Associate Commissioner, Office of Educational Technology

Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education:

Allen Lind, Vice President, Innovation and E-Learning

Kentucky Department of Education:

Frank Wells, KETS Engineer, Field Services, Office of Education Technology

Kentucky sent attendees to the 2014 annual meeting. Kentucky's ETC representatives helped determine SREB's **10 Critical Issues in Educational Technology**. Allen Lind of the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education served on the ETC executive committee to guide the ETC in leveraging current and future technologies for the benefit of students, instructional staff and support staff across the K-20 continuum.

The ETC is working with the **Kentucky Community and Technical College System** on a \$1 million Educare Next Generation Learning Challenges grant to implement the **Direct2Degree** program, using linear, competency-based modules to increase student success and degree affordability. SREB ETC Director Wanda Barker serves on the Direct2Degree Advisory Committee, and the results of this grant will be presented at the 2015 Educational Technology Cooperative fall meeting.

More information: Wanda.Barker@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/EdTech

Technology Purchasing Savings

Schools, universities and agencies in SREB states saved 3 percent to 18 percent on \$17 million in technology purchases during fiscal year 2014 through SREB's participation in MHECtech discount agreements. Organizations in each of the 16 SREB states participated.

Kentucky technology purchases, FY 2014: **\$666,700**

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SREB Meetings Hosted in Kentucky

*Annual Meeting of the Board, Legislative Work Conference, Regional Working Group
Legislators, state education agency leaders and other education policymakers
Louisville, the Seelbach Hilton
June 2014*

*Electronic Campus and Educational Technology Cooperative Annual Meeting
Representatives from SREB states
Louisville
September 2014*

*Early Childhood Commission Meeting
Legislators, K-12 agency heads and other education leaders
Frankfort, Governor's Mansion
November 2014*

*Early Childhood Commission Meeting
Legislators, K-12 agency heads and other education leaders
Louisville, the Galt House
March 2015*

The Southern Regional Education Board was created in 1948 by Southern governors and legislators who recognized the link between education and economic vitality. To this day, the organization maintains its focus on critical issues that hold the promise of improving quality of life by advancing public education. The region's track record shows that setting goals and maintaining the commitment to work toward them make a difference.