Calloway Continues Strong Tradition of High Test Scores

By

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The Kentucky Department of Education might be in a state of change when it comes to student testing and reporting, but one thing that hasn’t changed is the strong performance of Calloway students on their state assessments.

According to Tawnya Hunter, CCSD Professional Development Coordinator, “When the Every Student Succeeds Act replaced No Child Left Behind and the Kentucky General Assembly passed Senate Bill 1 in the Spring of 2017, several things were then taken out of our accountability system.” One component that was dropped is a term that Calloway parents have come to expect: District of Distinction; KDE no longer uses that label for districts. This year, according to KDE, “Schools and districts will not receive an overall score, individual scores for Learners and Program Reviews or school and district labels (Distinguished, Proficient, Needs Improvement, Priority or Focus).”

While there are no rankings or comparisons among districts, there do remain some data points to compare with previous years’ data at the district level. CCSD Superintendent Tres Settle is pleased to report that Calloway County Schools again performed well in several areas, including College and Career Readiness, graduation rate, and on-demand writing. Said Superintendent Settle, “Calloway County Schools is pleased with our areas of high achievement, and we are committed to sustaining our efforts to identify areas that can be improved.”

KDE has labeled this as a “transition year” for accountability, adding that “Both ESSA and Senate Bill 1 (2017) have the clear goal of ensuring our education system prepares every child to graduate from high school ready to thrive in college and careers.” During this transition, Calloway County Schools will thoroughly evaluate the data at hand and ask tough questions about levels of achievement and whether achievement gaps are closing, as both areas will figure prominently in the new accountability system. Next year will be the final year of the transition, and CCSD looks forward to reporting in the new accountability system beginning in 2019 and again comparing scores from year to year beginning in 2020.