

The ^{CCPS} BOARD REPORT

July 22, 2024

→ Accreditation status recognized

All Clark County Public Schools received Cognia accreditation status, a prestigious designation earned after a rigorous, comprehensive evaluation process. School administrators received a framed certificate for their schools.

Cognia accreditation is recognized globally as a standard for professional learning excellence and ongoing school improvement. Cognia is the parent company for several regional accreditation organizations as well.

[See Page 3 for details.](#)

→ School handbooks approved

The Board approved digital handbooks for all schools. The streamlined handbooks with consistent looks and user-friendly formatting began last year with families applauding the change.

All handbooks are linked to the right.

→ Center naming enters final round

The Innovation Center naming process has entered Round 3 with the voting now open through August. [SURVEY LINK](#)

Round 1 responses fell into two categories:

- A name that honors a specific person in our community
- A name that embodies creativity and innovation

Round 2 feedback overwhelmingly suggested the community prefers a name that embodies creativity and innovation. The top 5 suggested names taken from that survey have been compiled into a final survey.

The Round 3 survey that opened July 23 asks stakeholders to select their favorite name. After the results are compiled, the top choice will be presented to the Board.

View Mrs. Fithen's naming presentation [HERE](#).

→ NEXT REGULAR MEETING: AUGUST 27

NOTABLE & QUOTABLE

All I know is, I would be walking around or be in a session and somebody would come up and say, 'You're from Clark County. That's a great place. You guys are doing great things.' I mean that happened again and again. We are doing pretty darn good here.

-Board member Billy Bennett describing his experience at the recent Kentucky School Board Association conference

CCPS Student Handbooks



[Baker](#)



[CC Preschool](#)



[Conkwright](#)



[GRC](#)



[Justice](#)



[Phoenix](#)



[RDC](#)



[Shearer](#)



[Strode](#)

CCPS Hall of Fame Nominees

Induction for the CCPS Hall of Fame Class of 2024 will take place at the Aug. 23 GRC football game. Nominees based on community input are: Paul Columbia, Betty Curtis, Joe Gilliam, Jan Horn, Marty Jackson, Jackie McCloud, Martha Miller, Mike "Bear" Rogers, Harvey Spry, and Sandy Stults. **CONGRATULATIONS!**



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Ashley Ritchie, Board Chair (District 5)
Dora Hall, Vice Chair (District 2)

Billy Bennett (District 3)
Ben Dorsey (District 4)
Jennifer Simpkins (District 1)

CCPS
Supt. Dustin Howard
CAO/Asst. Supt. Kelly Fithen
COO Brandon Watkins
Full Admin Team

→ Routine actions...

In other action, the Board:

-Approved a contract for speech language services for 2024 -2025 to ensure services will not be interrupted if a staff therapist cannot be present. All schools are staffed.

-Approved a change to Bus Driver's Report of Student Conduct form that adds an option for a driver to request a conference with a principal.

-Approved the 24-25 [Transportation Procedures Manual](#).

-Approved a Memorandum of Understanding with OneGoal for services to GRC. OneGoal helps ensure that post-secondary planning, preparation and support for students are prioritized with a specific plan. [View Presentation](#)

-Was informed that an MTSS Bullying Taskforce has been formed that includes Board vice chair Dora Hall and member Jennifer Simpkins, along with numerous school administrators and counselors. Taskforce work is ongoing to ensure consistent processes are in place.

-Heard a report from Rachel Stanley from New Vista on the Sources of Strength program at RDC. Kentucky now requires evidence-based suicide prevention programs in schools. Sources of Strength is a K-12 evidence-based gold standard SAMHSA program.

-Approved second reading of the annual Kentucky School Board Association 2024 Policy updates (Second Read). The Board did not include the KSBA language allowing medical cannabis distribution in the schools.

-Approved routine financial items. During the monthly financial update, Director Aleisha Ellis told the Board: "We've done a good job of pre-planning and staying within our budget, so that is fantastic news. We're looking forward to starting our new year and getting all the kids back. Everybody has their budgets in place and we're ready to roll forward."

-Approved numerous consent agenda items. [View Agenda](#)

→ Superintendent's Report

The Opening Day celebration scheduled for August 9th at GRC Arena will be one to remember.

"We're calling it a Connect Celebration because we're all connected in the betterment of our school and of our kids," Mr. Howard told the Board. "We're serving breakfast and we have a guest speaker coming. We're working with several of our community partners to make the event more special. I don't want to give up too much, so wait for the surprise and delight. That day is going to be awesome. I'll be so fired up that I'll probably jump out of bed at 4 that morning."

The district will launch its Portrait of a Learner initiative that day, which provides a framework for academic and other skills students will be taught from preschool through 12th grade. "It outlines the skills and dispositions students need to thrive after graduation," Mr. Howard said. "It's not enough any longer for us to hand them a diploma and walk them off the stage. We have to ensure that they're ready to be successful in life. So that's what this work is really anchored with."

The district is working on a Strategic Plan that sets the vision for the next five years. "We have lots of community input, we've had lots of meetings, we've listened, and we're ready to really share our efforts to set the vision for the next five years with our strategic planning process."

New roll-outs for the school year, which everyone will be hearing more about soon, include a new bus app, writing software, and digital paperwork.



→ Schools recognized for Accreditation

Administrators received a framed certificate for their schools designating Cognia Accreditation.

Ketsy Fields, senior director of the Mid-Atlantic Region for Cognia, said CCPS jumped on the accreditation process shortly after Mr. Howard was hired in 2022. “Cognia is all about being a trusted partner and working with districts and schools to improve outcomes for kids,” she said. “You all have the students at the heart of all decisions you make and that’s something to be proud of because that’s not always the case in institutions.”

[View the accreditation report here.](#)

Cognia uses an Index of Education Quality scale of 100-400 to measure organizational effectiveness based on 31 Performance Standards in the main areas of Leadership Capacity, Learning Capacity, and Resource Capacity. The CCPS IEQ score of 316, based on stakeholder feedback, student achievement, and learning environment, is above the norm.

Ms. Fields said every aspect of an accreditation plan is focused on continuous improvement with the Cognia standards set up for districts to remain on an upward trajectory from year to year. “You’re never finished,” she explained. “This is a continuous cycle of always striving to get better. And that’s our goal. We’ll do this every six years, but we ask you to do this every year internally by continuing to look at these areas of growth.”

Assistant Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer Kelly Fithen added that the district has implemented numerous structures that address all 31 Cognia performance standards, and also has a specific plan for monitoring. “This is very much a team effort because you cannot do it alone,” she said. “We will continually strive to get better, and to improve all structures we have in place. Many of the areas Cognia pointed out as needing improvement, we have addressed with specific structures and will give them time to improve. I’ll quote Mr. Howard as he says that greatness is a journey; it’s not a destination. We are truly on our journey to achieving greatness.”



Administrators present to receive their official certificate were, from top left, Jill Blanton, Clark County Preschool; Mary Maldonado, Justice Elementary; Diana Jackson, Shearer Elementary; Anitria Coston, Strode Station Elementary; Josh Mounts, Baker Intermediate; and Luke Toy, George Rogers Clark High. Conkwright and Phoenix also received the designation.



→ Board Recognition: World Champions!



Bass Fishing world champions Bryce Alfrey from GRC and Elijah Coleman from Montgomery County displayed their massive trophy before the Board and received a Certificate of Recognition for their incredible accomplishment.

The two anglers partnered in the four-day competition at Hartwell Lake in South Carolina. Bryce and Elijah bested 437 teams and 1,311 participants from around the world. They received more than \$200,000 worth of scholarship offers.

→ BCTC director introduced

Renee McFall was introduced as the new director of the BCTC Winchester-Clark County campus, a meaningful partner for our district.

A resident of Central Kentucky for nearly two decades, Ms. McFall most recently was the Associate Director of Employer Relations and Outreach at Eastern Kentucky University.



→ Dr. Feeney praises CCPS

The CCPS partnership with BCTC has “gone to a new level” under Superintendent Dustin Howard, BCTC President and CEO Dr. Greg Feeney told the Board.

BCTC has seen more than a 13 percent increase this past year, and the fall is looking positive as well, Dr. Feeney said. “What I learned a long time ago is that the community college alone can only do so much. But the more that we partner with our communities, the stronger our institution is.” BCTC partners with 14 counties.

“I can’t say enough how much community partnerships matter and how much leadership matters,” he continued. “Winchester has always been Exhibit A of that. So I thank you for all that you have done. In the short amount of time that you’ve been here (Supt. Howard was hired in 2022), the difference has been night and day. It was good before, but it is excellent now.”

