

FACT SHEET

THE STATS:

- Kentucky's Graduation Rate now stands at only 83.72%
- 25.7 % of adults in Kentucky have less than a high school education
- 6,178 students in Kentucky dropped out of the 2007 graduating class

THE PURPOSE: The purpose of the "GRADUATE KENTUCKY" initiative is to raise awareness that the dropout problem in Kentucky is a community issue, instigate a community discussion about the issue and develop an action plan to address the problem.

THE GOALS:

- Statewide awareness of our education needs
- Coordination of resources and tools among all education initiatives, private, public and non-profit
- Implementable action plan for policy makers, educators and the business community.

THE LEADERS: First Lady Jane Beshear and Kentucky's Education and Workforce Development Cabinet Secretary, Joe Meyer

THE HISTORY: America's Promise Alliance, Colin and Alma Powell's non-profit coalition of companies and organizations that provides support and awareness for issues affecting children in our country, has given Kentucky a grant of \$25,000 to hold a dropout prevention summit. First Lady Jane Beshear and the Secretary of the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet, Helen Mountjoy, saw this grant as a great opportunity to bring attention to the dropout problem in the Commonwealth and provide a platform on which to discuss the issue. The development of the "GRADUATE KENTUCKY: A Community Approach" was the product of this discussion.

THE STATEWIDE SUMMIT: The statewide Graduate Kentucky Summit was held on September 10th and 11th of 2009 and was attended by over 500 Kentuckians from all over the Commonwealth. If you would like a copy of the finalized Graduate Kentucky statewide summit report it is available on the Graduate Kentucky website (www.graduate.ky.gov).

THE REGIONAL SUMMIT INFORMATION: Six (6) regional "GRADUATE KENTUCKY: A Community Approach" summits have been planned in the following Kentucky communities; Bowling Green, Hazard, Murray, and Richmond, Covington, and Ashland.

WHAT IS NEXT: The next step for the Graduate Kentucky effort is to begin the development of a statewide action plan to address the dropout problem in the Commonwealth. This action plan will be developed by the state steering committee and use the information relayed and discussed at both the statewide summit and the six regional summits. This report will be issued in January of 2011.

THE CONTACT INFO: We want you to be involved! If you are interested in attending the summit, would like exhibit information or need more information on the broader initiative, please contact Colmon Elridge or Kate Wood using the information below.

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You may also want to visit GRADUATE KENTUCKY'S website www.graduate.ky.gov to get up to date information about the summit and other important information concerning dropout prevention.