

GENERAL NEWS

Independent school districts do well in financial performance

FRANKFORT, Ky. (AP) - Several independent school districts rank among the best managed in Kentucky, while the worst are mainly concentrated in Appalachia, according to a study.

The study found that nine of the 25 best managed districts were independent districts, according to figures released Monday by the state Department of Education under the Open Records Law.

Meanwhile, 17 of the 25 worst managed districts were in the 5th and 7th Congressional Districts. The Louisville Courier-Journal reported in its editions today.

The numbers speak for themselves," said Ron Moulroy, the education department's associate superintendent for administration and finance. "It shows what they do with the money they have."

The state has used its formula for the last four years to determine which schools have the most significant management problems and need help.

Since 1986, 21 school districts have been put under the program, which offers the services of a state consultant to oversee school expenditures and financial management.

The latest rankings are based on figures from the

1987-88 school year. Kentucky's 177 school systems were ranked on a complex formula that considers 30 different indicators, such as test scores and the percent of budget used for salaries, administration and maintenance.

Other factors include transportation costs, teachers' education level, dropout and attendance rates, investment income, percent of budget for substitute teachers, and the ratio of non-teaching "classified" employees - such as janitors, clerks and aides - to the number of employees "certified" by the state department of education.

Each district was given a score from 1 to 177 in each of the categories, depending on how it compared with the state's other districts. Better performances earn lower scores. The numbers were weighted - with some factors, such as the percent of the budget devoted to instruction,

having more impact on the total score - and then added up and ranked.

Glasgow Independent was the top-ranked district with a cumulative score of 820. The lowest ranking system was Covington Independent with a score of 435.

Moulroy served on the committee that in 1985 devised the formula, which was later adopted as a state regulation. He acknowledges some weaknesses in the formula, such as the absence of any indicator of the number of students who are considered economically deprived. But he defends the list as a tool to help determine which districts are in trouble.

The formula shows how well a district is spending its money and how much concern it has for educating children, Moulroy said.

It tells me leadership's concern for the classroom itself. Our focus is to teach children. If you spend

money outside the classroom it should be a necessary evil," he said.

Problems in some low-ranking districts are often due to politics, according to reports prepared by consultants to districts in the management assistance program. But Moulroy said the problem in other districts may simply be that educators have difficulty managing complex school budgets.

"They're not trained as business professionals; they're training as educators," he said.

The state's largest districts fared poorly in the study. Jefferson County, Kentucky's largest district, ranked 155th and would be a candidate for the state's management assistance program if all the district rankings remained the same next year.

However, the finance officer for Jefferson County schools said it is misleading to com-

Education battle brews

By Mark R. Chaffee, Associated Press Writer

FRANKFORT, Ky. (AP) - Although there are serious questions about what the General Assembly will do about an education budget given current debate over the future of schools, the Department of Education has its own ideas.

Members of the State Board of Education were given a wish list on Wednesday of where department officials would spend any additional money in the coming two-year budget period.

The list is unofficial and has yet to receive the approval of Superintendent John E. Brock. Board members were asked to make their own suggestions in the coming weeks.

The list also may be meaningless because of the uncertainty over education spending. Some legislators have proposed withholding any action on a budget for education until the current debate over recreating the schools is complete.

Nevertheless, all agencies are required to submit budget requests to the Governor's Office for Policy and Management by Oct. 15 and the spending list indicates where one particularly powerful interest group - the Department of Education - thinks emphasis should go.

At the top of the list is more money for power equalization, the program that directs money to the poorest school districts. A lawsuit by poorer districts led to the

Supreme Court ruling earlier this year that Kentucky schools are unconstitutional, prompting the current debate over education.

More money for teacher salaries is second on the department's list. The state sets a minimum salary schedule for all teachers and the department proposes to increase that minimum by at least 5 percent each of the next two years.

Third is additional money for local districts to pay routine expenses and fourth is more money to match federal funds for vocational and rehabilitation programs. FIFTH is more money for special education.

The budget shopping list has the different items and includes such diverse items as conversion of the department's work to a specific computer program. It also has much more controversial items such as money to pay for compulsory school attendance to age 18.

What it does not have is a price tag.

The instructions to state agencies call for an outline of budget proposals that include no more than a basic 3 percent increase over this year's appropriation, which in the case of the department is \$1.45 billion, the largest single item on the state spending plan.

Anything beyond the base must be listed separately and ranked according to importance for the governor's budget-makers.

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Nicholas students graduate from MSU

A Nicholas County student graduated with honors from Morehead State University during its 1989 August commencement.

Graduating Magna Cum Laude was Douglas G. Darlow. He earned a B.S. degree.

To graduate Magna Cum Laude, a student must earn a cumulative grade point average of 3.60 to 3.89.

Also graduating during August commencement was Carol Hutton, Carlisle, A.A.

BOOKMOBILE SCHEDULE

The Bookmobile Schedule is as follows:

It will be at school all day on Monday, September 18; October 2, 16, 30; November 13, 27; December 11, January 8, 22; February 5, 19; March 5, 19; April 12, 26; May 14, 1990.

Thursday, September 21; October 5, 19; November 2, 16, 30; December 14; January 11, 25; February 8, 22; March 8, 22; April 5, 19; May 17.

The Bookmobile will be traveling to the trailer park US 68 to Headquarters Store to Ribben Road to Saltwell Church to Johnson Road to Bateville Store to Bald Hill Road to Sugar Creek Road to

US 68 to Short Stoney Creek Road to US 68 to library on the following: September 11, 15; October 9, 23; November 6, 20; December 4, 18; January 1, 15, 29; February 12, 26; March 12, 26; April 9, 23; and May 7, 21.

The bookmobile will travel from the library to Myers Station to Cassidy Creek Road to Buzard Road to Short Stoney Creek Road to Merriell Road to Headstart to Day Care to Sycamore Apartments to Green Valley Apartments to library on the following: Tuesday, September 12, 26; October 10, 24; November 7, 21; December 5, 19; January 2, 16, 30; February 13, 27; March 13, 27; April 10, 24; and May 8, 22.

THE CARLISLE MERCURY SPORTS EXTRA!
Thursday, September 21, 1989

Homecoming Happiness
Nicholas downs Berea, 43-0

By Josh Shepherd
Of The Carlisle Mercury Staff

The Nicholas County Blue Jackets ended a four game losing streak with a 43-0 homecoming game against the Berea Pirates, Friday night.

Nicholas and Berea were looking for their first win of the season, both having 0-4 records.

Nicholas immediately took control with Jason Brumback's 82 yard touchdown on the kick off through the middle of the Berea line. The extra point kick went wide.

The Pirates' offensive attack made little headway as they were forced to punt on 4th and 17. Penalty problems still continued as Berea's pass to Brumback brought them up to third and 11, they were forced to punt the ball away.

Berea's possession did not advance much further than their previous attempt. However, they managed to first drive off a face mask call against Nicholas.

Nicholas was well shorted, though, with plays that quickly marched Nicholas within scoring range when Brumback ran the ball for the far side of the field for 40 yards and another Nicholas score. Randy Hayes powered into the end zone for the 2-point conversion.

Berea had little time with the ball when Greg Gilvin threw a fumble and Chris Jones recovered. Seconds later Brumback again powered his way across the end zone with Randy Hayes adding another 2-point conversion to the score.

Berea's Sean Conner led the next offense attack and made the night on runs of 62 yards (kickoff return), 47, and 13 to lead Nicholas with 142 yards rushing on nine carries. Shad Tibbs and Chris Fryman also scored touchdowns.



Moving to the endzone - Nicholas County sophomore runningback Jason Brumback (84) looks for a block from (4) Junior Mike Johnson enroute to the end zone. Brumback got the block and went on to score his third touchdown of the first quarter on a 27 yard run to lead Nicholas County to a 43-0 win over Berea in NCHS' homecoming game, last Friday. Brumback finished with four touchdowns on the night on runs of 62 yards (kickoff return), 47, and 13 to lead NCHS with 142 yards rushing on nine carries. Shad Tibbs and Chris Fryman also scored touchdowns.

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