



**FLOYD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Stephen A. Trimble, Interim Superintendent**  
**106 North Front Avenue**  
**Prestonsburg, Kentucky 41653**  
**Telephone (606) 886-2354 Fax (606) 886-4550**  
**www.floyd.kyschools.us**

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 6, 2018

### **MEDIA CONTACT: Steve Trimble**

**Office - (606) 886-2354**

**steve.trimble@floyd.kyschools.us**

### **Floyd County Schools: *Continuing Success in Early Childhood Program***

Superintendent Steve Trimble is happy to announce Floyd County Schools' Early Childhood Program continues to see success for students.

Trimble comments, "The board team and I are happy to see our Early Childhood program continue to grow and succeed for our youngest students, giving them the best possible foundation for future educational success. Our kids continue to score much higher than the state average in being ready for Kindergarten and our exceptional classrooms continue to be recognized at the regional level."

In Kentucky, results on the BRIGANCE assessment show the average percent of students who enter school ready for Kindergarten to be 51%, while in Floyd County, the average percent of students ready is 82%. The BRIGANCE is aligned with Kentucky's School Readiness definition that, "each child enters school ready to engage in and benefit from early learning experiences that best promote the child's success." To determine readiness, the BRIGANCE assesses children in five areas: Academic/Cognitive, Language, Development, Physical Development, Self-Help and Social-Emotional Development.

Recently, the Floyd County Board of Education recognized eight classrooms who had an average of 90% or higher of their students being ready for Kindergarten and Trimble comments, "Once again we want to acknowledge and congratulate the teachers and instructional assistants who are preparing their kids so well for Kindergarten. The following three classrooms had 100% of their students ready for Kindergarten for the 2017-2018 school year: Jessica Kiser, Mika Crisp and Amanda Patrick from Allen Elementary; Liz Isaac and Christina Flannery from South Floyd Elementary; and Debra Tackett, Wilma Martin and Stephanie Slone from John M Stumbo Elementary. Five additional classrooms had 90% or higher of their students ready for Kindergarten: Krystal Barker, Diana Ratliff and Rebekah Allen from Prestonsburg Elementary (94%); Misty Knott, Ramona Stewart and Stacey Paige from Duff-Allen Central Elementary (92%); Barb Harris and Dedra Johnson from Prestonsburg Elementary (91%); April Borowski and Brittany Tackett from Betsy Layne Elementary (90%); and Debbie Gibson, Mary Bentley and Amanda Burke from South Floyd Elementary (90%)."

In addition to Floyd County continuing to exceed the state average in Kindergarten Readiness, six classroom teams rank highest among the sixty-four classrooms in the region.

Trimble comments, "To receive a high ranking in the region, teachers, instructional assistants, the family service worker and the education consultant for the classroom work together for kids. The board team and I are happy to say that Floyd County Schools houses top ranking classrooms in the region."

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Ranked #1 Team in the region: Misty Knott, Rhonda Newman, Kim Grubb, Stacy Paige and Teresa Newsome from Duff-Allen Central Elementary.

Ranked #2 Team in the region: Rhonda Begley, Beth Martin, Jennifer Woods, Kim Grubb, Teresa Newsome from May Valley Elementary.

Ranked #3 Team in the region: Jessica Kiser, Amanda Patrick, Kim Grubb, Denise Prater, Teresa Newsome from Allen Elementary.

Ranked #5 Team in the region: Ashley Fite, Shonna Hall, Jennifer Woods, Kim Grubb, Teresa Newsome from May Valley Elementary.

Ranked #8 Team in the region (tied): Rebekah Allen, Diana Ratliff, Kim Grubb, Teresa Campbell, Teresa Newsome from Prestonsburg Elementary.

Ranked #8 Team in the region (tied): Barb Harris, Dedra Johnson, Teresa Campbell, Kim Grubb, Teresa Newsome from Prestonsburg Elementary.

When asked about children who are not currently enrolled in Floyd County Schools' Head Start or Preschool programs, Trimble remarks about the varied opportunities the district provides for kids and families (at no cost to parents) before they enter school, "When children begin Kindergarten and aren't ready, they start their educational careers having to catch up to their peers who are ready. That's why Head Start, Preschool and early learning experiences are so important and we want to help families start giving these opportunities at birth. In a partnership with Highlands Regional Medical Center, we have materials for new parents when they are discharged from the hospital with the new addition to their family."

Trimble continued, naming other programs, "In Floyd County Schools, we have four Bornlearning Academies for kids birth to age 5 and we have three Tiny Academies for kids birth to age 5. In addition, our team works closely with the Floyd County Early Childhood Council to offer opportunities for families with young children who are not in school to come and learn ways to help their children be ready for school. If you are unable to attend our events, we have live events on Facebook to help teach activities and strategies for parents to turn regular activities into opportunities for learning. And we will come to you. For the past two summers, we have teachers visit the more kid-populated areas daily for about a month with activities for children up to 5 years of age along with our summer feeding program."

Trimble concluded, "In Floyd County Schools, we not only want all children entering Kindergarten to be ready to learn and thrive, we are truly doing whatever it takes to help kids be ready to take off when they enter our school system. The board team and I would like to thank Anna Shepherd, Director of Early Childhood, our wonderful community partners and all the amazing people working together to make this happen for kids."

For more information on how to help your child be ready for Kindergarten visit our Early Childhood webpage: <https://goo.gl/e4vmZt>

***\*Pictures of classrooms scoring 90% and above for Kindergarten Readiness attached, along with group picture of the Floyd County Early Childhood Team. Not pictured: Barb Harris and Dedra Johnson from Prestonsburg Elementary.***