

THE KAPAS REVIEW

*A Publication of the Kentucky
Association for
Psychology in the Schools
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President's Message

Carl Myers, Ph.D.

It's been said that only a wet baby likes change. But it's also been said that the only thing that remains constant is change.

How's this for a familiar scenario? Recently, a family brought their son, who was in 3rd grade, to our Psychology Clinic at WKU. The presenting problem was that the child was unable to read. The concerns were long-term and he had already been retained a year. As you might guess, he did not meet the IQ-achievement discrepancy required for a learning disability. Such a situation is not unique; we have all experienced the frustration (and even futility) of testing a student with significant learning difficulties only to find he or she does not meet the magic number criterion.

After attending the NASP conference in Chicago at the end of February, I returned to Kentucky somewhat overwhelmed with all the changes in store for special education and, in turn, school psychology. The biggest changes will occur in the identification of Learning Disabilities. "To put it simply, the conventional way in which learning disabilities (LD) are defined and recognized - - in terms of differences between IQ and reading skill -- is, and must be, wrong" (Sternberg & Grigorenko, 2002). It appears that the old discrepancy formula may soon

be a thing of the past.

Whenever someone criticizes the use of IQ testing, school psychologists start fearing their jobs. Personally, I think such a "catastrophizing" is without merit for a number of reasons. First, there are school districts and even entire states that have already moved away from IQ testing when identifying learning disabilities and that has not decreased the need for school psychologists. Second, eliminating the IQ-achievement discrepancy does not eliminate the students' needs for evaluations and interventions. (The learning difficulties will persist!) Third, there is currently a huge demand for school psychologists nationally. You may be interested in knowing that the 2/18/02 edition of the U.S. News & World Report included school psychology in their list of eight of the nation's most secure career tracks.

Change is inevitable. How will we, as a profession, cope with the changes? Will we be resistant to whatever changes are thrust upon us or will we become leaders in promoting alternative assessment and intervention practices? I'm hoping that school psychologists will step forward to take the lead not only in this area, but in a broad range of prevention and intervention activities.

Editor's Message

Julie Pendley

This issue of the KAPS Review contains workshop summaries not included in the Fall 2001 issue.

Please send information you would like to include in the next issue of the KAPS Review to either of the following addresses.

jpendley@pennyrile.net or
jpendley@mberg.k12.ky.us

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Practitioners Needed!

NASP and Division 16 of APA, along with the other major organizations representing school psychology, are organizing a conference to look critically and creatively at the future of school psychology. Such a conference is needed given the changing face of education, the demographic trends of the population, and the fact that school psychology is facing a shortage within the profession for the foreseeable future.

It is critically important that practitioners participate in this conference to be held on the campus of the Indiana University in Indianapolis, November 14-16, 2002. Practitioners represent the majority of the field and must have a say in shaping the future of school psychology. Those invited to attend will be responsible for the conference fee which covers lodging, meals, and meeting costs. It is estimated that lodging and

meeting costs will be about \$500 per participant. What they will get in return is an opportunity to interact with leaders in the field and the chance to help shape the future of the profession at a critical time in its history.

Officer Spotlight



Angie Chandler, President-Elect

My name is Angie Chandler and I am the current Present-Elect for KAPS. For those of you who don't know me, I am serving in my twelfth year as a school psychologist with the Nelson County Schools. Before becoming President-Elect, I served several terms as Region 5 Representative. I have to admit I never imagined myself as President of KAPS and now to know that in only a few months I will be serving as the leader of such an exemplary group, well honestly it leaves me speechless. And for those of you who do know me, well you know that there is little in life that leaves me speechless.

Personally speaking, I was born and raised in Williamstown, Kentucky. I graduated from Berea College and Eastern Kentucky University. I have lived in Bardstown, Kentucky for the last 12 years. My most recent accomplishment, of which I am extremely proud, is that I bought my first home. I am the proud aunt of three nieces and three nephews and would talk about them for days if given the chance. Again, those who know me well know I always have a new story to share.

As for the office of President-Elect, the most important duty is conference planning. I am currently working on our conference for next

year. It will be held on **September 18-20, 2002** in Lexington, Kentucky. We have chosen the Holiday Inn North on Newtown Pike as the site. The theme for the 21st annual KAPS Conference will be **"School Psychology in Kentucky...Making a Difference."** If anyone has any suggestions for speakers or general suggestions for the conference, please feel free to call me. This issue of the *KAPS Review* also contains a *Call for Presentations*. Please consider presenting at our conference next year. Please return form to:

Angie Chandler
108 Wheeling Avenue
Bardstown, KY 40004
fax #: (502) 349-7004

Thanks for the opportunity to introduce myself. I wish everyone a happy and healthy year. Just remember, we, as school psychologists, ~~do~~ make a difference everyday in the lives of children in Kentucky.

NOMINATIONS FOR 2002 KAPS BEST PRACTICES AWARDS

It's time to recognize our peers for exceptional work. Please nominate worthy colleagues for awards in the following categories:

- Best Practices in Assessment
- Best Practices in Psychological Counseling
- Best Practices in Consultation
- Best Practices in Program Evaluation & Research
- Best Practices in Organizational Development

The following is excerpted from our KAPS Awards Procedure: "The Best Practice Awards are intended to reflect specific and current practice in the area of nomination. Individuals can be nominated for best practice awards in more than one area. The winner for each area will be selected through a review and rating process of a committee which includes the Regional Representatives and the Awards Committee Chairperson."

The winners of the Best Practice awards will be candidates for the School Psychologist of the year award. The individual receiving this award will be selected from the pool of winners of the regional and best practice awards. A committee of three people, the current President, president-elect, and the immediate past-winner of the School Psychologist of the Year Award will review the documentation of the award winners and choose the School Psychologist of the Year. Winners of all awards will be announced at the KAPS conference.

There has been a trend recently to nominate a team of persons for a joint award. Please be aware that our Award Procedures uses the word "INDIVIDUAL" in reference to nominations and winners. We have run into many problems with joint nominations in the past, especially because only ONE person may be forwarded to NASP finals as our School Psychologist of the year. In future, we may consider offering a team award; please give input to your region representative regarding this issue.

Please e-mail your nominations to me by JUNE 25, 2002 at sfasko@adelphia.net, or snail-mail to me at:

Sharla Fasko
7238 Pilliod Rd.
Holland, OH 43528

Include the nominee's name, address, and place of employment, as well as the category and your reason for nomination.

Any questions? Email me, or call me at 419-865-7370

LD Advisory Committee Updates

The LD Advisory Committee met on 3-28-02. Committee member discussed the probability of consulting LD regression tables in the future since there appears to be a movement to identify students with learning disabilities based on their instructional needs rather than IQ and achievement scores. Regardless of current trends, current regulations include a valid regression formula as part of LD eligibility; therefore, the committee decided to continue working to update the tables.

The committee also discussed the use of a non-standard score method to determine LD eligibility. This method is not included in current regulations but the regulations do not state that the ARC cannot use a non-standard score method. According to Nancy LaCount, "local districts could use the non-standard score method in their policy and procedures but districts may need to have firmer guidelines on when and how this method could be used."

The committee recommended that the WJ-R be removed from the LD tables as of December 31, 2002. Also, the committee discussed the possibility of adding the following tests to the LD tables: WPPSI, CELF-3, Stanford-Binet IV, DAB-3, DAS, phonemic awareness tests, and the UNIT.

The WISC-IV is expected to be released December 2002 while the revised edition of the KABC is expected to be out in February 2004.

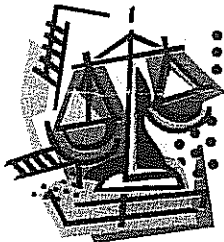
**Interested in Becoming a
KAPS Officer?**

We need nominations for:

*President-elect
Treasurer
Regional Representatives*

Contact Carl Myers (carl.myers@wku.edu or 270-745-4410) if you are interested.

Legislative News and Notes



by Jim Batts and
Connie Adams

We have been watching state and federal legislation. No significant initiatives have been called for by KAPS to date. We encourage you to follow legislation of personal and professional interest, and urge you to make your voice heard at the state and national levels.

For summaries and status reports on proposed elementary and secondary education legislation in Kentucky go to www.lrc.state.ky.us/home.htm and click on "General Assembly". This page also has a link for the Legislative Research

Commission's Legislative Record Online, a daily update of bills, amendments and legislative actions.

Call:

1-888-828-0021 to check the status of a bill
1-800-372-7181 (TTY # is 1-800 896-0305) to leave a message for a legislator

Write:

Legislator
Legislative Offices
701 Capitol Ave.
Frankfort, KY 40601

On the national level, go to www.nasponline.org/advocacy for the latest information on IDEA, The Elementary and Secondary School Counseling Program, Funding for Education and Mental Health, and Mental Health Parity.

Finally, call one of us if you have legislative concerns for KAPS.

Jim: (859) 622-1115

Connie: (859) 624-4586

**...More Fall 2001 Conference
Summaries**

**OVERVIEW OF KENTUCKY
STUDENT PERFORMANCE
STANDARDS**

**Presented by Leon Swartz
Reviewed by Connie Adams**

Leon Swartz of the Kentucky Department of Education provided information about the performance setting process, performance level descriptions, student work according to

the performance level descriptions, and designing a plan of action. While slides were presented, the attendees also enjoyed informal dialogue with Mr. Swartz. Initially KERA and KBE goals were reviewed followed by discussion of performance standards and the role and responsibility of school psychologists to support students, teachers, and administrators in achieving goals. Mr. Swartz explained that alternative schools would be held to systems/strategies based on research as well as standards and indicators for school improvement. Standards and indicators will also apply to special education students. He pointed out that the new performance standards reflect the change from KIRIS to CATS and include content and performance standards. He referred attendees to the performance standards available on-line, stressing the need for all support personnel to become familiar with the document. Handouts included a sheet with the nine standards and indicators for school improvement, and examples of an open response question, scoring guide, and performance level descriptions.

THREAT ASSESSMENT: WHAT DO WE KNOW AND WHAT CAN WE DO?

**Presented by
William (Bill) Pfohl, Psy.D.
Reviewed by Ginger Depp Cline**

Dr. William Pfohl presented the Secret Service and FBI's recent findings concerning school violence and implications following from this. Main points included the fact that these violent incidents (i.e., shootings) are rarely impulsive, the perpetrators typically tell at least one person beforehand, there is no one "profile" of a school shooter, few of the attackers have any previous diagnoses, most attackers have access to guns and have previously used them, many attackers had been bullied at their school, and most attackers engage in some type of concerning behavior prior to the shooting incident. School professionals should look for warning signs in students, such as suicidality, threats of violence, excessive feelings of rejection/isolation, drug/alcohol use, etc., and form a proactive threat assessment team that will help plan how to respond in the unfortunate event of an attack. The threat assessment team should look at precipitating factors, the specificity and plausibility of the plan, etc. in deciding on the level of risk and the needed action plan to keep everyone safe. Again, considering that almost all perpetrators tell someone prior to the incident, the assessment team should seek out peers and significant others who may be able to provide information that would help in making the threat assessment. Schools may consider creating an anonymous system that could capitalize on any such knowledge by having peers report any safety concerns via a hotline, drop box, etc.

The KAPS Review is the official newsletter of the Kentucky Association for Psychology in the Schools (KAPS), and is published three times a year (Fall, Winter, Spring). Opinions and statements appearing herein are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Executive Council. Editors reserve the right to edit articles submitted. Permission to reproduce or use only uncopyrighted articles is granted to all state newsletter editors providing that the original source and author are cited. Permission to reprint copyrighted articles must be obtained directly from the copyright holder.

The KAPS Review
Julie Pendley, Editor

**Proclamation by
Paul E. Patton
Governor of the Commonwealth
of Kentucky**

To All To Whom These Presents
Shall Come:

WHEREAS, The Commonwealth of Kentucky is dedicated to encouraging the healthy development of common welfare to all citizens; and

WHEREAS, The state displays its devotion to this goal by striving to provide school psychologist services to all Kentucky's public education students; and

WHEREAS, School psychologists provide direct services to students through assessment, counseling, and educational intervention activities; and

WHEREAS, School psychologists provide direct services to school personnel through staff training activities, evaluation of school programs and activities, and membership on committees to furnish psychological expertise on educational issues; and

WHEREAS, School psychologists provide direct services to parents and communities through consultation and training in the use of appropriate educational and mental health interventions for students

NOW, THEREFORE, I,

PAUL E. PATTON, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, do hereby proclaim April 21-27, 2002 as

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY WEEK
in Kentucky.

*Getting married? Changing your name?
Hiding from the in-laws and need to change
your address? Well, don't forget to send
your changes to:*

*Beth Edmonson
2720 Hillbrooke Parkway
Owensboro, KY 42303*

check all that apply:

- name change*
- phone number change*
- address change*

*Name as is listed in current membership
directory:*

Change name to:

*Address as is listed in current
membership directory:*

Change address to:

*Phone number as is listed in current
membership directory:*

Change phone number to:

Kentucky Association for Psychology in the Schools
Call for Presentations
2002 Annual Conference
September 18-20th

The 21st annual Conference for the Kentucky Association for Psychology in the Schools (KAPS) will be held at the Holiday Inn North, in Lexington, Kentucky on September 18 - 20, 2002. The Conference theme will be: *School Psychology in Kentucky...Making a Difference*. We would also like to extend an invitation to interested psychologists, mental health professionals and educators to present their innovative practices and research. Please consider this opportunity to share your knowledge and expertise with an ambitious group of school-based practitioners. If you are interested in presenting a session at this year's conference, please submit the information below to the address listed at the bottom. Applications must be received no later than June 1, 2002.

Please print or type information as you wish it to appear in the conference program. Submissions must include the following information:

Presenter(s): (Include name, degree, & title. If more than one presenter, please list the main contact person first.)

Presenter Biographies: (Provide a short description of each presenter such as background and experiences, current employer, etc.)

Address, phone number(s), and email address: (of primary presenter)

Title of Presentation:

Presentation Abstract: (approximately 50 words)

Length of Presentation: (circle one) 90 minutes 180 minutes

Audio/Visual Equipment Needs: (If you utilize a power point presentation you will need to supply the equipment. This will not be provided.)