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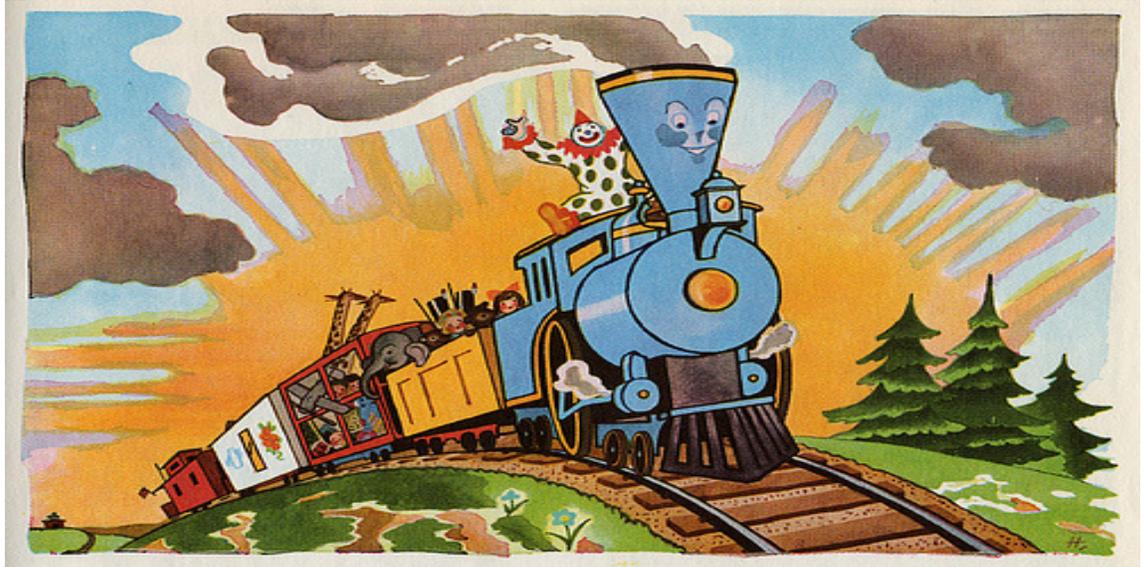
Free resources

 **Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education**

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I think I can, I think I can: Laying the tracks for student success

By Cody Davidson, Director of Administrative Leadership



For many of our students, obtaining the GED® diploma is like climbing a mountain; it's an once-in-a-lifetime event that can seem insurmountable and, often times, down-right impossible. Fortunately, our students do not have to make this journey alone; they have a traveling partner along this path – an adult educator. **One of the most critical aspects of our work is our personal relationship with our students and the power that our words and actions have upon our students' self-esteem and subconscious and conscious expectations for themselves.** In other words, students tend to live up to what's expected of them and they tend to do better when treated as if they are capable of success. Conversely, students tend to live down to what's expected of them and they tend to do worse when treated as if they are incapable of success. This is often referred to as the "Rosenthal" or "Pygmalion" Effect (Pygmalion was a king of Cyprus in Greek mythology).

It was termed the Rosenthal effect because of the classic experiment by Rosenthal and Jacobson (1968). Without going into great detail, in Rosenthal and Jacobson's study they deceived teachers into believing some students were tested and found to be "intellectual bloomers," when, in fact, no such test showed this. Nonetheless, these "intellectual bloomers" scored higher on IQ tests than a control group of students. Essentially, the teachers' expectations were a self-fulfilling prophecy. Shrank (1968) found similar results at a group level in that same year. Brophy (1985) found the same correlation to student outcomes to be true when negative expectations were placed upon students; lower expectations and negative treatment led to lower levels of student success. In our context of adult education, the words we use and expectations that we project to our students are powerful. From the moment students enter our programs, each step of the way begins and continues to lay a foundation of success or the lack thereof.

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When students hear adult educators say, “the new (GED®) test is hard” and/or “I’m not sure I can even pass the math test,” it sets the stage for low expectations, negative experiences and self-fulfilling prophecies, resulting in student test anxiety and, ultimately, a failure to achieve their academic and life goals. Rather than being a faithful companion in encouragement, we become another barrier in the life of students who already face an uphill battle with numerous barriers. Statements such as, “Thousands of Kentuckians and tens of thousands of students across the country, just like yourself, have passed this test and so can you,” and/or simply “You have come a long way and I know you can do this; I believe in you,” can lay tracks of success, high expectations and boost students above what they could do on their own. Let’s continue to build on our strengths and lead others in the same direction.

With the recent recalibration of the GED® passing scores, we have a renewed opportunity to serve our students in a positive and affirming manner. Historically, in the months of April, May and June, we have seen a tremendous increase in students passing the GED® test as we near the end of the fiscal year. So, let’s move forward by treating our students as if they are capable of success (because they are) and by providing an encouraging environment that enables them to overcome their fears.

One of the most rewarding aspects of work as adult educators is to see the joy and renewal of hope in our students when they accomplish their goals. We can be the support they need to change their lives, their family’s lives and the lives of those in their community. Let’s lay the right kind of tracks so our students can make it over that mountain. *I think I can.* Can you?

Yours for the taking! New polynomials unit available in the KYAE Lesson Bank

KYAE math coach Erron Prickett has created a five-lesson unit for teaching polynomials. It contains a set of lesson plans, guided lessons with explanations, worksheets and activities for the adult education student at NRS levels 4+. Though the lesson plans are intended to guide an instructor in teaching these lessons, a motivated student with strong reading skills could successfully work through the curriculum independently. Go to the [KYAE Lesson Bank](http://kyaelesons.blogspot.com/) to download the unit: <http://kyaelesons.blogspot.com/> (works best with Chrome or Firefox).

- Username: kyaeinstructors@gmail.com
- Password: 2016KYAE (do not change password)

April proclaimed Kentucky Adult College Readiness month; marks launch of official KYAE/KHEAA partnership

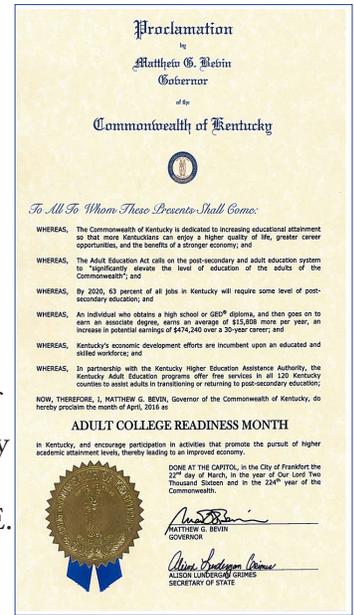
Kentucky Governor Matt Bevin signed a proclamation designating April 2016 as Kentucky Adult College Readiness Month.

The designation of this month corresponds with the official April 1, 2016, launch of a partnership between Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA) and KYAE.

This partnership has been developed to encourage and assist past and current adult education students in transitioning to postsecondary education, as well as to encourage other adults to transition or return to postsecondary education (perhaps brushing up on skills, as necessary, via adult education).

A key component of this partnership is a series of webinars KHEAA is hosting for Kentucky adult educators and students. The first webinar, hosted for adult educators on April 12-13, was called “KHEAA At Your Service” and focused on sharing how KHEAA can help us help our adult education students as they transition to postsecondary education. **If you were unable to participate in this webinar, a recorded version will be posted soon.**

Please mark these future webinars, designed for your adult students, on your calendar.



KHEAA Webinars for Students

- ***Paying for College for Adults:*** Tuesday, May 3, 2016 – 10:00-11:00 a.m. (Eastern)
- ***Surviving College for Adults:*** Tuesday, August 2, 2016 – 10:00-11:00 a.m. (Eastern)
- ***It’s Money, Baby!:*** Tuesday, November 1, 2016 – 10:00-11:00 a.m. (Eastern)
- ***Making the Most of KHEAA.com:*** Tuesday, December 6, 2016: 10:00-11:00 a.m. (Eastern)

More information and the opportunity to register for these will be e-mailed a couple of weeks before each webinar.



Spotlight on GED®



50% off vouchers expire soon

The 50% off vouchers we began issuing in January will expire May 31, 2016. To use those vouchers, students must schedule and take the tests by May 31.

Almost all the 50% off vouchers we have on hand have been issued to students. Once those are gone, we will issue new vouchers to provide the same discount to students through the end of this fiscal year, June 30, 2016. The new vouchers, which are the same value, will be labeled in the notes column as *\$15 vouchers* so they can be distinguished from those labeled 50% off, which will expire May 31.

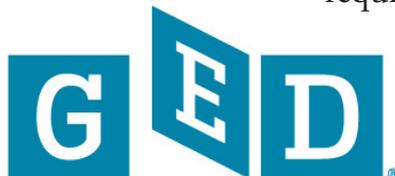
- ◆ **50% off vouchers will expire May 31.**
- ◆ **The new \$15 vouchers need to be used within 90 days.**

Since vouchers are only issued to students who have passed the Ready™ test and are ready to schedule, there should be plenty of time for students to schedule to test and for us to make a smooth transition to the new vouchers for the remainder of this fiscal year. If any students are not able to schedule and test by May 31, *requests for replacement vouchers can be placed at GED@KY.gov after May 31.*

Help is a click away!

There are a number of operational issues for which the state GED® office can provide assistance. If you need help with any of the following, **please email GED@ky.gov.**

- ▶ To request access to GED® Manager for themselves and members of their staff, program directors can send the request with the name, program county name, and email address of those needing access. Access can now be granted within days of the request.
- ▶ To request that a student's duplicate records be combined, send the name and date of birth of the student along with the email address that should be used for the combined record.
- ▶ To release a record from a correctional testing center, send the name and date of birth of the student along with the email address that should be used on the record. This must be an email address the student can access.
- ▶ To request assistance for a student who has forgotten his MyGED account information, please send the student's name and date of birth.
- ▶ To request to offer an off-line version of the Ready® test at a correctional facility: This version of the Ready™ test can be administered by an adult educator rather than a test administrator and no Internet is required.



Report Roundup: Eligible to Post-Test Report 2016 Version

NOTE: Please print this page for optimum viewing of KAERS report images.

By Natalie Cummins, KYAE Associate

Every month we're going to look at a KAERS report and discuss its important features and how this report can be used to benefit your program AND your students. This month's feature is **Eligible to Post-Test**.

To access this report: Go to Reporting → Performance → Eligible to post-test

- Select the fields for your region and location.
- Click the View Report button on the right.

The report to the left should be your go-to weekly report for keeping track of which students still need to make a level gain. When you run it, you should see something like this. Click that plus sign on the left to open the fields.



First Name	Last Name	Client ID	County	Site	Entry Level	Subject Enrolled	Test Date	Test Name	Date of last attendance
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]

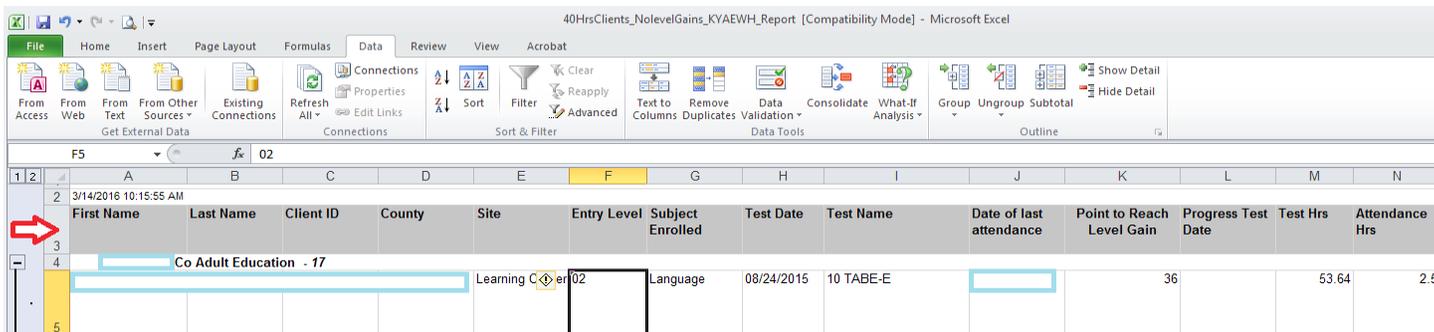
It's a big report, so the best way to work with it is to **export it to Excel**. Let's look at the steps for that, because exporting is one of the most powerful ways you can sort the data and make it work for you. First, click on the disk symbol and select Excel from the drop-down menu.

First Name	Last Name	Client ID	County	Site	Entry Level	Subject Enrolled	Test Date	Test Name	Date of last attendance
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]

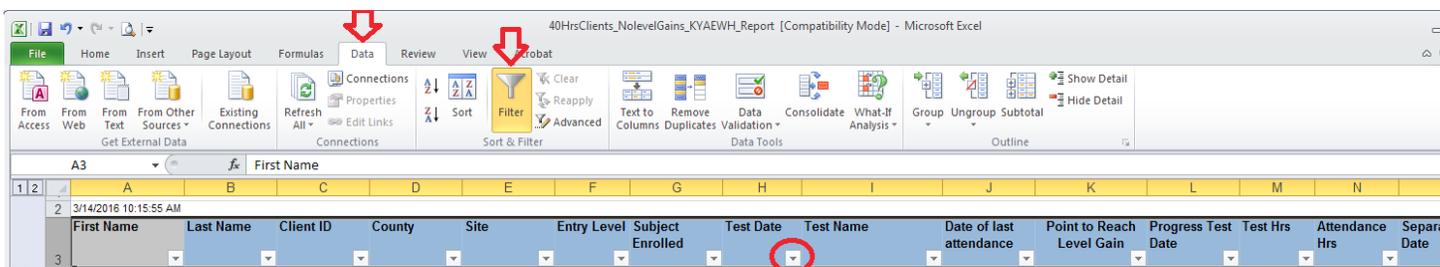
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Open your downloads folder. You will see a report titled “40HrsClients_NoLevelGains_KYAEWH_Report.” If this title doesn’t work for you, you can always re-name it to something that you’ll remember. To do this, click once on the file name. This will highlight the text and then you can type a new name and hit Enter. Then double-click the file name to open it in Excel. Once it opens, you will probably get a message at the top in a yellow bar asking you to enable editing. Click that button to continue.

If you would like to sort this file, you have a couple of options. One way is to add filters. Highlight the entire row with the column headers:



Then click on the Data tab, and then the Filter funnel symbol. This will add downward triangles to each column header and allow you to sort by whatever field is most useful at the time.



As you can see, there is a lot of information here, including a couple of newer columns: Points to Reach Level Gain and Progress Test Date. Sometimes we don’t realize just how close a learner is to making a gain and delay post-testing unnecessarily, or we don’t remember that they’ve made a recent attempt at a level gain and need more meaningful instruction before trying it again.

Extra Tip: If you print this report, then you will need to do some adjustment of the column widths. I like to get all the columns on one page and will make columns narrower as necessary. You can also achieve this by deleting columns that might be unnecessary for your program (such as Email, Phone, or Address if that information is close by in another form). You can also select **Scaling → Fit all columns on one page** from the Print menu, but this might make the print really tiny. Play around with a variety of methods to see what works for you.

Running this Eligible to Post-Test report every week will help your program keep on top of your learners’ progress. Level gains are necessary building blocks before the GED® test. If you have questions about these steps or need some extra help, you can always call me at Ext. 371 or email me at natalie.cummins@ky.gov. Happy Report Wrangling!

KET launches biggest Fast Forward update in seven months

KET has launched an update in Fast Forward that revolves around improved reporting capabilities for users.

Updated Reports

Gradebook: Now you can view grades for all subjects at once by simply selecting “All Subjects” in the dropdown field.

Time on Task: Two new views!

- **By Subject** – See time on task overall and in each

subject from one easy report

- **By Session** – See every time your student logged in and how long they were active after logging in.

New Report

Student Activity: View student logs by date range.

If you have any questions, check out this [overview](#)

[PDF](#) in the Teacher Toolkit.

Kentucky adult educators attend 2016 KCM Conference



Harlon Williams looks on as a KCM participant explains and provides an illustration of a “STEAM not STEM” project.

Kentucky Adult Education was well-represented by math instructors, administrators and KYAE staff as more than 600 interested math educators descended on the Lexington Marriott Griffin Gate on March 7 and 8 for the Kentucky Center for Mathematics (KCM) 2016 Conference: *Call to Action!*

A diverse menu of sessions offered attendees new insights into teaching math conceptually, the use of technology with math instruction, the 8 Mathematical Practices, real-world and hands-on application, growth mindset and much more, as delivered by national and state presenters. “We are fortunate to have such expertise available so close to home,” says Gayle Box, KYAE senior associate.

Kentucky adult education attendees included: Catherine Beechie, Garrard Co.; Diane Kelley, Hardin Co.; Aileen Perkins, Madison Co.; Missy Slone, Lincoln Co.; Harlon Williams, Clay Co.; Erron Prickett, KYAE math coach; Lori Looney, Morehead State University; Gayle Box and Reecie Stagnolia, KYAE.

Curriculum Writing Teams initiative will strengthen KYAE Lesson Bank

KYAE is fortunate to have a pool of dedicated instructors who have submitted and had lessons accepted to the KYAE Lesson Bank. Seven of these instructors have been selected to serve on KYAE’s 2016 Spring Curriculum Writing Teams:

RLA

Sheryl Markham, Logan Co.
Ashley Gootee, Muhlenberg Co.
Jackie Robertson, Hancock Co.
Sarah Simpson, Martin Co.

Math

Ashley Gootee, Muhlenberg Co.
Diane Kelley, Hardin Co.
Goldie McCalvin, Greenup Co.
Donnie Osborn, Martin Co.

The goal of this new initiative is to expand existing lessons into units for the KYAE Lesson Bank. For the opportunity to apply to future writing teams, KYAE encourages you to submit your CCR-based lessons for review. Lesson templates and guides have been updated to reflect the key advances inherent in the College and Career Readiness Standards and are available at on the [CCR SBI page](#) of the KYAE website under CCR-Aligned Lessons and Assignments or from the homepage of the [KYAE Lesson Bank](#).

✓ Check It Out!

- ✓ [LearnZillion](#) – LearnZillion is the world’s first open, cloud-based curriculum. It was conceived from one principal’s desire to capture “powerful learning experiences so that teachers didn’t have to reinvent the wheel every time they taught a standard.” It has grown from an initial group of 20 contributing teachers from across the country to more than 1,000 in 2015. Set up a free account to access all levels of math and English/Language Arts lessons. Search by topic, standard, domain and level for units and videos.
- ✓ [YouCubed](#) – Sponsored by the Stanford Graduate School of Education and based on the work of Stanford math education professor Jo Boaler, the goal of [youcubed.org](#) is to “inspire, educate and empower teachers of mathematics, transforming the latest research on math learning into accessible and practical forms.” New science on the brain and learning is revealing insights into mathematics learning, and though the intended audience is K-12 teachers and parents, the research, videos, ideas and tasks presented on [youcubed](#) will contribute to student engagement and achievement at any age. Create your free account to join the “math revolution” for today’s students.