

# KGSP celebrates successful completion of summer term with 1,050 graduates

## Herald Report

Gov. Andy Beshear congratulated the 1,050 outstanding high school seniors from 117 counties across the commonwealth who recently completed the 43rd Kentucky Governor’s Scholars Program (GSP).

For more than four decades, the residential summer program has focused on enhancing Kentucky’s next generation of civic and economic leaders through educational and career opportunities at college campuses across the state.

Gov. Beshear, a GSP alumnus from 1995, commended the scholars on their achievements.

“The Governor’s Scholars Program helps Kentucky students build confidence, find joy and grow personally and academically,” Gov. Beshear said. “It made a tremendous difference for me as a young man and helped me follow my dreams, and I know it will do the same for these students and those to come. Building our new Kentucky home starts with our youth and I can’t wait to see the great things they accomplish in the years ahead.”

GSP is a five-week residential summer program with staggered starting dates at three Kentucky college campuses. The 2025 program at Morehead State University ran from June 14-July 18, Centre College ran from June 15-July 19, and Murray State University was June 22-July 26. Including the Class of 2025, more than 38,000 students have completed the program, which is administratively attached to the Kentucky Education and Labor Cabinet.

GSP will extend its successful partnerships with Centre College, Morehead State Uni-

versity and Murray State University as their host campuses for the summers of 2026-2028

The 2025 Governor’s Scholars took classes in 25 subjects areas including biological and environmental issues; the healthcare industry; journalism and mass media; music theory and performance; political and legal issues; and agribusiness and biotechnology. They also attended general studies classes to balance the scientific and humanistic fields of study, as well as a leadership seminar on themes related to their age group as they continue their path to personal and professional success.

“This summer was a full-circle experience for me, having been a Governor’s Scholar in 1992 at Murray State University,” Jennifer Price, PhD, GSP executive director and academic dean said. “I loved my time as a scholar, and it is incredibly meaningful watching this year’s scholars radiate the same enthusiasm for the program. They inspired me this summer with their class projects, collaborative engagement, and genuine enthusiasm for learning. Kentucky’s future is bright!”

To participate in the highly competitive program, a statewide selection committee chose well-rounded participants based upon nominations submitted by each Kentucky school district and home school. Selection criteria are based upon academic records and test scores; teacher and community recommendations; extracurricular and service activities; honors and awards; and a writing entry. There is no cost to students selected to participate in the program.

GSP is not a scholarship pro-

gram, but many scholarship opportunities are offered by Kentucky colleges and universities to students who have completed the five-week program.

“GSP has been the most valuable learning experience of my life thus far. Not just learning through my classes but learning how to do things like manage my time, cooperate with others, and stay well rested on my own,” said 2025 Governor’s Scholar Wesley Buchanan from Atherton High School. “I was able to make lifelong connections here that I value deeply and would not have been able to make if it wasn’t for this program. I love GSP and I cannot wait for the next wave of scholars to get the same or more out of this amazing, awesome experience.”

When GSP began in 1983, Kentucky leaders wanted to encourage high-achieving Kentucky seniors to attend a Kentucky college or university to reduce the “brain drain,” as a growing number of students were choosing to go out of state to attend college. According to the most recent data, nearly 75% of 2022 scholars chose to pursue higher education in Kentucky in the fall of 2023.

Sasha Kachalova, a 2025 Governor’s Scholar from North Oldham High School, said, “GSP has taught me to be a Kentuckian: a member of a community that is intelligent, understanding, down-to-earth and scholarly. I believe that it is one of the best programs Kentucky has to offer, one that will continue to uplift Kentucky’s future leaders in the years to come.”

Isabel Bakker, a 2025 Governor’s Scholar from Beechwood High School, said, “The Kentucky Governor’s Scholars

Program is more than just a few weeks in the summer—it’s a transformative experience that opens minds, builds lasting friendships, and inspires a deeper sense of purpose, reminding us that leadership begins with curiosity, compassion, and community.” “The GSP has prepared me for life like no other program of its kind—my perspective has

been greatly diversified, and I can confidently say that I will return to Kentucky in my future and use all the skills that I have developed for the betterment of communities across the commonwealth,” said 2025 Governor’s Scholar Jacob Kirchner from Boyle County High School. “Not only that, but I have formed deep relationships with my fellow scholars

founded on shared intellectual interests and valuable experiences. This program has been a highlight of my life, and I know that many of my peers would say the same. I am so incredibly grateful that I was afforded this opportunity, and I cannot express that enough.”

To learn more about the Governor’s Scholars Program, visit gsp.ky.gov.

## Lewis County Schools

### Public Notice

#### Child Find for Children with Disabilities in Need of Special Education or 504 Services

##### Child Find

The *Lewis County School District* keeps educational records in a secure location in each school and Board office.

The *Lewis County School District* obtains written consent from a parent or eligible student (age 18 or who is attending a postsecondary institution), before disclosing personally identifiable information to an entity or individual not authorized to receive it under FERPA.

For students who have been determined eligible for Special Education, educational records will be destroyed at the request of the parents when they are no longer needed to provide educational programs or services. The *Lewis County School District* may destroy the educational records of a child without parent request 3 years after they are no longer needed to provide educational programs or services. Parents are advised that data contained in the records may later be needed for Social Security benefits or other purposes. The *Lewis County School District* may retain, for an indefinite period of time, a record of the student’s name, address, telephone number, grades, attendance records, classes attended, grade level completed, and year completed.

Children eligible for Special Education include those children with disabilities who have autism, deaf-blindness, developmental delay, emotional-behavior disability, hearing impairment, mental disability, multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairment, other health impairment, specific learning disability, speech or language impairment, traumatic brain injury, or visual impairment and who because of such an impairment need Special Education services.

Children eligible for 504 services include those children in a public elementary and secondary education program who have a current physical or mental impairment that currently substantially limits some major life activity which causes the student’s ability to access the school environment or school activities to be substantially limited.

Children eligible for the State-Funded Preschool program include three- and four-year-old children identified with disabilities and four-year-old children who are at-risk, as defined by federal poverty levels up to 160%. Preschool children eligible for special education must have an Individual Education Plan (IEP) instead of a 504 plan to receive State-Funded Preschool program services.

The *Lewis County School District* has an ongoing “*Child Find*” system, which is designed to locate, identify and evaluate any child residing in a home, facility, or residence within its geographical boundaries, age three (3) to twenty-one (21) years, who may have a disability and be in need of Special Education or 504 services. This includes children who are not in school; those who are in public, private, or home school; those who are highly mobile such as children who are migrant or homeless; and those who are advancing from grade to grade, who may need but are not receiving Special Education or 504 services.

The district’s “*Child Find*” system includes children with disabilities attending private or home schools within the school district boundaries who may need special education services.

The *Lewis County School District* will make sure any child enrolled in its district who qualifies for Special Education or 504 services, regardless of how severe the disability, is provided appropriate Special Education or 504 services at no cost to the parents of the child.

Parents, relatives, public and private agency employees, and concerned citizens are urged to help the *Lewis County School District* find any child who may have a disability and need Special Education or 504 services. The District needs to know the name and age, or date of birth of the child; the name, address, and phone number(s) of the parents or guardian; the possible disability; and other information to determine if Special Education or 504 services are needed.

Letters and phone calls are some of the ways the *Lewis County School District* collects the information needed. The information the school District collects will be used to contact the parents of the child and find out if the child needs to be evaluated or referred for Special Education or 504 services.

If you know of a child who lives within the boundaries of the *Lewis County School District*, who may have a disability, and may need but is not receiving Special Education or 504 services, please call 606-796-2811 or send the information to:

Traci Evans  
Director of Special Education  
Lewis County Schools  
PO Box 159 / 251 Lions Lane  
Vanceburg, KY 41179  
Phone: 606-796-2811

Traci Evans  
Section 504 Coordinator  
Lewis County Schools  
PO Box 159 / 251 Lions Lane  
Vanceburg, KY 41179  
Phone: 606-796-2811

If you know of a child who attends a private or home school within the boundaries of the *Lewis County School District*, who may have a disability, and may need but is not receiving Special Education services, please call 606-796-2811 or send the information to:

Director of Special Education  
Lewis County Schools  
PO Box 159 / 251 Lions Lane  
Vanceburg, KY 41179  
Phone: 606-796-2811

“*Child Find*” activities will continue throughout the school year. As part of these efforts the *Lewis County School District* will use screening information, student records, and basic assessment information it collects on all children in the District to help locate those children who have a disability and need Special Education or 504 services. Any information the District collects through “*Child Find*” is maintained confidentially.

Written *Policies and Procedures* have been developed which describe the District’s requirements regarding the confidentiality of personally identifiable information and “*Child Find*” activities. There are copies in the Principal’s office of each school, and in the Board of Education office. Copies of these *Policies and Procedures* may be obtained by contacting:

Lori O’Keefe  
Director of Pupil  
Lewis County Schools  
PO Box 159 / 251 Lions Lane  
Vanceburg, KY 41179  
Phone: 606-796-2811

The District office is open Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The *Lewis County School District* provides a public notice in the native language or other mode of communication of the various populations in the geographical boundaries of the District to the extent feasible.

If you know of someone who may need this notice translated to another language, given orally, or delivered in some other manner or mode of communication, please contact the *Director of Pupil Personnel*, the *Director of Special Education* or the *Section 504 Coordinator* at the address or phone number listed above for the *Lewis County Schools*.

Revised March 2011 per KDE

## Lewis County Schools Public Notice

STUDENTS

09.14 AP.111

### Notification of FERPA Rights

Distribute this notice annually to parents and students.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and “eligible students” (students 18 years of age or older or students who are attending a postsecondary institution) certain rights with respect to the student’s education records. They are:

**1. The right to inspect and review the student’s education records within forty-five (45) days of the day the District receives a request for access.**

Parents or eligible students should submit to the school Principal/designee a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The Principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the record(s) may be inspected.

**2. The right to inspect and review logs documenting disclosures of the student’s education records.**

Except for disclosure to school officials, disclosures related to some judicial orders or lawfully issued subpoenas, disclosures of directory information, and disclosure to the parent or eligible student, FERPA regulations require the District to record the disclosure.

**3. The right to request the amendment of the student’s education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or in violation of the student’s privacy or other rights.**

Parents or eligible students may ask the District to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate, misleading, or in violation of privacy or other rights. They should write the school Principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate, misleading, or in violation of their privacy or other rights.

If the District decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the District will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise him/her of the right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

**4. The right to provide written consent prior to disclosure of personally identifiable information contained in the student’s education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.**

Exceptions that permit disclosure without consent include:

a. Disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A “school official” is a person employed by the District as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the school Board; a volunteer, or an outside person or company with whom the District has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his/her tasks.

A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his/her professional responsibility to the District.

This may include contractors, consultants, volunteers, and other parties to whom the District has outsourced services or functions.

b. Upon request, disclosure of education records without parent/eligible student notice or consent to officials of another school district or post-secondary institution in which a student seeks or intends to enroll or is already enrolled or to other entities authorized by law so long as the disclosure is for purposes related to the student’s enrollment or transfer.

c. Disclosure of information to those whose knowledge of such information is necessary to respond to an actual, impending, or imminent articulable and significant health/safety threat.

d. Disclosure to state and local educational authorities and accrediting organizations, subject to requirements of FERPA regulations.

Designated Kentucky State agencies may be permitted access to student record information, which will depend on the authority granted to their particular agency.

**5. The right to notify the District in writing to withhold information the Board has designated as directory information as listed in the annual directory information notice the District provides to parents/eligible students.**

To exercise this right, parents/eligible students shall notify the District by the deadline designated by the District.

**6. The right to prohibit the disclosure of personally identifiable information concerning the student to recruiting representatives of the U. S. Armed Forces and its service academies, the Kentucky Air National Guard, the Kentucky Army National Guard and institutions of higher education.**

Unless the parent or student who has reached age 18 requests in writing that the District not release information, the student’s name, address, and telephone number (if listed) shall be released to Armed Forces recruiters and institutions of higher education upon their request.

**7. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the District to comply with the requirements of FERPA.** The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA is:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202-4605