

# Structure From Front

schools. In his presentation, Superintendent Stull outlined the multilayered framework of leadership meetings that are designed to promote consistency, communication, and shared vision among staff at all levels. The strategic structure is built upon several interconnected teams and meetings that aim to streamline initiatives and ensure alignment from the district office to individual classrooms. Stull described the structure as a deliberate and cohesive system, beginning with the District Leadership Team (DLT), which includes district administrators who meet monthly at the Central Office to address broad strategic planning and operational matters. These discussions feed into the Instructional Leadership Team (ILT), comprised of principals and district administrators, which focuses

# Ag Agent From Front

geography, and community service, Byrd steps into the role with both enthusiasm and a multifaceted background that blends traditional agriculture with modern innovation.

Byrd, whose family hails from Casey County and who grew up in Wilmore, brings a local perspective to the job. Despite a brief time away while earning her undergraduate degree in Environmental Studies and Sustainability at the University of Massachusetts Boston and lobbying for Clean Water Action, Byrd returned home with a renewed dedication to serving Kentucky communities.

“My dad was an electrical engineer who started a small energy business, so I spent a lot of summers on mountains in Harlan and Clay counties laying gas lines and studying old resource maps,” Byrd explained. “That’s where I got my love of maps—they tell a story, and they connect you to the land and the people.”

Since relocating to Garrard County in 2015, Byrd has immersed herself in local geography and conservation, purchasing and managing a retired WPA-era rock quarry that now serves as a hands-on educational site for geology and native plant studies. She has also worked as a UK extension associate specializing in controlled environment agriculture, focusing on greenhouses and high tunnels, including workforce training for incarcerated individuals in Kentucky prisons.

Byrd’s academic background continues to evolve. After completing a master’s degree in Geography at the University of Kentucky, she is now pursuing another graduate degree in Integrated Plant and Soil Science. Her current research focuses on how topography affects light availability in greenhouses, a study that could have important implications for horticultural production in Kentucky’s varied landscapes.

“There are 48 counties in Kentucky that aren’t included in current light data maps used for agriculture,” she said. “That’s a huge issue for accurate crop planning. So I’ve started a comparative study using both high-end and low-cost sensors in underserved regions to improve that data.”

While Byrd has deep experience in greenhouse operations and sustainable agriculture, she is also keen to learn more about livestock production—especially cattle, which are a major part of Garrard County’s agricultural economy. She’s already meeting with the local Cattlemen’s Association and signing up for continuing education courses on beef production, artificial insemination, and foraging.

“I don’t come in pretending to know it all,” Byrd said. “But I’m ready to roll up my sleeves, get dirty, and learn. I want to earn the community’s trust and be someone they can call on for anything—whether it’s a grant for a gym, a gardening workshop, or a livestock question.”

Byrd is especially interested in connecting with residents who may not yet be fully plugged into the resources offered by the extension office. “Whether you’ve got a backyard garden or a commercial greenhouse, don’t be a stranger. If I don’t have the answer, we’ll find it together.”

She emphasizes the importance of community partnership, volunteerism, and public engagement. Byrd is planning an upcoming community meet-and-greet event, complete

on instructional strategies and curriculum alignment during monthly meetings at the Garrard Education Center.

Following these district-level discussions, school-level leadership is engaged through the School Leadership Team (SLT), involving principals, assistant principals, the superintendent, and the director of teaching and learning. This team meets monthly at each school to address specific needs and ensure alignment with broader district objectives.

Superintendent Stull emphasized the importance of consistency across the board. “What we hope that you will see from this is that there is some intentional planning around this thought process,” he said during the meeting. “When we meet at the district level and have discussions, that information then moves down to the instructional leadership team... so that there’s connection.”

Further coordination occurs through monthly direct reports

with burgers cooked by the Cattlemen’s Association, as an informal opportunity for residents to get to know her and share their needs and ideas.

“This is my home. I’ve lived within 40 miles of here almost my entire life. To be able to serve Garrard County in this way is a privilege I don’t take lightly,” Byrd said. “I’m in it

meetings between the superintendent and individual principals, where school-level progress and challenges are addressed. In addition, elementary and middle/high school principals meet separately with directors of federal programs and teaching/learning staff to focus on school-specific priorities and professional development needs.

The leadership structure extends to teacher involvement as well. Teacher leader meetings, held monthly at the Garrard Education Center, gather input from teachers across all schools, helping to identify trends and plan professional learning opportunities. At the school level, Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) meet weekly to analyze academic and behavioral data and refine instructional practices. Monthly faculty meetings round out the structure, aligning school efforts with each Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP).

for the long haul, and I look forward to growing with the community.”

Residents interested in learning more about Byrd’s work or Extension programs are encouraged to contact the Garrard County Extension Office. Details on the meet-and-greet event will be announced soon.

The superintendent’s update, supported by a detailed document provided to board members, underscores the district’s ongoing effort to break down

THE GARRARD CENTRAL RECORD, APRIL 24, 2025 - A - 9 silos and ensure that all planning and decision-making processes are interconnected and supportive of the district’s mission. According to the document, the

2024–2025 leadership meeting framework is designed to “foster a collaborative environment for continuous improvement in student achievement.”

## MONEY FOR FARM IMPROVEMENTS



### Eligible Incentive Areas:

- Agricultural Diversification
- AgTech & Leadership Development
- Large Animal - Small Animal Farm Infrastructure
- Fencing & On-Farm Water
- Forage & Grain Improvement
- Innovative Ag. Systems
- On-Farm Energy
- Poultry & Other Fowl
- Value Added & Marketing



## 2025 COUNTY AGRICULTURAL INCENTIVES PROGRAM (CAIP)

Administered by Garrard County Farm Bureau

**Applications are now available for Garrard County’s 2025 CAIP to assist farmers in making important farm improvements.**

**Application Period:**  
**April 17 - May 9, 2025**

**No applications will be accepted after Friday, May 9, 2025**

**Applications are available at the Garrard County Farm Bureau office**  
**751 Lexington Rd, Lancaster Ky, 40444**  
**Monday – Friday (8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.)**

**For More Information:**  
**Contact Kayla Tirey at 859-792-2601**  
**or email [kayla.tirey@kyfb.com](mailto:kayla.tirey@kyfb.com)**

*All applications are scored, based on the scoring criteria set by the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board.*

## PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

The Garrard 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 Garrard County School District may destroy the educational records of a child without parent request 5 (five) 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 Garrard 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 150%. 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 Garrard 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 Garrard 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 Garrard 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 Garrard 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 Garrard County School District, who may have a disability, and may need but is not receiving Special Education or 504 services, please call (859) 792-3018 or send the information to:

**Wendy Congleton, Director of Special Education**  
**Section 504 Coordinator**  
**Garrard County Schools**  
**322 W. Maple Ave**  
**Lancaster, KY 40444**

If you know of a child who attends a private or home school within the boundaries of the Garrard County School District, who may have a disability, and may need but is not receiving Special Education services, please call (859) 792-3018 or send the information to:

**Wendy Congleton, Director of Special Education**  
**Section 504 Coordinator**  
**Garrard County Schools**  
**322 W. Maple Ave**  
**Lancaster, KY 40444**

“Child Find” activities will continue throughout the school year. As part of these efforts the Garrard 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:

**Scott Bolin**  
**Director of Pupil Personnel**  
**Garrard County Schools**  
**322 W. Maple Ave**  
**Lancaster, KY 40444**

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

The Garrard 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 Garrard County Schools.