

**Census**  
Southeastern Kentucky Counties.

“My roots are in these mountains of Jackson County. It’s truly these mountains that have made me who I am”, Isaacs said. “Jackson County, along with the entire Southeastern region of our state has some hurdles to overcome. We are sometimes overlooked by other parts of the state. I want that to change” he continued, “Whenever I can be even of small positive influence on my home, I will be. The 2020 Census is one way that Jackson County can ensure that it places itself in the most promising position to maximize its potential in the coming decade. Not only are we doing that here; we are a leader that other counties will follow.”

Michelle Alison — Kentucky’s Partnership Specialist for the 2020 Census — joined Mr. Isaacs in McKee on Monday. She explained that the Jackson County CCC consists of ‘Trusted Voices’ in our community. “The people who live and work in this county every day are the ones who know the county better than anyone else” she explained. “Everyone is going to place greater value in the words of their pastors, Judge Executives, and their student’s teachers than they are from someone they do not know. This committee’s responsibility is to use their trusted voices to share with the community the importance of completing their Census by dispelling myths and pointing out how it affects every life in Jackson County”, she said.

The George Washington University conducted a study to place a value on the 2020 Census. For Kentucky, it was concluded that for every single individual not counted in the Census, that equates to \$2,021 in federal money that will be incapable of finding its way to Jackson County through appropriations and grants. Annually, \$675 BILLION dollars are apportioned based on Census data.

The Committee learned about the populations that are historically difficult to get an accurate count of. They include the elderly, and children. Ms. Alison expressed that the elderly is often warned of scams. They are naturally weary of giving out information about themselves when asked. She encouraged the assistance of those at living centers, at home caretakers, and family members to ensure their loved ones are counted. Similarly, she said parents are known to

complete the Census form for themselves; but not include their infants or toddlers. In 2010, there were approximately 8 THOUSAND children up to age 4 that were not counted in the Census. That equals up to over 16 MILLION dollars that Kentucky could not receive in federal dollars.

State Representative Robert Goforth was in attendance for the meeting and will serve as a legislative representative for the Jackson County CCC. “When you see the BILLIONS of dollars that are tied to Census data, it’s really a wakeup call. These are dollars that can make a significant difference for our roads, for those in emergency management, and our schools”, he said. “This is money that could potentially put new textbooks in our schools.”

“Everyone can agree that 16 million additional dollars could go a long way in Kentucky; and that’s just the 8 thousand children ages 0-4 that were not counted” Isaacs added. “Can you imagine the potential money Kentucky has missed out on based the total number of people not counted in the last Census,” he continued. “The state budget is tight right now. 3 Billion of the state’s 11 Billion in revenue was allocated to funding our state pensions. That naturally causes a financial tightening of the belt statewide. By participating in the 2020 Census, we are individually doing our own part in assuring Kentucky has more dollars to go around in the coming decade. This will help us in having available funding our schools, healthcare, infrastructure, and so much more.”

Ms. Alison also expressed the importance of census data and how it is essential to business that considering investing in communities. “Businesses need to have an understanding of the workforce that is available to them”, she said. Ms. Alison also stressed the privacy of Census information. “This data is purely statistical”, she explained. “Businesses and Emergency Medical Services are merely provided a snapshot of what the community looks like. It provides average age, demographics, and population numbers. There is no individual name or face attached to this data. That information cannot even become public for 72 years. It is exempt from the Patriot Act, and even the President of the United States cannot access sensitive information. The Supreme Court has upheld this numerous times over the past

century and the Census Bureau’s top priority is to protect citizens privacy.”

Ms. Alison applauded Jackson County’s efforts and thanked Mr. Isaacs for his work along with Judge Gabbard in establishing the committee. “Many counties in Southeastern Kentucky did not even have a committee in 2010. So, for Jackson County to be the 3rd county in the entire state to get to work on this is incredible. It’s a testament to the great people here”, Alison said. “I want Jackson County to show the state the leader it can be” Isaacs added. “This county has so much potential because of the spirit of the people who live here. I know we can count on them.”

The Committee plans another meeting before the end of the year to discuss its 2019 strategy on increasing awareness about the 2020 Census. Judge Shane Gabbard expects to sign an official Executive Order announcing the establishment of the CCC.

Jobs have recently become available with the Census Bureau. Recruiting Assistant is a position currently open. It will pay between \$15.50 to 18.50 per hour based on location. Other positions with the Census will become available over time. If this interests you, please visit 2020Census.gov/jobs or call 1855-JOB-2020 to apply and learn more.

We are excited about Jackson Counties leadership and encourage everyone to understand the importance of our county committees ongoing Census efforts.

**Judge** correctly in 2010 and had low participation. The state of Kentucky reportedly missed out on 65 billion dollars of funding over the last 10 years because of inaccurate participation in the 2010 Census. That’s schools, roads, grants and the list goes on that were underfunded. In the next several months I will be giving out information on what to expect in the process of the Census. We want you to be able to participate and will be here to help as the process goes along.

I have also been looking over our County road maps and trying to come up with a road plan that will address the great concern of our failing asphalt roads. I’m in the process of getting an accurate mileage estimate of our roads. I believe that is going to be around 700 miles of maintained County roads. To give you an idea of what it costs to maintain these roads a mile of road that is resurfaced with

approximately 1 ½ inches of blacktop costs an average of \$55,000. That’s \$38,500,000 that it would cost to resurface 700 miles of road. We usually get around \$500,000 for asphalt maintenance a year. That’s roughly 9 miles of road a year. Last year we received Discretionary Funds that allowed for some extra roads but that’s not always a guarantee. You can see that we are a long way from fixing everything that needs it. The cost of operation isn’t getting any cheaper so that’s why we are thinking ahead on this matter.

The most important part of the future of Jackson County is our Children. They are the leaders of tomorrow. September was Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. Schedule conflicts kept us from getting our little fighters and families of fighters together so at the upcoming Thursday Fiscal Court Meeting we will be honoring all that can attend during our meeting. The stress alone of having cancer can be mentally crippling. The importance of awareness is not only for preventing purposes but also for fundraising to go towards finding a cure. We look forward to celebrating the gift of life with our little heroes. God Bless

**Dog** Saturday to receive your tax payments. We will give you a receipt, which you should keep for your income tax purposes. Thank you in advance.

We have had a couple of criminal cases recently that were solved as the result of citizen information. Many people are afraid to say anything for fear that someone may retaliate, but without their help we are much less likely to solve the case. As stated earlier, it takes guts to make a change. Step up and help us out.

Last week the Jackson County Sheriff’s Office responded to eighty-two calls for service. We investigated eight traffic accidents, opened five criminal cases and arrested five individuals. Our court security continues to keep the court rooms safe, serve civil and criminal papers and transport mental patients to hospitals. We appreciate your support and your prayers.

**School** assessments. The growth indicator measures students’ current year progress toward proficiency in reading and math and takes into account the projected likelihood that the students will achieve proficiency within the next two years.

High schools were also measured on three indicators: proficiency, transition readiness, and graduation rate. The proficiency indicator measures student performance in reading and math on the grade 11 state administration of the ACT college entrance exam. The transition readiness indicator measures the percentage of graduates who earned a high school diploma and met the requirements for one type of readiness (Academic or Career).

The graduation rate measures the percentage of students who earned a high school diploma as compared to a cohort of students beginning in grade 9. The graduation rate is reported for all students based on the student’s final enrollment.

As a result of the new accountability measures, the manner in which the state reports school results has also changed. Under the new system, districts will not receive an accountability determination; rather, accountability determinations will only be made at the school level. In addition, schools will not receive an overall score, and schools will not be ranked. Based on the grade-level appropriate measures, schools were identified as one of the following:

- “Other” is the highest designation that a school can receive in the new accountability system
- Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) schools had one or more student sub-groups that were low performing. To be clear, a school’s designation as TSI does not mean the school is failing or a low-performing school. It does mean that work remains to be done with raising the achievement levels for certain sub-groups of students. Thirty-three percent of the schools across the state were identified as TSI.
- Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) – Schools identified as CSI were in the bottom 5% of Title I and non-Title I schools (by level). CSI I schools as a whole scored below the cut score on all three level specific measures. CSI II schools were schools that had a graduation rate of less than 80%.

Jackson County Public Schools has three schools who were designated as “Other”; being the highest designation that a school can receive in the new accountability system. They are the Jackson County High School, McKee Elementary School and Tyler Elementary School. Two schools were identified for Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI); Jackson County Middle School and Sand Gap Elementary School. Both the Jackson County Middle School and Sand Gap Elementary School only had one low-performing sub-group.

Jackson County Public Schools did not have any school designated as Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI).

Due to changes in the measures and the way scores are calculated, it is difficult to compare this year’s school scores to last year’s scores. However, a comparison can be made to the percent of JCPS students who are proficient/distinguished in specific areas.

At the elementary school level, the percent of students who are proficient/distinguished in reading increased from 54.3% to 60.4%, and the percent of students who are proficient/distinguished in math increased from 48% to 53.2%. At the middle school level,

the percent of students who are proficient/distinguished in reading increased from 49.6% to 50.8%, and the percent of students who are proficient/distinguished in writing increased from 26.9% to 27.2%. At the high school level, the percent of students who are proficient/distinguished in writing increased from 55.3% to 60%, and the percent of students who graduated transition ready increased from 75.8% to 86.6%.

Parents will receive an individual student report.

**Grant** partners.

The grants, referred to as GEAR UP: SOAR and GEAR UP: Opportunity, will build upon successes Partners for Education has had in the past braiding different research based programs together, and will continue the work started by former GEAR UP grants at Berea College. GEAR UP: SOAR will serve Bell, Breathitt, Harlan, Perry, Knott, and Whitley counties, and GEAR UP: Opportunity will serve Clay, Estill, Garrard, Jackson, Knox, Laurel, Lee, Leslie, Madison, Owsley, Powell, Pulaski, and Rockcastle counties.

Students will receive services from multiple programs designed to assess and improve academic skills. By monitoring grades, attendance, incidence of suspensions and other factors, staff will be able to assess each students’ educational needs. Mentors will then work directly with students to improve challenge areas. Students will also be assessed by college and career readiness performance targets—test scores that indicate if a student is on track to be “college ready” by the time they finish high school. After assessment, services will be tailored to address the preparation gaps. Students will also build academic skills and confidence through the National Math Science Initiative’s advanced placement training incentive program which uses the College Board’s Advanced Placement curriculum and exam as a framework to provide students with materials to study and opportunities to practice for AP tests.

Programs like the Governors Commonwealth Institute for Parent Leadership (GCIPL) will engage parents and caretakers in their students’ education. The programs create pathways for parents and caretakers to become more informed and involved in school, so they can be resourceful agents of change. Parents and caretakers also learn about college admission processes and how to apply for financial aid, so they can help guide their students.

Partners for Education brings a strong record of implementing GEAR UP grants to the region. “We have provided GEAR UP services in Appalachia since the program’s inception in 1999. During the past 19 years, we have invested in sustainable strategies and best practices proven

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