



KENTUCKY ASSOCIATION OF
SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

AND THE CENTER FOR EDUCATION LEADERSHIP



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NEWS RELEASE
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**Four Finalists in the Running for 2018
KY Superintendent of the Year Award**

Frankfort KY – Four Kentucky school superintendents are in the running for the 2018 Kentucky Superintendent of the Year Award. The finalists include: Mr. Jon Ballard (Elizabethtown Ind.), Dr. Nick Brake (Owensboro Ind.), Dr. James Evans, Jr. (Lee County), and Dr. Anthony Strong (Pendleton County).

Finalists were selected based on the following criteria:

1. **Leadership for Learning** – creativity in successfully meeting the needs of students in his or her school system
2. **Communication** – strength in both personal and organizational communication
3. **Professionalism** – constant improvement of administrative knowledge and skills, while providing professional development opportunities and motivation to others on the education team
4. **Community Involvement** – active participation in local community activities and an understanding of regional, national, and international issues

KASA is proud to recognize these superintendents as finalists for the 2018 award. “They are exemplary leaders who have distinguished themselves and their districts by modeling the way and setting a clear vision for the students and communities they serve,” said Executive Deputy Director Rhonda Caldwell.

Meet the finalists:

Jon Ballard

During his time as superintendent, Ballard has seen Elizabethtown Ind. Schools College and Career Readiness scores rise from 66 to 89 percent.

Nick Brake

Under Brake’s leadership, Owensboro Public Schools has seen enrollment grow by over seven percent.

James Evans

Since being named superintendent, Evans has led Lee County Schools’ rise to becoming a District of Distinction.

Anthony Strong

Through Strong’s leadership, Pendleton County Schools has reduced the achievement gap with students who receive free or reduced lunch.

The Kentucky award winner, sponsored by KASA and American Fidelity, will be announced December 6. The recipient will move on to participate in the American Association of School Administrators’ Superintendent of the Year Award program and be recognized nationally.

As part of the state recognition program, the Kentucky Superintendent of the Year will receive a surprise visit in his school district and be presented a bronze eagle sculpture to commemorate the award, a \$2,500 scholarship for a high school senior in his district, a SOY ring, and travel reimbursement to the AASA National Conference on Education.

KASA is the largest school administrator group in Kentucky, representing more than 3,100 education leaders from across the commonwealth. Formed in 1969, KASA connects education leaders to policymakers, legislators, and other interest groups, and provides numerous benefits and services to Kentucky’s school administrators.

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