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NEWS RELEASE  
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## Mayfield Independent Superintendent Lonnie Burgett Receives Statewide Award

**(FRANKFORT, Ky.—)** As longtime Mayfield Independent Superintendent Lonnie Burgett begins his retirement, he'll walk away with a statewide award for over four decades of dedicated service to public education.

Burgett was presented with the Distinguished Service Award July 16 during a ceremony at the KASA Annual Leadership Institute in Louisville. The award has been presented annually since 1973 to a retired (or retiring) school administrator who has exhibited exemplary education leadership ability and has brought honor to his or her colleagues, his or her profession, and to him or herself.

In his 41 years of service to public education, Burgett has served as a teacher and coach, assistant principal, principal, and superintendent for four western Kentucky school districts, and has devoted over 20 years as superintendent for Mayfield Independent Schools. He is known among his colleagues for his respect for all, quiet strength in leadership, and his genuine concern for students. Mayfield Elementary School Principal Beverly Offutt wrote in a letter of recommendation, "Anytime I have gone to him with a question, his first reply is, 'Is it best for kids?'"

"When faculty and staff members celebrated something, 'Mr. B' celebrated; when faculty and staff wept, he wept with them," Nominator and Mayfield Independent Schools CIO Cheri Gossett said.

"My son was in tears when he found out Mr. Burgett was retiring. In the words of a third grader, he said, 'I feel like I'm losing my best friend,'" Gossett said.

Burgett has also served on various statewide bodies, bringing the rural perspective to some of the most influential policy makers in the state. In addition to being an active member, committee member, and officer of KASA, he has served as KASA President and as a mentor in the state-mandated new superintendent training program through KASA. Burgett has also served and been an active member of the Kentucky School Boards Association, Kentucky Association of School Superintendents, West Kentucky Educational Cooperative, Kentucky High School Athletic Association, and the Murray State University policy review committee.

"Seeing Lonnie retire will be hard for all of us. He has, time after time, shown us the power of quiet leadership, selfless service, and student-centered drive. He has embodied the district's motto, "Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day," in a way that extends far beyond the boundaries of his small district in western Kentucky. We have been thankful for his leadership, his expertise, and his devotion to the critical human-powered enterprise that is public education," KASA Executive Director Wayne Young said.

KASA is the largest school administrator group in Kentucky, representing more than 3,000 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.



Longtime Mayfield Independent Superintendent and former KASA President Lonnie Burgett is the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award.

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