

Kristin Lester has been named instructional coordinator for the Harlan County Public Schools.

Lester will be working with the implementation of the district's new comprehensive reading program and providing teacher support while working with district and school staff to meet the literacy requirements of Kentucky's Read to Succeed Act

Lester will be visiting all schools to collaborate with teachers in the area of language arts. "Mrs. Lester brings a wealth of experience and professionalism to the field of literacy and I am confident in her ability to continue our district's advancement in reading improvement", said Roark.

In addition to her new role, Lester will continue as library media specialist at Black Mountain Elementary School on a halftime basis.

"My goal is to help our district team provide continuous improvement in all areas of literacy", said Lester. "Additionally, I hope to be able to support our language arts teachers in the use of high-quality instructional resources including evidence-based interventions for students that struggle."

"I love reading," she said. "The most important goal is to work with our teachers to identify and target skills that may be holding back a student from being able to read. Our teachers have the most important job and I want to do everything I can to help provide them with support for our students to be successful readers."

Lester has a combined 26 years teaching experience, with 10 of those in the Harlan County School System. She has served as homeless liaison, Gifted and Talented liaison, school based decision making council chair, Deeper Learning Coach and district new teacher mentor as well as mentor for the University of the Cumberlands.

She earned her bachelor's degree in elementary education (K-5) at Eastern Kentucky University (Literacy First Trained); a master's in library media (K-12) with emphasis on educational technology at Western Kentucky University; Rank I in Library Media with emphasis on instructional reading at Western Kentucky University.

She is a National Board-Certified Teacher and now serves as an assessor for the National Board Certified Teacher candidacy.

"Kristin's knowledge, professionalism and positive attitude are a model for all employees. Kristin is a National Board Certified teacher who has gone to extraordinary lengths to further her education and develop her skills as a master educator. Kristin loves our school district and has an obvious passion for



helping both students and young teachers to grow and reach their fullest potential. Her positive outlook is infectious. Her work ethic is unsurpassed”, said Roark.

A two-time recipient of the Campbellsville Excellence in Teaching Award, she was selected by the Kentucky Department of Education as a Go Teach Kentucky Ambassador

She and her husband Casey have two sons, Cameron and Caden. She is the daughter of Philip and Sharon Chitwood.