



**Andy Beshear, Governor**

**Ray A. Perry, Secretary**  
**Marni Rock Gibson, Commissioner**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Team Kentucky Celebrates Students Awarded in Financial Literacy Competition**  
*Gov. Beshear proclaims April as Financial Literacy Month*

**Frankfort, Ky.** (April 7, 2026) – Gov. Andy Beshear has proclaimed April 2026 as Financial Literacy Month and April 6–10, 2026 as Kentucky Saves Week, reminding Kentuckians to build strong money management habits, set savings goals, and make informed financial decisions. Team Kentucky is marking the occasions by recognizing student winners for their entries in the Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service’s (KCES) annual Piggy Bank Design Contest, which encourages financial literacy.

“A brighter future for Kentucky means making sure the American Dream is within reach for the next generation,” said Gov. Andy Beshear. “That means not only working to make homeownership and a high-quality education more accessible but also teaching our kids early on the financial skills they’ll need for the future.”

The Department of Financial Institutions (DFI) teamed up with the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service (KCES) to recognize this year’s Piggy Bank Design Contest winners:

- Abel Burton – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, Oldham Co.
- Nevaeh Honaker – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, Gallatin Co.
- Caroline Reynolds – 5<sup>th</sup> grade, Madison Co.
- Paetyn Highfield – 6<sup>th</sup> grade, Fleming Co.
- Tabitha Sweets – 6<sup>th</sup> grade, Warren Co.
- Caroline Warnock – 6<sup>th</sup> grade, Pike Co.
- London McCord – 7<sup>th</sup> grade, Crittenden Co.
- Lucas G. Allen – 8<sup>th</sup> grade, Taylor Co.
- Brylee Benham – 9<sup>th</sup> grade, Hardin Co.
- Sophie Cox – 9<sup>th</sup> grade, Todd Co.
- Hailee Taylor – 11<sup>th</sup> grade, Harlan Co.

“For nearly two decades, the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service has worked with local leaders to select youth winners for the Kentucky Saves Piggy Bank Design contest,” said Nichole Huff, KCES Specialist for Family Finance and Resource Management. “This program shows how powerful youth creativity can be in shaping lifelong savings habits. These student-designed piggy banks represent communities across Kentucky and send a clear message: saving money is an important skill at every age.”

Photos of the winning piggy banks will be showcased at [Facebook.com/UKFCSExt](https://www.facebook.com/UKFCSExt) throughout the month of April, highlighting their unique creativity and reinforcing the importance of saving at an early age.

Kentucky Saves Week is part of a nationwide effort to encourage individuals and families to assess their saving behaviors and take actionable steps toward financial stability. Throughout the week, DFI will share resources, tips, and tools to help Kentuckians build emergency savings, reduce debt, and plan for the future at [Facebook.com/KYDFI](https://www.facebook.com/KYDFI).

“Saving is a skill that grows stronger with time and practice,” said DFI Commissioner Marni Rock Gibson. “Kentucky Saves Week is a great reminder that whether you’re just starting out or well into adulthood, it’s never too early, or too late, to build and maintain healthy savings habits that support long-term financial security.”

Kentuckians can take the Kentucky Saves Pledge at [kentuckysaves.org](https://kentuckysaves.org), a site which offers free financial education and community support. Consumers can also access important financial information and resources on DFI’s [Investor Resources page](#).

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DFI is an agency in the Public Protection Cabinet, and supervises the financial services industry by examining, chartering, licensing, and registering various financial institutions, securities firms and professionals operating in Kentucky. DFI’s mission is to serve Kentucky residents and protect their financial interests by maintaining a stable financial industry, continuing effective and efficient regulatory oversight, promoting consumer confidence, and encouraging economic opportunities.

#### **About America Saves Week**

Since 2007, America Saves Week, coordinated by America Saves and its partners, has been an annual celebration as well as a call to action for everyday Americans to commit to saving successfully. Through the support of thousands of participating organizations, together we encourage our local communities to do a “gut-check” on their finances and saving behaviors. The America Saves pledge is the framework that allows savers to set a goal and make a plan to achieve better financial stability. Learn more at [www.americasavesweek.org](http://www.americasavesweek.org).