



PRICHARD COMMITTEE

FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

**TOP
20** **BY
2020**

2016 UPDATE

In 2008, the Prichard Committee challenged Kentuckians to move the education system to the Top 20 among the 50 states by 2020. Eight years later, results make it clear that Kentucky can make this important move forward, but increasing effort will be needed across the remaining four years.

The newest data find Kentucky students already in the Top 20 in reading, science, graduation rates, and completion of associate degrees, and on track for top 20 in fourth grade mathematics and high school graduates going on to college.

Kentucky has lost ground to other states in preschool enrollment, eighth-grade mathematics, and bachelor degree completion. Those results are disturbing: Kentucky's economic future depends on investment in high-quality early learning options, rigorous and aligned mathematics instruction, and effective strategies to improve postsecondary completion.

The preschool result is grounds for special concern, because the percent of three-year-olds and four-year-olds in preschool is lower now than in the original 2008 report.

Results are also improving too slowly in AP credits earned in high school, adults with high school diplomas and bachelor degrees, and the percent of bachelor degree recipients with science, technology, engineering, or math majors.

Education support results are mixed, with teacher salaries on track to reach top 20, funding for P-12 education improving too slowly, and higher education funding and family higher education costs moving in the wrong direction.

Top 20 rankings are still within Kentucky's reach, but getting there by 2020 will require renewed and deepened efforts across the Commonwealth.

The following pages show both trends and data sources for all 19 indicators used to track Kentucky progress toward the top tier of states in educational achievement.

ON TRACK FOR 2020

New results show Kentucky moving up on categories, either reaching the Top 20 or improving at a rate to get there by 2020. Kentucky ranks:

- 8th in fourth-grade reading
- 9th in fourth-grade science
- 9th in high school graduation rate
- 16th in associate degree completion
- 18th in eighth-grade science
- 19th in eighth-grade reading
- 21st in high school graduates going to college
- 21st in fourth grade mathematics
- 24th in students earning AP college credit in high school
- 25th in average teacher salary

IMPROVING, BUT SLOWLY

On three categories, Kentucky has gains, but the state is moving too slowly to reach the Top 20 on time. Kentucky ranks:

- 30th in adults 18 to 24 with high school diploma or equivalent
- 38th in bachelor degree completion
- 39th in adults 25 to 34 with a bachelor's degree or higher
- 39th in per-pupil funding for K-12 education
- 41st in STEM share of bachelor degrees

FLAT OR LOSING GROUND

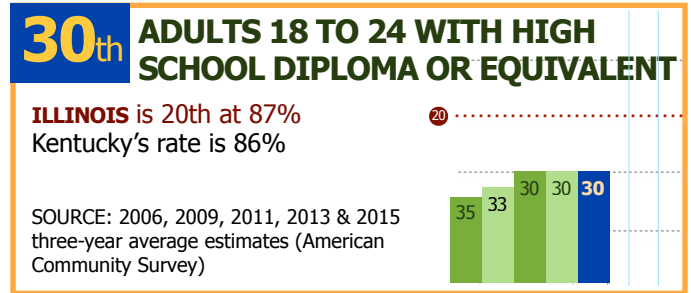
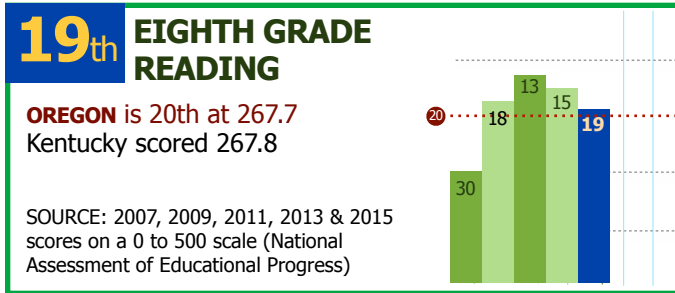
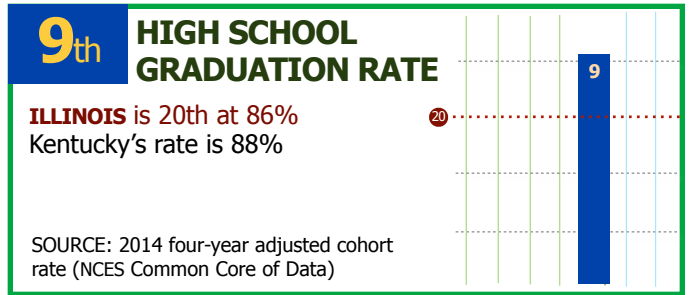
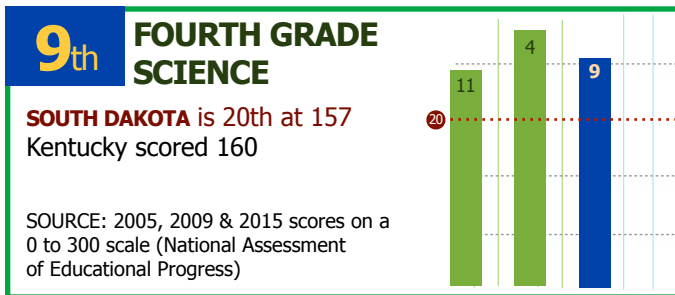
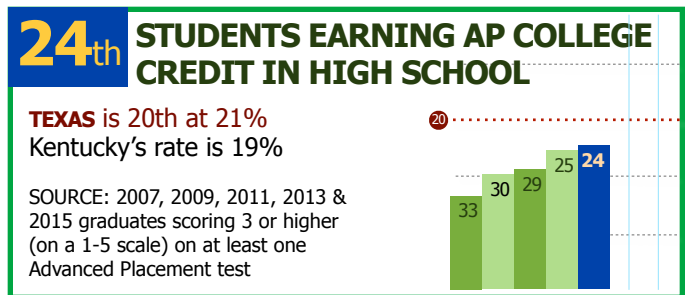
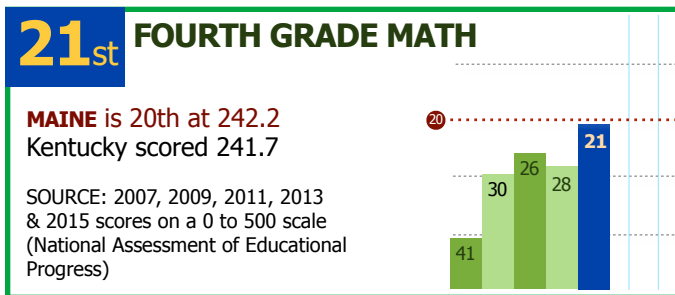
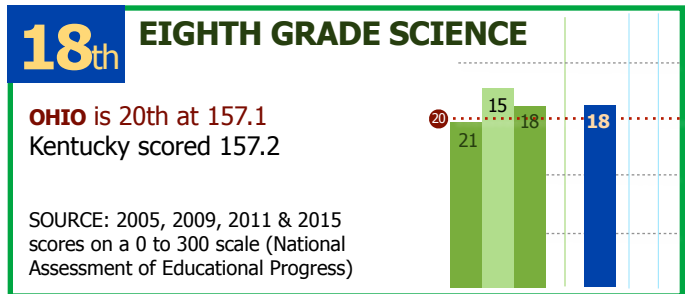
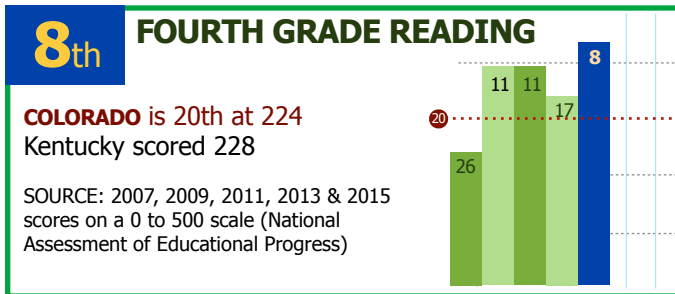
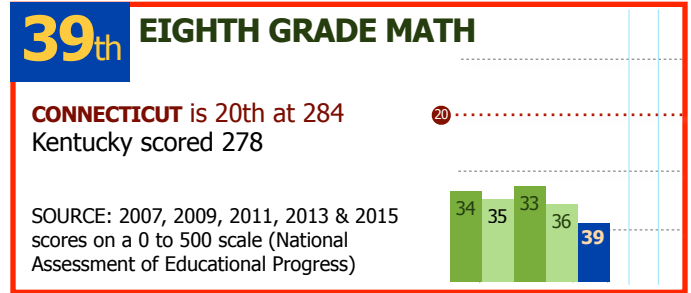
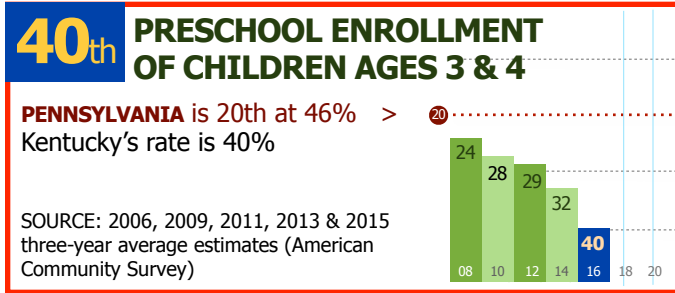
New results show Kentucky stuck or losing ground on five categories. Kentucky ranks:

- 26th in share of higher education funding paid by families
- 27th in per-pupil total higher education funding
- 39th in eighth-grade mathematics
- 40th in preschool enrollment

TOP 20 BY 2020

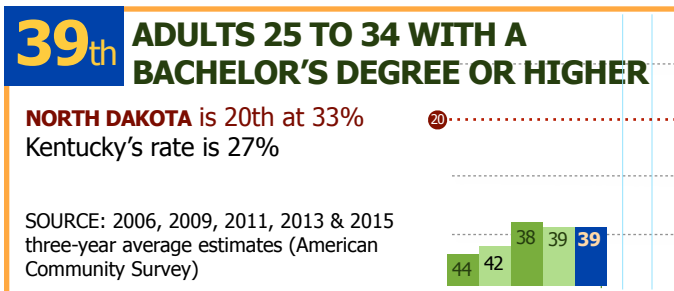
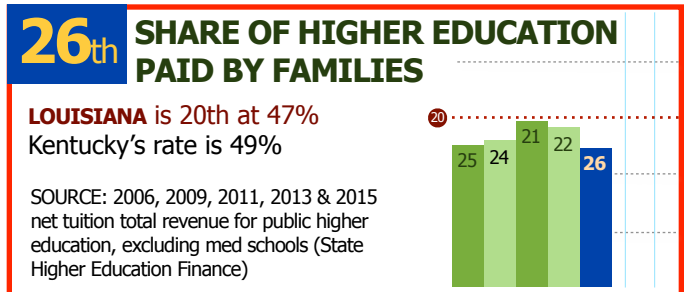
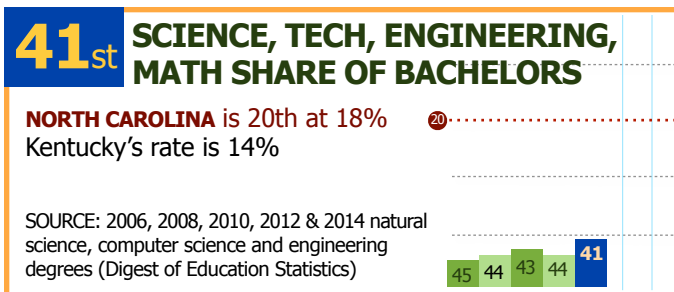
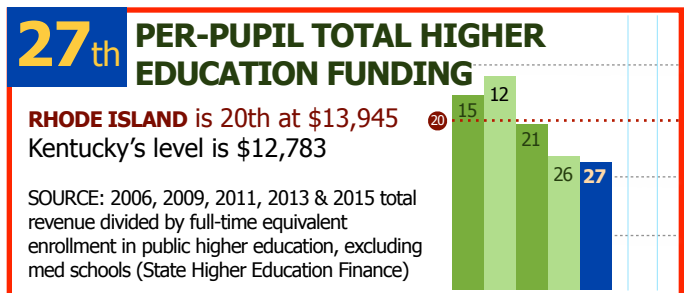
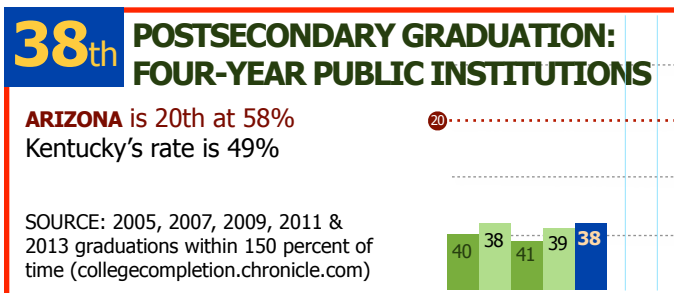
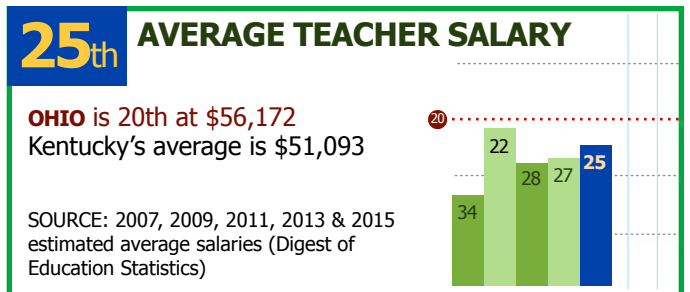
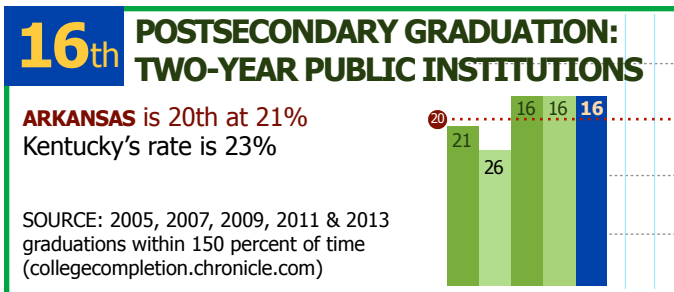
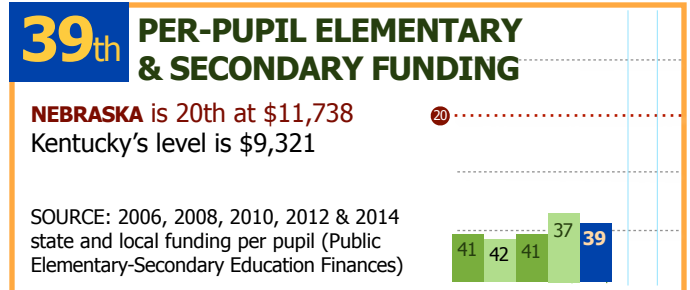
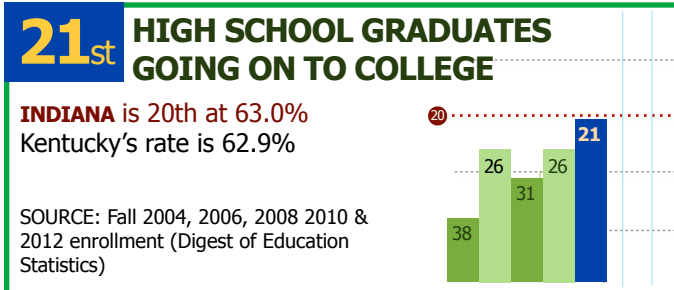
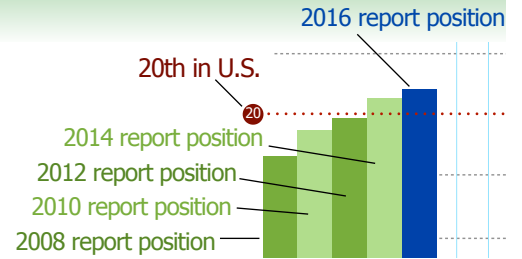
2016 UPDATE

Where are we today? What does our progress look like?



READING THE CHARTS

Each category shows Kentucky's current standing among the 50 states in the most recent data, highlighted with the blue bar. The green bars show Kentucky's position in our 2008, 2010, 2012 and 2014 reports. The red dot and dotted line mark the goal of reaching the Top 20. Gray dotted lines mark 10th, 30th and 40th position.



INDICATOR CHANGES

High school graduation is a new indicator, possible now that Kentucky reports an adjusted cohort rate.

Postsecondary graduation now uses data from the Chronicle of Higher Education.

NAEP fourth-grade and eighth-grade writing are no longer shown: updated results are not available and not expected for future years.

PRIORITIES FOR KENTUCKY

Building a path to a larger life for all Kentuckians through education.

The Prichard Committee focuses on three overarching priorities to ensure that Kentucky achieves excellence with equity – that Kentucky students of all backgrounds will learn at much higher levels, and that students in the groups that have had less opportunity to excel will catch up with their peers.

■ A STRONG ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM

We demand excellence through meaningful standards and robust accountability from early childhood through postsecondary education. High expectations and transparency are critical components for Kentucky's educational success

■ ADEQUATE AND EQUITABLE FUNDING

We advocate for efficient use of resources and equitable funding that is adequate to assure excellence in education from early childhood through postsecondary.

■ SUSTAINED & EXPANDED ENGAGEMENT

We work to engage Kentucky citizens on education issues. Informed and empowered students, parents, community, and business leaders will demand continued progress for education across the Commonwealth.

The Prichard Committee is also committed to working in targeted areas:

■ EARLY CHILDHOOD

We work to strengthen support for Kentucky children and families to ensure each child enters kindergarten ready for success and reads on grade level by the end of third grade. This includes advocating for voluntary, evidence-based home visiting for families with infants and toddlers, and high-quality full-day child care and preschool options that work for families..

■ GRADUATION AND POSTSECONDARY READINESS

We advocate for opportunities that support all students to high school graduation and well beyond, ensuring that each graduate is well prepared for postsecondary education, the workplace, and lifelong learning.

■ POSTSECONDARY SUCCESS

We support efforts to ensure far more Kentuckians enroll and complete postsecondary education and training. We call for renewed attention to access, affordability, and the quality of postsecondary options.

■ MATH, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

We support strategies to improve mathematics, science and technology engagement and achievement from early childhood to postsecondary to support Kentucky's economy well into the future.

■ EFFECTIVE TEACHING

We prioritize efforts to elevate the teaching profession as the key to student learning. Kentucky must continue to improve recruitment, selection, induction, and ongoing professional learning for educators, including principals and other school leaders who are key to teachers' success. We advocate for all teachers to have high quality feedback, time for collaboration, and resources to deepen their professional practice throughout their careers.

We welcome your questions and thoughts on this work. Learn more about the Prichard Committee, an independent citizens' advocacy organization, and the Top 20 by 2020 project online at prichardcommittee.org.