



# TEN STEPS FORWARD

## SOURCES, DETAILS, AND TRENDS TO SUPPORT *KENTUCKY SCHOOLS: ACHIEVING THE TOP 20 BY 2020*

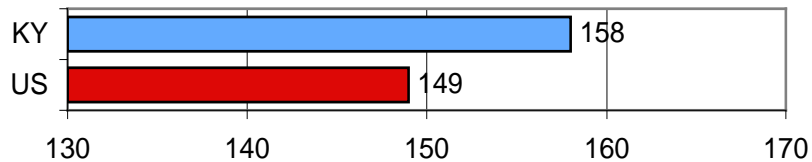
This document supplements the Prichard Committee’s “Achieving the Top 20 by 2020” report and the related bookmark with additional information on the progress Kentucky has made in public education (Ten Steps Forward). Each step is stated below as it appears in the report and is then explained with data and information on sources.

### ACHIEVEMENT AND NATIONAL RESULTS

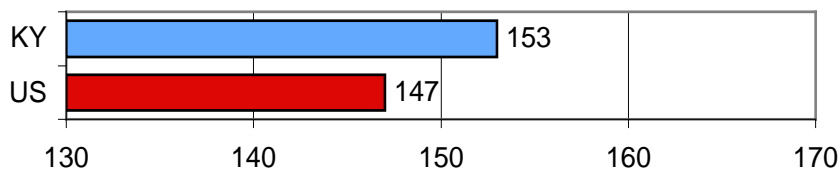
#### **STEP FORWARD**

Kentucky students lead the nation in science test scores and are statistically tied with the nation in reading, 4th-grade writing and 8th-grade math.

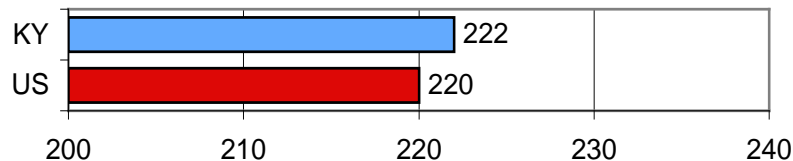
Fourth Grade Science



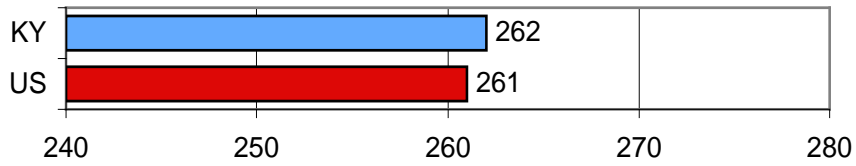
Eighth Grade Science



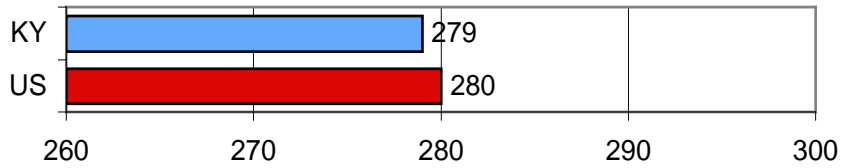
Fourth Grade Reading



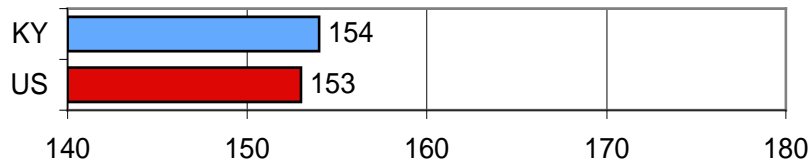
### Eighth Grade Reading



### Eighth Grade Mathematics



### Fourth Grade Writing



### **BACKGROUND**

All results above are average scale scores from the most recent available National Assessment of Educational Progress. Science scale scores are on a 0-300 scale and come from the *2005 Nation's Report Card: Science*. Reading and mathematics scale scores are on a 0-500 scale and come from the *2007 Nation's Report Card: Reading* and the *2007 Nation's Report Card: Mathematics*, respectively. Writing scores are on a 0-300 scale and come from the *2002 Nation's Report Card: Writing*.

## PROGRESS FOR STUDENT GROUPS

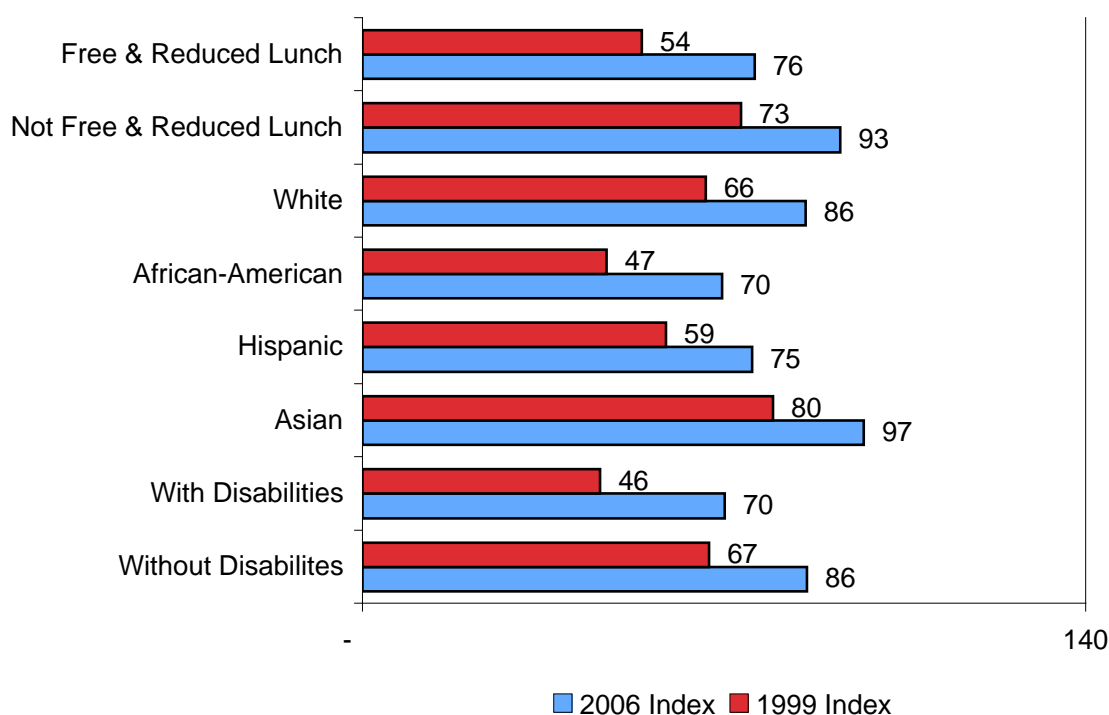
### STEP FORWARD

From 1999 to 2006, every student group at every level improved their performance on state tests.

### A WAY TO SEE THE PROGRESS

The improvement can be seen in the three charts that follow. For each group, the charts show a single number on a 0 to 140 scale. The number, known as an Academic Index, sums up all of that group's results in all seven subjects on the Kentucky Core Content Tests. A 100 would be the equivalent of average student performance being proficient in all subjects, while a 140 would mean all students were doing distinguished work.

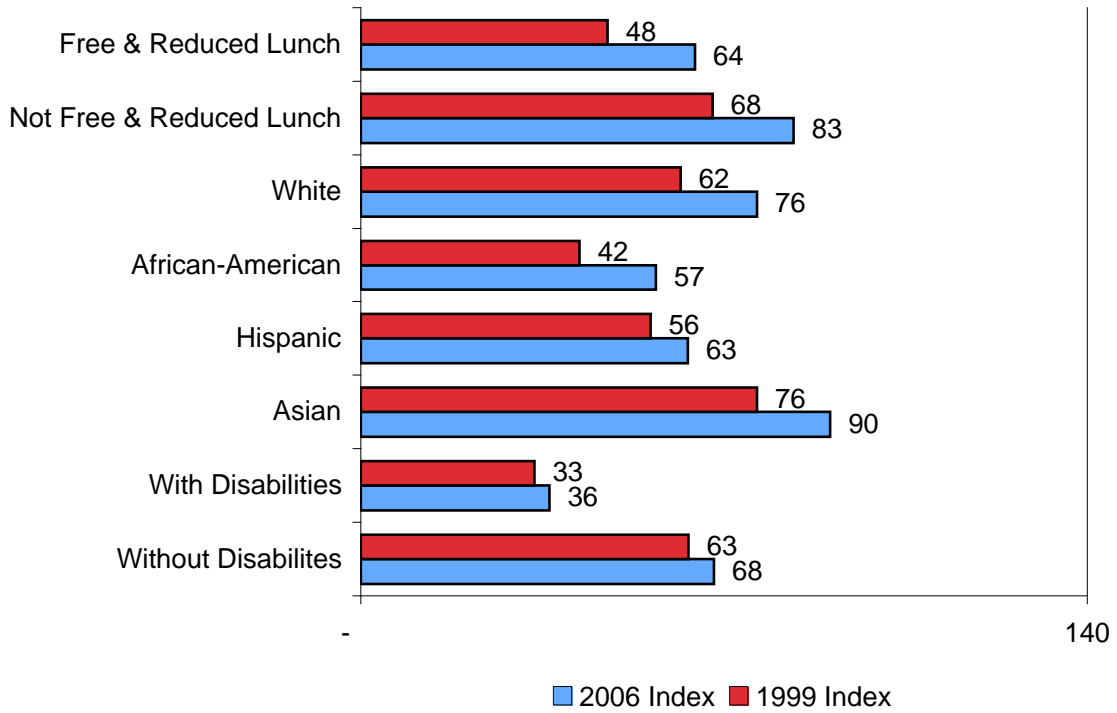
Elementary School Academic Index Results



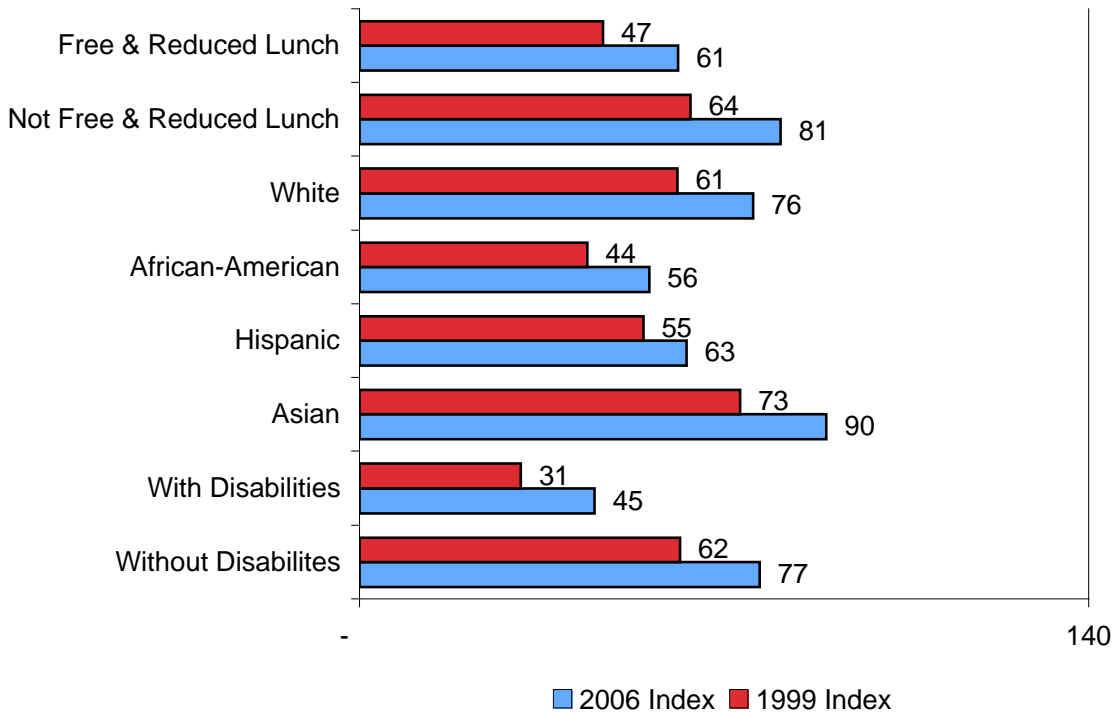
### BACKGROUND

The 1999 Academic Index results above and on the next page come from the statewide 2003 *Kentucky Performance Report*, while the 2006 results come from the 2006 *Kentucky Performance Report* available for download from [www.education.ky.gov](http://www.education.ky.gov).

### Middle School Academic Index Results



### High School Academic Index Results

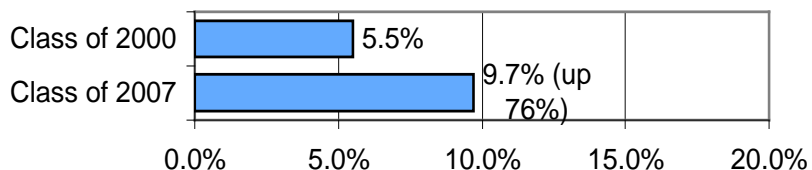


## ADVANCED PLACEMENT SUCCESS

### **STEP FORWARD**

From 2000 to 2006, the number of Kentucky students scoring 3 or higher on an Advanced Placement exam increased by 71%. Only seven states had a more rapid increase.

Students Earning AP College Credit in High School



### **BACKGROUND**

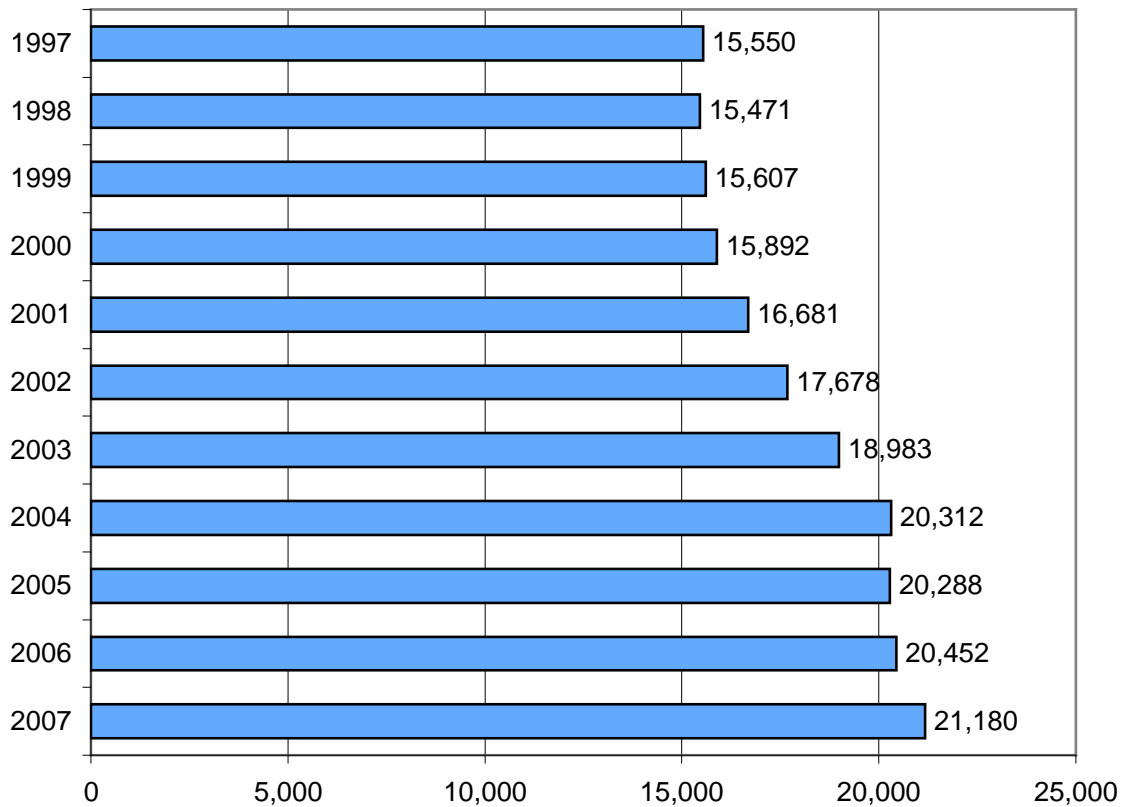
The results show the percent of students in each graduating class scoring 3 or higher (on a 1-5 scale) on at least one Advanced Placement Test. Many colleges and universities give students credit toward college graduation or placement in more advanced courses based on scores of 3 or higher. The 2000 results come from the College Board's *Report to the Nation* for 2005, while the 2007 results come from the 2007 *Report*.

# FREE PRESCHOOL

## **STEP FORWARD**

Kentucky provided free preschool for more than 21,000 children during the 2007-08 school year. Kentucky did not provide state-funded preschool before 1990.

State Funded Preschool Enrollment Growth



## **BACKGROUND**

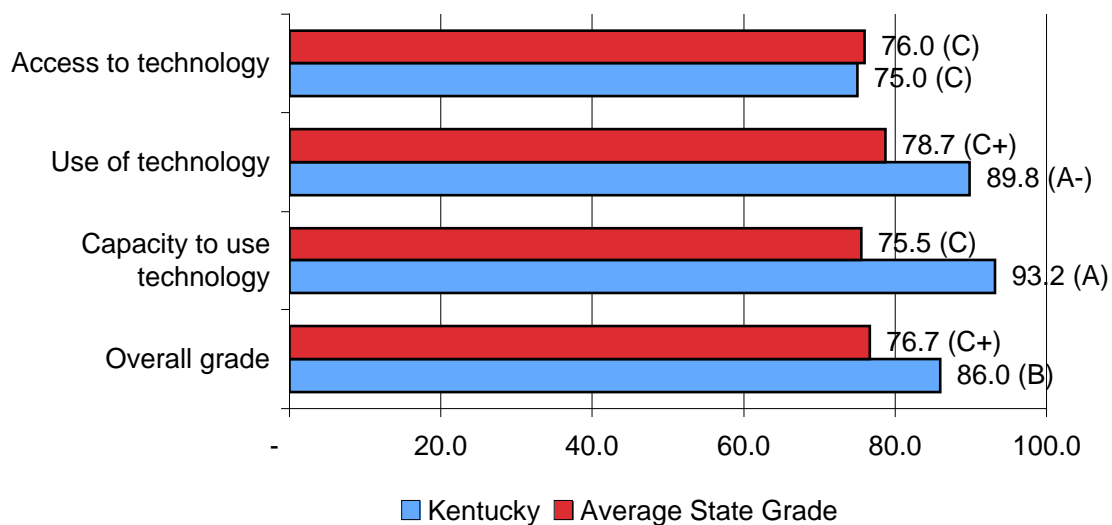
The enrollment figures above are from Kentucky Department of Education’s “Staff Note: Preschool Funding, 2008-09 Rates,” presented at the April 2008 meeting of the Kentucky Board of Education.

# SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY

## STEP FORWARD

Kentucky tied fourth in the 2008 *Technology Counts* ratings of all states. Our B+ grade put us well ahead of the national average of C+.

2008 Technology Counts Scores (With Letter Grades in Parentheses)



## BACKGROUND

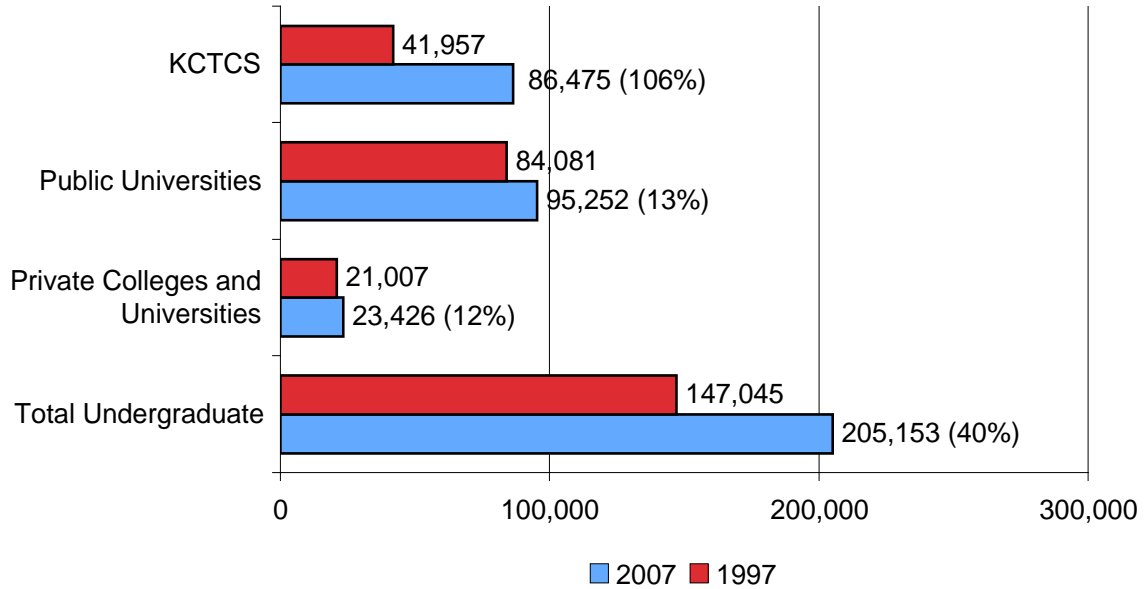
The grades shown above come from Education Week's *Technology Counts 2008*.

# UNDERGRADUATE ENROLLMENT AND DEGREES

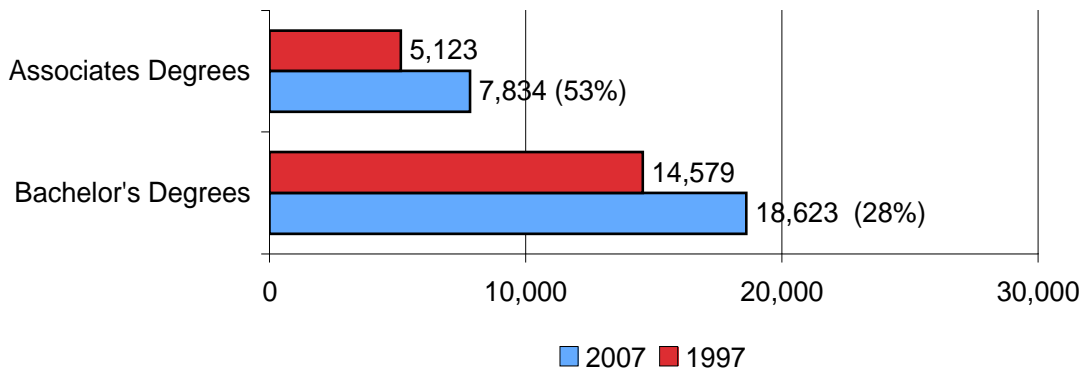
## STEP FORWARD

Undergraduate enrollment in Kentucky colleges and universities grew 40% from 1997 to 2006, led by a 106% increase in enrollment in the Kentucky Community and Technical College System. Bachelor degrees awarded annually increased 28%, and associate degrees increased 53% over the period.

Undergraduate Enrollment Changes (With Growth In Parentheses)



Undergraduate Degree Changes (With Growth In Parentheses)



## BACKGROUND

The results come from the Council on Post-Secondary Education's *Annual Progress Toward Meeting Postsecondary Education's 2020 Goals: 2006-07*.

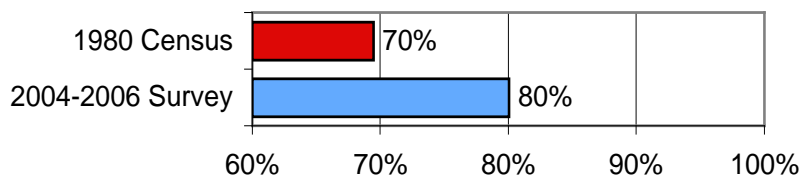


## EDUCATED ADULTS

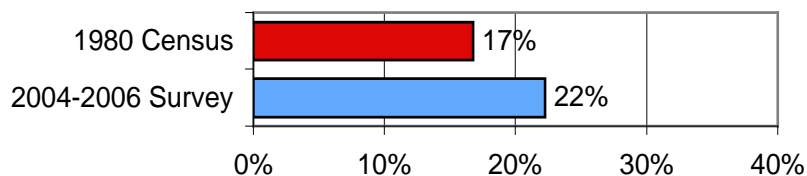
### **STEP FORWARD**

80% of adults 18-24 are high school graduates, compared to 70% in 1980. 22% of adults 25-34 have at least a bachelor's degree compared to 17% who had completed four years of college in 1980.

Adults 18-24 with High School Diploma or Equivalent



Adults 25-34 with Bachelor's Degree or Higher



### **BACKGROUND**

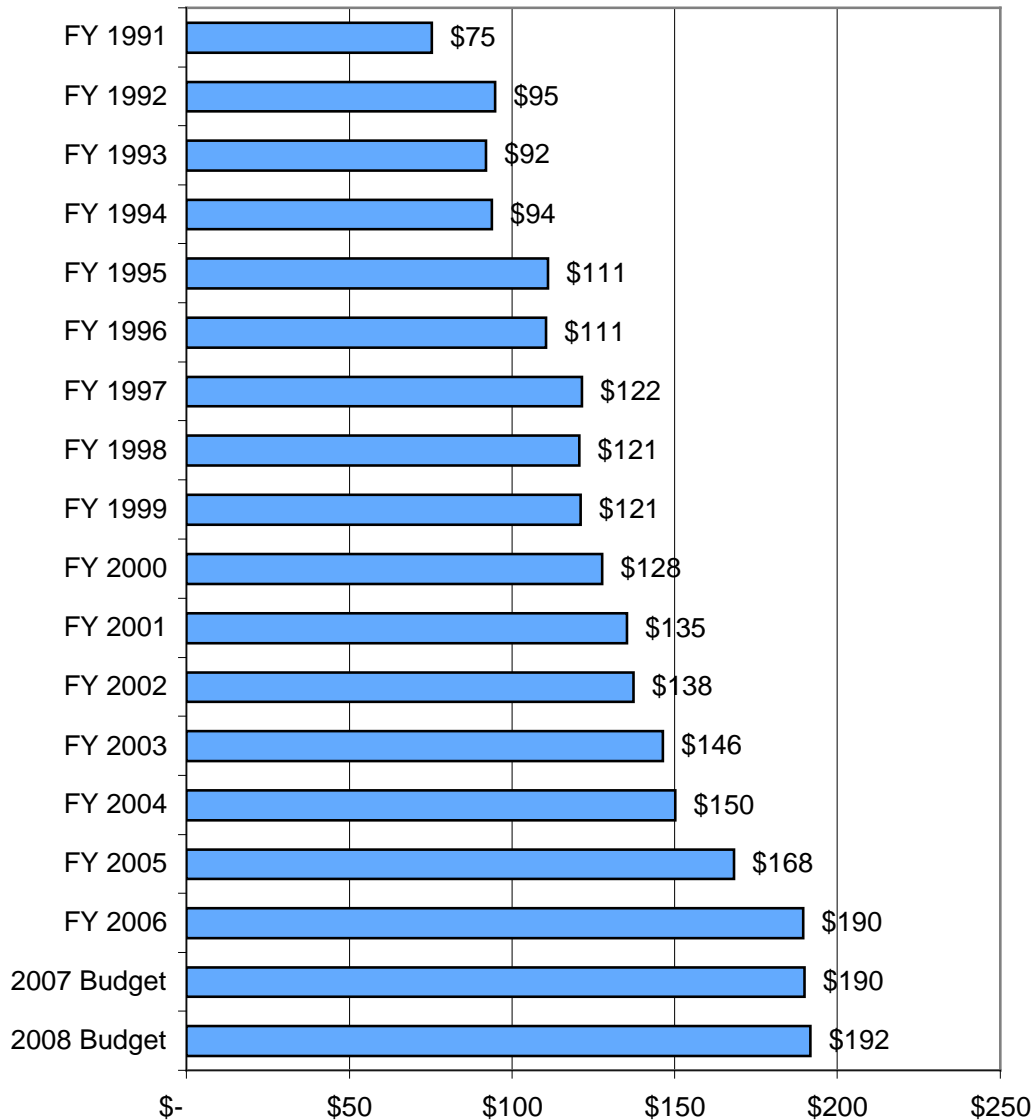
The 1980 results come from the United States Census, using adults who have completed four years of college as the indicator of bachelor's degrees. The 2004-06 results are three-year averages from the American Community Survey, using 2004, 2005 and 2006 data with the American FactFinder tool from [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).

# SCHOOL FACILITIES

## **STEP FORWARD**

Kentucky has invested more than \$2 billion in state funds since 1990 to finance the replacement and renovation of school buildings.

State Spending on New and Renovated Buildings  
(in Millions of Inflation- Adjusted December 2005 Dollars)



## **BACKGROUND**

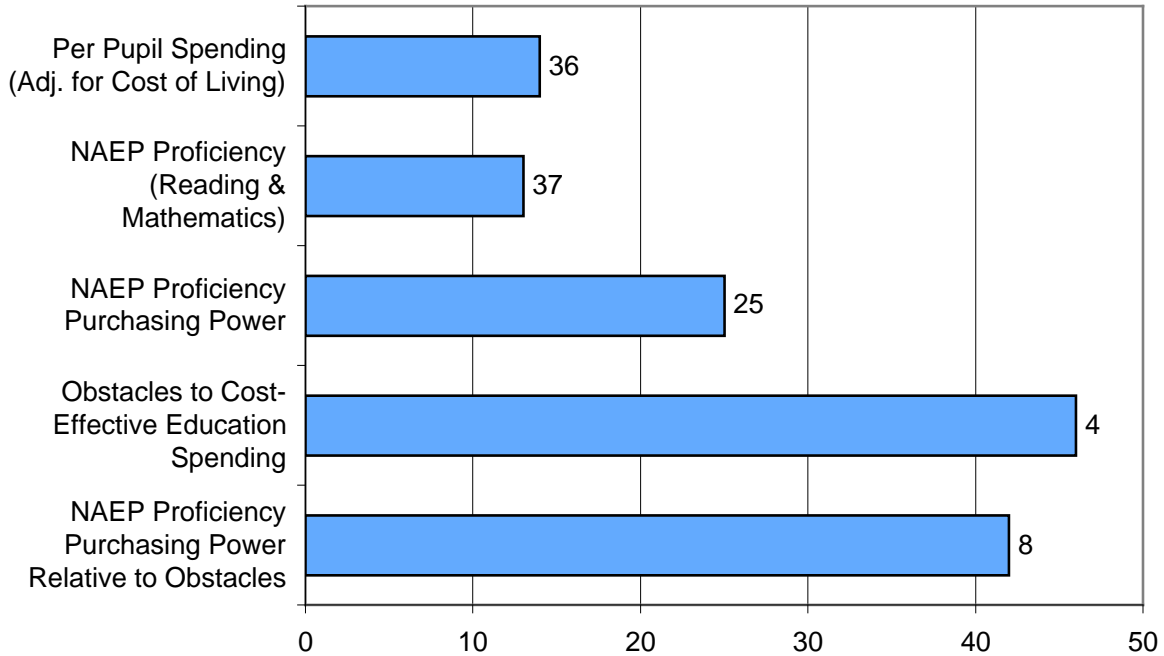
The figures above come from: “A Glass Half-Empty or Half-Full? An Overview of the State School Funding Landscape in Kentucky, 1990-2008,” a 2007 white paper available at [www.prichardcommittee.org](http://www.prichardcommittee.org). Without an inflation adjustment, facilities spending totals \$2,096,201,500 for facilities from FY 1991 to budgeted FY 2008. In inflation-adjusted December 2005 dollars, the same spending totals \$2,378,113,665.

# RETURN ON INVESTMENT

## **STEP FORWARD**

The academic return on our investments in P-12 ranked 8<sup>th</sup> in the nation in 2005. The ranking analyzed reading and math results in proportion to spending and the challenges our students face.

Kentucky's National Ranks (As Analyzed by KLTPRC)



## **BACKGROUND**

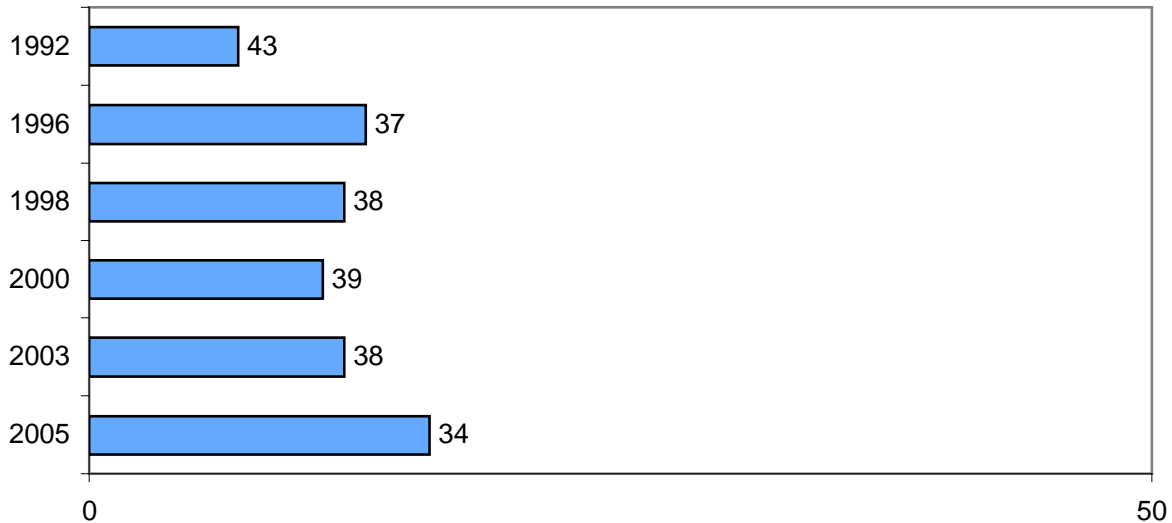
In Policy Note 27 issued by the Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center (March 2008), Michael Childress asked “What kind of return does Kentucky get on its investments in elementary and secondary education?” and answered “Among the best in the nation given our poverty and undereducation.” The graph above is copied from that Policy Note and illustrates the core analysis. The full Policy Note, entitled “Reducing Obstacles Will Yield Even Higher Academic Returns to Educational Investments,” is available at [www.kltprc.net](http://www.kltprc.net).

## OVERALL RANK

### **STEP FORWARD**

Kentucky education ranked 34<sup>th</sup> among the 50 states in 2005 in the Education Index developed by the Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center, showing major improvement from a 1992 ranking of 43<sup>rd</sup> on a matching index.

Kentucky's National Education Index Rankings (As Analyzed by KLTPRC)



### **BACKGROUND**

In Policy Note 23 issued by the Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center (October 2007), Amy Watts offered a summary of Kentucky's educational progress since passage of the Kentucky Education Reform Act of 1990 and the Postsecondary Education Improvement Act of 1997.

The Note's core finding: "Using 11 education indicators, we examine Kentucky's progress from 1992 to 2005 and conclude that we have made substantial progress, both in an absolute sense as well as relative to the nation. However, we cannot afford to lose the momentum of reform because we still trail roughly two-thirds of the states."

The graph above illustrates Kentucky's rank for each year in which the Index could be calculated. The full Policy Note, entitled "An Index of Kentucky's Educational Progress," is available at [www.kltprc.net](http://www.kltprc.net).