



PRICHARD COMMITTEE

FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

TOP 20

BY 2020

2012 UPDATE

In 2008, the Prichard Committee challenged Kentuckians to move the education system to the Top 20 among the 50 states by 2020. Four years later, results show important progress and areas where the state will need to make bigger gains from Pre-K through college.

Among the bright spots: Kentucky has already reached the goal in five of the 20 categories that span the education spectrum — from Pre-K enrollment to college completion. Many of the areas where the state fares best are in K-12 performance by students, a tribute to the dedicated, focused work of Kentucky schools over the past generation. Still, other areas are slipping, including those that measure the resources devoted to schools — areas like teacher pay and overall funding for K-12 and higher education.

ON TRACK FOR 2020

New results show Kentucky moving up on 10 categories, either reaching the Top 20 or improving at a rate to get there by 2020. Kentucky ranks:

- 4th in fourth-grade science
- 11th in fourth-grade reading
- 13th in eighth-grade reading
- 16th in completion of associate's degrees
- 17th in eighth-grade science
- 21st in family share of higher education costs
- 25th in fourth-grade math
- 28th in average teacher salary
- 30th in adults with a high school diploma or equivalent
- 31st in high school graduates going on to college

IMPROVING, BUT SLOWLY

On five categories, new results show gains, but the state is moving too slowly to reach the Top 20 on time. Kentucky ranks:

- 29th in students earning AP college credit
- 32nd in eighth-grade math
- 35th in bachelor's degree completion
- 38th in bachelor's degree attainment
- 43rd in share of bachelor's degrees earned in science, technology, engineering and math

FLAT OR LOSING GROUND

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

- 21st in per-pupil higher education funding
- 29th in preschool enrollment
- 41st in per-pupil K-12 funding

Two categories had no new data since our 2010 report. In those areas, Kentucky still ranks:

- 20th in fourth-grade writing, based on 2002 data
- 36th in eighth-grade writing, based on 2007 data

AREAS OF PRIDE, CONCERN

The most recent national data, results of fourth- and eighth-grade science exams on the test known as “the nation’s report card,” boosted Kentucky in categories where performance was already strong. As a result, Kentucky’s fourth-grade students now rank fourth in the nation in science knowledge. The state has seen solid growth in academic categories listed in the Top 20 by 2020 report, already reaching the Top 20 in most categories for fourth and eighth grades. Eighth-grade math continues to lag.

The state’s improvement and standing in the attainment and completion of postsecondary degrees remains an area of slow growth and below-average performance when compared nationally.

Meanwhile, funding levels continue to present schools and postsecondary institutions with major challenges. In K-12 funding, Kentucky remains in the bottom 10 states, the same position as 2008. For higher education, the state has fallen from 15th to 21st among U.S. states over four years.

The only other comparable area of backtracking is preschool enrollment, where the state has fallen from 24th in 2008 to 29th in the latest measure.

SEE THE DETAILED CHARTS

The following pages show trends, data sources, and more information on the 20 categories the Prichard Committee identified as leading indicators for Kentucky moving into the top tier of states in educational achievement.

TOP 20 BY 2020

2012 UPDATE

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

PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT OF CHILDREN AGES 3 & 4

Kentucky's rate is 45 percent.
Colorado ranks 20th at 49 percent.

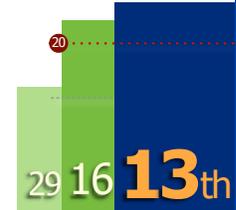
SOURCE: Three-year averages from the American Community Survey using 2008, 2009 and 2010 data for public and private school enrollment.



EIGHTH GRADE READING

Kentucky scored 269.
Kansas is 20th at 267.

SOURCE: Results are average scale scores on a 0 to 500 scale on the National Assessment of Educational Progress, 2011.



FOURTH GRADE READING

Kentucky scored 225.
Rhode Island is 20th at 222.

SOURCE: Results are average scale scores on a 0 to 500 scale on the National Assessment of Educational Progress, 2011.



EIGHTH GRADE MATH

Kentucky scored 282.
Connecticut is 20th at 287.

SOURCE: Results are average scale scores on a 0 to 500 scale on the National Assessment of Educational Progress, 2011.



FOURTH GRADE MATH

Kentucky scored 241.
Iowa is 20th at 243.

SOURCE: Results are average scale scores on a 0 to 500 scale on the National Assessment of Educational Progress, 2011.



EIGHTH GRADE SCIENCE

Kentucky scored 157.
Missouri is 20th at 156.

SOURCE: Results are average scale scores on a 0 to 300 scale on the National Assessment of Educational Progress, 2011.



FOURTH GRADE SCIENCE

Kentucky scored 161.
Pennsylvania is 20th at 154.

SOURCE: Results are average scale scores on a 0 to 300 scale on the National Assessment of Educational Progress, 2009.



EIGHTH GRADE WRITING

Kentucky scored 151.
Kansas is 20th at 156.

SOURCE: Results are average scale scores on a 0 to 300 scale on the National Assessment of Educational Progress, 2007.



FOURTH GRADE WRITING

Kentucky scored 154.
Nebraska is also 20th at 154.

SOURCE: Results are average scale scores on a 0 to 300 scale on the National Assessment of Educational Progress, 2002.



STUDENTS EARNING AP COLLEGE CREDIT IN HIGH SCHOOL

Kentucky's rate is 14 percent.
Texas ranks 20th at 17 percent.

SOURCE: Results show the percent of students in the 2011 graduating class scoring 3 or higher (on 1-5 scale) on at least one Advanced Placement test.



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 when we produced our 2010 report, darker green, and the first report in 2008, lighter green. The red dot and dotted line mark the goal of reaching the Top 20. Gray dotted lines mark 10th, 30th and 40th position.



ADULTS 18 TO 24 WITH HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR EQUIVALENT

Kentucky's rate is 83 percent.
 New York ranks 20th at 85 percent.

SOURCE: Results are three-year averages from the American Community Survey using 2008-10 data.



ADULTS 25 TO 34 WITH A BACHELOR'S DEGREE OR HIGHER

Kentucky's rate is 25 percent.
 Delaware is 20th at 31 percent.

SOURCE: Results are three-year averages from the American Community Survey using 2008-10 data.



HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES GOING ON TO COLLEGE

Kentucky's rate is 61 percent.
 California is 20th at 65 percent.

SOURCE: Results are the rate of 2007-08 high school graduates (public and private) attending degree-granting institutions, from the Digest of Education Statistics 2011.



PER-PUPIL ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY FUNDING

Kentucky provides \$8,561.
 Wisconsin ranks 20th at \$10,774.

SOURCE: Results reflect 2009-10 state and local funding per pupil reported in Public Elementary-Secondary Education Finances: 2009-10.



FULL-TIME STUDENTS COMPLETING ASSOCIATE'S IN THREE YEARS

Kentucky's rate is 31 percent.
 Oregon is 20th at 29 percent.

SOURCE: Results reflect students enrolled full-time in associate's degree programs at KY institutions in 2006 and graduating by summer 2009; from higheredinfo.org.



AVERAGE TEACHER SALARY

Kentucky provides \$49,730.
 Washington is 20th at \$54,193.

SOURCE: Results reflect average annual teacher salaries for 2011-12 reported in the Digest of Education Statistics 2012.



FULL-TIME STUDENTS COMPLETING BACHELOR'S IN SIX YEARS

Kentucky's rate is 48 percent.
 Maine ranks 20th at 57 percent.

SOURCE: Results reflect students enrolled full-time in bachelor's degree programs at KY institutions in 2003 and graduated by summer 2009; from higheredinfo.org.



PER-PUPIL TOTAL HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING

(includes tuition, state funds & other sources)
 Kentucky totals \$11,527.
 Virginia ranks 20th at \$11,589.

SOURCE: 2010-11 total revenue per pupil in full-time equivalent enrollment in public higher-ed excluding med schools, from State Higher Education Finance 2011.



SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, MATH SHARE OF BACHELOR'S

Kentucky's rate is 13 percent.
 Alabama is 20th at 16 percent.

SOURCE: Results reflect 2009-10 degrees in the natural sciences and engineering reported in the Digest of Education Statistics 2011.



SHARE OF HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING PAID BY FAMILIES

Kentucky's rate is 44 percent.
 Mississippi is 20th at 42 percent.

SOURCE: Results reflect 2010-11 net tuition divided by total revenue, excluding medical schools, as reported in State Higher Education Finance 2011.



PRIORITIES FOR KENTUCKY

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

Our strategic plan for the next five years focuses on three overarching priorities:

■ A STRONG ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM

We demand excellence through high standards and robust accountability systems at all levels with rewards and consequences. We advocate for measures that address the individual performance of students, teachers and principals, and the performance of postsecondary graduates.

■ ADEQUATE FUNDING

We advocate for efficient use of resources and equitable funding that is adequate to assure excellence in education from early childhood through postsecondary. We set the goal of providing per-pupil funding equal to or greater than the average of surrounding states.

■ SUSTAINED & EXPANDED ENGAGEMENT

We want to expand meaningful parent, community, and business engagement to support schools, including advocating for a statewide parent leadership program, parent involvement in policy development at the state level, and inclusion of parent involvement measures as part of the state accountability system.

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

■ EFFECTIVE TEACHING

We want to assure that every Kentucky student has a highly qualified, well-supported and well-trained teacher. We advocate for developing a teacher evaluation system that provides feedback to build the profession and improve practice; enacting a differentiated pay system for educators; creating and strengthening teacher academies; developing a comprehensive strategy to attract more highly-qualified teachers to science and math; focusing on the recruitment and retention of teachers and the quality of their work environment, and adopting a means of measuring improvement: e.g., increasing the number of nationally certified teachers and reducing teacher dropout rates.

■ EARLY CHILDHOOD

We want to guarantee that every three-and four-year old Kentucky child has access to a strong preschool experience with well-qualified teachers, followed by full-day kindergarten. We advocate for expanding state-funded preschool eligibility to include three- and four-year old children from families with income at or below 200 percent of poverty; collaboration among early care and education providers to use resources efficiently and effectively; assure funding for and expand voluntary home visiting for families at risk with infants and toddlers; and higher standards for early childhood programs: require all child care providers to participate in the state STARS quality-rating system and provide support for centers to do this. We want to assure that all early care and education providers are trained in using Kentucky's early childhood standards.

■ COLLEGE- & CAREER-READINESS

We want to assure that all students are prepared for postsecondary education and/or the workplace. We advocate for increased college-going and post-secondary graduation rates.

■ MATH, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY ACHIEVEMENT

We want to improve math, science and technology achievement at all levels by developing strategies to make math and science appealing to all students.

■ HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

We want to move Kentucky's graduation rate into the top 20 in the nation. We advocate for increased compulsory-attendance-age and alternative education programs and funding; the state Board of Education's new, more rigorous high school graduation requirements; modifying KEES scholarship eligibility to take account of the new requirements; development of strategies to encourage greater high school achievement by students who are not college-bound; and continued pursuit of the other recommendations of the Prichard Committee's High Achieving High Schools report.

■ CLOSE ACHIEVEMENT GAPS

We want to accelerate achievement gains for all students, so that no student is disadvantaged by region, poverty, ethnic background or disability.

■ AMPLIFY STUDENT VOICES

We want to develop and support student engagement in education policy decision-making at the district and state level.

FIND OUT MORE

Learn more about the Prichard Committee, an independent citizens' advocacy organization and the Top 20 by 2020 project online at prichardcommittee.org. We welcome your thoughts and questions about this work at (859) 233-9849 or by e-mail at admin@prichardcommittee.org. Our mailing address is 271 W. Short St., Suite 202, Lexington, KY 40507.