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for FHI 360



**The Prichard Committee**

Building a Groundswell for a Big Bold Future

2025

*Impact Report*



# Building a Groundswell *for a big bold future*

Since 1983, the Prichard Committee has worked to study priority issues; inform the public and policymakers about best practices; and mobilize citizens business leaders, families, students and other stakeholders in a shared mission to move Kentucky to the top tier of all states for education excellence for all children, from their earliest years through postsecondary education.

Thanks to the efforts of the Committee and dedicated citizens, Kentucky has moved from the bottom of the national rankings in education to the middle and above. Our ambitious goal is to move to the top tier of all states within this generation.

To accomplish this goal, the Committee focuses on three overarching priorities. Our work is grounded in intentional efforts to ensure that students in the groups that have had less opportunity to excel catch up with their peers.

## **A Strong Accountability System**

We fight for excellence through meaningful standards and robust accountability about quality and student progress 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 and Expanded Engagement**

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



Dear Friends and Partners,

Kentucky's future depends on shared responsibility—communities, families, educators, policymakers and industry leaders working together to ensure continued improvement in education and quality of life.

For generations, our Commonwealth has ranked near the bottom nationally in poverty and income, and we have never risen above sixth from the bottom. Today, too many Kentuckians remain disconnected from opportunity, and workforce participation lags in ways that signal deep challenges for families and for employers seeking skilled talent. **Real barriers to upward mobility need to be addressed.**

This is why strategic investment in education is not optional; it is essential. Education is economic development; it is upward mobility. Smart, targeted investments in early care and education, K–12 learning and postsecondary access generate measurable returns for families, communities, employers and taxpayers alike. Funding alone won't accomplish Kentucky's aspirational goals. True partnership coupled with wise investment will.

In 2025, we released Onward and Upward, a call for renewed statewide commitment to partnership as the foundation of Kentucky's next chapter in education reform. The report reflects the voices of more than 1,000 Kentuckians—families, educators, employers and community leaders—engaged through the Groundswell Initiative. Urgent priorities that emerged include:

- Stronger early childhood supports that prepare every child for school.
- Diplomas that guarantee readiness for college, career and civic life.
- A sustainable teacher pipeline that attracts, respects and retains talent.
- Trustworthy partnerships between schools, families and communities.

Kentuckians are eager to lead. They want to be at the table, helping drive innovation and solutions that support student success. **Progress will endure when partnership is treated not as a program but as infrastructure.**

The results are already visible. Using the community schools model, communities and educators across the commonwealth are demonstrating what shared responsibility can achieve. In these schools, chronic absenteeism has dropped by as much as nine percentage points, and students are showing measurable gains in math and reading proficiency. Families report renewed trust in their schools, and employers are co-designing learning pathways aligned with workforce needs. This is partnership in action—aligning academics, health and social supports, family engagement and industry to create conditions for student success. It is the Kentucky Effect: strong schools, powerful partnerships, real results.

Meeting this moment together will not only strengthen Kentucky's schools; it will raise the floor of opportunity across every community. Strategic investment matters. Even more, shared responsibility—anchored in trust, partnership and measurable collaboration—will determine whether Kentucky's next chapter delivers on the promise of education enshrined in our Constitution.

Together, Onward and Upward.

Sincerely,



Brigitte Blom  
President and CEO, Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence



## Bold New Report Calls for a More Meaningful High School Diploma

The Prichard Committee released *Kentucky's Edge: A Diploma That Means More*, an urgent call to action to strengthen Kentucky's high school diploma so every student leaves prepared for the opportunities of a rapidly changing economy.

The report draws on years of research, deep community engagement and a statewide survey of more than 600 employers. Despite Kentucky's high graduation rate, the findings reveal that too many students graduate without all the skills and experiences they need to succeed. Just 12% of Kentucky employers report strong confidence in graduates' workforce readiness, and fewer than one in three students demonstrate proficiency in core academics. With major shifts in the labor market ahead, including the rise of AI and the growing importance of postsecondary credentials, the Prichard Committee calls for bold action to redesign Kentucky's high school experience to align better with the needs of today's economy.



*“Kentucky employers and educators agree: we need graduates who can think critically, solve problems and contribute on day one,” said Haley McCoy, chair of the Prichard Committee’s Meaningful Diploma Steering Committee. “This report offers a clear path forward—one rooted in Kentucky values and informed by national best practices. It’s ambitious, achievable and essential for our students and our workforce.”*

The report outlines a framework for redesigning the high school experience that emphasizes mastery of core academics, durable skills like communication and critical thinking, real-world learning opportunities and strong postsecondary and career navigation. The full report is available at [PrichardCommittee.org](http://PrichardCommittee.org).

## 100 Kentucky Schools Certified as 'Family Friendly'

The Prichard Committee kicked off Family and Community Engagement in Education Week at The Foundry in Frankfort by honoring the 100 Kentucky schools and early care centers that earned Family Friendly Schools Certification in 2025. Gov. Andy Beshear signed a proclamation on Nov. 13 declaring Nov. 17-21 Family and Community Engagement in Education Week in the Commonwealth.

The Family Friendly Certification process involves a multidisciplinary team of families, teachers and administrators using a self-assessment tool to evaluate the school's efforts toward increasing family engagement. This team evaluates the school's practices, identifies key areas for improvement, and integrates new practices designed to elevate its family-friendly rating.

The certification is awarded by the Prichard Committee after applications are reviewed and scored by a working group of families, educators and community organizations. The group is focused on increasing open communication, learning opportunities and shared decision-making power across the Kentucky education system.



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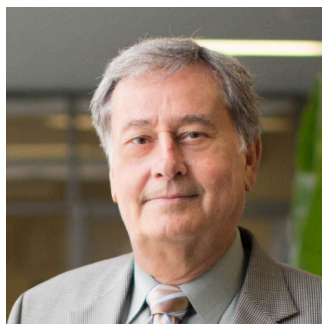
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## The Prichard Committee Releases Report on Path Forward for Kentucky Education

Onward and Upward: A Report of the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence calls for a renewed statewide commitment to partnership as the foundation of Kentucky's next chapter in education reform. The report captures the voices of more than 1,000 Kentuckians, including families, educators, employers and community leaders.

It details how partnership is already producing results. In 40 schools across 20 districts that participated in the Kentucky Community Schools Initiative, chronic absenteeism has dropped by as much as nine percentage points, and students are demonstrating measurable gains in math and reading proficiency. Families report renewed trust in their schools, and employers are co-designing student learning pathways that align with workforce needs. Onward and Upward also addresses the influence of artificial intelligence and automation on education and the workforce. It urges Kentucky to align academic mastery, durable skills and community partnerships so every learner can thrive in an AI-enabled economy.

The report outlines two coordinated tracks for progress:

- **Local Communities Lead Now:** Sustaining leadership tables, using shared tools and reviewing progress transparently.
- **The State Creates the Scaffold:** Aligning supports, providing backbone functions and ensuring that usable data and resources are accessible to communities.

Read the full report on [PrichardCommittee.org](https://PrichardCommittee.org).



## Kentucky Effect Celebrates Community Involvement

*Strong schools, powerful partnerships, real results*

A statewide campaign called the Kentucky Effect put a spotlight on how strong schools and deep community partnerships are delivering results for students across the Commonwealth. The campaign featured inspiring stories from 20 Kentucky school districts. Its message: Strong Schools. Powerful Partnerships. Real Results. Schools in Bracken, Carter, Clark, Christian, Covington, Danville, Daviess, Dayton, Fayette, Hopkins, Jefferson, McCracken, Owensboro, Paducah, Rockcastle, Rowan, Scott, Shelby, Warren and Washington participated.

“We’ve been able to improve solutions to issues we’ve struggled with for years because the community is at the table every step of the way,” said Suzanne Farmer of Danville Independent School District. “We had a lot of community support already, but this is taking it to a different level.”

Here are just some of the results achieved in only one year:

- In Shelby County, 79% of students increased their Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) scores through expanded learning time with the help of the Baptist Church.
- In Hopkins County, students received visual art instruction and strategies for coping with mental health by utilizing community resources. About 65% of students who participated had an increase in grades, attendance and good behavior at Madison North High School and Browning Springs Middle School.
- In Danville, Centre College’s CentreWorks community partnership program now collaborates closely with the school system by mentoring elementary students and providing guidance to high-schoolers on admissions essays and financial aid forms. The local extension service, arts center, public library and a food charity offer free afterschool programming; local agencies share expertise with parents on issues such as substance use disorder; and other groups provide free child care and food.

## 2025 Financial Summary

<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$9,345,287</b>
Total Current Assets	\$9,200,489
Total Property and Equipment	\$197,882
Total Other Assets	(\$53,084)
<b>Total Current Liabilities and Capital</b>	<b>\$9,345,287</b>
Total Current Liabilities	\$2,964,471
Total Capital	\$6,380,816
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>\$18,031,903</b>
Grants and Contracts	\$17,143,737
Individual Gifts	\$250,257
Interest and Dividends	\$117,117
Miscellaneous	\$124,567
Unrealized and Realized Gains on Investments	\$396,225
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$17,041,555</b>
Programs	\$16,522,003
Fundraising	\$233,808
Management and General	\$285,744

## 2025 Donor List

We are honored to share this list of 2025 donors whose philanthropic support of the Prichard Committee's mission made possible everything you have read about in the preceding pages. We are deeply grateful to every donor on this list for their generosity. While we have done our very best to ensure this list is accurate, if you think we may have made an error, or if you have any questions, please contact Shawn Lyons at [shawn@prichardcommittee.org](mailto:shawn@prichardcommittee.org) or at 859-227-0987

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## Prichard Committee Annual Meeting

July 31-Aug. 1, 2026  
Louisville, Ky

Questions? Contact  
[admin@prichardcommittee.org](mailto:admin@prichardcommittee.org)



### SUPPORT THE PRICHARD COMMITTEE

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- \$2,500       other amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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- I have already included the Prichard Committee in my estate plans.

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