



TARGETED QUALITY AND OTHER ACCOUNTABILITY CHANGES

House Bill 257 launches a set of innovations to create learning that is relevant and exciting for Kentucky students today and build upward mobility and thriving communities for Kentucky's shared future. Many of those efforts will be developed locally, with key elements explained in other resources available at prichardcommittee.org/vibrant. This handout adds updated information on the data that will be available in Kentucky school report cards.

Why does this data matter? It invites community members and local partnerships to look at the trends, discuss the challenges, and come together to plan change. That local level work is how Kentucky can best build a Big Bold Future.

ADDING TARGETED QUALITY MEASURES

Three targeted quality measures will be reported in the 2027 Kentucky School Report Card, showing change from the previous year in:



- Percent of teachers with Rank II or National Board certification.
- Percent of grade eight students who earned at least one high school credit.
- Change in percent of graduating students who completed the FAFSA (or filed a parent-signed opt-out form).

Those measures will become part of school accountability in 2030 (meaning that this data will provide at least 5% of the overall score that determines a school's overall rating and its eligibility for various forms of state assistance). Together, these targeted quality measures offer useful starting data on teaching quality, access to advanced coursework, and a key step toward gaining postsecondary financial aid.

ADDING GROWTH AND ENGAGEMENT

Two new indicators will matter in the 2027 Kentucky School Report Card:

- ✓ **Individual student growth** will summarize how young learners' reading and mathematics skills have developed. Those results will be calculated using data from the assessments students already take.
- ✓ **Student engagement** will reflect chronic absenteeism, meaning students who miss 10% or more of yearly school time. Those results will be calculated using state attendance records.

REMOVING WRITING ASSESSMENT, CLIMATE SURVEY, AND COLORS FOR CHANGE

HB 257 also subtracts some kinds of data, both from state reporting and from state accountability:

- ✗ **Statewide writing assessment** will end. Writing scores will no longer be included in the Kentucky School Report Card, and the state accountability system will no longer include writing results. Instead, each district will have its own program of writing across the curriculum, established in policy that the superintendent posts on the district's website.
- ✗ **Statewide student surveys** on school climate and safety will end, and state accountability will no longer include a school safety indicator.
- ✗ **Color codes for change** will also be gone. In recent years, Kentucky accountability has used a color-coding system that "differentiates" schools. That reporting has offered separate color dials for each school's "status" (current data) and "change" (development since last year's data) on each indicator. The change dials will no longer be shown. Status information will continue.

CHANGING COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TEST?

For 2026, the SAT was the college admissions test taken by all public 11th grade students, after many years of ACT use. For 2027, Senate Bill 179 requires a new bidding process and a new decision on which college admissions test Kentucky will use. As of July 2026, that decision has not yet been made.

SEEING ALL THE STATE-LEVEL ACCOUNTABILITY INDICATORS

Kentucky’s state accountability system rates schools on a set of indicators and on overall status combining the indicator results. Here’s a quick look at the indicators for 2026 and the changed indicators for 2027. The chart does not show the 2030 indicators, so it does not include the plan to add targeted quality measures in that year.

INDICATORS USED IN KENTUCKY’S K-12 ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM	
<i>This prichardcommittee.org table reflects 2026 accountability rules from 703 KAR 5:270 and changes required by HB 257</i>	
2026 School Year	2027 School Year
Reading and math indicator	Reading and math indicator
Science, social studies, and writing indicator	
	Science and social studies indicator
	Individual student growth indicator (reading and math)
School climate and safety indicator (student survey)	
	Student engagement indicator (chronic absenteeism)
English learner progress indicator	English learner progress indicator
Postsecondary readiness indicator (high school only)	Postsecondary readiness indicator (high school only)
Graduation rate indicator (high school only)	Graduation rate indicator (high school only)

LOOKING A LITTLE DEEPER: A GLOSSARY OF KEY TERMS

The discussion above uses four words that are often heard in Kentucky K-12 schools and in state education policy discussions. Here are quick definitions of how this report uses those four words.

- **Accountability** means education policies that hold schools and districts accountable for student outcomes. It especially means Kentucky’s statewide method of reporting on school results using color codes from red to blue to show weakest to strongest results. It also includes Kentucky’s formula for identifying schools for state intervention and support based on low results. And, under HB 257, accountability can also include local approaches.
- **Assessment** is used here to mean activities that gather data on students that can be used to plan next steps in student learning, to report to communities on school results, and to make accountability decisions.
- **Indicators** are the main way results are reported in Kentucky accountability, usually combining data from several assessments and/or other ways of measuring outcomes. Each statewide indicator is calculated as a number and then used to assign each school and district a color code for each indicator and for the combined results of all the indicators. Locally developed indicators are now an option under HB 257.
- **Measures** are specific data sources, which can include assessments, attendance data, graduation data, and other kinds of information. Most state indicators are calculated by combining several measures.

