WHAT IS YOUR COMMUNITY’S STORY?

In 2018, the Prichard Committee published Community Profiles for all 171 Kentucky School Districts in an effort to start local conversations about the educational needs of each community to inspire change, one school at a time. Three years later, the COVID-19 pandemic has taken us backward in our academic progress, especially for low-income students, students of color, and students with special needs.

We have long held the position that state assessments are not a measure to punish schools, educators, or students, but a tool to provide data about student performance so administrators, policymakers, and communities can make informed decisions about improving academic outcomes. This position has never been more important than it is today.

Now is the time for communities to come together and share in the development of a new normal - one that responds to the needs elevated by the pandemic - like mental health and early childhood - and expands innovations that proved promising. A new normal also means we listen closely to the needs of parents and students now, as we are all still in the midst of balancing a COVID-safe life and new normal in our own lives and communities. Our public education system must respond to these needs in new and innovative ways to remain relevant and to deliver on the promise of public education.

WHY DOES EDUCATION MATTER?

Discuss the impact of COVID locally...

Take our survey and share it with others in your community.
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PCCOVIDImpact

1. What are the current barriers to learning? Consider the different perspectives of students, educators, families, & communities.
2. What are some best practices you are seeing locally that are reducing these barriers?
3. What do you feel is the best local use of federal COVID recovery dollars for education?
HOW ARE STUDENTS DOING ON THE PATH TO A SUCCESSFUL LIFE?

Due to the impact of COVID-19 on learning, academic outcomes have changed dramatically due to circumstances related to the pandemic.

- Preschool Enrollment: District 35.2% vs. State 41.2%
- Kindergarten Readiness: District 81.8% vs. State 53.2%
- 3rd Grade Proficiency: READING District 52.8% vs. State 29.8% MATH District 64.6% vs. State 30.0%
- College-Ready in Math: District 35.4% vs. State 29.9%
- 8th Grade Proficiency: READING District 58.0% vs. State 49.8% MATH District 35.2% vs. State 27.1%
- Graduation Rate: District 79.3% vs. State 90.0%
- Postsecondary Enrollment: District 54.3% vs. State 46.6%
- College Degree Attainment: District 24.2% vs. State 35.1%

Note: If a data point on a line is missing or part of a group's line does not appear, data for that student group is unavailable. This may be due to concerns for student privacy, typically due to small sample size or results for students being similar enough that individual students may be identifiable.
In a perfect world, all groups would be represented by a single line at 100%. Over time, we should see improvement that moves the lines closer together and higher on the chart.

Gaps are already visible early in the education pipeline. Most gaps persist from kindergarten to graduation, confirming that improvement is needed at all grade levels.

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### Economic Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>County</th>
<th>State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Median Household Income</td>
<td>$41,526</td>
<td>$50,589</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment Rate</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children Living Below 200% Poverty</td>
<td>56.1%</td>
<td>44.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Health Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>County</th>
<th>State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low Birthweight</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor or Fair Health</td>
<td>26.6%</td>
<td>21.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teen Births (per 1,000 Females age 15-19)</td>
<td>44.04</td>
<td>31.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Obesity</td>
<td>38.3%</td>
<td>34.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Smoking</td>
<td>26.4%</td>
<td>24.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Premature Death (Years of Life Lost per 1,000 Live Births)</td>
<td>9,816</td>
<td>9,505</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flu Vaccine</td>
<td>38.0%</td>
<td>46.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### WHAT ELSE DO WE KNOW ABOUT OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY?

- **8,625 Students**
  - African American: 0.7%
  - Asian: 0.8%
  - Hispanic: 2.5%
  - Two or More Races: 1.4%
  - White: 94.3%
  - Students who qualify for free/reduced meals: 73.7%
  - Students with identified disabilities: 23.1%
  - English Learners: 1.2%

### Expenditures

- **District**: $11,249 per pupil
- **State**: $13,697 per pupil

### Sources

- Kentucky Department of Education (2020-21, except expenditures per pupil 2019-20)
- U.S. Census Bureau (American Community Survey, 2015-2019 estimates)
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (2021 County Health Rankings, with specific measures coming from 2013 through 2019)