



ReadyKentucky

Building on progress for student success

In College, Career and Life

ReadyKentucky is an information initiative to help educators, parents, civic leaders and other Kentuckians understand the state's public school standards, the tests that are given to measure student performance on those standards and ways to use test scores to help students, schools and districts improve.

Kentucky schools are leading the nation with their work to help students meet the challenges of tougher standards that reflect the knowledge and skills students need to succeed in college, career and life. ReadyKentucky is leading the way in using Kentucky-produced, and nationally recognized, materials and presentations to help people understand the standards and their importance for the future of Kentucky and its citizens.

We hope you will invite us to come to your school or community.



ReadyKentucky is organized by the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence, partnering with the Kentucky Department of Education, Chamber of Commerce, School Boards Association and other agencies that want all Kentuckians to have clear, factual and relevant information about their schools.

The Prichard Committee is a nationally recognized education advocacy group supporting quality education for all students from preschool through college.

Standards—A Definition

Standards are simply what students are expected to learn as they move from grade to grade through school. They help set clear, consistent expectations for students, parents and teachers and build students' knowledge and skills.

Kentucky's standards are benchmarked internationally to better prepare students to succeed in the global economy that is today's reality. They require students to show they have a deeper understanding of subjects.

More challenging standards that are in place for reading, writing, speaking, listening, language and math can be found at www.corestandards.org. Science and social studies standards are in development.

Why tougher standards? Why now?

Legislation enacted by the Kentucky General Assembly in 2009 mandated new, more rigorous standards and new state tests. Two years later, Kentucky became one of more than 45 states to adopt math and English/language arts standards that were designed by educators and experts to meet the high requirements of top-performing states and nations.

Kentucky students are being taught under more challenging standards designed to improve their chances to succeed in

college, the workplace and life. Ensuring more students are college and career ready is essential to building a strong economic future for the students and the state as a whole.

Simply put, too many Kentucky students have been graduating from high school without the knowledge and skills they need to succeed. Kentucky's new approach is designed to equip students to make real progress toward a stronger educational and career future.

Students were tested on the new standards for the first time in Spring 2012. As this chart shows, which test students take in what year depends on grade level.

GRADE	Reading (KCAS)	Writing (KCAS)	Mathematics (KCAS)	Science (CC 4.1)	Social Studies (CC 4.1)	EPAS
3	MC, short answer		MC, short answer			
4	MC, short answer, extended response	Editing/Mechanics	MC, short answer, extended response	MC, short answer, extended response		
5	MC, short answer, extended response	Writing prompt	MC, short answer, extended response		MC, short answer, extended response	
6	MC, short answer, extended response	Editing/Mechanics and Writing prompt	MC, short answer, extended response			
7	MC, short answer, extended response		MC, short answer, extended response	MC, short answer, extended response		
8	MC, short answer, extended response	Writing prompt	MC, short answer, extended response		MC, short answer, extended response	EXPLORE
9	English II End-of-Course		Algebra II End-of-Course	Biology End-of-Course	U.S. History End-of-Course	
10		Writing prompt				PLAN (includes editing/mechanics)
11		Writing prompt				ACT
12						

MC = Multiple Choice Questions; Short Answer = student writes a few sentences; Extended Response = like Open Response, student writes a few paragraphs
 KCAS = KY Core Academic Standards = Common Core EPAS = EXPLORE, PLAN ACT System CC 4.1 = Core Content 4.1

Measuring Performance – The Test Results

Student test scores on the subjects on which they are tested are categorized as Novice, Apprentice, Proficient or Distinguished. Parents receive individual reports for their children.

Schools are measured based on their students' performance on state tests and other factors. The formula for those measures includes data on:

- Achievement – student achievement on tests
- Gap – how achievement varies among different groups of students
- Growth – how much student performance improves from one year to the next

- College/Career Readiness – the number of students in middle and high schools who hit the achievement targets
- Graduation Rates – the percent of students completing high school

Each school and district gets an overall score on a scale of 0 to 100. The schools' scores are listed in order from lowest to highest and divided into sections called percentiles. For example, a school with a 99th percentile means that school is performing better than 98 percent of all schools.

Based on their performance levels, schools are designated as Distinguished, Proficient, Needs Improvement or Priority Schools. Schools that do not meet expectations for a particular group of students or miss the required graduation rate are designated as Focus schools.



Reach **ReadyKentucky** for support, presentations and materials at readykentucky@prichardcommittee.org.
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