



# PRICHARD COMMITTEE

## FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

**TOP  
20** BY  
**2020**

**2014 UPDATE**

In 2008, the Prichard Committee challenged Kentuckians to move the education system to the Top 20 among the 50 states by 2020. Six years later, results make it clear that Kentucky can make this important move forward, but increasing effort will be needed across the remaining six years.

The newest data find Kentucky students staying in the Top 20 in reading even with many more students with disabilities participating in the 2013 NAEP assessments. Fourth-grade math, AP college credits and high school graduates going on to college are on track to reach the Top 20, and they can get there by improving again by as much as they have since 2008.

### ON TRACK FOR 2020

New results show Kentucky moving up on 6 categories, either reaching the Top 20 or improving at a rate to get there by 2020. Kentucky ranks:

- 15th in eighth-grade reading
- 17th in fourth-grade reading
- 25th in students earning AP college credit in high school
- 26th in high school graduates going on to college
- 27th in average teacher salary
- 28th in fourth-grade mathematics

### IMPROVING, BUT SLOWLY

On 4 categories, new results show gains, but the state is moving too slowly to reach the Top 20 on time. Kentucky ranks:

- 30th in adults 18 to 24 with high school diploma or equivalent
- 32nd in preschool enrollment of children ages 3 and 4
- 37th in per-pupil elementary and secondary funding
- 39th in adults 25 to 34 with a bachelor's degree or higher

### FLAT OR LOSING GROUND

New results show Kentucky stuck or losing ground on 4 categories. Kentucky ranks:

- 22nd in share of higher education funding paid by families
- 26th in per-pupil total higher education funding
- 36th in eighth-grade mathematics
- 44th in STEM bachelor's degrees earned

\*

Six categories have no new data since our 2012 report. In those areas, Kentucky still ranks:

- 4th in fourth-grade science, based on 2009 data
- 16th in completion of associate's degrees, based on 2009 data
- 18th in eighth-grade science, based on 2011 data
- 20th in fourth-grade writing, based on 2002 data
- 35th in completion of bachelor's degrees, based on 2009 data
- 36th in eighth-grade writing, based on 2007 data

Other indicators show grounds for concern. Kentucky lost ground to other states in eighth-grade math and in the share of higher education costs that fall on families, while showing no net improvement since the 2008 report in total higher education funding or bachelor's degrees earned in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Preschool enrollment has improved only slightly compared to 2008, and slipped compared to the 2010 and 2012 positions. The percent of young adults with high school diplomas and the percent of slightly older adults with college degrees, while making significant gains since 2008, are not on pace to reach the 2020 goal.

Finally, Kentucky's rankings on per pupil funding and teacher salaries have improved, at least in part because other states were less able to maintain the buying power of their school dollars.

*The following pages show both trends and data sources for all 20 indicators of Kentucky moving into the top tier of states in educational achievement.*

### REVISIONS TO PAST RANKINGS

NAEP rankings from past reports have been adjusted to reflect scale score rankings without rounding to whole numbers. Higher education rankings from past reports have been revised to make consistent use of SHEF data and exclude an adjustment for the cost of living in different states. For 2008 only, the preschool ranking has been corrected for an error.

# TOP 20 BY 2020

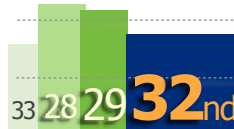
## 2014 UPDATE

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

### PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT OF CHILDREN AGES 3 & 4

**ARKANSAS** ranks 20th at 48% > 20  
Kentucky's rate is 43%

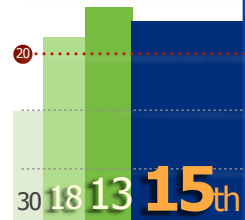
SOURCE: 2006, 2009, 2011 & 2013 three-year average estimates (American Community Survey)



### EIGHTH GRADE READING

**OREGON** is 20th at 268  
Kentucky scored 270

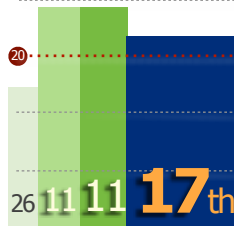
SOURCE: 2007, 2009, 2011 & 2013 scores on a 0 to 500 scale (National Assessment of Educational Progress)



### FOURTH GRADE READING

**IOWA** is 20th at 223.8  
Kentucky scored 224.4

SOURCE: 2007, 2009, 2011 & 2013 scores on a 0 to 500 scale (National Assessment of Educational Progress)



### EIGHTH GRADE MATH

**MARYLAND** is 20th at 287  
Kentucky scored 281

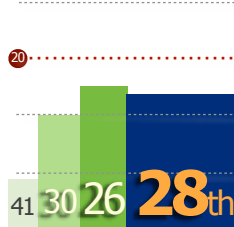
SOURCE: 2007, 2009, 2011 & 2013 scores on a 0 to 500 scale (National Assessment of Educational Progress)



### FOURTH GRADE MATH

**MONTANA** is 20th at 244  
Kentucky scored 241

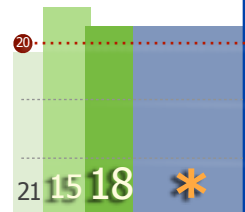
SOURCE: 2007, 2009, 2011 & 2013 scores on a 0 to 500 scale (National Assessment of Educational Progress)



### EIGHTH GRADE SCIENCE

**MISSOURI** was 20th at 156  
Kentucky scored 157

SOURCE: 2005, 2009 & 2011 scores on a 0 to 300 scale (National Assessment of Educational Progress)



### FOURTH GRADE SCIENCE

**IDAHO** was 20th at 154  
Kentucky scored 161

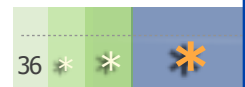
SOURCE: 2005 & 2009 scores on a 0 to 300 scale (National Assessment of Educational Progress)



### EIGHTH GRADE WRITING

**KANSAS** was 20th at 156  
Kentucky scored 151

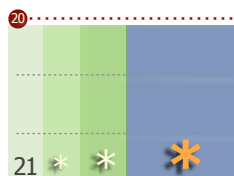
SOURCE: 2007 scores on a 0 to 300 scale (National Assessment of Educational Progress)



### FOURTH GRADE WRITING

**NEBRASKA** was 20th at 154  
Kentucky scored 154

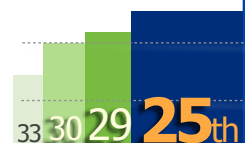
SOURCE: 2002 scores on a 0 to 300 scale (National Assessment of Educational Progress)



### STUDENTS EARNING AP COLLEGE CREDIT IN HIGH SCHOOL

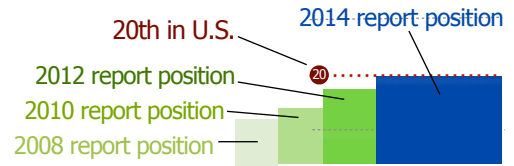
**NEW HAMPSHIRE** is 20th at 18%  
Kentucky's rate is 16%

SOURCE: 2007, 2009, 2011 & 2013 graduates scoring 3 or higher (on a 105 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 in our 2008, 2010 and 2012 reports. The red dot and dotted line mark the goal of reaching the Top 20. Gray dotted lines mark 10th, 30th and 40th position. An asterisk indicates that updated data is not available.



### ADULTS 18 TO 24 WITH HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR EQUIVALENT

**NEW YORK** is 20th at 86%  
 Kentucky's rate is 84%

SOURCE: 2006, 2009, 2011 & 2013 three-year average estimates (American Community Survey)



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

**MONTANA** is 20th at 31%  
 Kentucky's rate is 25%

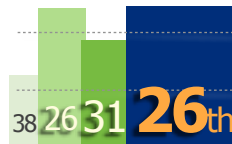
SOURCE: 2006, 2009, 2011 & 2013 three-year average estimates (American Community Survey)



### HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES GOING ON TO COLLEGE

**ALABAMA** is 20th at 64%  
 Kentucky's rate is 63%

SOURCE: Fall 2004, 2006, 2008 & 2010 enrollment (Digest of Education Statistics)



### PER-PUPIL ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY FUNDING

**WISCONSIN** is 20th at \$11,531  
 Kentucky provides \$9,105

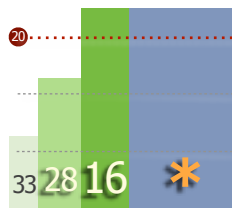
SOURCE: 2006, 2008, 2010 & 2012 state and local funding per pupil (Public Elementary-Secondary Education Finances)



### FULL-TIME STUDENTS COMPLETING ASSOCIATE'S IN THREE YEARS

**OREGON** was 20th at 29%  
 Kentucky's rate was 31%

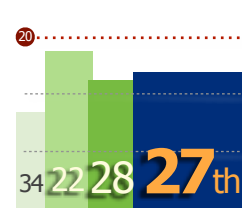
SOURCE: 2006, 2008 & 2009 completions (www.higheredinfo.org)



### AVERAGE TEACHER SALARY

**HAWAII** is 20th at \$54,300  
 Kentucky provides \$50,326

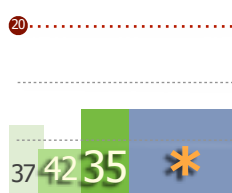
SOURCE: 2007, 2009, 2011 & 2013 estimated average salaries (Digest of Education Statistics)



### FULL-TIME STUDENTS COMPLETING BACHELOR'S IN SIX YEARS

**MAINE** was 20th at 57%  
 Kentucky's rate was 48%

SOURCE: 2006, 2008 & 2009 completions (www.higheredinfo.org)

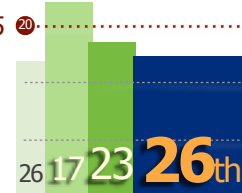


### PER-PUPIL TOTAL HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING

(includes tuition, state funds & other sources)

**MASSACHUSETTS** is 20th at \$12,655  
 Kentucky totals \$11,877

SOURCE: 2006, 2009, 2011 & 2013 total revenue divided by full-time equivalent enrollment in public higher education, excluding medical schools (State Higher Education Finance)



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

**NORTH DAKOTA** is 20th at 17%  
 Kentucky's rate is 14%

SOURCE: 2006, 2008, 2010 & 2012 natural science, computer science & engineering degrees (Digest of Education Statistics)



### SHARE OF HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING PAID BY FAMILIES

**MASSACHUSETTS** is 20th at 46%  
 Kentucky's rate is 47%

SOURCE: 2006, 2009, 2011 & 2013 net tuition total revenue for public higher education, excluding medical schools (State Higher Education Finance)



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# 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.

## ■ ACHIEVEMENT GAPS

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

## ■ 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](http://prichardcommittee.org). We welcome your thoughts and questions about this work at (859) 233-9849 or by e-mail at [admin@prichardcommittee.org](mailto:admin@prichardcommittee.org). Our mailing address is 271 W. Short St., Suite 202, Lexington, KY 40507.