Introduction

These *Kentucky EdGuides* are a Prichard Committee publication, designed to help students, parents, and other Kentuckians learn about our public school system and join us in advocating for excellence in education for every Kentucky child. The 2015 edition is our second release of the *EdGuides*, reflecting changes in law, data, and policy over the last year.

Each *EdGuide* addresses a single major topic in two pages or less, sharing basics of Kentucky's education law, information on recent results, and sources for additional information. For easy access, you are welcome to select any one topic to read as an electronic document or to print out, and you can also download the entire set as a single file. We plan to include additional *EdGuide* topics in 2015 and then update annually to provide a current and accurate explanation of how Kentucky students are served in our state's public schools.

Susan Perkins Weston, a Prichard consultant, has done the main research and writing for the 2015 edition. We thank her and the many colleagues who provided information, clarification and feedback, including staff members at the Kentucky Department of Education, the Center for School Safety, the Legislative Research Commission, the Kentucky Association of School Councils, the Kentucky Education Association, and the Kentucky School Boards Association. Appreciation is also extended to Pam Shepherd for proofreading the entire document and Michelle Whitaker for preparing the final copy and making them accessible on-line, and to Brigitte Blom Ramsey and Cindy Baumert for their important contributions to the development of the 2015 *EdGuides.*

Informed and involved parents and citizens are critical to school success. The simple truth is that educators cannot help all students reach college and/or career readiness without the support of families and communities. Your interest and support are important. We hope EdGuides will provide the information you need to become more involved in your local schools. We also hope you will share any questions, comments or suggestions by emailing admin@prichardcommittee.org.

Stu Silberman
Executive Director
August 2015

THE PRICHARD COMMITTEE AND ITS WORK

The Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence is an independent, non-profit, nonpartisan group of volunteers who have worked since 1983 to improve education at all levels. It is named for an attorney, the late Edward F. Prichard, who in 1980 led a citizens' committee on improving Kentucky's universities.

The Committee is not affiliated with Kentucky state government. The Committee informs educators, policymakers and citizens across the state, advocating for excellence in student achievement and public school education.

The Prichard Committee provides an independent citizens' voice advocating for improved education for all Kentuckians. In doing so, we help set the agenda for education improvement. To deliver on our mission, we:

- ***Research*** key education issues from early childhood through postsecondary in order to formulate policy positions
- ***Inform*** the public and policymakers with clear, trusted, accessible explanations of education issues
- ***Advocate*** with public, parents, opinion leaders, and policymakers for improved education in Kentucky
- ***Engage*** parents and citizens in exploring challenges, identifying solutions, and ***empowering*** them to lead in their schools and communities on education issues, ***mobilizing*** them to press for important reforms to be made and sustained long enough to produce meaningful results and ***convening*** stakeholders
- ***Sustain*** relationships with advocates and state leaders to help develop solutions and improve understanding of issues.

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