



**Legislative Research Commission**

# Compendium of State Education Rankings 2009

Research Report No. 370

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## Foreword

In November 2008, the Education Assessment and Accountability Review Subcommittee approved the Office of Education Accountability's 2009 research agenda which included this edition of the *Compendium of State Education Rankings*.

This publication is intended to offer legislators and the public a convenient source of information about how Kentucky compares to other states on key public elementary and secondary education indicators. Compendiums are updated and issued annually.

Robert Sherman  
Director

Legislative Research Commission  
Frankfort, Kentucky  
May 14, 2010



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## Summary

This compendium of state education rankings is intended as a reference tool comparing Kentucky's education indicators to those of the nation, Southern Regional Education Board states, and other states that border Kentucky. While rankings are based on all states and the District of Columbia, tables focus on Southern Regional Education Board member states and other states adjacent to Kentucky.

### Demographics

Kentucky's student poverty rate continues to be above the national rate. Kentucky has one of the highest rates of students enrolled in rural schools, which have unique advantages and disadvantages. Although the number of Hispanic students has been increasing in Kentucky, the state still has a smaller minority student population than most states.

### Student Services

Because of Kentucky's small Hispanic population, few students receive services for limited English proficiency. However, socioeconomic disadvantages are reflected in high rates of subsidized lunches and Title I services. In addition, a relatively high proportion of students have disabilities that require Individualized Education Programs.

### Fiscal Matters

Even after adjusting for geographic cost differences, Kentucky is among the bottom 10 states when ranked by revenues and current spending per pupil; however, unlike most states, Kentucky does not include school activity funds when reporting revenues and expenditures. The state's teacher salary ranking has risen. As the share of revenues from local sources gradually increases, Kentucky's share of revenues from state funds is slipping. The proportion of spending dedicated to instruction mirrors the nation.

Kentucky's drop in rank with respect to the student-teacher ratio is good news because it suggests that students have more opportunities for individual attention. High numbers of instructional aides per student are likely due to high preschool enrollment and disability rates. High numbers of administrators likely reflect the state's small rural schools and districts.

### Student Achievement

Because Kentucky's average 4<sup>th</sup>-grade National Educational Assessment of Progress math score increased faster than in other states, the state's rank jumped from 39<sup>th</sup> in 2003 to 29<sup>th</sup> in 2009. On the other hand, Kentucky's 8<sup>th</sup>-grade average increased at about the same rate as the national average; Kentucky's rank remained the same. The state's rankings improved dramatically with respect to the graduation rate and the percentage of students attempting and passing Advanced Placement exams.

Additionally, because all students now take the ACT, Kentucky's participation rank jumped from 13<sup>th</sup> in 2008 to a tie for 1<sup>st</sup> with Michigan and Colorado in 2009. However, now that examinees include all students, Kentucky's scores are lower. With respect to the average ACT composite score, Kentucky's rank dropped from 25<sup>th</sup> in 2008 to 49<sup>th</sup> in 2009.

# Chapter 1

## Introduction

In December 2008, the Education Assessment and Accountability Review Subcommittee approved the 2009 study plan from the Office of Education Accountability (OEA), which included the third annual *Compendium of State Education Rankings*. This publication is intended to provide a reference tool for legislators and the general public regarding how Kentucky’s education indicators compare to those of peer states, which are listed below.

### Peer States

This compendium compares Kentucky to its fellow members of the Southern Regional Education Board and to other states adjacent to Kentucky. These peer states are listed in Table 1.1.

**Table 1.1**  
**Peer States**

Southern Regional Education Board States			Bordering States Not in Southern Regional Education Board
Alabama (AL)	West Virginia (WV)	Georgia (GA)	
Mississippi (MS)	Delaware (DE)	South Carolina (SC)	
Virginia (VA)	North Carolina (NC)	Louisiana (LA)	
Arkansas (AR)	Florida (FL)	Tennessee (TN)	
Maryland (MD)	Oklahoma (OK)	Texas (TX)	
			Illinois (IL)
			Indiana (IN)
			Missouri (MO)
			Ohio (OH)

Source: Staff compilation of information from the Southern Regional Education Board.

### Education Indicators

In an ongoing effort to make the compendium as convenient as possible, the number of tables has been streamlined. Tables are grouped into four topical areas, described below.

#### Demographics

Chapter 2 provides data on child poverty, family income, rural locale, students’ racial composition, and states’ age composition.

## **Student Services**

Chapter 3 presents information on English Language Learner services, Individualized Education Programs, Title I school enrollment, and National School Lunch Program eligibility.

## **Fiscal Matters**

Chapter 4 encompasses revenues, current spending, teacher salaries, student-teacher ratios, and other staffing rates.

## **Student Achievement**

Chapter 5 includes National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) math results, ACT participation and scores, Advanced Placement participation, and graduation rates.

While additional data are available and useful, the data chosen were deemed to be the most salient education indicators. OEA invites users of the rankings to provide feedback for future versions. Comparisons among school districts within Kentucky are available in a separate report (Commonwealth. Legislative. Office. *Kentucky*).

## **Use of the State Rankings**

Rankings should be used with caution. It is essential to examine the measures on which the ranks are based and the context affecting the measures, given state differences in such factors as enrollment, socioeconomic conditions, and costs of living.

One thing to keep in mind when using the compendium is that, depending on the data point, being ranked high might be good, bad, or neutral. The demographics section provides examples: lower rankings on poverty indicators and higher rankings on income indicators are preferable. On the other hand, the percentage of students in rural schools, the age composition of the population, and the racial composition of students have policy implications; but high rankings are neither good nor bad.

Unless otherwise noted, rankings reported in this compendium are out of 51—the 50 states and the District of Columbia. When two or more states have the same value, they are assigned the same rank and are listed in alphabetical order.

Unless otherwise noted, U.S. totals refer to the 50 states and the District of Columbia. If data are not available for all states, the U.S. entry summarizes all available data.

Year refers to the ending year of the school year; for example, 2007 refers to the 2006-2007 school year. In most states, school years correspond to fiscal years, which begin July 1 and end June 30.

The abbreviation “n.a.” indicates that data were not available because they were not collected, not reported, or not reliable. In contrast, two dashes (--) indicate that a measure does not apply. For example, two dashes appear in place of a state rank for the U.S. In tables that show the statistical significance of differences between other states and Kentucky, two dashes appear in the significance column for Kentucky itself.

Data based on samples are subject to sampling error. Each difference between Kentucky and another state was tested for statistical significance with a 95 percent confidence level; > indicates states that were significantly higher than Kentucky, = indicates states not significantly different, and < indicates states that were significantly lower than Kentucky. Statistical tests used unrounded percentages and took into account each state’s sample size and variance; therefore, states with the same percentages can have different levels of significance.

Despite efforts by the U.S. Department of Education and states to improve data, some fiscal data are still coded inconsistently among states, and even within states. Moreover, because costs vary from state to state, a dollar spent in one state does not buy the same amount as a dollar spent in another state. States with high costs of living usually offer the highest salaries, but without adjusting, there is no way to know if the higher salaries are sufficient to offset the higher costs. In order to improve comparability, staff adjusted fiscal measures using the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) Comparable Wage Index; however, no adjustment approach is ideal. These comparability issues should be kept in mind when interpreting rankings.



## **Chapter 2**

### **Demographics**

The impact of socioeconomic and other demographic factors on academic performance is well known. Examining the demographics of Kentucky's student population is crucial for understanding the state's needs.

#### **Child Poverty**

Poverty status is determined by a set of income thresholds based on the ages and number of family members. Official poverty rates have several limitations. They do not reflect rising costs of medical care, transportation, and childcare; nor do they include noncash benefits such as food stamps, subsidized housing, Medicaid, and subsidized school lunches. Because one set of income thresholds is used for the entire country, poverty is overstated where costs of living are lower and understated where costs are higher. In addition, poverty statistics provide little information about the distribution of income (U.S. Dept. of Commerce. Census. "Characteristics" 7, "Poverty—How," and Poverty Measurement).

As Table 2.1 shows, between 1989 and 2007, the percentage of Kentucky's children living in poverty increased from 19 percent to 24 percent, significantly above the national rate. Child poverty increased in other states as well, leaving Kentucky's rank at 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Table 2.1**  
**Children Under Age 18 Living Below Federal Poverty Line, 1989, 1999, and 2007**

1989			1999			2007			Sig.
Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%	
1	MS	25.2	2	MS	19.9	1	MS	29.3	>
2	LA	23.6	3	LA	19.6	2	LA	26.8	>
4	WV	19.7	5	WV	17.9	3	AR	25.8	>
5	AR	19.1	6	AL	16.1	5	AL	24.3	=
<b>6</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>19.0</b>	7	AR	15.8	<b>6</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>23.9</b>	--
7	AL	18.3	<b>7</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>15.8</b>	7	TX	23.2	=
8	TX	18.1	9	TX	15.4	8	TN	23.0	=
10	OK	16.7	10	OK	14.7	9	WV	22.8	=
13	TN	15.7	14	SC	14.1	11	OK	22.5	=
15	SC	15.4	16	TN	13.5	12	SC	20.9	<
16	GA	14.7	18	GA	13.0	14	GA	19.7	<
18	MO	13.3	19	FL	12.5	15	NC	19.5	<
--	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>13.1</b>	--	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>12.4</b>	17	OH	18.5	<
20	NC	13.0	19	NC	12.3	--	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>18.0</b>	<
22	FL	12.7	23	MO	11.7	20	MO	17.7	<
23	OH	12.5	28	IL	10.7	22	IN	17.3	<
26	IL	11.9	30	OH	10.6	24	FL	17.1	<
36	IN	10.7	36	VA	9.6	27	IL	16.6	<
38	VA	10.2	37	IN	9.5	35	DE	14.7	<
45	DE	8.7	43	DE	9.2	40	VA	13.0	<
46	MD	8.3	46	MD	8.5	49	MD	10.5	<

Note: > indicates states significantly higher than Kentucky, = indicates states not significantly different, and < indicates states significantly lower than Kentucky.

Sources: U.S. Dept. of Commerce. Census. "Decennial" and American.

### Family Income

Table 2.2 presents the median family income in each state. Dollar figures shown are not comparable across years because they are not adjusted for inflation. A family is two or more residing together who are related by birth, marriage, or adoption. Income includes money from all sources, including public assistance, child support, unemployment insurance, interest and dividends, and pensions. For this compendium, family income is more relevant than household income because only about one-third of households have children.

From 1989 to 2007, Kentucky was consistently among the bottom 10 states with respect to median family income. Between 1989 and 1999, the Commonwealth rose from 46<sup>th</sup> to 43<sup>rd</sup> but was back to 47<sup>th</sup> in 2007. Kentucky's median family income is about \$50,000, compared to the U.S. average of more than \$61,000.



**Table 2.2**  
**Median Family Income in Nominal Dollars, 1989, 1999, and 2007**

1989			1999			2007			
<u>Rank</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>Sig.</u>
4	MD	45,034	3	MD	61,876	1	MD	82,404	>
9	DE	40,252	10	IL	55,545	8	VA	70,894	>
12	IL	38,664	11	DE	55,257	15	DE	66,198	>
13	VA	38,213	12	VA	54,169	16	IL	65,761	>
--	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>35,225</b>	21	IN	50,261	--	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>61,173</b>	>
22	OH	34,351	--	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>50,046</b>	31	GA	58,403	>
23	IN	34,082	21	OH	50,037	32	OH	58,374	>
24	GA	33,529	23	GA	49,280	33	IN	57,734	>
30	FL	32,212	30	NC	46,335	34	FL	56,966	>
32	MO	31,838	32	MO	46,044	36	MO	55,947	>
35	TX	31,553	33	TX	45,861	37	TX	55,742	>
36	NC	31,548	35	FL	45,625	38	NC	55,028	>
37	SC	30,797	37	SC	44,227	42	SC	52,913	>
38	TN	29,546	39	TN	43,517	43	TN	51,945	>
41	AL	28,688	42	AL	41,657	44	OK	51,787	>
42	OK	28,554	<b>43</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>40,939</b>	45	AL	50,770	=
<b>46</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>27,028</b>	44	OK	40,709	46	LA	50,727	=
47	LA	26,313	46	LA	39,774	<b>47</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>50,291</b>	--
48	WV	25,602	48	AR	38,663	49	AR	47,021	<
49	AR	25,395	49	MS	37,406	50	WV	46,338	<
50	MS	24,448	50	WV	36,484	51	MS	44,769	<

Note: > indicates states significantly higher than Kentucky, = indicates states not significantly different, and < indicates states significantly lower than Kentucky.

Sources: U.S. Dept. of Commerce. Census. "Decennial" and American.

## Rural Schools

Table 2.3 provides the percentage of students enrolled in schools that are located in rural areas. In 2004, 43 percent of Kentucky students attended rural schools, compared to a national rate of 21 percent, and Kentucky ranked as the 9<sup>th</sup> most rural state. In 2007, Kentucky had the 7<sup>th</sup> most rural student population, with 40 percent of students attending rural schools; this was more than double the national rate of 19 percent.

**Table 2.33**  
**Students Enrolled in Rural Schools. 2004 and 2007**

2004			2007		
<u>Rank</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>%</u>
3	MS	46.8	4	NC	47.8
4	AL	45.6	5	MS	47.2
5	NC	45.0	6	AL	41.4
7	WV	44.4	<b>7</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>40.1</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>42.6</b>	9	WV	39.7
10	AR	40.6	10	AR	37.8
12	SC	39.5	14	TN	33.3
14	TN	35.8	15	GA	32.4
15	OK	34.1	16	VA	31.2
19	GA	31.9	17	OK	30.4
23	IN	30.3	18	SC	29.9
24	MO	30.0	23	IN	26.1
25	LA	28.7	24	MO	25.8
26	VA	27.9	25	OH	25.6
30	OH	24.4	31	LA	19.3
--	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>21.3</b>	--	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>18.9</b>
34	TX	17.5	35	TX	14.6
38	MD	17.0	39	IL	11.5
40	DE	15.9	42	MD	10.0
43	FL	13.5	44	FL	8.4
46	IL	11.7	46	DE	6.2

Sources: U.S. Dept. of Ed. Inst. Natl. *Numbers and Status*.

## Racial Diversity of Students

Table 2.4 shows the distribution of students by race. White indicates origins in Europe, North Africa, or the Middle East. Black indicates origins in a black racial group of Africa. Hispanic includes origins in Mexico, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Central or South America, or other Spanish culture. Other includes Asians, Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and Alaska Natives.

While Kentucky's urban areas have some racial diversity, Kentucky's minority student population is smaller and growing less rapidly than that of the U.S. In 2007, about 86 percent of Kentucky students were white, 11 percent black, 2 percent Hispanic, and 1 percent other races. Between 2000 and 2007, the percentage of Hispanic students more than doubled, but it was still relatively small at 2.4 percent.

**Table 2.4**  
**Racial Composition of Students, 2000 and 2007**

Percentage of White, Non-Hispanic						Percentage of Black, Non-Hispanic					
2000			2007			2000			2007		
Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%
4	WV	94.8	3	WV	93.3	2	MS	51.0	2	MS	50.8
<b>8</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>88.1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>85.8</b>	3	LA	47.6	3	LA	45.4
14	IN	84.3	13	IN	79.5	4	SC	42.2	4	SC	39.8
18	OH	81.1	14	OH	78.8	5	GA	38.2	5	GA	39.2
20	MO	79.7	18	MO	76.3	6	MD	36.8	6	MD	38.1
26	TN	72.9	25	TN	69.1	7	AL	36.4	7	AL	35.9
27	AR	72.2	27	AR	67.6	8	NC	31.3	8	DE	33.0
30	OK	66.2	30	VA	59.3	9	DE	30.6	9	NC	29.2
31	VA	64.3	31	AL	59.1	10	VA	27.2	10	VA	26.7
--	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>62.1</b>	32	OK	58.6	11	FL	25.4	11	TN	24.8
33	NC	61.8	33	NC	57.5	12	TN	24.4	12	FL	23.9
34	DE	61.6	--	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>56.5</b>	13	AR	23.5	13	AR	22.7
35	AL	61.1	35	IL	55.9	14	IL	21.3	14	IL	20.3
37	IL	60.7	37	SC	53.9	18	MO	17.3	17	MO	18.1
39	GA	55.5	38	DE	53.9	--	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>17.2</b>	--	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>17.1</b>
41	SC	55.2	40	LA	50.1	19	OH	16.1	19	OH	17.1
42	FL	54.3	41	FL	48.4	21	TX	14.4	21	TX	14.4
43	MD	54.3	42	GA	48.2	23	IN	11.5	23	IN	12.6
45	LA	49.2	43	MD	47.8	24	OK	10.7	25	OK	10.8
46	MS	47.5	44	MS	46.5	<b>25</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>10.8</b>
47	TX	43.1	47	TX	35.7	38	WV	4.2	38	WV	5.1

  

Percentage of Hispanic						Percentage of Other					
2000			2007			2000			2007		
Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%
3	TX	39.6	3	TX	46.3	3	OK	17.7	3	OK	21.1
8	FL	18.2	7	FL	25.0	--	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>5.2</b>	--	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>5.9</b>
--	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>15.6</b>	--	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>20.5</b>	17	MD	4.5	16	MD	5.8
10	IL	14.6	9	IL	19.7	20	VA	4.1	17	VA	5.7
22	DE	5.4	21	DE	9.8	24	IL	3.4	24	IL	4.1
23	OK	5.4	22	NC	9.6	26	NC	3.3	26	NC	3.8
25	MD	4.4	23	OK	9.5	28	TX	2.9	28	TX	3.6
26	VA	4.3	24	GA	9.5	32	DE	2.4	31	DE	3.3
29	GA	4.0	26	MD	8.3	33	GA	2.3	33	GA	3.1
30	NC	3.7	27	VA	8.3	35	FL	2.1	35	FL	2.7
34	IN	3.1	28	AR	7.5	37	LA	1.9	38	AR	2.2
35	AR	3.0	31	IN	6.3	41	MO	1.4	39	LA	2.2
38	OH	1.6	34	SC	4.6	43	AL	1.4	41	MO	2.1
40	MO	1.6	38	TN	4.4	44	AR	1.3	43	AL	1.9
41	SC	1.5	39	MO	3.4	45	TN	1.3	44	SC	1.7
42	TN	1.5	40	AL	3.2	46	OH	1.2	45	TN	1.7
43	LA	1.3	42	OH	2.6	47	SC	1.1	47	IN	1.6
46	AL	1.1	44	LA	2.4	48	IN	1.1	47	OH	1.6
<b>47</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>2.4</b>	49	MS	0.8	<b>49</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>1.1</b>
48	MS	0.6	48	MS	1.7	50	WV	0.6	50	MS	1.0
51	WV	0.4	51	WV	0.8	<b>51</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>0.6</b>	51	WV	0.8

Source: U.S. Dept. of Ed. Inst. Natl. *Common Core*.

### Age Composition of State Populations

Table 2.5 provides the percentage of state populations under 5 years of age, ages 5 to 17, and over age 17. Between 2000 and 2007, in both Kentucky and the U.S., the preschool proportion of the population remained steady, the school-age proportion declined slightly, and the adult proportion increased slightly. In 2007, Kentucky's school-age population comprised 17.1 percent of the population, compared to 17.6 percent for the nation.

**Table 2.5**  
**Age Composition of State Population, 2000 and 2007**

Under Age 5						Ages 5 to 17						Over Age 17					
2000			2007			2000			2007			2000			2007		
Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%
2	TX	7.8	2	TX	8.3	5	TX	20.5	3	TX	19.4	2	WV	77.6	3	WV	78.6
7	GA	7.3	5	GA	7.6	6	LA	20.3	5	MS	19.0	3	FL	77.2	5	FL	77.9
9	MS	7.2	8	MS	7.3	7	MS	20.0	6	GA	18.9	10	NC	75.5	16	VA	76.4
10	LA	7.1	10	OK	7.2	16	GA	19.2	10	LA	18.2	11	VA	75.4	<b>17</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>76.3</b>
10	IL	7.1	15	IL	7.0	18	IL	19.1	12	IN	18.0	13	TN	75.3	20	SC	76.2
13	IN	7.0	15	IN	7.0	20	OK	19.0	15	IL	17.9	<b>13</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>75.3</b>	22	TN	76.1
16	AR	6.8	15	NC	7.0	--	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>18.9</b>	17	AR	17.7	18	DE	75.1	24	DE	76.0
--	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>19</b>	DE	6.9	22	MO	18.9	17	AL	17.7	22	SC	74.8	24	OH	76.0
16	OK	6.8	19	AR	6.9	22	MD	18.9	17	OK	17.7	23	AL	74.7	27	MD	75.8
21	OH	6.7	19	LA	6.9	26	IN	18.8	--	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>17.6</b>	24	AR	74.6	29	MO	75.7
21	AL	6.7	--	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>6.8</b>	27	OH	18.7	19	MO	17.6	24	OH	74.6	18	NC	75.6
21	MD	6.7	25	AL	6.7	29	SC	18.6	22	MD	17.5	26	MO	74.5	--	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>75.6</b>
21	NC	6.7	25	MD	6.7	29	AL	18.6	22	OH	17.5	29	MD	74.4	21	AL	75.6
28	MO	6.6	25	MO	6.7	29	AR	18.6	24	NC	17.4	--	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>74.3</b>	23	AR	75.4
28	DE	6.6	<b>28</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>6.6</b>	34	DE	18.3	27	TN	17.3	26	OK	74.2	26	IL	75.1
<b>28</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>6.6</b>	28	TN	6.6	<b>38</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>18.1</b>	32	SC	17.2	31	IN	74.2	31	OK	75.1
28	TN	6.6	28	VA	6.6	38	VA	18.1	<b>35</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>17.1</b>	34	IL	73.8	34	IN	75.0
28	SC	6.6	28	SC	6.6	38	TN	18.1	35	DE	17.1	34	GA	73.5	34	LA	74.9
34	VA	6.5	34	OH	6.5	46	NC	17.8	37	VA	17.0	36	MS	72.8	36	MS	73.7
46	FL	5.9	38	FL	6.3	49	FL	16.9	48	FL	15.8	47	LA	72.6	47	GA	73.5
48	WV	5.7	47	WV	5.8	50	WV	16.7	49	WV	15.6	48	TX	71.7	48	TX	72.3

Sources: U.S. Dept. of Commerce. Census. "Decennial" and American.

## Chapter 3

### Student Services

This chapter compares Kentucky to peer states and to the nation with respect to selected student services. Some services are based on financial needs; others are based on educational needs, such as language barriers or disabilities. Because of the high proportion of disadvantaged students in Kentucky, many receive services.

#### English Language Learner Services

An English language learner (ELL) is a student who comes from an environment in which a language other than English has had a significant impact on his or her English language proficiency.

Table 3.1 ranks states by the percentage of students receiving ELL services. It is important to note that ELL data were not reported by two states in 2002 and by seven states in 2007. Missing data impact the rankings and the U.S. average. In particular, California's absence from the 2007 data has considerable impact, given the state's large population and high percentage of Hispanics.

Kentucky has relatively few ELL students. In 2002, less than 1 percent of the state's students received language services, compared to U.S. rate of 8.1 percent; Kentucky ranked 44<sup>th</sup> out of 49. By 2007, the percentage of Kentucky students receiving ELL services had almost doubled but was still relatively small. That year, Kentucky ranked 40<sup>th</sup> out of 44.

**Table 3.1**  
**Students Receiving English Language Learner Services, 2002 and 2007**

2002			2007		
Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%
5	TX	14.5	6	TX	10.9
11	FL	8.2	8	FL	8.8
--	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>8.1</b>	11	IL	8.2
16	IL	6.6	13	VA	7.1
18	OK	6.0	19	NC	6.1
23	GA	4.3	21	OK	6.0
25	NC	4.0	23	GA	5.5
26	IN	4.0	24	DE	5.4
27	MD	3.8	--	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>5.1</b>
29	VA	3.7	28	SC	4.3
33	AR	2.9	29	IN	4.1
37	DE	2.6	33	TN	3.0
39	LA	1.5	35	AL	2.5
42	AL	1.0	39	OH	1.6
43	SC	1.0	<b>40</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>1.6</b>
<b>44</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>0.9</b>	42	LA	1.3
45	MO	0.9	43	MS	1.0
46	MS	0.5	44	WV	0.8
47	WV	0.3	n.a.	MO	n.a.
48	OH	0.0	n.a.	MD	n.a.
49	TN	0.0	n.a.	AR	n.a.

Notes: Data were not reported by ND and PA in 2002. Data were not reported by AR, CA, CO, MD, MO, NJ, and SD in 2007.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Ed. Inst. Natl. *Common Core*.

### Students With Individualized Education Programs

An Individualized Education Program (IEP) is a written instructional plan that the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act requires for each student with an identified disability (U.S. Dept. of Ed. Inst. Natl. Ctr. Overview 39). The severity and nature of disabilities vary widely and include speech difficulties, attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder, and severe cognitive disabilities. The IEP creates an opportunity for teachers, parents, school administrators, related services personnel, and students to work together to improve educational results for students with disabilities.

Relative to the nation, Kentucky's population of students with disabilities is larger and is growing more rapidly. As Table 3.2 shows, in 2002, 15 percent of Kentucky students had IEPs, compared to 13.3 percent in the U.S. By 2007, the percentage rose to 16 percent in Kentucky, while the national rate fell to 12.7 percent. Consequently, Kentucky's rank moved from 13<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Table 3.2**  
**Students with Individualized Education Programs, 2002 and 2007**

2002			2007		
Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%
3	WV	17.7	3	WV	17.2
6	IN	16.1	4	IN	17.1
7	TN	15.9	<b>8</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>16.0</b>
11	MO	15.4	9	DE	15.8
12	FL	15.1	12	IL	15.4
<b>13</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>15.0</b>	14	MO	15.4
16	SC	14.6	15	OK	15.0
17	IL	14.4	16	OH	14.9
19	NC	14.2	16	FL	14.9
20	VA	14.1	22	VA	14.1
21	OK	14.1	27	AR	13.7
22	DE	13.9	28	MS	13.5
25	LA	13.4	30	NC	13.3
--	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>13.3</b>	31	LA	13.2
29	AL	13.2	--	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>12.7</b>
33	MD	13.0	33	MD	12.4
39	MS	12.6	36	GA	12.1
40	AR	12.5	38	AL	11.9
42	OH	12.4	44	TX	10.8
44	TX	11.9	47	TN	10.1
46	GA	11.6	48	SC	8.7

Note: CO, ND, and NJ did not report data in 2007.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Ed. Inst. Natl. *Common Core*.

OEA recently pointed out Kentucky’s relatively high disability identification rate and recommended measures for ensuring accurate identification of students and appropriate provision of services (Commonwealth. Legislative. Office. *Review*).

### **Title I School Enrollment**

Table 3.3 ranks states by the percentages of students enrolled in Title I schools. Title I refers to federally funded programs for disadvantaged students. These programs were established by the first section of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and reauthorized under the No Child Left Behind Act. Schools that have disadvantaged students receive funds that can be used for targeted assistance to specific students or for comprehensive schoolwide programs if at least 40 percent of students are below the poverty level. This table ranks states by the percentage of students enrolled in Title I-eligible schools.

In 2002, Kentucky ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in the nation, with 74 percent of students enrolled in Title I-eligible schools, compared to the U.S. rate of 37 percent. In 2007, the percentage of Kentucky students in Title I schools had risen to 81 percent; however, because Title I enrollment grew even more rapidly in other states, Kentucky’s ranking dropped one position to 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Table 3.3**  
**Percentage of Students Enrolled in Title I Schools, 2002 and 2007**

2002			2007		
<u>Rank</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>%</u>
4	KY	73.6	1	DE	100.0
5	MS	70.5	2	LA	87.4
8	AR	66.1	5	KY	81.2
12	OH	60.6	9	IL	69.5
14	OK	58.6	10	AR	68.4
15	TX	57.7	10	MS	68.4
17	IL	56.0	10	TN	68.4
19	AL	55.1	16	OH	64.7
21	LA	50.7	17	TX	64.6
24	MO	47.4	18	FL	64.1
25	DE	46.6	21	OK	61.3
27	IN	46.2	--	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>56.9</b>
29	GA	43.8	26	AL	55.2
30	WV	43.5	32	GA	46.1
36	SC	38.8	36	MO	41.2
--	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>36.6</b>	40	NC	37.9
41	NC	35.7	42	WV	37.3
45	FL	32.5	44	SC	34.5
46	VA	30.6	46	IN	32.1
47	MD	26.6	47	VA	26.4
n.a.	TN	n.a.	50	MD	18.7

Source: U.S. Dept. of Ed. Inst. Natl. *Common Core*.

### National School Lunch Program Participation

Children from families with incomes at or below 130 percent of the poverty level are eligible for free lunches through the National School Lunch Program. Those with incomes between 130 percent and 185 percent of the poverty level are eligible for reduced-price lunches.

As Table 3.4 shows, just under half of Kentucky students are eligible for lunch subsidies. Between 2002 and 2007, the eligibility rate dropped slightly from 49.1 percent to 48.5 percent. Kentucky's rank dropped from 6<sup>th</sup> in 2002 to 12<sup>th</sup> in 2007 because of increases in other states. However, Kentucky's 48.5 percent rate in 2007 remained above the national rate of 41.2.



**Table 3.4**  
**Percentage of Students Eligible for Free or Reduced-price Lunch in the National School Lunch Program, 2002 and 2007**

<b>2002</b>			<b>2007</b>		
<b>Rank</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>%</b>
1	MS	65.3	1	MS	67.5
2	LA	59.1	2	LA	61.6
5	WV	50.4	4	AR	58.7
<b>6</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>49.1</b>	5	OK	55.2
7	AL	48.7	7	AL	51.0
7	OK	48.7	8	SC	51.0
7	SC	48.7	9	GA	50.3
11	AR	47.2	10	WV	49.6
12	TX	45.4	<b>12</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>48.5</b>
13	FL	44.6	13	TN	47.7
14	GA	44.2	14	TX	47.2
17	NC	38.4	15	FL	45.2
20	IL	35.2	17	NC	43.2
21	MO	35.1	--	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>41.2</b>
22	DE	34.6	21	MO	39.0
29	IN	31.1	23	IL	37.5
31	MD	29.7	23	IN	37.5
34	VA	29.3	26	DE	36.9
40	OH	27.4	34	OH	33.7
--	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	36	MD	32.2
n.a.	TN	n.a.	38	VA	31.4

Notes: In 2002, AZ, CT, and TN did not report lunch data.  
In 2007, NV did not report lunch data.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Ed. Inst. Natl. *Common Core*.



## Chapter 4

### Fiscal Matters

The U.S. Department of Education, in collaboration with the Census Bureau, collects financial data on education revenues and spending. For example, the National Public Education Financial Survey collects district-level fiscal data, including revenues by source and expenditures by function and subfunction. Title I funds for disadvantaged students and other federal grants are based on data collected in this survey.

It is important to note that Kentucky does not follow federal guidelines stipulating the inclusion of school activity funds in revenues and expenditures reported to the National Center for Education Statistics. Consequently, Kentucky's revenues and expenditures are understated to some extent (Commonwealth. Legislative. Office. *Fees*).

#### Revenues

Education revenues are funds received by a school system from external sources other than from issuance of debt, from liquidation of investments, or as agency and private trust transactions. Revenues exclude noncash transactions.

Federal revenue sources include federally funded grants and other aid distributed directly by the federal government or indirectly by state governments. Examples include Head Start, the National School Lunch Program, and Title I funds.

State revenue sources include any funds that originate from the state and are paid to the school system. Examples include revenues paid for school construction, debt service, equalization, state payments on behalf of districts, and transportation.

Local revenue sources apply to all funds that are not from federal or state sources. These include revenues from taxes; investments; and student activities such as textbook sales, transportation and tuition fees, and food sales.

Table 4.1 ranks states by revenue dollars per pupil and by the percentages of revenues from local, state, and federal sources. Most states have consistently higher education revenues than Kentucky. Between 2002 and 2007, the state's ranking with respect to revenues per pupil dropped from 44<sup>th</sup> to 45<sup>th</sup>. Adjusting for geographic cost differences improves Kentucky's position slightly; ranks based on adjusted dollars were 41<sup>st</sup> in 2002 and 40<sup>th</sup> in 2007.

Kentucky's share of revenues continued its decline. Kentucky's rank based on the state's share of revenues dropped from 11<sup>th</sup> in 2002 to 15<sup>th</sup> in 2007; nevertheless, state sources still accounted for more than half of revenues in 2007. With 32 percent of revenues coming from local sources in 2007, Kentucky ranked 38<sup>th</sup>, up from 42<sup>nd</sup> in 2002. In all states, federal funds contribute the smallest share of revenues. Much federal funding is tied to indicators of poverty, which is high in Kentucky. For this reason, Kentucky ranked 12<sup>th</sup> in 2007, with 11 percent of revenues coming from federal sources. This was down from a ranking of 11<sup>th</sup> in 2002.

**Table 4.1**  
**Revenues, 2002 and 2007**

Revenues Per Pupil in Nominal Dollars											
Unadjusted						Adjusted for Geographic Cost Differences					
2002			2007			2002			2007		
Rank	State	\$	Rank	State	\$	Rank	State	\$	Rank	State	\$
13	DE	9,841	11	MD	13,635	16	IN	10,049	16	DE	12,986
15	MD	9,768	12	DE	13,345	18	OH	9,992	18	OH	12,669
17	OH	9,636	16	OH	12,114	19	DE	9,888	20	MD	12,524
19	IL	9,008	19	VA	11,440	29	MD	9,229	21	VA	12,492
20	IN	8,972	21	IL	11,342	30	MO	9,188	24	LA	12,188
21	GA	8,820	--	U.S.	<b>11,261</b>	31	WV	9,185	29	MO	11,393
--	U.S.	<b>8,801</b>	24	GA	10,874	32	SC	9,157	30	WV	11,344
23	WV	8,736	26	WV	10,780	33	VA	9,045	31	AR	11,323
28	VA	8,356	27	LA	10,568	34	GA	8,866	--	U.S.	<b>11,261</b>
29	SC	8,315	29	MO	10,391	35	IL	8,819	32	SC	11,240
31	MO	8,263	32	FL	10,246	--	U.S.	<b>8,801</b>	33	GA	11,141
35	TX	7,754	35	SC	10,141	36	AR	8,564	36	IL	10,946
39	LA	7,254	38	IN	9,621	37	LA	8,266	37	FL	10,927
42	FL	7,178	39	AL	9,548	<b>41</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>7,922</b>	38	AL	10,888
43	AR	7,112	41	TX	9,410	42	FL	7,877	39	IN	10,801
<b>44</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>7,106</b>	43	AR	9,362	43	AL	7,862	<b>40</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>10,204</b>
45	NC	7,081	<b>45</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>8,989</b>	44	OK	7,811	42	MS	10,089
46	AL	6,956	46	MS	8,399	45	TX	7,717	45	OK	9,715
48	OK	6,643	47	NC	8,398	47	NC	7,389	46	TX	9,583
49	TN	6,394	48	OK	8,184	49	MS	7,308	49	NC	8,946
50	MS	6,142	49	TN	7,897	50	TN	6,881	50	TN	8,609

**Percentages of Revenues by Source**

Local			State						Federal					
2002			2007			2002		2007		2002		2007		
Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%
3	IL	58.4	3	IL	61.8	5	NC	64.5	6	NC	63.5	2	MS	15.0
5	MD	56.4	5	MO	58.3	6	DE	64.3	7	DE	63.1	8	LA	12.5
6	MO	56.2	9	MD	53.8	10	WV	60.9	11	WV	59.5	9	OK	11.9
9	VA	52.8	11	VA	52.0	<b>11</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>59.6</b>	13	AL	57.3	10	AR	10.7
14	TX	49.8	12	TX	51.9	14	AL	58.7	14	AR	57.3	<b>11</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>10.5</b>
16	OH	48.5	15	FL	50.1	16	OK	56.7	<b>15</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>56.7</b>	12	WV	10.5
19	TN	46.9	19	OH	48.4	19	AR	55.5	18	OK	53.9	13	AL	10.4
22	FL	44.6	21	GA	46.7	20	MS	54.1	19	MS	53.3	14	FL	10.0
23	GA	43.7	23	SC	46.0	23	SC	51.0	20	IN	53.2	16	TN	9.5
25	IN	43.1	24	TN	45.9	24	IN	50.8	--	U.S.	<b>47.6</b>	17	TX	9.3
--	U.S.	<b>42.9</b>	--	U.S.	<b>43.9</b>	--	U.S.	<b>49.2</b>	29	GA	44.8	19	SC	9.1
29	SC	39.9	28	LA	40.1	25	LA	49.2	30	OH	44.5	22	DE	8.6
31	LA	38.3	30	IN	38.8	26	GA	49.2	31	SC	44.1	24	NC	8.5
33	AR	33.7	35	OK	33.7	32	OH	45.6	33	TN	43.4	--	U.S.	<b>7.9</b>
37	OK	31.5	37	AL	32.5	33	FL	45.3	35	LA	42.6	31	IL	7.7
39	AL	30.9	<b>38</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>32.1</b>	35	TN	43.7	37	VA	41.6	32	MO	7.6
40	MS	30.9	39	AR	31.5	41	VA	40.9	38	FL	40.7	34	GA	7.2
<b>42</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>29.8</b>	41	MS	29.6	42	TX	40.8	39	MD	40.3	37	MD	6.4
44	WV	28.5	42	DE	29.4	45	MD	37.2	42	TX	37.8	39	VA	6.3
46	DE	27.1	44	WV	28.8	47	MO	36.3	46	MO	33.3	42	IN	6.1
47	NC	27.1	46	NC	26.5	49	IL	33.9	49	IL	30.5	45	OH	5.9
												46	MD	5.8

Note: Staff calculated adjusted revenues using the National Center for Education Statistics Comparable Wage Index.  
Sources: U.S. Dept. of Ed. Inst. Natl. *Common Core* and *NCES Comparable*.

## Current Spending

Current spending refers to expenditures for day-to-day operation of public schools. It includes direct expenditures for salaries, employee benefits, purchased professional and technical services, purchased property and other services, and supplies; payments made by the state government on behalf of school systems; and transfers made by school systems into their own retirement funds. It excludes interest on debt, capital outlays, and programs outside the scope of preschool to grade 12, such as adult education, community colleges, private school programs funded by local and state education agencies, and community services. Expenditures for items lasting more than 1 year, such as school buses and computers, are also excluded from current expenditures (U.S. Dept. of Ed. Inst. Natl. *CCD*).

Instruction expenditures include salaries, benefits, supplies, materials, and contractual services. They exclude capital outlay, debt service, and interfund transfers. Instruction covers regular, special, and vocational programs offered in both the regular school year and summer school.

Student support expenditures are for attendance record keeping, social work, student accounting, counseling, student appraisal, record maintenance, and placement services. This category also includes medical, dental, nursing, psychological, and speech services.

Table 4.2 ranks states by current expenditures in nominal dollars and by the percentages of spending on instruction, support, and other functions. Between 2002 and 2007, Kentucky dropped from 39<sup>th</sup> to 42<sup>nd</sup> based on unadjusted dollars. However, when expenditures were adjusted for geographic cost differences, Kentucky ranked 40<sup>th</sup> in both 2002 and 2007.

Kentucky resembles the nation in terms of the proportions of current spending going to instruction and student support. In 2007, 59 percent of Kentucky's current expenditures went to instruction, compared to the national rate of 60 percent. In 2002, 61 percent of expenditures went to instruction in both Kentucky and the U.S.

**Table 4.2**  
**Current Expenditures, 2002 and 2007**

Current Expenditures in Nominal Dollars											
Unadjusted						Adjusted for Geographic Cost Differences					
2002			2007			2002			2007		
Rank	State	\$	Rank	State	\$	Rank	State	\$	Rank	State	\$
8	AK	9,563	9	AK	12,324	5	AK	10,034	6	AK	12,979
9	DE	9,284	10	MD	11,975	12	DE	9,328	15	DE	11,444
11	MD	8,692	11	DE	11,760	17	IN	8,663	17	VA	11,153
16	OH	8,069	17	VA	10,214	22	OH	8,367	18	MD	10,999
17	IL	7,956	19	OH	9,940	26	WV	8,247	22	OH	10,396
19	WV	7,844	21	WV	9,727	27	MD	8,212	24	LA	10,307
22	IN	7,734	--	U.S.	<b>9,669</b>	28	VA	8,114	25	WV	10,236
--	U.S.	<b>7,728</b>	22	IL	9,596	30	MO	7,935	26	IN	10,194
24	VA	7,496	26	GA	9,102	32	IL	7,789	28	AR	10,149
26	GA	7,380	27	IN	9,080	--	U.S.	<b>7,728</b>	34	MO	9,701
30	MO	7,136	30	LA	8,937	33	SC	7,728	--	U.S.	<b>9,669</b>
33	SC	7,017	32	MO	8,848	35	AR	7,558	35	AL	9,577
36	TX	6,771	35	FL	8,567	36	LA	7,483	36	SC	9,494
38	LA	6,567	36	SC	8,566	37	GA	7,419	37	GA	9,326
<b>39</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>6,523</b>	38	AL	8,398	38	OK	7,324	38	IL	9,261
40	NC	6,495	39	AR	8,391	<b>40</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>7,272</b>	39	FL	9,136
42	AR	6,276	<b>42</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>7,940</b>	42	FL	6,818	<b>40</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>9,013</b>
43	OK	6,229	43	NC	7,878	43	AL	6,814	41	MS	8,960
44	FL	6,213	44	TX	7,850	44	NC	6,778	42	OK	8,820
46	AL	6,029	46	MS	7,459	45	TX	6,739	44	NC	8,392
48	TN	5,948	47	OK	7,430	48	TN	6,401	47	TX	7,994
50	MS	5,354	49	TN	7,129	49	MS	6,371	50	TN	7,771

**Percentages of Current Expenditures by Function**

Instruction			Support						Other								
2002			2007			2002			2007			2002			2007		
Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%
4	TN	65.2	6	TN	63.8	5	OH	38.5	3	AK	39.7	4	AL	6.9	3	AL	6.6
9	GA	63.9	10	GA	63.1	6	AK	37.9	4	OH	39.4	5	OK	6.5	4	OK	6.6
12	NC	63.4	12	NC	62.0	9	IL	37.3	8	IL	37.9	6	MS	6.5	<b>6</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>5.9</b>
16	MD	62.2	14	MD	61.4	11	FL	36.1	12	SC	37.0	7	LA	6.4	7	MS	5.9
20	WV	61.7	15	VA	61.2	13	OK	35.7	15	LA	36.3	8	WV	5.8	8	LA	5.7
21	VA	61.6	--	U.S.	<b>61.0</b>	17	IN	35.0	17	FL	36.0	9	NC	5.7	10	WV	5.6
22	AR	61.6	22	MO	60.5	19	MO	34.6	20	IN	35.7	<b>11</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>5.5</b>	11	SC	5.4
23	DE	61.6	26	IN	60.0	20	TX	34.6	21	DE	35.7	13	SC	5.4	12	NC	5.3
--	U.S.	<b>61.5</b>	27	DE	59.9	23	VA	34.5	22	AR	35.6	15	GA	5.2	13	AR	5.3
<b>24</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>61.4</b>	28	FL	59.6	24	SC	34.4	23	OK	35.4	16	AR	5.1	14	TX	5.2
26	AL	61.2	29	TX	59.5	--	U.S.	<b>34.3</b>	26	MS	35.3	17	TX	5.0	15	GA	5.1
27	LA	61.1	<b>31</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>59.4</b>	29	DE	33.7	27	TX	35.3	18	FL	5.0	16	TN	5.0
29	MO	60.9	33	WV	59.4	30	AR	33.3	29	MO	35.1	19	TN	4.9	22	MO	4.5
31	IN	60.9	34	AR	59.2	31	MS	33.3	30	WV	35.0	22	MD	4.8	25	MD	4.4
33	TX	60.4	37	IL	58.9	<b>34</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>33.1</b>	--	U.S.	<b>35.0</b>	23	DE	4.7	26	FL	4.4
34	MS	60.2	38	MS	58.8	35	MD	33.0	32	AL	34.9	27	MO	4.4	27	DE	4.4
35	SC	60.2	40	AL	58.5	38	LA	32.5	34	VA	34.8	30	IN	4.1	28	IN	4.3
39	IL	59.5	42	LA	58.1	39	WV	32.5	<b>36</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>34.7</b>	--	U.S.	<b>4.1</b>	--	U.S.	<b>4.0</b>
42	FL	59.0	43	OK	58.0	43	AL	31.9	37	MD	34.2	31	VA	3.9	31	VA	4.0
44	AK	58.7	46	SC	57.7	44	GA	31.0	43	NC	32.6	36	OH	3.4	39	AK	3.3
46	OH	58.0	47	OH	57.4	45	NC	31.0	45	GA	31.8	39	AK	3.3	40	OH	3.3
47	OK	57.8	48	AK	57.0	48	TN	29.9	47	TN	31.2	42	IL	3.3	42	IL	3.2

Note: Staff calculated adjusted revenues using the National Center for Education Statistics Comparable Wage Index.  
Sources: U.S. Dept. of Ed. Inst. Natl. *Common Core* and *NCES Comparable*.

## Teacher Salaries

Table 4.3 provides the average annual classroom teacher salary. A salary is the total amount regularly paid or stipulated to be paid to an individual, before deductions, for personal services rendered while on the payroll of a business or organization. Extra-duty pay is not included. The adjusted salary was computed by staff using the NCES Comparable Wage Index.

In 2007, Kentucky's average teacher salary, before cost adjustments, ranked 35<sup>th</sup>; this was up slightly from 36<sup>th</sup> in 2002 due in large part to legislative mandates to raise teacher salaries in 2007. After adjusting for geographic cost differences, Kentucky's rank rose to 29<sup>th</sup> for 2007 but remained at 36<sup>th</sup> for 2002. Cost adjustments for 2002 make a smaller difference because Kentucky's labor costs were closer to the U.S. average in 2002 than in 2007.

**Table 4.3**  
**Average Teacher Salary, 2002 and 2007**

Unadjusted						Adjusted for Geographic Costs Differences					
2002			2007			2002			2007		
Rank	State	\$	Rank	State	\$	Rank	State	\$	Rank	State	\$
9	IL	49,435	7	IL	58,246	6	IN	49,502	7	IL	56,210
11	DE	48,363	8	MD	56,927	9	DE	48,594	13	OH	54,317
12	MD	48,251	12	DE	54,680	10	IL	48,396	14	IN	53,698
--	U.S.	<b>44,683</b>	14	OH	51,937	19	OH	45,654	16	AR	53,515
15	IN	44,195	--	U.S.	<b>50,816</b>	20	MD	45,586	19	DE	53,209
16	GA	44,073	18	GA	49,905	--	U.S.	<b>44,683</b>	21	MD	52,287
17	OH	44,029	23	IN	47,831	22	NC	44,539	24	GA	51,133
19	NC	42,680	25	NC	46,410	24	AR	44,509	--	U.S.	<b>50,816</b>
23	VA	41,731	29	FL	45,308	26	GA	44,303	27	OK	50,308
27	SC	39,923	30	TX	44,897	28	SC	43,967	<b>29</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>49,546</b>
30	FL	39,275	31	VA	44,727	32	WV	43,241	31	AL	49,479
32	TX	39,232	32	AR	44,245	34	FL	43,101	32	NC	49,437
33	TN	38,515	33	SC	44,133	<b>36</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>42,311</b>	33	LA	49,378
35	MO	37,996	34	TN	43,816	37	MO	42,252	36	SC	48,915
<b>36</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>37,951</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>43,646</b>	39	AL	42,040	38	FL	48,319
40	AL	37,194	36	AL	43,389	41	TN	41,448	39	MS	48,266
42	AR	36,962	39	LA	42,816	42	LA	41,397	41	TN	47,765
43	WV	36,751	42	OK	42,379	43	OK	40,854	42	WV	47,578
45	LA	36,328	44	MO	41,839	49	VA	40,112	47	MO	45,874
47	OK	34,744	48	WV	40,531	50	MS	39,618	48	TX	45,723
49	MS	33,295	49	MS	40,182	51	TX	39,046	51	VA	40,680

Note: Staff calculated adjusted salaries using the National Center for Education Statistics Comparable Wage Index.

Sources: U.S. Dept. of Ed. Inst. Natl. *NCES Comparable* ; and Natl. Ed. Assoc. Data used with permission of the National Education Association © 2007. All rights reserved.

### Student-Teacher Ratio

Student-teacher ratios in Table 4.4 were derived by dividing student membership by the number of full-time equivalent teachers. Student membership is the annual headcount of students enrolled in school on October 1 or the school day closest to that date. Full-time equivalent is the amount of time required to perform an assignment stated as a proportion of a full-time position; it is computed by dividing the amount of time employed by the time normally required for a full-time position.

The student-teacher ratio provides a rough gauge of students' opportunities to receive personal attention; states with smaller ratios may offer more opportunities. Between 2002 and 2007, the student-teacher ratio dropped slightly in both Kentucky and the U.S. In 2007, Kentucky ranked 16<sup>th</sup>, with 15.8 students per teacher in 2007.

**Table 4.4**  
**Student-Teacher Ratio, 2002 and 2007**

2002			2007		
<u>Rank</u>	<u>Stat</u>	<u>Ratio</u>	<u>Ran</u>	<u>Stat</u>	<u>Rati</u>
6	FL	18.6	9	IN	17.1
12	IN	16.7	12	OH	16.6
<b>14</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>16.2</b>	13	FL	16.4
15	MD	16.0	<b>16</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>15.8</b>
15	IL	16.0	17	TN	15.7
17	GA	15.9	--	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>15.5</b>
--	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>15.9</b>	18	MS	15.3
17	TN	15.9	19	DE	15.2
20	AL	15.8	21	OK	15.1
20	MS	15.8	22	IL	15.0
22	NC	15.4	24	TX	14.8
24	DE	15.3	26	LA	14.7
25	OH	15.0	28	MD	14.6
26	OK	14.9	29	WV	14.5
27	SC	14.8	30	GA	14.3
28	TX	14.7	31	SC	14.1
30	LA	14.6	33	NC	13.8
37	WV	14.0	34	MO	13.7
38	MO	13.9	35	AR	13.6
43	AR	13.6	42	AL	13.2
47	VA	13.0	49	VA	11.6

Source: U.S. Dept. of Ed. Inst. Natl. *Common Core*.



### **Other Staffing**

Table 4.5 presents total staff and selected types of staff, relative to the number of students so that states of all sizes can be compared. Instructional aides are paid to assist teachers with routine activities such as monitoring, conducting rote exercises, operating equipment, and clerking.

School administrators direct and manage the operation of a particular school. These include principals, assistant principals, department chairpersons, and others who supervise school operations, assign duties to staff, supervise and maintain school records, and coordinate school instructional activities.

School district administrators include superintendents, deputy and assistant superintendents, and other persons with districtwide responsibilities such as business managers and administrative assistants.

The All Staff column includes staff in the above categories and other staff not listed above, such as librarians, guidance counselors, and support staff.

As Table 4.5 shows, Kentucky has had consistently higher staffing rates than other states, ranking 9<sup>th</sup> in 2002 and 10<sup>th</sup> in 2007 in terms of the number of staff per student. A more detailed breakout of 2007 data indicates that Kentucky has the 8<sup>th</sup> highest staffing rate for instructional aides; this reflects, in part, Kentucky's higher proportion of students with disabilities and higher preschool enrollment rates. Kentucky's rank of 7<sup>th</sup> for the number of school administrators and 20<sup>th</sup> for district administrators may be a result of Kentucky's large rural student population, necessitating more and smaller schools and districts.

**Table 4.5**  
**Full-time Equivalent Staff Members Per 1,000 Students, 2002 and 2007**

All Staff						Instructional Aides					
2002			2007			2002			2007		
Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate
6	AR	148.0	2	VA	196.4	<b>4</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>21.8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>20.8</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>144.9</b>	8	AR	150.3	5	NC	21.0	9	NC	20.1
13	VA	142.0	<b>10</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>144.6</b>	9	IN	18.4	11	IN	19.0
17	TX	139.9	13	LA	140.8	13	MS	17.3	15	MS	17.3
18	LA	138.8	15	GA	139.7	19	SC	15.9	18	GA	16.4
20	MO	137.1	16	MS	139.0	19	IL	15.9	19	AR	16.0
21	WV	133.1	17	MO	137.6	23	GA	15.3	19	VA	16.0
22	MS	132.0	18	AL	137.4	26	LA	15.1	22	TN	15.5
23	IN	129.4	19	NC	136.1	--	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>14.1</b>	23	LA	15.4
24	GA	129.2	20	TX	133.9	24	TX	13.9	27	SC	13.7
28	NC	126.3	21	MD	133.2	27	AR	13.7	28	MO	13.6
30	OH	125.6	23	OH	131.9	29	TN	13.6	30	TX	13.4
--	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>123.7</b>	24	IN	128.7	29	VA	13.5	32	DE	12.5
33	IL	123.4	25	OK	127.9	30	FL	12.4	--	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>12.3</b>
35	OK	122.8	27	TN	125.9	31	MO	12.2	31	OK	12.1
36	DE	122.6	29	DE	125.3	32	DE	11.5	32	WV	12.1
37	TN	120.9	32	WV	121.0	35	WV	10.9	35	MD	11.9
38	AL	119.5	33	FL	120.3	36	MD	10.8	36	FL	11.0
41	MD	115.3	--	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>119.0</b>	39	OK	10.5	39	OH	9.7
42	FL	113.0	39	SC	98.7	41	AL	8.3	41	IL	0.0
46	SC	103.7	49	IL	74.8	42	OH	8.1	42	AL	0.0

  

School Administrators						District Administrators					
2002			2007			2002			2007		
Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate
1	TX	6.90	3	SC	4.7	4	OH	3.3	2	NC	4.5
3	TN	5.20	<b>7</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>4.3</b>	8	VA	2.3	5	MD	3.6
5	AL	4.40	8	MD	4.2	11	DE	2.2	8	DE	2.5
5	SC	4.40	9	GA	4.1	16	IL	1.9	11	MS	2.0
9	AR	3.80	9	TX	4.1	16	MS	1.9	17	MO	1.5
<b>11</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>3.70</b>	11	AL	4.0	16	TX	1.9	19	AR	1.4
11	WV	3.70	15	LA	3.9	<b>19</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>1.8</b>	20	GA	1.3
17	LA	3.50	17	WV	3.8	20	AL	1.6	<b>20</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>1.3</b>
17	MD	3.50	17	VA	3.8	21	AR	1.4	20	VA	1.3
17	NC	3.50	19	MS	3.7	--	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>1.3</b>	--	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>1.2</b>
21	MS	3.40	21	AR	3.6	23	MO	1.3	22	TX	1.2
21	VA	3.40	23	NC	3.5	26	NC	1.2	25	SC	1.1
--	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>3.30</b>	25	MO	3.4	26	TN	1.2	25	OH	1.1
26	GA	3.20	25	OK	3.4	31	OK	1.1	30	IN	1.0
26	MO	3.20	29	DE	3.2	31	WV	1.1	30	OK	0.9
26	OK	3.20	29	TN	3.2	31	GA	1.1	30	FL	0.7
30	DE	3.10	--	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>3.1</b>	35	MD	1.0	34	WV	0.6
32	IL	3.00	34	IN	2.9	38	IN	0.9	37	TN	0.4
35	IN	2.90	38	FL	2.8	43	FL	0.6	42	LA	0.4
38	OH	2.80	38	OH	2.8	46	LA	0.5	45	AL	0.3
43	FL	2.60	49	IL	1.8	50	SC	0.3	49	IL	0.0

Source: U.S. Dept. of Ed. Inst. Natl. *Public*.

## Chapter 5

### Student Achievement

This chapter presents National Assessment of Educational Progress scores, participation rates and test scores for the ACT and Advanced Placement , and graduation rates.

#### National Assessment of Educational Progress

The state-level NAEP tests samples of 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders in reading and mathematics every 2 years (U.S. Dept. of Ed. Inst. Natl. NAEP Overview). Because results are based on samples, differences between Kentucky and each state were tested for statistical significance.

Table 5.1 ranks states by average NAEP math scores. Despite steady progress in grade 4 for several years, most states saw no significant improvement in 2009. Kentucky was an exception, with an improvement in grade 4 results. Between 2003 and 2009, Kentucky's rank improved from 39<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>.

Grade 8 scores continue to improve; in 2009, the national average reached its highest level since 1990. Relative to other states, Kentucky's rank for grade 8 remained at 35<sup>th</sup>.

The 2009 results for reading were not released until March 24, 2010, after this compendium was completed and presented to the Education Assessment and Accountability Review Subcommittee.

**Table 5.1**  
**National Assessment of Educational Progress, Mathematics, 2003 and 2009**

Grade 4				Grade 8			
2003		2009		2003		2009	
Rank	State	Score	Sig	Rank	State	Score	Sig
2	NC	242	>	9	OH	244	>
9	VA	239	>	9	NC	244	>
11	OH	238	>	9	MD	244	>
11	IN	238	>	16	VA	243	>
17	TX	237	>	16	IN	243	>
20	SC	236	>	20	FL	242	>
20	DE	236	>	24	MO	241	=
27	MO	235	>	26	TX	240	=
--	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>235</b>	>	--	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>240</b>	=
32	FL	234	>	<b>29</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>239</b>	--
33	IL	233	>	29	DE	239	=
33	MD	233	>	33	AR	238	=
36	WV	231	=	33	IL	238	=
37	GA	230	=	36	OK	237	=
<b>39</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>229</b>	--	38	GA	236	=
39	AR	229	=	38	SC	236	<
39	OK	229	=	43	WV	233	<
43	TN	228	=	44	TN	232	<
47	LA	226	=	48	LA	229	<
48	AL	223	<	49	AL	228	<
48	MS	223	<	50	MS	227	<
				50	MS	261	<

Note: > indicates states significantly higher than Kentucky, = indicates states not significantly different, and < indicates states significantly lower than Kentucky.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Ed. Inst. Natl. *NAEP*.

### ACT Participation Rates and Scores

The ACT exam measures readiness to pursue college-level course work. Table 5.2 reports the percentages of high school graduates who took the ACT at any time during high school and average scores for students in each state.

In past compendiums, OEA has cautioned that state comparisons of average ACT scores should take into account the states' participation rates because scores are lower in states with higher participation rates. This year's compendium provides a dramatic example in Kentucky: In 2008, when 72 percent of Kentucky's high school graduates had taken the ACT, Kentucky had the 35<sup>th</sup> highest average composite score. In 2009, when 100 percent had participated, Kentucky's composite score rank dropped to 49<sup>th</sup>. Similar drops were seen for each content area. Kentucky is one of only five states—along with Colorado, Michigan, Wyoming, and Illinois—that require all, or nearly all, high school students to take the ACT.

**Table 5.2**  
**ACT Participation Rates and Average Scores, 2008 and 2009**

Participation Rate						Composite Average						English Average					
2008			2009			2008			2009			2008			2009		
Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate
<b>3</b>	<b>IL</b>	<b>98.0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>DE</b>	<b>22.6</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>DE</b>	<b>22.6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>DE</b>	<b>22.2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>DE</b>	<b>22.2</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>MS</b>	<b>92.0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>IL</b>	<b>97.0</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>MD</b>	<b>22.0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>IN</b>	<b>22.2</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>MD</b>	<b>21.6</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>MD</b>	<b>21.9</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>LA</b>	<b>88.0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>MS</b>	<b>93.0</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>IN</b>	<b>22.0</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>MD</b>	<b>22.1</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>VA</b>	<b>21.5</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>VA</b>	<b>21.7</b>
5	TN	88.0	7	TN	92.0	23	VA	21.8	21	VA	21.9	20	MO	21.4	19	IN	21.6
9	AL	77.0	8	LA	89.0	25	OH	21.7	25	OH	21.7	20	IN	21.4	20	MO	21.5
11	AR	74.0	10	AL	76.0	26	MO	21.6	26	NC	21.6	26	OH	21.1	26	OH	21.1
<b>13</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>72.0</b>	13	AR	73.0	30	NC	21.3	26	MO	21.6	27	TN	20.8	27	NC	20.9
15	OK	70.0	15	OK	71.0	--	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>21.1</b>	--	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>21.1</b>	27	WV	20.8	31	WV	20.8
16	MO	69.0	18	MO	67.0	<b>35</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>20.9</b>	34	IL	20.8	30	AR	20.7	32	TN	20.7
20	OH	65.0	21	OH	64.0	36	IL	20.7	34	TX	20.8	--	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>20.6</b>	33	AR	20.6
21	WV	64.0	22	FL	62.0	36	WV	20.7	37	WV	20.7	36	AL	20.6	--	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>20.6</b>
26	FL	52.0	22	WV	62.0	36	OK	20.7	37	OK	20.7	<b>36</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>20.5</b>	36	AL	20.5
27	SC	44.0	27	SC	50.0	36	TN	20.7	39	GA	20.6	38	LA	20.5	38	IL	20.5
--	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>43.0</b>	--	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>45.0</b>	36	TX	20.7	39	AR	20.6	38	NC	20.5	38	OK	20.5
28	GA	38.0	28	GA	40.0	41	AR	20.6	39	TN	20.6	38	OK	20.5	38	LA	20.3
32	TX	29.0	30	TX	30.0	41	GA	20.6	42	AL	20.3	41	IL	20.4	41	GA	20.1
37	IN	22.0	35	IN	24.0	44	AL	20.4	43	LA	20.1	42	GA	20.1	42	TX	19.9
38	VA	19.0	39	VA	20.0	45	LA	20.3	46	SC	19.8	45	TX	19.8	45	SC	19.2
43	MD	16.0	43	MD	17.0	47	SC	19.9	48	FL	19.5	47	MS	19.3	47	MS	19.1
46	NC	14.0	45	NC	15.0	48	FL	19.8	<b>49</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>19.4</b>	48	SC	19.2	<b>48</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>18.8</b>
49	DE	11.0	49	DE	11.0	51	MS	18.9	51	MS	18.9	50	FL	19.0	50	FL	18.7

Math Average						Reading Average						Science Average					
2008			2009			2008			2009			2008			2009		
Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate
9	DE	22.5	11	DE	22.5	8	DE	23.1	10	DE	23.1	10	DE	22.0	12	DE	22.0
15	IN	22.2	13	IN	22.4	15	IN	22.5	14	IN	22.6	16	OH	21.7	17	OH	21.7
17	MD	22.0	16	MD	22.1	20	MD	22.3	17	MD	22.5	20	IN	21.5	19	IN	21.6
21	VA	21.8	19	NC	22.0	24	VA	22.2	23	VA	22.3	22	MO	21.4	22	MD	21.5
21	NC	21.8	21	VA	21.8	26	OH	22.1	26	OH	22.2	22	MD	21.4	22	MO	21.5
27	OH	21.5	28	OH	21.4	27	MO	22.0	27	MO	22.1	24	VA	21.3	25	VA	21.4
31	TX	21.2	30	TX	21.3	32	NC	21.7	29	NC	21.9	28	NC	20.8	29	NC	21.1
--	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>21.0</b>	--	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>21.0</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>21.5</b>	32	OK	21.4	--	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>20.8</b>	--	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>20.9</b>
33	MO	21.0	34	MO	20.9	--	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>21.4</b>	--	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>21.4</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>20.7</b>	31	IL	20.7
36	IL	20.7	35	IL	20.7	35	WV	21.4	32	WV	21.4	31	IL	20.5	31	TX	20.6
37	GA	20.6	36	GA	20.6	35	OK	21.4	37	AR	21.0	36	TX	20.5	36	WV	20.5
<b>39</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>20.2</b>	38	AR	20.1	38	TN	21.1	37	TN	21.0	36	WV	20.5	36	OK	20.5
40	AR	20.1	39	SC	20.0	39	AR	21.0	39	TX	20.9	38	OK	20.4	38	TN	20.4
40	SC	20.1	40	OK	19.9	41	GA	20.9	39	GA	20.9	38	AR	20.3	38	GA	20.3
42	FL	20.0	41	TN	19.8	41	TX	20.9	41	IL	20.8	40	GA	20.3	40	AR	20.2
43	TN	19.9	43	FL	19.7	43	AL	20.8	42	AL	20.7	41	TN	20.3	41	AL	20.1
44	OK	19.8	44	LA	19.6	45	IL	20.6	45	LA	20.2	44	AL	20.1	44	LA	20.0
46	LA	19.7	44	WV	19.6	46	FL	20.3	45	FL	20.2	44	LA	20.0	44	SC	19.8
47	WV	19.6	48	AL	19.5	46	LA	20.3	47	SC	19.9	46	SC	19.7	<b>46</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>19.7</b>
48	AL	19.5	<b>50</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>19.0</b>	48	SC	20.0	<b>48</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>19.8</b>	47	FL	19.3	47	FL	19.0
51	MS	18.2	51	MS	18.3	51	MS	19.1	51	MS	19.0	50	MS	18.7	50	MS	18.7

Source: ACT.

## Advanced Placement Participation

Advanced Placement (AP) courses and exams provide high school students early access to college-level learning. Most colleges and universities use AP exam results in the admissions process to gauge a student's ability and to award college credit or placement into higher-level college courses. Students in 10<sup>th</sup> grade or higher are eligible to take AP exams. Scores range from 1 to 5; and, scores of 3 or above are considered passing and eligible for college credit.

As Table 5.3 shows, between 2002 and 2007, Kentucky's participation in Advanced Placement exams increased from 12.6 percent of students to 19.6 percent, raising Kentucky's rank from 33<sup>rd</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>. The percentage of students earning passing scores on the exams also improved, from 6.5 percent and a rank of 40<sup>th</sup> to 9.7 percent and a rank of 33<sup>rd</sup>.

**Table 5.3**  
**Advanced Placement Exam Activity, 2002 and 2007**

Percentage of Students Attempting an Exam						Percentage of Students With Passing Scores					
2002			2007			2002			2007		
Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%
2	VA	26.9	2	FL	38.0	3	VA	16.9	2	MD	22.4
4	FL	24.9	4	MD	35.3	5	MD	16.4	3	VA	21.5
6	MD	23.5	5	VA	34.4	8	FL	15.2	4	FL	20.3
7	NC	23.1	6	AR	32.2	11	NC	13.7	11	NC	18.5
11	SC	20.9	7	NC	31.9	12	SC	12.7	16	GA	15.3
14	GA	19.8	13	GA	28.6	16	IL	11.7	--	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>15.2</b>
15	TX	19.3	16	DE	27.4	--	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>11.7</b>	15	IL	14.9
--	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>18.1</b>	17	TX	27.3	17	GA	11.2	16	DE	14.5
19	IL	16.2	--	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>24.9</b>	18	TX	11.1	17	TX	14.5
24	DE	15.3	22	SC	22.7	26	DE	9.3	25	SC	13.3
29	OK	13.6	23	IL	22.0	28	OH	8.3	27	OH	11.0
30	IN	13.5	27	OK	19.8	33	IN	7.3	32	TN	10.0
31	OH	13.3	<b>29</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>19.6</b>	34	TN	7.2	<b>33</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>9.7</b>
<b>33</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>12.6</b>	32	IN	19.0	35	OK	7.1	34	IN	9.7
35	TN	11.9	33	TN	18.3	<b>40</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>6.5</b>	39	AR	9.6
41	WV	10.7	34	OH	18.0	44	WV	5.2	43	OK	9.3
43	AR	9.8	42	WV	15.2	46	AR	5.0	45	WV	7.0
44	AL	8.8	46	MS	11.5	47	AL	4.8	46	MO	6.7
48	MO	7.2	47	AL	11.4	48	MO	4.7	47	AL	6.4
49	MS	7.1	48	MO	10.6	50	MS	3.0	49	MS	3.7
51	LA	3.7	51	LA	5.7	51	LA	2.0	50	LA	2.7

Source: College Board. Unpublished data.

## Graduation Rates

The U.S. Department of Education defines “graduation” as completing a standard diploma within 4 years. Table 5.4 compares two sets of graduation rates: those reported by states in compliance with the No Child Left Behind Act and those calculated by the National Center for Education Statistics using a uniform formula. For years, the formulas that states used for calculating graduation rates have varied substantially, and all rates had data quality issues. Historically, Kentucky and a majority of other states used a type of graduation rate called the “Leaver Rate,” which is based on dropout data.

The U.S. Department of Education is pressing states to implement systems for tracking students accurately so that cohort rates can be calculated. In the interim, states are encouraged by the U.S. Department of Education to move to the formula for the NCES Averaged Freshman Graduation Rate (AFGR). Beginning with the 2013 school year, all states will be required to use a cohort graduation rate formula approved the U.S. Department of Education. Kentucky will begin official reporting of rates using the cohort formula in the summer of 2014.

The AFGR divides the number of diploma recipients in a given year by the average membership of the graduating class when they were in the 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup> grades.

Using the Leaver rate formula, Kentucky moved up in rank from 30<sup>th</sup> in 2002 to 24<sup>th</sup> in 2006 among state-reported rates. As is true for most states, Kentucky’s state-reported rate is higher than the AFGR. However, the AFGR confirms that Kentucky’s graduation rate is improving; Kentucky’s rank on this measure improved dramatically, from 38<sup>th</sup> in 2002 to 23<sup>rd</sup> in 2006, the most recent year for which data are available.

**Table 5.4**  
**Graduation Rates, 2002, 2006, and 2007**

State reported Rate						NCES Averaged Freshman Graduation Rate					
2002			2007			2002			2006		
Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%
2	NC	92	14	MS	87	11	MD	79.7	11	MO	81.0
3	IN	91	15	OH	86	17	OH	77.5	14	AR	80.4
15	VA	85	17	MO	86	18	IL	77.1	15	MD	79.9
15	IL	85	18	AR	86	20	MO	76.8	16	IL	79.7
15	MD	85	20	IL	85	21	VA	76.7	18	OH	79.2
15	AR	85	22	WV	84	22	OK	76.0	20	OK	77.8
24	MO	83	<b>24</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>83</b>	25	AR	74.8	<b>23</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>77.2</b>
24	OH	83	25	AL	83	29	WV	74.2	24	WV	76.9
24	DE	83	26	MD	82	30	TX	73.5	25	DE	76.3
24	TX	83	28	TN	81	31	IN	73.1	30	VA	74.5
<b>30</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>81</b>	30	DE	81	--	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>72.6</b>	31	IN	73.3
--	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>81</b>	--	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>69.8</b>	--	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>73.2</b>
37	TN	76	34	VA	79	39	DE	69.5	38	TX	72.5
39	MS	72	36	TX	78	41	NC	68.2	40	NC	71.8
42	OK	69	37	OK	76	44	LA	64.4	43	TN	70.6
43	FL	65	38	IN	76	45	FL	63.4	44	AL	66.2
46	GA	62	45	GA	72	46	AL	62.1	45	FL	63.6
47	AL	16	46	SC	71	47	MS	61.2	46	MS	63.5
n.a.	LA	n.a.	47	FL	69	48	GA	61.1	47	GA	62.4
n.a.	SC	n.a.	48	NC	69	50	TN	59.6	49	LA	59.5
n.a.	WV	n.a.	n.a.	LA	n.a.	51	SC	57.9	n.a.	SC	n.a.

Note: NCES is National Center for Education Statistics.

Sources: Education Trust; U.S. Dept. of Ed. SY 2007-2008; U.S. Dept. of Ed. Inst. Natl. *The Averaged and High School*.



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