

Kentucky has made remarkable progress in recent decades in improving public education for its citizenry. In fact, since education reform began in 1990, the state's system of public education has become a model for school improvement throughout the nation.

- Kentucky matches the national average for eligible children enrolled in kindergarten programs.
- Since 1993, the percentage of students who drop out of Kentucky's public high schools has gone down -- from 5.06% to 3.31%.
- According to the 2008 "Quality Counts" (an annual publication of *Education Week*), Kentucky earned a grade of B+ in standards, assessment and accountability for its public schools.
- "Quality Counts 2008" also gave Kentucky a B- in the Teaching Profession category, one of the highest grades nationwide.
- In 2008, "Technology Counts" (another annual publication from *Education Week*) ranked Kentucky's education technology system third in the nation overall.

Source: Kentucky Department of Education and [2006 Quality Counts](#), a report of "Editorial Projects in Education".

## **National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) 2005**

- On the 2007 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), the percentage of Kentucky 4th-graders scoring at proficient or above in reading was higher than the national average.
- Kentucky's 4<sup>th</sup> grade readers scored two points higher than the national average (Kentucky: 220. US average: 217.)
- In the 2005 science assessment, Kentucky 8<sup>th</sup> graders' average score of 153 was six points above the national average.
- Nearly 30% of Kentucky's 4<sup>th</sup> graders and 8<sup>th</sup> graders are at or above proficient in math and science.

Source: Kentucky Department of Education and [National Assessment of Educational Progress](#).

## **More Kentucky High School Seniors are Planning for College**

- Since 1993, the percentage of students who go on to college after high school has increased from 49.8% to 54.9% in 2006.

- The number of ACT test takers has grown substantially from 24,942 in 1990 to 30,929 in 2007. Beginning in the spring of 2008, all Kentucky public school juniors began taking the ACT.
- More Kentucky high school students took Advanced Placement (AP) exams and more scored at higher levels in 2007 than in 2006.

Source: Kentucky Department of Education.

## **Kentucky's Progress in Ensuring "No Child is Left Behind"**

Data released in August, 2006 indicate that 75.8% - 884 of Kentucky's public schools made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) under the requirements of the federal No Child Left Behind Act. 884 public schools met 100% of their NCLB goals for AYP, while 283 schools did not. Of the 283 schools that did not make AYP, 231 made 80% or more of their goals. Statewide 92% - 23 of the 25 target goals were met.

Source: Kentucky Department of Education, derived from U.S. Department of Education No Child Left Behind data.

## **The Kentucky Academy of Mathematics & Science**

Located on the campus of Western Kentucky University, the Kentucky Academy of Mathematics and Science will opened its doors to its inaugural class of high school juniors and seniors in the fall of 2007. The Kentucky Academy is Kentucky's first and only full tuition-paid, early admission program for students who are gifted in mathematics and science. The Kentucky Academy offers a two-year living/learning environment and specialized curriculum for highly motivated Kentucky juniors and seniors gifted in the areas of math and science, and interested in pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics. For further information:

[www.wku.edu/academy](http://www.wku.edu/academy).

## **Education Facts**

ACT average composite score (76% of 2007 graduates tested)	20.7 (2007)
SAT average composite score (7% state participation rate)	Mean verbal – 562 Mean math - 566
Average per-pupil current expense spending	\$7,914
Average teacher salary	\$43,275
Number of days of school per year	177
Number of home-schooled students	11,055
Number of public school districts	174

Number of public school students	668,337
Number of public school teachers	42,683
Number of students enrolled in non-public schools	71,812
Pupil-teacher ratio	15.6:1
Percentage of high school graduates attending college, vocational/technical schools, entering the military, employed or a combination of the above (2005)	96.07%
Percentage of networked schools with Internet access	100%
Students to modern high-performance computers ratio	5.8:1
State drop-out rate (2005)	3.31%
Total state education budget	\$4.588 billion (FY 2008)

Source: Kentucky Department of Education.

## **Postsecondary Education**

Kentucky's postsecondary education system encompasses eight public universities, the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS), the Kentucky Virtual Campus, and numerous independent institutions.

### **Kentucky's 2020 Imperative: Double the Numbers**

As charged by the *Kentucky Postsecondary Education Act of 1997*, the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education leads efforts to increase the education attainment of Kentucky citizens to at least the national average by 2020. In alignment with the Council's 2005-2010 strategic agenda, *the Public Agenda for Postsecondary and Adult Education*, the Council released the Double the Numbers Plan in October 2007, calling for the state to double the number of Kentuckians with at least a bachelor's degree in the state by 2020.. The Double the Numbers Plan outlines five statewide strategies as well as a regional approach that sets targets for each strategy in nine regions across the state.

Source: Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education. For more information, see <http://www.cpe.ky.gov/doublethenumbers/>.

### **Kentucky Postsecondary Education Sees Remarkable 10-Year Gains**

According to a study by the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education, Kentucky is making remarkable progress in increasing the educational attainment of its citizens. *The 2006-07 Accountability Report* outlines both annual and 10-year progress toward meeting Kentucky's 2020 goals. Highlights of the report show:

- More students are enrolling in college. Undergraduate enrollment has increased 40 percent and graduate enrollment 20 percent in the last 10 years.

- More students are graduating college. Degrees and credentials awarded by Kentucky colleges and universities have increased 94 percent since 1997. There has been a 141 percent increase in degrees and credentials awarded to minority students and an 89 percent increase in degrees and credentials awarded in science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields.
- Public universities are attracting more research dollars. Kentucky has dramatically expanded its research and development capacity, including a 109 percent increase in 10 years in annual state, federal and corporate research dollars awarded.
- More college graduates are staying in Kentucky. Five years after graduation, 86 percent of 2001 graduates were still in the state, as compared to 73 percent of 1996 graduates.

Source: Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education. To view the full report see: <http://www.cpe.ky.gov/planning/statusreports/>.

### **Kentucky colleges and universities bringing adults back to college**

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, more than 500,000 Kentuckians have some college and no degree. State data analyzed by the Council on Postsecondary Education show more than 300,000 Kentucky adults between the ages of 25–50 have some college credit from a Kentucky public institution but no degree. Even more compelling, more than 11,000 of those former students have earned 90 or more credit hours. Launched by the Council on Postsecondary Education in November 2007, Kentucky's Project Graduate program is a collaborative outreach effort with Kentucky's eight public universities, the Kentucky Community and Technical College System and the Association of Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities. Each participating college or university is contacting their former students with 90 or more credit hours to offer special incentives and services to return and complete their degree. In its first 6 months, the Project Graduate program helped 14 former students earn their degree and 232 students reenroll.

Source: Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education. For more information, visit <http://www.projectgraduate.org>.

**Private colleges and universities:** <http://www.aikcu.org/>

**The Kentucky Community and Technical College System** <http://www.kctcs.net/>

For many Kentuckians, higher education begins at KCTCS. The statewide system of 16 colleges and 65 campuses provides citizens throughout the Commonwealth with a quality education that is both accessible and affordable. KCTCS community and technical colleges offer education and training opportunities through academic and technical associate degrees; diploma and certificate programs in occupational fields; pre-baccalaureate education; adult, continuing and developmental education; customized training for business and industry; and distance learning.



## Profile of Education in Kentucky

Kentucky employers have access to the full range of resources and expertise provided by KCTCS colleges. Community and economic development specialists coordinate services such as analysis of training needs and delivery of employment assessments and workforce training. The centerpiece of KCTCS economic development efforts is the KY WINS (Workforce Investment Network System) program. Through KY WINS, KCTCS colleges provide training for employees of Kentucky businesses and assist communities in coordinating the delivery of economic development services. For more information, go to: [www.kctcs.edu/workforcenetwork](http://www.kctcs.edu/workforcenetwork).

### **Kentucky Adult Education** <http://www.kyae.ky.gov/>

Kentucky Adult Education focuses on elevating the educational levels of eligible adults living or working in Kentucky. Adult education programs in all counties provide academic instruction to allow Kentuckians to improve literacy skills, earn a General Educational Development (GED) diploma, attend college and function effectively in the workplace, family and society.

A state income tax credit is provided an employer for a portion of the paid release time given to an employee to study for the GED test. The tax credit is calculated at half of the employee's hourly salary for release time, up to a maximum of \$1,250. For questions or further information, contact Kentucky Adult Education at (502) 573-5114 and ask to speak with the KYAE Program Support Associate in your area.

### **More Workforce and Postsecondary Education Resources**

The Cabinet for Economic Development's [Bluegrass State Skills Corporation](http://www.thinkkentucky.com/bssc) (BSSC) plays a significant role in keeping Kentucky's business and industry competitive in the global economy by assisting them in providing the necessary training for their workforce. The BSSC's basic purpose is to improve and promote employment opportunities for the residents of the Commonwealth through training grants and investment credits for skills training programs which create partnerships with business and industry who absorb a share of program costs. For more information call (502) 564-2021 or see <http://www.thinkkentucky.com/bssc>.

The [Department for Workforce Investment](http://workforce.ky.gov/)'s <http://workforce.ky.gov/> mission is to connect Kentucky to employment, workforce information, education, and training. The agencies in Workforce Investment are the Office for Employment and Training, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Office for the Blind, and Office of Career and Technical Education.

The [Office of Career and Technical Education](http://kytech.ky.gov/) (OCTE) <http://kytech.ky.gov/> provides technical education for secondary students at 55 area technology centers statewide (known collectively as Kentucky Tech). A partnership between KCTCS and Ky Tech allows students to earn college credit by taking high school technical courses, providing a seamless path from secondary to postsecondary education.

The role of area technology centers is vital in the overall scheme of economic development. Key services for employers include:

- Customized training programs to train new workers or retrain experienced workers for specific, industry-requested jobs.
- Identification of training needs for companies and effective ways to meet those needs.
- Flexible curriculum design and training arrangements.
- Support and promotion of the Manufacturing Skill Standards to provide the best training possible for high school students seeking entry level employment, post secondary students seeking job upgrades or new careers, incumbent workers seeking skill upgrades, or pre-employment training for adults.

For more information call toll-free 1-800-223-5632 or visit <http://kytech.ky.gov>.

## Kentucky Colleges and Universities

Institution	2007 Enrollment
Alice Lloyd College*	621
Asbury College*	1,391
Ashland Community & Technical College	4,758
Bellarmino University*	3,006
Berea College*	1,582
Big Sandy Community & Technical College	4,866
Bluegrass Community & Technical College District	11,617
Bowling Green Technical College	5,025
Brescia University*	590
Campbellsville University*	2,562
Centre College*	1,188
Eastern Kentucky University	15,839
Elizabethtown Community & Technical College	5,515
Gateway Community & Technical College	3,130
Georgetown College*	1,903
Hazard Community & Technical College	4,458
Henderson Community College	2,053
Hopkinsville Community College	3,428
Jefferson Community & Technical Colleges	15,478
Kentucky Christian University*	632
Kentucky State University	2,696
Kentucky Wesleyan College*	925
Lindsey Wilson College*	1,893
Madisonville Community College	4,364

Maysville Community & Technical College	3,635
Mid-Continent University*	1,540
Midway College*	1,416
Morehead State University	9,066
Murray State University	10,156
Northern Kentucky University	14,807
Owensboro Community & Technical College	5,439
Pikeville College*	1,100
Saint Catharine College*	673
Somerset Community College	7,113
Southeast Kentucky Community College	4,849
Spalding University*	1,693
Sullivan University*	NA
Thomas More College*	1,514
Transylvania University*	1,147
Union College*	1,420
University of Kentucky	26,648
University of Louisville	21,689
Western Kentucky University	19,265
University of the Cumberlands	2,245
West Kentucky Community & Technical College	7,100

\*Independent

Source: Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education. <http://cpe.ky.gov/>

## Virtual Learning Links

Kentucky Virtual Adult Education <http://www.kyvae.org/>

Kentucky Virtual High School <http://kvhs.org/>

Kentucky Virtual Library <http://www.kyvl.org/>

Kentucky Virtual Campus <http://www.kcvu.org/>

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