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Legislative Research Commission

# Compendium Of State Education Rankings 2013

Research Report No. 400

*Prepared By*

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# **Compendium Of State Education Rankings 2013**

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### **Legislative Research Commission**

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## Foreword

In December 2012, the Education Assessment and Accountability Review Subcommittee approved the 2013 research agenda for the Office of Education Accountability, 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 biennially.

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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 and selected peer states. While rankings are based on all 50 states and the District of Columbia, the data presented focus on Southern Regional Education Board member states and other states adjacent to Kentucky.

Rankings should be used with caution. A ranking on one measure is affected by state differences in other measures, such as student characteristics and costs of living. It is essential to examine the measures on which a set of rankings is based because rankings do not indicate how far apart states are from each other. When many states cluster closely together on a measure, small fluctuations can cause big changes in rankings.

### Student Demographics

With more than one-fourth of students living below the poverty level in 2011, Kentucky's student poverty rate was the eighth highest in the nation. The median family income was one of the lowest in the nation. Although the number of Hispanic students has been increasing, they still made up only about 4 percent of students; 11 percent were black.

### Student Services

Because of Kentucky's small Hispanic population, only about 2 percent of students received English learner services in 2011. However, Kentucky students had high rates of services for financially needy students; about 84 percent were enrolled in Title I schools, compared to a national rate of 68 percent, and about 57 percent were eligible for subsidized lunches, compared to 48 percent across the nation. Both of these measures have increased for Kentucky and the nation since the economic downturn. The percentage of students with disabilities that required individualized education programs was about 15 percent; although higher than the national rate of 13 percent, it is down slightly from the 2009 rate, mirroring a drop for the US.

### Student Achievement

Kentucky's grade 4 and grade 8 National Education Assessment of Progress (NAEP) reading scores were significantly above the national averages in 2011. Kentucky was ranked 10<sup>th</sup> for grade 4 reading and 12<sup>th</sup> for grade 8 reading. Scores did not improve significantly between the 2009 and 2011 administrations of NAEP. Math scores in 2011 were statistically on par with those of the nation for both grades 4 and 8, and Kentucky ranked 24<sup>th</sup> and 32<sup>nd</sup>, respectively. Scores did not improve significantly between 2009 and 2011. The science test was administered to grade 8 students in 2011, and Kentucky scored significantly above the national average, ranking 16<sup>th</sup>.

Kentucky students' rate of participation in Advanced Placement (AP) exams more than doubled between 2002 and 2011, from 12.6 percent of students to 27.6 percent. Similarly, the percentage

of students succeeding in earning qualifying scores more than doubled, from 6.5 percent in 2002 to 13.7 percent in 2011. Kentucky ranked 24<sup>th</sup> in AP participation and 26<sup>th</sup> in passing scores.

In 2009, Kentucky began requiring all students to take the ACT exam whether they were interested in college or not. From that time forward, Kentucky's average ACT scores have been lower than in previous years and lower than the scores in states that do not test all students. On the composite, which combines all subjects, Kentucky ranked 46<sup>th</sup> in 2012. However, Kentucky compared more favorably to states that administered the ACT to all students; Kentucky's average scores were within about 1 point of the highest average score.

In 2010, Kentucky's high school seniors had the 22<sup>nd</sup> highest averaged freshman graduation rate (AFGR), with an estimated 79.9 percent of students graduating, compared to a national rate of 78.2 percent. While Kentucky currently reports the AFGR, a cohort graduation rate will be reported beginning in 2014.

### **School And District Characteristics**

Kentucky's school districts were ranked 16<sup>th</sup> with respect to the number of students per district, indicating larger districts than the national average. However, schools are smaller than the national average, with Kentucky ranked 30<sup>th</sup>. The small school size may reflect the relatively high proportion of students enrolled in rural schools; Kentucky ranked 9<sup>th</sup> on rural school enrollment. Kentucky's student/teacher ratio in 2011 was 16 students per teacher, on par with the national average. As for other staffing, relatively high numbers of instructional aides per student are likely due to Kentucky's high disability rates and high enrollment in preschool and full-time kindergarten. High numbers of school administrators likely reflect the state's small rural schools as well as the inclusion of directors of Family Resource and Youth Services Centers, which do not exist in other states.

### **Fiscal Matters**

Even after adjusting for geographic cost differences, Kentucky ranked 35<sup>th</sup> in both revenues per pupil and current spending per pupil in 2010; however, unlike most states, Kentucky does not include school activity funds and some on-behalf payments when reporting revenues and expenditures. Kentucky's share of revenues from local sources has been increasing gradually, causing the share of revenues from state sources to continue a gradual decline, from 60 percent in 2002 to 52 percent in 2010. The state's proportion of spending dedicated to instruction mirrored that of the nation. As a result of mandated pay increases, Kentucky's average teacher salary rose from a rank of 36<sup>th</sup> in 2002 to a rank of 30<sup>th</sup> in 2011 and was on par with the national average.

# Chapter 1

## Introduction

In December 2012, the Education Assessment and Accountability Review Subcommittee approved the 2013 study agenda of the Office of Education Accountability (OEA), which included the latest edition of the *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 the nation and selected peer states. While rankings are based on all 50 states and the District of Columbia, only the peer states are shown.

### Peer States

This compendium compares Kentucky to its fellow members of the Southern Regional Education Board and to states adjacent to Kentucky. The Southern Regional Education Board member states are Alabama (AL), Arkansas (AR), Delaware (DE), Florida (FL), Georgia (GA), Louisiana (LA), Maryland (MD), Mississippi (MS), North Carolina (NC), Oklahoma (OK), South Carolina (SC), Tennessee (TN), Texas (TX), Virginia (VA), and West Virginia (WV). Border states that are not members are Illinois (IL), Indiana (IN), Missouri (MO), and Ohio (OH).

### Organization Of The Compendium

Rankings are grouped into the five areas described below. While additional data are available and useful, the data chosen were deemed to be the most salient education indicators. OEA invites feedback for future editions. Comparisons among school districts within Kentucky are available in a separate report.<sup>1</sup>

- **Student Demographics.** Chapter 2 provides data on child poverty, family income, and students' racial composition.
- **Student Services.** Chapter 3 concerns information on English learner services, individualized education programs, Title I school enrollment, and National School Lunch Program eligibility.
- **Student Achievement.** Chapter 4 presents the results of the National Assessment of Educational Progress reading and math exams, the ACT, and Advanced Placement exams, as well as graduation rates.
- **School And District Characteristics.** Chapter 5 provides average school and district sizes, rural locale, student/teacher ratios, and other staff ratios.
- **Fiscal Matters.** Chapter 6 covers revenues per pupil, revenues by source, current spending per pupil, and instruction as a percentage of current spending.

## Use Of The State Rankings

Rankings should be used with caution. A ranking on one measure is affected by state differences in other measures, such as student characteristics. It is essential to examine the measures on which a set of rankings is based because rankings do not indicate how far apart states are from each other. When many states cluster closely together on a measure, small fluctuations can cause big changes in rankings.

Depending on the data being ranked, a high ranking can be good, bad, or neutral. For example, high rankings on family income and low rankings on poverty rates are preferable. On the other hand, high rankings on rural school enrollment are neither good nor bad, though they have policy implications.

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. If data are not available for all states, the US entry summarizes all available data.

Year refers to the ending year of the school year; for example, 2011 refers to the 2010-2011 school year. In most states, school years correspond to fiscal years, which begin July 1 and end June 30.

An em dash (—) indicates that data were not available because they were not collected, not reported, or not reliable. In contrast, N/A indicates that a measure does not apply. For example, N/A appears in place of a state rank for the US. In tables that show the statistical significance of differences between other states and Kentucky, N/A appears 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 from Kentucky, 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.

Because costs vary from state to state, staff adjusted fiscal measures using the Comparable Wage Index (CWI) produced by the National Center for Education Statistics. However, the index has not been updated beyond 2005; in keeping with common research practices, this compendium uses the 2005 CWI values to adjust data for 2005 and all subsequent years.

Data from different sources may not match exactly, even when they purport to measure the same thing in the same year. Differences may reflect slightly different definitions or revisions made after data were reported.

## Chapter 2

### Student Demographics

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

#### Child Poverty

Official poverty rates, determined by income thresholds for specified numbers and ages of family members, are useful for monitoring trends but fail to take into account a number of important factors: the effects of government policies that alter the resources available to families, such as payroll taxes and noncash benefits; expenses that are necessary to hold a job and earn income; variations in medical costs; some nontraditional family situations, such as child support payments and cohabitation of unmarried couples; and geographic differences in the costs of living. A new poverty measure called the Supplemental Poverty Measure, which was created to overcome some limitations of the official measure, finds 18 percent of the nation's children in poverty instead of the official rate of 22 percent. However, this new measure is not considered official, and has not been published by age group and state.<sup>2</sup>

In 2011, the federal poverty line for a married couple with two children was \$22,811, and the federal poverty line for a family of two with one child was \$15,504.<sup>3</sup> As Table 2.1 shows, official child poverty rates have been rising, and Kentucky's rate continues to be among the highest. In 2011, Kentucky ranked eighth, with more than one-fourth of children in poverty.

**Table 2.1**  
**Children Living Below Federal Poverty Line, 1999, 2009, 2010, And 2011**

1999			2009				2010				2011			
Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%	Sig.	Rank	State	%	Sig.	Rank	State	%	Sig.
2	MS	19.9	1	MS	31.0	>	1	MS	32.5	>	1	MS	31.8	>
3	LA	19.6	3	AR	27.2	=	4	AL	27.7	=	4	LA	28.8	=
5	WV	17.9	<b>4</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>26.0</b>	N/A	5	AR	27.6	=	5	AR	28.1	=
6	AL	16.1	6	AL	24.7	=	6	LA	27.3	=	6	SC	27.8	=
7	AR	15.8	7	SC	24.4	=	<b>7</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>26.3</b>	N/A	7	AL	27.6	=
<b>7</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>15.8</b>	8	TX	24.4	=	8	SC	26.1	=	<b>8</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>27.4</b>	N/A
9	TX	15.4	9	LA	24.2	=	9	TN	25.7	=	10	TX	26.6	=
10	OK	14.7	10	TN	23.9	<	9	TX	25.7	=	11	GA	26.3	=
14	SC	14.1	11	WV	23.6	<	11	WV	25.5	=	12	TN	26.3	=
16	TN	13.5	14	NC	22.5	<	12	NC	24.9	=	13	WV	25.8	=
18	GA	13.0	15	GA	22.3	<	13	GA	24.8	=	14	NC	25.6	=
19	FL	12.5	16	OK	22.2	<	14	OK	24.7	=	15	FL	24.9	<
N/A	US	<b>12.4</b>	17	OH	21.9	<	16	FL	23.5	<	17	OH	24.2	<
19	NC	12.3	19	FL	21.3	<	18	OH	23.3	<	19	OK	23.4	<
23	MO	11.7	20	MO	20.7	<	21	IN	21.7	<	20	IN	23.0	<
28	IL	10.7	21	IN	20.0	<	N/A	US	<b>21.6</b>	<	N/A	US	<b>22.5</b>	<
30	OH	10.6	N/A	US	<b>20.0</b>	<	24	MO	20.9	<	23	MO	22.1	<
36	VA	9.6	25	IL	18.9	<	26	IL	19.4	<	26	IL	21.6	<
37	IN	9.5	35	DE	16.5	<	35	DE	18.1	<	37	DE	17.5	<
43	DE	9.2	40	VA	13.9	<	43	VA	14.5	<	43	VA	15.3	<
46	MD	8.5	50	MD	11.6	<	48	MD	13.0	<	50	MD	13.5	<

Notes: > indicates significantly higher than Kentucky, = indicates not significantly different from Kentucky, and < indicates significantly lower than Kentucky. The 1999 census data are not subject to sampling error.

Sources: Staff analysis of data from United States. Census Bureau. Decennial Census. Web. Oct. 28, 2009; United States. Census Bureau. American Community Survey. Web. Feb. 11, 2013.

## Family Income

Table 2.2 presents the median family income in states. Dollar figures shown are not comparable across years because they are not adjusted for inflation; however, rankings can be compared. A family is two or more people residing together who are related by birth, marriage, or adoption. Income includes money from all sources, including public assistance, child support, unemployment insurance, interest, dividends, and pensions.

From 1999 to 2011, Kentucky was consistently among the bottom 10 states with respect to median family income. In 2011, Kentucky's median family income was about \$52,000, while the US median was more than \$61,000.

**Table 2.2**  
**Median Family Income In Nominal Dollars, 1999, 2009, 2010, And 2011**

1999			2009				2010				2011			
Rank	State	\$	Rank	State	\$	Sig.	Rank	State	\$	Sig.	Rank	State	\$	Sig.
3	MD	61,876	1	MD	84,254	>	1	MD	83,137	>	1	MD	83,823	>
10	IL	55,545	8	VA	71,270	>	9	VA	72,476	>	8	VA	74,500	>
11	DE	55,257	14	DE	67,582	>	11	DE	68,746	>	11	DE	69,663	>
12	VA	54,169	17	IL	66,806	>	18	IL	65,417	>	19	IL	65,579	>
21	IN	50,261	N/A	US	<b>61,082</b>	>	N/A	US	<b>60,609</b>	>	N/A	US	<b>61,455</b>	>
N/A	US	<b>50,046</b>	31	OH	57,360	>	31	TX	56,575	>	28	OH	58,565	>
22	OH	50,037	33	TX	56,607	>	32	OH	56,518	>	32	TX	58,016	>
24	GA	49,280	35	IN	56,432	>	33	MO	56,214	>	33	IN	57,148	>
31	NC	46,335	36	MO	56,318	>	35	IN	55,368	>	34	MO	56,616	>
33	MO	46,044	37	GA	56,176	>	37	GA	55,209	>	38	GA	55,001	>
34	TX	45,861	39	NC	54,288	>	39	FL	53,093	>	39	NC	54,082	>
36	FL	45,625	40	FL	53,509	>	40	NC	52,920	>	40	FL	53,958	>
38	SC	44,227	41	LA	53,427	>	41	LA	52,456	>	41	OK	53,742	>
40	TN	43,517	42	SC	52,406	>	43	OK	51,958	>	42	LA	53,601	=
43	AL	41,657	43	OK	52,403	>	44	SC	51,704	>	44	TN	52,273	=
<b>44</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>40,939</b>	46	TN	51,344	>	45	TN	51,083	>	45	SC	52,240	=
45	OK	40,709	47	AL	50,779	>	47	AL	50,429	=	46	AL	51,991	=
47	LA	39,774	<b>48</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>49,801</b>	N/A	<b>48</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>50,392</b>	N/A	<b>47</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>51,917</b>	N/A
49	AR	38,663	49	WV	47,659	<	49	WV	48,927	=	49	WV	49,693	<
50	MS	37,406	50	AR	46,868	<	50	AR	47,049	<	50	AR	48,713	<
51	WV	36,484	51	MS	45,601	<	51	MS	45,484	<	51	MS	46,304	<

Notes: > indicates significantly higher than Kentucky, = indicates not significantly different from Kentucky, and < indicates significantly lower than Kentucky. The 1999 census data are not subject to sampling error.

Sources: Staff analysis of data from United States. Census Bureau. Decennial Census. Web. Oct. 28, 2009; United States. Census Bureau. American Community Survey. Web. Feb. 11, 2013.

## Racial Diversity Of Students

State education agencies, such as Kentucky's Department of Education, report student enrollments in categories defined by race and ethnicity. 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 culture with Spanish heritage. Other includes Asians, Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and Alaska Natives.

Table 2.4 shows that the rate of minority student population for the commonwealth as a whole is lower than that of the US. In 2011, about 82 percent of Kentucky public school students were identified as white, compared to just 52 percent of the nation's enrollment. Though high, the percentage of students who are white has been declining in Kentucky, mirroring national trends. Between 2000 and 2011, the percentage of students who are African American remained steady at about 11 percent. Kentucky's percentage of Hispanic students increased, but as of 2011 it was still relatively small at 3.9 percent.

**Table 2.3**  
**Racial Composition Of Students, 2000, 2009, 2010, And 2011**

2000			2009			2010			2011		
Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%
4	WV	94.8	3	WV	93.0	3	WV	92.4	3	WV	92.0
<b>8</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>88.1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>84.7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>82.3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>81.9</b>
14	IN	84.3	13	OH	78.4	14	MO	75.7	13	MO	74.7
18	OH	81.1	14	IN	78.3	16	OH	74.9	15	OH	74.2
20	MO	79.7	16	MO	76.0	17	IN	74.3	17	IN	73.1
26	TN	72.9	25	TN	68.3	23	TN	68.2	22	TN	67.3
27	AR	72.2	27	AR	66.6	25	AR	65.3	25	AR	64.8
30	OK	66.2	30	AL	58.8	30	AL	58.4	28	AL	58.3
31	VA	64.3	31	VA	58.2	31	OK	56.4	30	OK	54.6
<b>N/A</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>62.1</b>	32	OK	57.3	32	VA	56.0	31	VA	54.1
33	NC	61.8	<b>N/A</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>55.2</b>	33	NC	53.8	32	SC	53.4
34	DE	61.6	34	IL	54.3	<b>N/A</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>53.5</b>	33	NC	53.2
35	AL	61.1	34	NC	54.3	34	SC	53.4	<b>N/A</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>52.4</b>
37	IL	60.7	37	SC	53.8	37	IL	52.6	36	IL	51.3
39	GA	55.5	38	DE	52.1	38	DE	51.6	37	DE	50.1
41	SC	55.2	40	LA	48.8	40	LA	48.5	39	LA	48.5
42	FL	54.3	41	GA	47.2	41	MS	46.1	40	MS	46.0
42	MD	54.3	42	FL	47.0	42	MD	45.5	41	GA	44.4
45	LA	49.2	43	MS	46.3	43	GA	45.0	42	FL	43.0
46	MS	47.5	44	MD	46.2	44	FL	44.3	43	MD	42.9
47	TX	43.1	47	TX	34.0	47	TX	33.3	45	TX	31.2

Continued on next page.



**Table 2.3 (cont.)**

Percentage Of Black, Non-Hispanic											
2000			2009			2010			2011		
Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%
2	MS	51.0	2	MS	50.5	2	MS	50.1	2	MS	49.9
3	LA	47.6	3	LA	46.1	3	LA	46.0	3	LA	45.4
4	SC	42.2	4	GA	39.0	4	SC	38.2	4	GA	37.0
5	GA	38.2	5	SC	38.8	5	MD	37.9	5	SC	36.2
6	MD	36.8	6	MD	38.0	6	GA	37.4	6	MD	35.8
7	AL	36.4	7	AL	35.3	7	AL	34.9	7	AL	34.6
8	NC	31.3	8	DE	33.2	8	DE	33.3	8	DE	32.3
9	DE	30.6	9	NC	31.2	9	NC	31.0	9	NC	26.5
10	VA	27.2	10	VA	26.4	10	VA	25.4	10	VA	24.1
11	FL	25.4	11	TN	24.6	11	TN	24.3	11	TN	23.9
12	TN	24.4	12	FL	24.0	12	FL	23.1	12	FL	23.0
13	AR	23.5	13	AR	22.4	13	AR	21.9	13	AR	21.5
14	IL	21.3	15	IL	20.0	16	IL	18.9	15	IL	18.4
18	MO	17.3	17	MO	17.8	17	MO	17.8	16	MO	17.1
N/A	US	17.2	N/A	US	17.0	N/A	US	16.5	18	OH	16.3
19	OH	16.1	19	OH	16.9	19	OH	16.3	N/A	US	15.7
21	TX	14.4	21	TX	14.2	22	TX	13.3	21	TX	12.9
23	IN	11.5	23	IN	12.8	23	IN	12.2	22	IN	12.1
24	OK	10.7	25	KY	11.0	25	OK	11.0	23	KY	10.8
25	KY	10.5	26	OK	10.9	26	KY	10.7	24	OK	10.2
38	WV	4.2	38	WV	5.4	37	WV	5.3	32	WV	5.2

Percentage Of Hispanic											
2000			2009			2010			2011		
Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%
3	TX	39.6	3	TX	47.9	2	TX	50.2	3	TX	50.3
8	FL	18.2	7	FL	26.1	7	FL	26.3	7	FL	28.0
N/A	US	15.6	N/A	US	22.0	N/A	US	22.1	N/A	US	23.4
10	IL	14.6	9	IL	21.3	9	IL	21.1	8	IL	22.9
22	DE	5.4	20	DE	10.9	22	DE	11.3	20	NC	12.6
22	OK	5.4	22	NC	10.6	22	GA	11.3	21	DE	12.4
25	MD	4.4	23	OK	10.5	24	OK	11.2	22	OK	12.3
26	VA	4.3	25	GA	10.4	25	NC	11.1	23	GA	11.9
29	GA	4.0	26	MD	9.5	26	MD	10.0	24	MD	11.5
30	NC	3.7	27	VA	9.2	27	VA	9.4	25	VA	11.4
34	IN	3.1	28	AR	8.6	28	AR	9.2	26	AR	9.8
35	AR	3.0	31	IN	7.1	32	IN	7.1	29	IN	8.4
38	MO	1.6	35	SC	5.5	35	SC	5.7	32	SC	6.4
38	OH	1.6	36	TN	5.2	36	TN	5.5	33	TN	6.1
41	SC	1.5	39	AL	3.9	39	AL	4.2	36	AL	4.7
41	TN	1.5	39	MO	3.9	40	MO	4.1	38	MO	4.5
43	LA	1.3	42	KY	3.0	42	KY	3.2	39	KY	3.9
46	AL	1.1	43	LA	2.9	42	LA	3.2	42	OH	3.4
47	KY	0.8	44	OH	2.8	44	OH	2.9	43	LA	2.6
48	MS	0.6	48	MS	2.1	48	MS	2.2	44	MS	2.5
51	WV	0.4	51	WV	0.9	51	WV	1.0	47	WV	1.1

Continued on next page.

Table 2.3 (cont.)

Percentage Of All Other Races											
2000			2009			2010			2011		
Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%
3	OK	17.7	3	OK	21.4	3	OK	21.5	3	OK	23.0
<b>N/A</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>5.4</b>	13	VA	8.8	13	VA	9.2	11	VA	10.4
17	MD	4.5	<b>N/A</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>8.0</b>	13	MD	9.7
21	VA	4.1	18	IL	6.8	19	IL	7.3	<b>N/A</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>8.6</b>
25	IL	3.4	19	FL	6.6	20	MD	6.6	17	NC	7.8
27	NC	3.3	19	GA	6.6	21	FL	6.3	18	IL	7.4
29	AL	2.9	21	MD	6.3	21	GA	6.3	20	GA	6.6
29	TX	2.9	23	IN	5.8	21	IN	6.3	22	IN	6.4
32	DE	2.4	24	OH	5.5	24	OH	5.9	23	OH	6.1
33	GA	2.3	31	NC	4.0	34	NC	4.1	24	FL	6.0
35	FL	2.1	32	TX	3.9	34	TX	4.1	25	TX	5.6
37	LA	1.9	36	DE	3.7	37	DE	3.8	28	DE	5.3
<b>39</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>3.8</b>	32	SC	4.0
39	TN	1.6	42	AL	2.4	39	AR	3.6	33	AR	3.9
43	MO	1.4	42	SC	2.4	43	SC	2.6	34	MO	3.7
45	AR	1.3	45	AR	2.3	44	AL	2.5	35	LA	3.5
46	OH	1.2	45	MO	2.3	45	MO	2.4	<b>36</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>3.4</b>
47	IN	1.1	47	LA	2.2	47	LA	2.3	37	TN	2.6
47	SC	1.1	48	TN	1.9	48	TN	2.0	39	AL	2.4
49	MS	0.8	50	MS	1.1	50	MS	1.6	40	WV	1.7
50	WV	0.6	51	WV	0.8	51	WV	1.3	41	MS	1.6

Note: In AK, CA, MA, NJ, and VT, the all other races category includes those of mixed race.

Source: Staff analysis of data from United States. Dept. of Educ. Institute for Education Sciences.

National Center for Education Statistics. *Common Core of Data*. Web. Feb. 11, 2013.

## 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 need; 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 Learner Services

An English learner (EL), also called a student with limited English proficiency, comes from an environment in which a language other than English has had a significant impact on the ability to understand English. Federal funds provided by Title III of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act—reauthorized as the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001—support screening, curricula, instruction, professional development, and community and parent outreach programs. In addition, since FY 2006, Kentucky’s state budget has provided funds for limited English proficiency in the Support Education Excellence in Kentucky (SEEK) funding formula, the mechanism for distributing state funds to districts.

Table 3.1 ranks states by the percentage of students receiving EL services. However, year-to-year comparability is somewhat compromised by missing data for different sets of states in each year. English learner data were not reported by two states in 2002, five states in 2009, and one state in 2011. All states reported in 2010. Missing data affect the rankings and the US average, especially when the states with missing data have large Hispanic populations; for example, the drop in the US percentage of students receiving EL services in 2011 is likely a result of missing data for California.

In 2002, less than 1 percent of Kentucky’s students received EL services, compared to about 8 percent for the US. By 2011, the percentage of Kentucky students receiving EL services had more than doubled but was still small, at 2.4 percent, with Kentucky ranking 35<sup>th</sup>.

**Table 3.1**  
**Students Receiving English Learner Services, 2002, 2009, 2010, And 2011**

2002			2009			2010			2011		
Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%
5	TX	14.5	3	TX	15.1	4	TX	15.0	3	TX	15.0
11	FL	8.2	8	IL	9.7	N/A	US	<b>9.6</b>	8	FL	8.7
N/A	US	<b>8.1</b>	N/A	US	<b>9.3</b>	9	FL	8.8	9	IL	8.3
16	IL	6.6	10	FL	8.6	10	IL	8.5	15	VA	7.0
18	OK	6.0	14	NC	7.0	17	NC	7.2	16	NC	6.9
23	GA	4.3	17	VA	7.0	18	VA	7.0	18	AR	6.5
25	NC	4.0	21	AR	5.8	21	AR	6.2	19	OK	6.3
25	IN	4.0	22	DE	5.7	22	DE	6.1	N/A	US	<b>6.0</b>
27	MD	3.8	26	GA	5.0	23	OK	6.0	23	DE	5.3
29	VA	3.7	27	IN	4.4	27	GA	5.2	23	MD	5.3
33	AR	2.9	27	SC	4.4	29	MD	5.1	24	SC	5.0
37	DE	2.6	35	TN	2.8	30	SC	4.8	25	GA	4.9
39	LA	1.5	36	AL	2.6	31	IN	4.7	26	IN	4.7
42	AL	1.0	<b>39</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>2.2</b>	38	TN	2.8	31	TN	3.0
42	SC	1.0	40	OH	2.0	40	AL	2.6	35	AL	2.4
<b>44</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>0.9</b>	41	LA	1.8	44	MO	2.2	<b>35</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>2.4</b>
44	MO	0.9	41	MO	1.8	<b>45</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>2.1</b>	35	MO	2.4
46	MS	0.5	45	MS	1.3	45	OH	2.1	37	OH	2.1
47	WV	0.3	46	WV	0.6	47	LA	1.9	39	LA	1.7
48	OH	0.0	—	MD	—	50	MS	1.2	41	MS	1.1
48	TN	0.0	—	OK	—	51	WV	0.6	42	WV	0.6

Notes: Data were not available for ND and PA in 2002; MD, ME, NM, OK, and RI in 2009; and CA in 2011.

Source: Staff analysis of data from United States. Dept. of Educ. Institute for Education Sciences. National Center for Education Statistics. *Common Core of Data*. Web. March 20, 2013.

### 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. The intent is to tailor the IEP to each student's unique needs, in collaboration with the student's parents.<sup>4</sup> 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.

States use different methods to identify students with disabilities. Differences in identification methods can affect changes over time as well as differences between states in percentages of students with an IEP. As Table 3.2 shows, the percentage of students with IEPs in Kentucky dropped slightly, from 15.6 percent in 2010 to 15.2 percent in 2011, following the US trend.

**Table 3.2**  
**Students With Individualized Education Programs, 2002, 2009, 2010, And 2011**

2002			2009			2010			2011		
Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%
3	WV	17.7	4	IN	16.8	5	IN	16.4	7	WV	15.9
6	IN	16.1	7	WV	16.5	7	WV	16.3	8	IN	15.8
7	TN	15.9	<b>9</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>16.1</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>15.6</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>15.2</b>
11	MO	15.4	13	DE	15.1	11	DE	15.3	12	OH	14.8
12	FL	15.1	15	IL	15.0	13	IL	14.9	13	OK	14.7
<b>13</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>15.0</b>	16	FL	14.6	13	OH	14.9	14	IL	14.5
16	SC	14.6	16	OH	14.6	16	OK	14.5	15	DE	14.4
17	IL	14.4	18	MO	14.5	20	FL	14.2	17	FL	13.9
19	NC	14.2	22	SC	14.1	20	MO	14.2	18	MO	13.8
20	OK	14.1	31	AR	13.5	25	SC	14.0	18	SC	13.8
20	VA	14.1	31	VA	13.5	31	AR	13.5	20	AR	13.5
22	DE	13.9	<b>N/A</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>12.7</b>	32	VA	13.2	21	MS	13.0
25	LA	13.4	33	LA	12.6	<b>N/A</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>13.0</b>
<b>N/A</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>13.3</b>	33	NC	12.6	33	MS	12.9	21	VA	13.0
29	AL	13.2	36	MD	12.2	34	NC	12.4	22	NC	12.4
33	MD	13.0	36	TN	12.2	35	LA	12.3	25	MD	12.1
39	MS	12.6	44	GA	10.9	36	TN	12.2	25	TN	12.1
40	AR	12.5	48	TX	9.5	39	MD	12.1	27	LA	11.9
42	OH	12.4	49	AL	0.9	44	AL	11.1	30	AL	11.0
44	TX	11.9	50	MS	0.0	47	GA	10.6	32	GA	10.6
46	GA	11.6	50	OK	0.0	50	TX	9.2	35	TX	9.0

Note: Data were not available for NH, NJ, and NY in 2008.

Source: Staff analysis of data from United States. Dept. of Educ. Institute for Education Sciences. National Center for Education Statistics. *Common Core of Data*. Web. March 20, 2013.

A 2008 OEA study pointed out Kentucky's relatively high disability identification rate and recommended measures for ensuring accurate identification of students and appropriate provision of services.<sup>5</sup> OEA's follow-up study in 2011 recommended continued audits and reviews of the identification process.<sup>6</sup>

### Title I School Enrollment

Federal funds to support programs for disadvantaged students are provided by Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, which was reauthorized as the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. A Title I school is defined as one in which the percentage of children from low-income families is at least as high as the districtwide average or a school located within a district that is designated as Title I-eligible because 35 percent or more of the children are from low-income families.<sup>7</sup>

The economic downturn of the past few years is reflected in higher percentages of students enrolled in Title I schools. As Table 3.3 shows, the percentage of Kentucky students in Title I schools in 2011 was about 84 percent, up from about 74 percent in 2002. The US rate was 68 percent in 2011, up from about 37 percent in 2002. Despite changes over time in the state and national rates, Kentucky's ranking has varied little in recent years.

**Table 3.3**  
**Percentage Of Students Enrolled In Title I Schools, 2002, 2009, 2010, And 2011**

2002			2009			2010			2011		
Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%
4	KY	73.6	4	LA	82.0	3	KY	83.5	1	MS	97.4
5	MS	70.5	6	KY	80.9	7	SC	81.4	6	LA	85.4
8	AR	66.1	10	TX	75.2	8	DE	81.1	8	KY	84.1
12	OH	60.6	12	SC	74.7	10	LA	80.2	10	SC	82.7
14	OK	58.6	13	TN	73.1	13	TN	77.4	12	FL	81.7
15	TX	57.7	14	IL	71.5	15	TX	76.4	13	TN	81.2
17	IL	56.0	16	MS	69.8	16	IL	74.8	16	DE	79.8
19	AL	55.1	17	OH	68.6	20	OH	72.3	17	TX	79.0
21	LA	50.7	19	FL	67.5	21	FL	71.2	18	IL	77.5
24	MO	47.4	20	IN	66.5	22	NC	70.6	20	OH	75.2
25	DE	46.6	21	AR	66.1	24	MS	69.6	21	IN	74.7
27	IN	46.2	N/A	US	63.2	25	IN	69.4	23	NC	74.1
29	GA	43.8	25	OK	59.4	26	AR	67.6	N/A	US	68.0
30	WV	43.5	30	AL	53.4	N/A	US	64.8	28	AR	66.9
36	SC	38.8	35	GA	49.6	30	OK	62.8	30	OK	65.4
N/A	US	36.6	36	DE	47.7	32	AL	60.7	32	AL	61.0
41	NC	35.7	41	MO	40.6	35	GA	59.8	33	GA	60.8
45	FL	32.5	45	WV	36.1	45	MO	40.2	42	MO	43.5
46	VA	30.6	46	NC	35.4	47	WV	37.8	45	WV	37.9
47	MD	26.6	48	VA	25.6	49	VA	26.5	47	VA	26.8
—	TN	—	50	MD	18.2	51	MD	21.0	49	MD	21.5

Notes: Data are not available for TN in 2002, DE in 2008, and ME in 2009.

Source: Staff analysis of data from United States. Dept. of Educ. Institute for Education Sciences. National Center for Education Statistics. *Numbers and Types of Public Elementary and Secondary Schools from the Common Core of Data*. For school years 2004, 2009, 2010, and 2011.

### 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, in recent years, more than half of Kentucky students have been eligible for lunch subsidies. Between 2010 and 2011, the eligibility rate increased about 2 percentage points, mirroring a similar rise in the national rate. Kentucky's eligibility rate for free or reduced-price lunch continues to be above the national rate, with Kentucky ranked 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Table 3.4**  
**Percentage Of Students Eligible For Free Or Reduced-Price Lunch In The National School Lunch Program, 2002, 2009, 2010, And 2011**

2002			2009			2010			2011		
Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%
1	MS	65.3	1	MS	68.3	1	MS	70.7	2	MS	70.6
2	LA	59.1	3	LA	64.9	3	LA	65.8	4	LA	66.2
5	WV	50.4	5	AR	57.1	5	AR	59.6	5	AR	60.5
<b>6</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>49.1</b>	6	OK	56.1	6	OK	58.7	5	OK	60.5
7	AL	48.7	7	GA	53.0	7	GA	56.1	7	GA	57.4
7	OK	48.7	8	SC	52.5	9	AL	54.9	<b>8</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>56.6</b>
7	SC	48.7	9	AL	52.4	<b>10</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>54.7</b>	9	FL	56.0
11	AR	47.2	<b>11</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>51.6</b>	11	SC	54.5	10	TN	55.0
12	TX	45.4	12	TN	50.0	12	FL	53.5	11	AL	54.9
13	FL	44.6	12	WV	50.0	13	TN	53.1	12	SC	54.5
14	GA	44.2	14	FL	49.6	14	WV	52.0	14	WV	51.5
N/A	US	<b>38.6</b>	15	TX	48.8	15	TX	50.5	16	NC	50.3
17	NC	38.4	N/A	US	<b>43.8</b>	17	NC	48.8	18	TX	50.1
20	IL	35.2	21	IN	41.8	18	DE	46.8	N/A	US	<b>47.9</b>
21	MO	35.1	25	DE	39.5	N/A	US	<b>45.6</b>	20	DE	47.7
22	DE	34.6	26	IL	39.3	22	IN	45.3	23	IN	46.6
29	IN	31.1	28	MO	38.7	23	MO	43.8	27	IL	44.3
31	MD	29.7	33	OH	36.4	26	IL	43.0	27	MO	44.3
34	VA	29.3	36	MD	34.7	33	OH	40.3	31	OH	42.6
40	OH	27.4	39	NC	33.9	36	MD	38.3	34	MD	40.1
—	TN	—	42	VA	33.1	42	VA	35.7	45	VA	36.7

Notes: Data are not available for AZ, CT, TN, and WY in 2002.

Source: Staff analysis of data from United States. Dept. of Educ. Institute for Education Sciences. National Center for Education Statistics. *Common Core of Data*. Web. March 20, 2013.





## Chapter 4

### Student Achievement

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

Note that differences in student characteristics influence state rankings. Average test scores tend to be lower in states that have relatively large numbers of impoverished students, students with disabilities, English learners, and students who are neither white nor Asian. Compared to the national average, Kentucky has more impoverished students and students with disabilities, but fewer English learners and non-white students.

#### National Assessment Of Educational Progress

NAEP reading and math tests are administered to random samples of students in grades 4 and 8 every other year.<sup>8</sup> Some students with disabilities and English learners use accommodations, such as readers or extra time, or are exempt from taking the exam. Despite the issuance of federal guidelines on these practices, there is considerable variation among states and from year to year in the percentages of students excluded or given accommodations. Kentucky tends to have relatively higher exclusion rates and lower accommodation rates. For example, among students with disabilities sampled for the 2011 grade 4 reading test, Kentucky excluded 53 percent, tested 23 percent with accommodations, and tested 24 percent without accommodations. In comparison, the national rate was 22 percent excluded, 57 percent assessed with accommodations, and 21 percent assessed without accommodations.<sup>9</sup> Exclusion and accommodation percentages are relatively small, and studies commissioned by the US Department of Education have not found exclusions and accommodations to have a substantial impact on test results.<sup>10</sup> Nevertheless, the department and other policy makers are concerned, urging states to include as many students as possible.

As Table 4.1 shows, Kentucky's average grade 4 math score was on par with that of the nation for 2009 and 2011, after having been significantly below the national average in 2003; the state's rank jumped from 39<sup>th</sup> in 2003 to 24<sup>th</sup> in 2011. The average grade 8 math score, too, was on par with the national average in 2011, after having been significantly below the national average in 2009. Although, Kentucky's grade 4 and grade 8 math scores increased slightly between 2009 and 2011, these increases were not statistically significant.<sup>11</sup>

In 2009 and 2011, Kentucky's average grade 4 and grade 8 NAEP reading scores, shown in Table 4.2, were significantly above the national averages. Between 2003 and 2011, Kentucky's rank for grade 4 improved from 25<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> and the rank for grade 8 improved from 17<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>. However, between 2009 and 2011, Kentucky's scores did not change significantly.

**Table 4.1**  
**National Assessment Of Educational Progress, Mathematics, 2003, 2009, And 2011**

Grade 4											
2003				2009				2011			
Rank	State	Score	Sig	Rank	State	Score	Sig	Rank	State	Score	Sig
2	NC	242	>	9	MD	244	>	5	MD	247	>
9	VA	239	>	9	NC	244	>	9	NC	245	>
11	IN	238	>	9	OH	244	>	9	VA	245	>
11	OH	238	>	16	IN	243	>	13	IN	244	>
17	TX	237	>	16	VA	243	>	13	OH	244	=
20	DE	236	>	20	FL	242	>	<b>24</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>241</b>	N/A
20	SC	236	>	24	MO	241	=	24	TX	241	=
27	MO	235	>	27	TX	240	=	27	DE	240	=
N/A	US	<b>235</b>	>	N/A	US	<b>240</b>	=	27	FL	240	=
32	FL	234	>	29	DE	239	=	27	MO	240	=
33	IL	233	>	<b>29</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>239</b>	N/A	N/A	US	<b>240</b>	=
33	MD	233	>	33	AR	238	=	32	IL	239	=
36	WV	231	=	33	IL	238	=	34	AR	238	=
37	GA	230	=	36	OK	237	=	34	GA	238	=
39	AR	229	=	38	GA	236	=	37	OK	237	<
<b>39</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>229</b>	N/A	38	SC	236	<	37	SC	237	=
39	OK	229	=	43	WV	233	<	43	WV	235	<
43	TN	228	=	44	TN	232	<	46	TN	233	<
47	LA	226	=	48	LA	229	<	48	AL	231	<
48	AL	223	<	49	AL	228	<	48	LA	231	<
48	MS	223	<	50	MS	227	<	50	MS	230	<

  

Grade 8											
2003				2009				2011			
Rank	State	Score	Sig	Rank	State	Score	Sig	Rank	State	Score	Sig
14	OH	282	>	12	MD	288	>	10	TX	290	>
14	VA	282	>	15	IN	287	>	12	OH	289	>
18	IN	281	>	15	TX	287	>	12	VA	289	>
18	NC	281	>	19	MO	286	>	17	MD	288	>
26	MO	279	>	19	OH	286	>	21	NC	286	>
29	MD	278	>	19	VA	286	>	23	IN	285	=
30	DE	277	=	25	DE	284	>	27	DE	283	=
30	IL	277	=	25	NC	284	>	27	IL	283	=
30	SC	277	=	32	IL	282	=	N/A	US	<b>283</b>	=
30	TX	277	=	N/A	US	<b>282</b>	>	<b>32</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>282</b>	N/A
N/A	US	<b>276</b>	=	33	SC	280	=	32	MO	282	=
<b>35</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>274</b>	N/A	34	FL	279	=	34	SC	281	=
36	OK	272	=	<b>34</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>279</b>	N/A	37	AR	279	=
38	FL	271	=	36	GA	278	=	37	OK	279	=
38	WV	271	=	40	AR	276	=	40	FL	278	=
41	GA	270	<	40	OK	276	<	40	GA	278	>
42	TN	268	<	41	TN	275	<	45	TN	274	>
45	AR	266	<	44	LA	272	<	46	LA	273	>
45	LA	266	<	44	WV	270	<	46	WV	273	>
49	AL	262	<	48	AL	269	<	49	AL	269	>
50	MS	261	<	49	MS	265	<	49	MS	269	>

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

Source: Staff analysis of data from United States. Dept. of Educ. Institute for Education Sciences. National Center for Education Statistics. NAEP Data Explorer, Web. Nov. 4, 2011.

**Table 4.2**  
**National Assessment Of Educational Progress, Reading, 2003, 2009, And 2011**

2003				Grade 4				2011			
Rank	State	Score	Sig	Rank	State	Score	Sig	Rank	State	Score	Sig
6	DE	224	>	6	VA	227	=	2	MD	231	>
9	VA	223	=	7	DE	226	=	8	VA	226	=
13	MO	222	=	7	FL	226	=	10	DE	225	=
13	OH	222	=	<b>7</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>226</b>	N/A	10	FL	225	=
19	NC	221	=	7	MD	226	=	<b>10</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>225</b>	N/A
23	IN	220	=	14	OH	225	=	14	OH	224	=
<b>25</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>219</b>	N/A	17	MO	224	=	23	GA	221	<
25	MD	219	=	22	IN	223	=	23	IN	221	<
25	WV	219	=	N/A	US	<b>220</b>	<	23	NC	221	=
31	FL	218	=	30	IL	219	<	30	AL	220	<
34	IL	216	=	30	NC	219	<	30	MO	220	<
N/A	US	<b>216</b>	=	30	TX	219	<	N/A	US	<b>220</b>	<
36	SC	215	=	34	GA	218	<	34	IL	219	<
36	TX	215	=	37	OK	217	<	36	TX	218	<
38	AR	214	=	37	TN	217	<	37	AR	217	<
38	GA	214	<	39	AL	216	<	39	OK	215	<
38	OK	214	<	39	AR	216	<	39	SC	215	<
41	TN	212	<	39	SC	216	<	39	TN	215	<
45	AL	207	<	42	WV	215	<	43	WV	214	<
48	LA	205	<	43	MS	211	<	47	LA	210	<
48	MS	205	<	50	LA	207	<	48	MS	209	<

2003				Grade 8				2011			
Rank	State	Score	Sig	Rank	State	Score	Sig	Rank	State	Score	Sig
7	VA	268	=	11	OH	269	=	7	MD	271	=
13	MO	267	=	<b>14</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>267</b>	N/A	<b>12</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>269</b>	N/A
13	OH	267	=	14	MD	267	=	15	OH	268	=
17	IL	266	=	14	MO	267	=	20	MO	267	=
<b>17</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>266</b>	N/A	20	IN	266	=	20	VA	267	=
22	DE	265	=	20	VA	266	=	25	DE	266	<
22	IN	265	=	25	DE	265	=	25	IL	266	=
31	MD	262	=	25	IL	265	=	28	IN	265	<
31	NC	262	=	30	FL	264	=	N/A	US	<b>264</b>	<
31	OK	262	=	N/A	US	<b>262</b>	<	33	NC	263	<
N/A	US	<b>261</b>	=	33	TN	261	<	34	FL	262	<
35	WV	260	=	34	GA	260	<	34	GA	262	<
36	TX	259	<	34	NC	260	<	36	TX	261	<
37	AR	258	<	34	TX	260	<	38	OK	260	<
37	GA	258	<	39	OK	259	<	38	SC	260	<
37	SC	258	<	41	AR	258	<	41	AR	259	<
37	TN	258	<	42	SC	257	<	41	TN	259	<
41	FL	257	<	43	AL	255	<	43	AL	258	<
43	MS	255	<	43	WV	255	<	46	WV	256	<
45	AL	253	<	49	LA	253	<	48	LA	255	<
45	LA	253	<	50	MS	251	<	50	MS	254	<

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

Source: Staff analysis of data from United States. Dept. of Educ. Institute for Education Sciences. National Center for Education Statistics. NAEP Data Explorer, Web. Nov. 4, 2011.

In 2011, the NAEP science test was administered for grade 8 only. Table 4.3 compares scores from that test to scores from the 2009 administration of the test. Kentucky had average scores above the national average in both years. Kentucky ranked 13<sup>th</sup> in 2009 and 16<sup>th</sup> in 2011, but the apparent drop in rank may simply reflect the fact that fewer states participated in 2009 than in 2011.

**Table 4.3**  
**National Assessment Of Educational Progress, Grade 8 Science, 2009 And 2011**

2009				2011			
Rank	State	Score	Sig	Rank	State	Score	Sig
7	OH	158	=	10	VA	160	=
<b>13</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>N/A</b>	15	OH	158	=
13	MO	156	=	<b>16</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>N/A</b>
13	VA	156	=	20	MO	156	=
24	IN	152	<	26	IN	153	<
25	TX	150	<	26	TX	153	<
<b>N/A</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>149</b>	<	29	MD	152	<
27	DE	148	<	<b>N/A</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>151</b>	<
27	IL	148	<	30	GA	151	<
27	MD	148	<	32	DE	150	<
27	TN	148	<	32	TN	150	<
31	GA	147	<	34	SC	149	<
32	FL	146	<	34	WV	149	<
32	OK	146	<	38	AR	148	<
35	WV	145	<	38	FL	148	<
36	AR	144	<	38	NC	148	<
36	NC	144	<	38	OK	148	<
38	SC	143	<	42	IL	147	<
42	AL	139	<	46	LA	143	<
42	LA	139	<	48	AL	140	<
46	MS	132	<	50	MS	137	<

Notes: AK, DC, KS, NE, and VT did not participate in 2009. > indicates states significantly higher than Kentucky, = indicates states not significantly different, and < indicates states significantly lower than Kentucky.

Source: Staff analysis of data from United States. Dept. of Educ. Institute for Education Sciences. National Center for Education Statistics. NAEP Data Explorer. Web. June 6, 2013.

### ACT Participation And Scores

The ACT exam measures readiness to pursue college-level course work. Table 4.4 ranks states by the percentages of high school graduates who took the ACT at any time during high school. The 2009 school year was the first year that 100 percent of high school graduates in Kentucky took the ACT test.

**Table 4.4**  
**ACT Participation Rates, 2009, 2010, 2011, And 2012**

Participation Rate											
2009			2010			2011			2012		
Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%
1	KY	100	1	IL	100	1	IL	100	1	IL	100
5	IL	97	1	KY	100	1	KY	100	1	KY	100
6	MS	93	1	TN	100	1	LA	100	1	LA	100
7	TN	92	7	LA	98	1	MS	100	1	MS	100
8	LA	89	8	MS	96	1	TN	100	1	TN	100
10	AL	76	9	AR	81	10	AR	91	11	AR	88
13	AR	73	12	AL	78	11	AL	81	12	AL	86
15	OK	71	15	OK	73	14	OK	76	15	OK	80
18	MO	67	18	MO	69	19	MO	71	17	MO	75
21	OH	64	21	OH	66	21	OH	69	20	OH	71
22	FL	62	22	FL	65	22	FL	66	22	FL	70
22	WV	62	23	WV	64	23	WV	65	23	WV	68
27	SC	50	27	SC	52	27	SC	56	27	SC	57
N/A	US	45	N/A	US	47	N/A	US	49	28	GA	52
28	GA	40	28	GA	44	28	GA	47	N/A	US	52
30	TX	30	30	TX	33	30	TX	36	29	TX	39
35	IN	24	36	IN	26	34	IN	29	34	IN	32
39	VA	20	41	VA	22	39	VA	24	40	VA	25
43	MD	17	44	MD	18	43	MD	20	43	MD	21
45	NC	15	48	NC	16	46	NC	18	45	NC	20
49	DE	11	49	DE	13	49	DE	16	49	DE	14

Source: Staff analysis of data from ACT. Average ACT Score by State. For years 2009 through 2012.  
Iowa City: ACT Inc. Web. May 16, 2013.

Table 4.5 compares Kentucky's ACT scores to those of the eight other states that had 100 percent participation in 2012, including three that are not among the peer states shown throughout this compendium.

**Table 4.5**  
**Average ACT Scores For States With 100 Percent Participation, 2012**

<b>Composite</b>		<b>English</b>		<b>Mathematics</b>		<b>Reading</b>		<b>Science</b>	
<b>State</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Score</b>
IL	20.9	IL	20.5	IL	21.0	CO	20.7	ND	20.9
ND	20.7	LA	20.4	ND	21.0	IL	20.7	CO	20.8
CO	20.6	CO	19.9	CO	20.5	ND	20.7	IL	20.8
LA	20.3	ND	19.6	WY	20.2	WY	20.5	WY	20.6
WY	20.3	TN	19.6	MI	20.1	LA	20.4	MI	20.4
MI	20.1	<b>KY</b>	<b>19.5</b>	LA	19.9	<b>KY</b>	<b>20.2</b>	LA	20.1
<b>KY</b>	<b>19.8</b>	MI	19.3	<b>KY</b>	<b>19.4</b>	MI	20.0	<b>KY</b>	<b>19.8</b>
TN	19.7	WY	19.2	TN	19.1	TN	19.9	TN	19.6
MS	18.7	MS	18.6	MS	18.3	MS	18.9	MS	18.7

Source: Staff analysis of data from ACT. Average ACT Score by State. For years 2009 through 2012. Iowa City: ACT Inc. Web. May 16, 2013.

Table 4.6 shows composite average scores for peer states, regardless of participation rate. Care should be taken when comparing scores for states that have very different participation rates because scores are lower where participation is higher. Kentucky's rank on the ACT composite dropped from 35<sup>th</sup> in 2008, when 72 percent of graduates had taken the test, to 49<sup>th</sup> the following year, when 100 percent had taken the test. Other states have seen similar drops in scores when they began requiring that the test be administered to all students.

Kentucky's 2012 ACT scores were up slightly from 2011 in all subjects. Therefore, the average composite score improved, causing Kentucky's rank to improve from 48<sup>th</sup> to 46<sup>th</sup>.

**Table 4.6**  
**ACT Average Composite Score, 2009, 2010, 2011, And 2012**

2009			2010			2011			2012		
Rank	State	Score	Rank	State	Score	Rank	State	Score	Rank	State	Score
11	DE	22.6	8	DE	23.0	11	DE	22.4	11	DE	22.6
14	IN	22.2	12	IN	22.3	12	IN	22.3	12	VA	22.4
16	MD	22.1	12	MD	22.3	12	VA	22.3	14	IN	22.3
21	VA	21.9	12	VA	22.3	17	MD	22.1	16	MD	22.1
25	OH	21.7	21	NC	21.9	22	NC	21.9	21	NC	21.9
26	MO	21.6	23	OH	21.8	23	OH	21.8	23	OH	21.8
26	NC	21.6	27	MO	21.6	27	MO	21.6	25	MO	21.6
<b>N/A</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>21.1</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>21.0</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>21.1</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>21.1</b>
34	IL	20.8	33	TX	20.8	32	IL	20.9	31	IL	20.9
34	TX	20.8	34	GA	20.7	33	TX	20.8	32	TX	20.8
37	OK	20.7	34	IL	20.7	34	OK	20.7	33	GA	20.7
37	WV	20.7	34	OK	20.7	37	GA	20.6	33	OK	20.7
39	AR	20.6	34	WV	20.7	37	WV	20.6	37	WV	20.6
39	GA	20.6	39	AL	20.3	39	AL	20.3	39	AL	20.3
39	TN	20.6	39	AR	20.3	41	LA	20.2	39	AR	20.3
42	AL	20.3	41	LA	20.1	42	SC	20.1	39	LA	20.3
43	LA	20.1	43	SC	20.0	45	AR	19.9	43	SC	20.2
46	SC	19.8	48	TN	19.6	48	FL	19.6	46	FL	19.8
48	FL	19.5	49	FL	19.5	<b>48</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>19.6</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>19.8</b>
<b>49</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>19.4</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>19.4</b>	50	TN	19.5	48	TN	19.7
51	MS	18.9	51	MS	18.8	51	MS	18.7	51	MS	18.7

Source: Staff analysis of data from ACT. Average ACT Score by State. For years 2009 through 2012. Iowa City: ACT Inc. Web. May 16, 2013.

Another factor that limits comparability among states is that Kentucky’s students are required to take the ACT in grade 11, whereas students in most other states may take the test in any grade, with many choosing to wait until grade 12, when they are better prepared. Note that, although all Kentucky high school juniors take the ACT, only those who graduated from high school are included in state rankings. Students may retake the ACT as many times as they wish, provided they pay the test fee; students may choose which score to report to colleges, but the score used for state-level reporting in this compendium is that earned on the student’s most recent attempt.

### Advanced Placement Exams

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; scores of 3 or above are considered passing and eligible for college credit.

The nonprofit organization College Board, which manages AP exams, annually publishes the number of high school graduates who attempted at least one exam during high school, as well as the number who attained scores of 3 or higher on at least one exam. These are shown in Table 4.7 as percentages of all high school graduates.

AdvanceKentucky, an initiative of the Kentucky Science and Technology Corporation, provides considerable support and incentives to boost the number of Advanced Placement exams taken by students. As a result, the percentages of students taking and passing Advanced Placement exams continue to increase. As Table 4.7 shows, Kentucky high school graduates' participation in Advanced Placement exams more than doubled between 2002 and 2011, increasing from 12.6 percent of graduates to 27.6 percent. Kentucky's ranking rose from 33<sup>rd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>. The percentage of students earning passing scores on the exams also improved dramatically, from 6.5 percent and a rank of 40<sup>th</sup> to 13.7 percent and a rank of 26<sup>th</sup>.



**Table 4.7**  
**Advanced Placement Exams For Graduating Classes Of 2002, 2009, 2010, And 2011**

**Percentage Of High School Graduates Attempting At Least One Exam**

2002			2009			2010			2011		
Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%
2	VA	26.9	1	FL	40.2	1	FL	43.5	1	FL	47.4
4	FL	24.9	2	MD	40.0	2	MD	43.4	2	MD	46.4
6	MD	23.5	4	VA	36.4	3	VA	38.1	4	VA	40.1
7	NC	23.1	5	AR	34.0	5	GA	37.3	5	AR	40.0
11	SC	20.9	6	GA	33.6	6	AR	36.6	6	GA	38.2
14	GA	19.8	12	NC	29.1	13	TX	30.2	11	TX	32.8
15	TX	19.3	13	TX	28.7	14	IN	29.3	14	IN	31.9
<b>N/A</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>18.1</b>	16	DE	27.0	15	NC	28.8	15	NC	30.3
19	IL	16.2	<b>N/A</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>26.5</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>28.3</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>30.2</b>
24	DE	15.3	20	SC	26.0	18	DE	28.1	19	DE	28.9
29	OK	13.6	23	IL	24.5	20	SC	26.8	20	SC	28.6
30	IN	13.5	<b>25</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>22.0</b>	22	IL	26.3	21	IL	28.5
31	OH	13.3	31	IN	20.7	<b>26</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>24.4</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>27.6</b>
<b>33</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>12.6</b>	32	OK	19.6	32	OK	20.8	33	AL	21.9
35	TN	11.9	35	OH	17.9	35	AL	19.5	34	OK	21.5
41	WV	10.7	36	TN	17.6	36	OH	18.9	36	WV	20.5
43	AR	9.8	38	WV	17.2	37	TN	18.6	37	OH	20.3
44	AL	8.8	40	AL	16.3	38	WV	18.4	38	TN	19.8
48	MO	7.2	47	MS	12.9	47	MS	14.1	47	MS	14.3
49	MS	7.1	49	MO	12.3	48	MO	13.4	48	MO	14.1
51	LA	3.7	51	LA	9.5	50	LA	11.4	50	LA	13.3

**Graduates With Passing Score(s) As A Percentage Of All High School Graduates**

2002			2009			2010			2011		
Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%
3	VA	16.9	1	MD	24.8	1	MD	26.4	1	MD	27.9
5	MD	16.4	3	VA	22.9	3	VA	23.7	3	VA	25.6
8	FL	15.2	5	FL	21.3	6	FL	22.3	6	FL	23.9
11	NC	13.7	13	GA	17.8	11	GA	19.1	13	GA	19.8
12	SC	12.7	14	NC	17.4	15	NC	17.5	15	IL	18.5
16	IL	11.7	17	IL	15.9	16	IL	17.2	16	NC	18.4
<b>N/A</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>11.7</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>15.9</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>16.9</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>18.1</b>
17	GA	11.2	20	TX	14.9	20	TX	15.5	18	TX	16.7
18	TX	11.1	21	SC	14.8	21	DE	15.4	19	SC	16.5
26	DE	9.3	23	DE	14.3	22	SC	15.1	22	DE	15.5
28	OH	8.3	28	AR	11.0	28	AR	12.5	24	IN	14.0
33	IN	7.3	28	OH	11.0	29	IN	12.4	<b>26</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>13.7</b>
34	TN	7.2	<b>30</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>12.2</b>	27	AR	13.5
35	OK	7.1	33	IN	10.4	31	OH	11.8	28	OH	12.8
<b>40</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>6.5</b>	36	OK	9.5	36	OK	10.3	34	OK	10.7
44	WV	5.2	37	TN	9.3	38	TN	9.7	35	TN	10.4
46	AR	5.0	44	WV	7.6	41	AL	9.0	38	AL	9.9
47	AL	4.8	45	AL	7.5	45	WV	7.6	42	WV	8.8
48	MO	4.7	46	MO	7.1	46	MO	7.5	43	MO	8.2
50	MS	3.0	50	LA	4.1	50	LA	4.6	46	LA	5.6
51	LA	2.0	51	MS	4.0	51	MS	4.4	47	MS	4.5

Source: Staff analysis of data from College Board. AP Report to the Nation. New York: College Board. For years 2002 and 2009 through 2011. Web. March 18, 2013.

## Graduation Rates

The US Department of Education defines *graduation* as completing a standard diploma within 4 years. The department also allows Kentucky and some other states to also count those who required more than 4 years to earn a standard diploma if their IEPs specified more than 4 years. However, those without such IEPs are not counted as graduates if the diploma required more than 4 years. Also not counted are those earning nonstandard diplomas, such as certificates of completion, and nongraduates who passed the GED exam.

Historically, states' formulas for calculating graduation rates varied substantially, and all had data quality issues. The US Department of Education is pressing states to implement systems to accurately track each cohort of 9<sup>th</sup>-graders through high school so that a more accurate "cohort graduation rate" can be calculated. Kentucky will begin officially reporting the cohort graduation rate in 2014.<sup>12</sup>

Until cohorts can be tracked, states are required to use the averaged freshman graduation rate (AFGR), which divides the number of diploma recipients in a given year by the average membership of the graduating class during grades 8, 9, and 10. This formula improves comparability but has limitations; for example, it does not adjust for student transfers.<sup>a</sup>

As Table 4.8 shows, Kentucky's AFGR has been rising in recent years. For the 2010 graduating class, Kentucky was ranked 22<sup>nd</sup>, with an AFGR of 79.9 percent compared to a national rate of 78.2 percent. Since 2002, Kentucky has moved from below to above the US average.

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<sup>a</sup> The averaged freshman graduation rate (AFGR) formula that Kentucky uses for reporting within the state differs slightly from the formula that the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) uses for these state comparisons. While the AFGR formula used for reporting within Kentucky has only grades 9 and 10 in the denominator, the denominator of the formula used by NCES for state comparisons, as shown in Table 5.6, has grades 8 through 10 in the denominator.

**Table 4.8**  
**Averaged Freshman Graduation Rate, 2002, 2008, 2009, And 2010**

2002			2008			2009			2010		
Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%
11	MD	79.7	11	MO	82.4	9	MO	83.1	12	MO	83.7
17	OH	77.5	15	IL	80.4	16	MD	80.1	15	MD	82.2
18	IL	77.1	15	MD	80.4	18	OH	79.6	16	IL	81.9
20	MO	76.8	20	OH	79.0	20	VA	78.4	18	OH	81.4
21	VA	76.7	21	OK	78.0	21	IL	77.7	19	VA	81.2
22	OK	76.0	22	WV	77.3	<b>23</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>77.6</b>	20	TN	80.4
25	AR	74.8	23	VA	77.0	24	TN	77.4	<b>22</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>79.9</b>
29	WV	74.2	25	AR	76.4	25	OK	77.3	24	TX	78.9
30	TX	73.5	31	TN	74.9	26	WV	77.0	26	OK	78.5
31	IN	73.1	<b>N/A</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>74.9</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>75.5</b>	27	WV	78.3
<b>N/A</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>72.6</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>74.4</b>	29	TX	75.4	<b>N/A</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>78.2</b>
<b>38</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>69.8</b>	34	IN	74.1	33	IN	75.2	29	IN	77.2
39	DE	69.5	35	TX	73.1	35	NC	75.1	30	NC	76.9
41	NC	68.2	36	NC	72.8	36	AR	74.0	35	DE	75.5
44	LA	64.4	37	DE	72.1	37	DE	73.7	38	AR	75.0
45	FL	63.4	43	AL	69.0	43	AL	69.9	40	AL	71.8
46	AL	62.1	44	FL	66.9	44	FL	68.9	41	FL	70.8
47	MS	61.2	46	GA	65.4	45	GA	67.8	42	GA	69.9
48	GA	61.1	47	MS	63.9	46	LA	67.3	43	LA	68.8
50	TN	59.6	48	LA	63.5	47	SC	66.0	44	SC	68.2
51	SC	57.9	—	SC	—	50	MS	62.0	46	MS	63.8

Sources: Staff analysis of data from United States. Dept. of Educ. Institute for Education Sciences. National Center for Education Statistics. *High School Dropout and Completion Rates in the United States: 2007* and *Public School Graduates and Dropouts from the Common Core of Data*. For years 2008, 2009, and 2010. Web. March 18, 2013.



## Chapter 5

### School And District Characteristics

This chapter discusses school and district sizes, rural locale, student/teacher ratios, and other staff ratios.

#### District And School Size

Many policy makers and researchers believe that larger districts and schools can provide a wider variety of learning and extracurricular opportunities, often at a lower per-student cost, while smaller units can benefit students by being less impersonal and more tailored to local needs.

Table 5.1 ranks states by the student/district ratio, which is calculated by dividing the number of enrolled students assigned to specific districts by the number of operational districts. Average district sizes vary considerably from state to state, reflecting such factors as population density and state policies. Kentucky's district size is larger than the national average, with districts being responsible for about 3,500 students, on average.

**Table 5.1**  
**Student/District Ratios, 2002, 2009, 2010, And 2011**

2002			2009			2010			2011		
Rank	State	Ratio	Rank	State	Ratio	Rank	State	2010	Rank	State	Ratio
2	MD	35,860	2	MD	35,161	2	FL	35,127	2	FL	35,245
3	FL	34,253	3	FL	34,169	3	MD	33,936	3	MD	34,088
6	LA	8,311	5	VA	8,891	5	GA	8,096	5	GA	7,911
7	GA	8,170	6	GA	7,999	6	SC	7,021	6	TN	7,053
8	TN	6,702	7	SC	6,972	7	TN	6,947	7	SC	6,979
9	SC	6,565	8	TN	6,943	8	NC	6,422	8	NC	6,343
10	NC	6,205	9	NC	6,389	9	VA	6,016	9	VA	5,562
12	VA	5,845	10	LA	6,008	10	LA	5,617	10	LA	5,528
13	AL	5,627	13	WV	4,960	12	WV	4,959	12	WV	4,963
14	WV	4,963	14	AL	4,361	14	AL	4,379	14	AL	4,418
16	DE	3,852	15	TX	3,736	15	TX	3,789	15	TX	3,871
<b>20</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>3,339</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>3,454</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>3,506</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>3,470</b>
21	TX	3,320	19	DE	3,136	19	DE	3,170	19	DE	3,156
23	IN	3,056	22	MS	3,000	22	MS	2,985	20	MS	2,991
24	MS	3,046	N/A	US	<b>2,773</b>	N/A	US	<b>2,768</b>	N/A	US	<b>2,759</b>
N/A	US	<b>2,790</b>	25	IN	2,760	25	IN	2,705	23	IN	2,678
29	OH	2,241	31	IL	1,966	31	IL	1,956	31	IL	1,940
35	IL	1,954	36	OH	1,729	35	OH	1,685	35	AR	1,668
39	MO	1,717	37	MO	1,639	37	AR	1,629	37	OH	1,650
42	AR	1,331	38	AR	1,624	38	MO	1,625	38	MO	1,620
44	OK	1,099	44	OK	1,107	44	OK	1,121	44	OK	1,142

Source: Staff analysis of data from United States. Dept. of Educ. Institute for Education Sciences. National Center for Education Statistics. Common Core of Data. Web. July 29, 2013.

In contrast to Kentucky districts, Kentucky schools are smaller than the national average. The student/school ratios in Table 5.2 are calculated by dividing each state's total enrollment assigned to specific schools by the number of operational schools. Kentucky's ratio is 433 students per school, compared to 498 for the US. Kentucky's smaller schools may reflect the state's relatively rural nature, as shown in Table 5.3.

**Table 5.2**  
**Student/School Ratios, 2002, 2009, 2010, And 2011**

2002			2009			2010			2011		
Rank	State	Ratio	Rank	State	2009	Rank	State	2010	Rank	State	2011
1	GA	747	2	GA	670	2	GA	678	1	GA	685
2	FL	731	3	FL	660	3	FL	652	3	FL	640
7	MD	621	6	VA	615	6	SC	600	6	DE	603
9	NC	589	7	SC	593	7	MD	586	7	SC	597
10	SC	588	9	MD	579	8	NC	579	8	MD	588
11	DE	580	10	NC	572	9	DE	575	9	NC	580
13	VA	557	11	TX	557	9	VA	575	11	VA	575
15	TN	545	12	TN	554	12	TX	563	13	TX	565
16	TX	536	16	IN	530	14	TN	549	14	TN	553
<b>N/A</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>505</b>	17	DE	517	17	IN	534	16	IN	538
19	IN	503	<b>N/A</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>498</b>
20	OH	478	21	IL	482	21	IL	476	20	IL	477
21	AL	476	22	OH	471	22	AL	468	21	LA	473
21	IL	476	23	AL	463	23	LA	464	24	OH	466
21	MS	476	25	MS	457	23	OH	464	25	AL	458
24	LA	475	<b>28</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>438</b>	26	MS	454	26	MS	452
<b>31</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>426</b>	30	AR	424	<b>29</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>439</b>	29	AR	434
35	AR	390	31	LA	417	30	AR	429	<b>30</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>433</b>
36	MO	383	36	MO	379	36	MO	378	36	MO	380
40	WV	344	38	WV	371	37	WV	372	37	WV	374
41	OK	341	40	OK	359	39	OK	365	38	OK	370

Source: Staff analysis of data from United States. Dept. of Educ. Institute for Education Sciences. National Center for Education Statistics. Common Core of Data. Web. July 29, 2013.

## Rural Schools

The US Department of Education works with the US Census Bureau to classify school and district locations as rural, town, suburb, or city. The Census Bureau designates a locale as rural if it is outside of a town, suburb, city, or other urbanized area or cluster. The Census Bureau defines an urbanized area or cluster as a densely settled “core” of census-defined blocks with adjacent densely settled surrounding areas.<sup>13</sup> The approach to classification changes somewhat over time, so caution is appropriate when trends are compared over time. However, states are comparable within a given year.

As Table 5.3 shows, a high proportion of Kentucky students are enrolled in rural schools. In 2011, Kentucky ranked ninth, with about 44 percent of students enrolled in rural schools, compared to about 25 percent for the nation. Kentucky’s rural enrollments and state rankings have changed little since 2004.

**Table 5.3**  
**Students Enrolled In Rural Schools, 2004, 2009, 2010, And 2011**

2004			2009			2010			2011		
Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%
3	MS	46.8	3	MS	49.6	3	MS	51.1	3	MS	52.0
4	AL	45.6	4	AL	47.5	4	AL	47.6	4	AL	47.6
5	NC	45.0	5	NC	46.3	5	WV	46.9	5	WV	47.1
7	WV	44.4	7	WV	45.0	6	NC	46.8	6	NC	46.6
<b>9</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>42.6</b>	9	SC	43.6	8	SC	44.7	8	SC	44.4
10	AR	40.6	<b>10</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>43.3</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>43.5</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>43.6</b>
12	SC	39.5	11	AR	42.6	11	AR	42.1	11	AR	42.6
14	TN	35.8	12	TN	38.8	12	TN	39.8	12	TN	39.9
15	OK	34.1	16	OK	35.3	17	GA	36.1	16	GA	36.2
19	GA	31.9	17	GA	35.0	19	OK	35.3	19	OK	35.5
23	IN	30.3	21	MO	32.5	22	MO	33.1	22	MO	32.7
24	MO	30.0	23	LA	31.6	23	IN	32.0	23	IN	32.0
25	LA	28.7	24	IN	31.3	24	LA	31.4	24	LA	31.5
26	VA	27.9	26	VA	30.6	25	VA	31.1	25	VA	30.8
30	OH	24.4	29	OH	26.4	30	OH	26.6	30	OH	26.6
<b>N/A</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>21.3</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>24.0</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>24.5</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>24.7</b>
34	TX	17.5	32	DE	23.4	31	DE	24.5	32	TX	24.5
38	MD	17.0	34	TX	23.2	34	TX	23.8	33	DE	24.4
40	DE	15.9	37	FL	18.8	38	FL	19.5	38	FL	19.4
43	FL	13.5	39	MD	18.1	39	MD	18.0	41	MD	17.8
46	IL	11.7	43	IL	14.3	43	IL	14.4	43	IL	14.6

Sources: Staff analysis of data from United States. Dept. of Educ. Institute for Education Sciences. National Center for Education Statistics. *Numbers and Types of Public Elementary and Secondary Schools from the Common Core of Data*. For school years 2004, 2009, 2010, and 2011; and *Status of Education in Rural America*. July 25, 2013.

### Student/Teacher Ratios

Student/teacher ratios in Table 5.4 were derived by dividing student membership by the number of full-time equivalent teachers. Student membership is the annual count 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. A teacher is defined as a professional school staff member who instructs students in prekindergarten, kindergarten, grades 1–12, or ungraded classes and maintains daily student attendance records.<sup>14</sup>

States with smaller student/teacher ratios—fewer students per teacher—may offer students more opportunities to receive personal attention. As Table 5.4 shows, Kentucky’s student/teacher ratio decreased from 2002 to 2009, mirroring national trends, but has increased since then to a rate similar to that of 2002. Kentucky was ranked 15<sup>th</sup> in 2011, with 16 students per teacher, which was equal to the US ratio.<sup>b</sup>

**Table 5.4**  
**Student/Teacher Ratios, 2002, 2009, 2010, And 2011**

2002			2009			2010			2011		
Rank	State	Ratio	Rank	State	Ratio	Rank	State	Ratio	Rank	State	Ratio
6	FL	18.6	9	VA	17.3	9	VA	17.6	7	IN	18.0
12	IN	16.7	11	IN	16.7	11	IN	16.8	9	VA	17.6
N/A	US	<b>16.2</b>	13	OH	16.1	14	AL	15.8	13	OH	16.1
<b>14</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>16.2</b>	N/A	US	<b>15.7</b>	14	OH	15.8	13	SC	16.1
15	IL	16.0	16	AL	15.6	N/A	US	<b>15.8</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>16.0</b>
15	MD	16.0	16	IL	15.6	17	SC	15.4	15	OK	16.0
18	GA	15.9	<b>18</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>15.4</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>15.3</b>	N/A	US	<b>16.0</b>
19	AL	15.8	19	DE	15.1	18	OK	15.3	19	IL	15.7
19	MS	15.8	20	TN	15.0	20	IL	15.2	20	AL	15.3
19	TN	15.8	21	MS	14.7	22	MS	14.9	21	MS	15.2
22	NC	15.4	24	TX	14.5	22	TN	14.9	21	NC	15.2
24	DE	15.3	25	SC	14.4	25	DE	14.7	23	FL	15.1
25	OH	15.0	26	MD	14.3	26	MD	14.6	26	GA	14.9
26	OK	14.9	27	FL	14.1	26	TX	14.6	27	TN	14.8
27	TX	14.7	28	WV	14.0	28	GA	14.4	28	TX	14.7
29	LA	14.6	29	GA	13.9	29	FL	14.3	29	MD	14.6
31	SC	14.5	29	LA	13.9	30	NC	14.1	30	DE	14.5
36	WV	14.0	29	OK	13.9	31	LA	13.9	31	LA	14.3
37	MO	13.9	36	MO	13.6	31	WV	13.9	33	AR	14.1
43	AR	13.6	36	NC	13.6	37	MO	13.5	35	WV	13.9
48	VA	13.0	41	AR	12.9	42	AR	12.9	37	MO	13.8

Source: Staff analysis of data from United States. Dept. of Educ. Institute for Education Sciences. National Center for Education Statistics. Common Core of Data. Web. June 4, 2013.

<sup>b</sup> The student/teacher ratio is not equivalent to average classroom size because of variations in teacher assignments by grade level, subject, and other factors. For example, in Kentucky, special education teachers often coteach in the same classroom as a regular teacher.



## Student/Staff Ratios

Table 5.5 presents information about other school and district staff. To allow comparisons across states, this information is presented as ratios that are calculated by dividing total student enrollment by the number of staff. Like Kentucky's student/teacher ratio, student/staff ratios indicate more staff per student than ratios in other states.

**Definitions.** The staff categories in Table 5.5 are defined below.

- School administrators direct and manage the operation of a particular school. These include principals, assistant principals, department chairs, and others who supervise school operations, assign duties to staff, maintain school records, and coordinate school instructional activities.
- District administrators include superintendents, deputy and assistant superintendents, and others with districtwide responsibilities, such as business managers and administrative assistants.
- Instructional aides are paid to assist teachers with routine activities such as monitoring, conducting rote exercises, operating equipment, and clerking.
- The All Staff column includes staff in the above categories and other staff not listed above, including teachers, librarians, guidance counselors, and support staff.

As Table 5.5 shows, Kentucky continued to have more staff than the national average. In 2011, there were 6.8 students for every staff member in Kentucky, compared to 8.0 for the US.

A breakout by staff type shows that Kentucky ranks 42<sup>nd</sup> with respect to the number of instructional aides; this reflects, in part, Kentucky's higher disability rates and preschool enrollment rates, as well as instructional aide requirements for kindergarten.

Kentucky also has more school administrators than the national average, as indicated by a student/school administrator ratio of 214 students per school administrator compared to the national ratio of 300 students per school administrator. This might reflect the state's many small rural schools, as well as the inclusion of coordinators of Family Resource and Youth Services Centers, which do not exist in other states.

As for district administrators, Kentucky's ratio in 2011 was close to the US ratio, and Kentucky ranked 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Table 5.5**  
**Student/Staff Ratios, 2002, 2009, 2010, And 2011**

All Staff											
2002			2009			2010			2011		
Rank	State	Ratio	Rank	State	Ratio	Rank	State	Ratio	Rank	State	Ratio
1	IL	13.4	2	IL	13.0	3	IL	12.9	4	SC	11.1
3	SC	12.3	4	SC	10.7	5	SC	10.7	8	IL	9.7
12	FL	8.8	11	DE	8.5	11	AL	8.7	14	OK	8.0
13	MD	8.7	<b>N/A</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>8.0</b>
16	AL	8.3	19	OK	7.8	16	FL	7.9	15	AL	7.9
17	DE	8.2	21	FL	7.7	19	OK	7.7	15	DE	7.9
<b>N/A</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>8.2</b>	21	TN	7.7	21	NC	7.6	15	FL	7.9
18	OK	8.1	25	AL	7.6	21	TN	7.6	19	NC	7.7
22	TN	8.0	26	IN	7.4	23	DE	7.5	19	TN	7.7
24	NC	7.9	26	NC	7.4	25	MD	7.4	23	IN	7.5
26	GA	7.7	26	OH	7.4	26	IN	7.3	24	GA	7.4
26	IN	7.7	29	TX	7.3	26	TX	7.3	24	MD	7.4
29	MS	7.6	29	WV	7.3	26	WV	7.3	24	TX	7.4
29	OH	7.6	31	MD	7.2	29	OH	7.2	28	OH	7.3
31	WV	7.5	33	GA	6.9	30	GA	7.1	31	MO	7.2
32	MO	7.3	33	MO	6.9	31	MO	7.0	31	MS	7.2
33	LA	7.2	37	LA	6.8	31	MS	7.0	31	WV	7.2
33	VA	7.2	37	MS	6.8	37	LA	6.7	36	LA	6.9
37	TX	7.1	39	AR	6.7	40	AR	6.5	<b>38</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>6.8</b>
<b>42</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>6.3</b>	39	AR	6.7
45	AR	6.8	44	VA	6.1	44	VA	6.1	45	VA	6.2

  

Instructional Aides											
2002			2009			2010			2011		
Rank	State	Ratio	Rank	State	Ratio	Rank	State	Ratio	Rank	State	Ratio
2	AL	118.8	2	OH	95.4	3	FL	93.0	1	AL	115.3
3	OH	111.2	4	FL	91.9	5	OH	90.1	6	OH	90.7
6	OK	94.4	6	SC	84.3	7	SC	83.1	7	FL	88.0
8	MD	91.9	7	DE	80.9	8	WV	78.1	8	SC	85.6
9	WV	91.7	8	WV	80.5	9	OK	76.4	10	DE	82.0
11	DE	86.8	10	OK	80.3	10	TX	74.5	11	OK	78.9
13	MO	79.6	12	TX	75.7	11	MD	74.4	12	TX	77.9
14	FL	79.0	13	MD	75.0	<b>N/A</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>71.0</b>	12	WV	77.9
15	VA	76.0	<b>N/A</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>71.0</b>	18	MO	69.7	14	MD	75.0
<b>N/A</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>75.4</b>	17	MO	70.6	20	DE	62.9	20	IL	69.2
18	AR	72.9	22	TN	61.6	21	VA	62.8	21	MO	69.0
20	TX	71.4	23	AR	61.5	22	GA	61.6	<b>N/A</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>67.9</b>
21	TN	70.9	25	VA	61.2	24	TN	60.2	23	GA	65.1
27	LA	65.9	26	LA	60.2	25	AR	60.1	25	VA	64.5
30	GA	65.0	28	GA	59.2	28	LA	58.5	26	LA	60.8
37	MS	57.6	30	MS	54.8	29	NC	55.4	26	TN	60.8
40	IN	54.4	36	NC	51.3	30	MS	55.1	28	MS	59.9
45	NC	47.5	<b>40</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>47.6</b>	42	IN	43.5	29	AR	59.8
<b>46</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>45.8</b>	42	IN	45.3	<b>45</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>40.7</b>	33	NC	57.0
<b>N/A</b>	<b>IL</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>AL</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>AL</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>47.0</b>
<b>N/A</b>	<b>SC</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>IL</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>IL</b>	<b>—</b>	45	IN	44.4

Continued on next page.

**Table 5.5 (cont.)**  
**School Administrators**

2002			2009			2010			2011		
Rank	State	Ratio	Rank	State	Ratio	Rank	State	Ratio	Rank	State	Ratio
6	FL	384.5	9	OH	354.9	10	OH	348.9	9	IN	360.7
15	OH	341.3	13	FL	336.5	13	FL	334.9	12	OH	347.2
16	IN	338.1	15	IN	327.0	14	IN	328.4	14	FL	332.2
18	IL	328.0	16	DE	315.9	17	DE	306.1	18	DE	313.3
20	DE	321.9	18	MO	308.6	18	MO	297.4	19	OK	307.4
23	GA	309.2	N/A	US	<b>298.3</b>	20	OK	293.9	N/A	US	<b>300.6</b>
24	OK	304.5	21	NC	297.0	22	TN	292.8	23	TN	293.9
26	MO	300.4	23	OK	292.1	N/A	US	<b>290.8</b>	25	MO	293.0
28	VA	297.5	24	TN	291.4	24	NC	289.2	26	NC	292.2
N/A	US	<b>295.4</b>	27	SC	284.8	26	IL	282.5	28	AL	289.9
30	MS	289.3	28	IL	283.6	27	SC	281.8	30	SC	284.2
32	MD	284.7	30	AR	281.2	29	AL	279.3	31	IL	284.1
33	LA	283.0	31	AL	275.1	31	AR	271.8	32	AR	272.8
34	NC	281.2	32	VA	263.1	32	VA	267.0	33	GA	272.4
40	WV	266.2	34	WV	256.2	37	GA	255.2	34	VA	271.7
<b>41</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>265.8</b>	36	GA	253.0	38	WV	252.2	39	MS	256.6
42	AR	259.4	39	MS	250.2	40	MS	248.9	40	WV	256.0
47	SC	220.9	41	LA	240.1	42	LA	240.9	42	LA	241.8
48	AL	219.9	43	MD	231.7	44	TX	223.7	43	MD	234.5
49	TN	186.3	44	TX	227.0	45	MD	221.8	44	TX	220.7
51	TX	144.7	<b>46</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>219.8</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>187.3</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>213.9</b>

**District Administrators**

2002			2009			2010			2011		
Rank	State	Ratio	Rank	State	Ratio	Rank	State	Ratio	Rank	State	Ratio
2	SC	2,482.2	2	TN	5,858.6	2	TN	5,876.4	2	TN	5,691.2
6	LA	1,838.0	6	LA	1,959.0	5	LA	1,796.5	5	LA	1,831.2
9	FL	1,471.7	9	FL	1,285.9	9	FL	1,385.9	9	FL	1,376.5
14	IN	1,012.3	11	SC	1,118.0	10	OK	1,094.4	11	OK	1,113.6
16	MD	957.3	12	OK	1,059.5	11	SC	1,036.3	12	SC	1,031.8
19	OK	859.9	15	IN	914.5	15	IN	924.6	15	IN	955.5
20	GA	833.5	16	IL	896.9	20	NC	880.3	16	NC	952.3
20	WV	833.5	17	NC	889.9	21	OH	848.6	17	AL	940.9
23	NC	822.6	20	OH	861.7	22	AL	833.5	20	OH	831.4
24	TN	803.7	22	AL	845.9	24	IL	795.0	22	VA	814.2
N/A	US	<b>749.0</b>	N/A	US	<b>792.1</b>	25	VA	774.4	N/A	US	<b>775.2</b>
29	MO	700.1	26	TX	782.3	N/A	US	<b>742.8</b>	24	TX	752.1
31	AR	668.4	<b>27</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>719.5</b>	26	TX	724.2	25	IL	739.6
32	AL	584.9	28	VA	712.4	27	GA	708.6	<b>26</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>730.4</b>
<b>33</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>539.0</b>	29	GA	704.0	30	AR	682.6	27	GA	729.2
34	IL	522.7	30	MO	693.7	32	MO	654.3	28	AR	721.7
35	TX	522.2	32	AR	671.8	<b>33</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>601.7</b>	32	MO	658.6
36	MS	509.0	37	MS	488.4	37	MS	487.2	34	MS	496.0
41	DE	440.4	42	WV	380.2	42	WV	386.6	42	WV	367.1
44	VA	422.7	43	DE	372.4	43	DE	354.7	43	DE	353.2
50	OH	278.7	48	MD	248.3	48	MD	250.5	48	MD	256.1

Source: Staff analysis of data from United States, Dept. of Educ. Institute for Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics. *Common Core of Data*. Web. July 31, 2013.



## Chapter 6

### Fiscal Matters

The US Department of Education, in collaboration with the Census Bureau, collects financial data on education revenues and expenditures from state education agencies. Despite federal and state improvement efforts, the coding of some data is inconsistent among states, and sometimes even within states. For example, Kentucky does not follow federal guidelines stipulating the inclusion of school activity funds in revenues and expenditures reported to the federal government. Consequently, Kentucky's revenues and expenditures are understated to some extent.<sup>15</sup> In 2010, activity funds amounted to more than \$184 million in unreported revenue. Additionally, Kentucky does not include School Facilities Construction Commission (SFCC) payments for all districts, causing state revenues to be understated by about \$102 million in 2010.<sup>16</sup> The Kentucky Department of Education hopes to correct the omission of SFCC funds by the time data are reported for the 2013 fiscal year.<sup>17</sup>

Because costs vary from state to state, a dollar spent in one state does not buy the equivalent of a dollar spent in another state. States with high costs of living usually offer the highest salaries. To improve comparability, staff adjusted fiscal measures using the Comparable Wage Index produced by the National Center for Education Statistics. However, while this index is widely held to be the most appropriate method for adjusting education finance data, no method can achieve perfect comparability.

### Revenues

Education revenues are funds received by a state's 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.

As Table 6.1 shows, Kentucky's revenues per pupil continued to be below the national average, even after adjusting for geographic cost differences. However, as will be discussed in the next section, Kentucky's revenues and expenditures are understated because several types of funds are omitted in reports to the US Department of Education.

With respect to per-pupil revenues adjusted for geographic cost differences, Kentucky ranked 35<sup>th</sup> in both 2009 and 2010, up from 41<sup>st</sup> in 2002.

**Table 6.1**  
**Revenues Per Pupil In Nominal Dollars, 2002, 2009, And 2010**  
**Not Adjusted For Geographic Cost Differences**

2002			2009			2010		
Rank	State	\$	Rank	State	\$	Rank	State	\$
13	DE	9,841	9	MD	15,521	9	MD	15,738
15	MD	9,768	13	DE	13,993	14	DE	14,070
17	OH	9,636	17	IL	12,522	16	IL	13,434
19	IL	9,008	19	OH	12,292	19	IN	13,034
20	IN	8,972	22	VA	12,109	20	OH	12,883
21	GA	8,820	N/A	US	<b>12,032</b>	23	WV	12,142
N/A	US	<b>8,801</b>	23	IN	12,015	N/A	US	<b>12,111</b>
23	WV	8,736	24	LA	11,827	24	LA	11,891
28	VA	8,356	27	WV	11,606	25	VA	11,798
29	SC	8,315	33	MO	10,941	32	MO	11,065
31	MO	8,263	34	GA	10,881	33	SC	10,838
35	TX	7,754	35	SC	10,727	34	AR	10,738
39	LA	7,254	39	AR	10,072	35	GA	10,695
42	FL	7,178	40	FL	10,005	39	TX	10,318
43	AR	7,112	41	KY	<b>9,912</b>	41	KY	<b>10,106</b>
44	KY	<b>7,106</b>	42	TX	9,882	43	FL	9,891
45	NC	7,081	44	AL	9,708	44	AL	9,667
46	AL	6,956	46	NC	8,950	46	MS	9,023
48	OK	6,643	47	OK	8,882	47	NC	8,802
49	TN	6,394	48	MS	8,864	48	TN	8,769
50	MS	6,142	49	TN	8,523	49	OK	8,705

**Adjusted For Geographic Cost Differences**

2002			2009			2010		
Rank	State	\$	Rank	State	\$	Rank	State	\$
16	IN	10,049	18	MD	14,353	17	IN	14,674
18	OH	9,992	19	DE	13,758	18	MD	14,554
19	DE	9,888	20	WV	13,708	19	WV	14,341
29	MD	9,229	21	LA	13,640	20	DE	13,834
30	MO	9,188	22	IN	13,528	22	LA	13,714
31	WV	9,185	28	OH	12,834	26	OH	13,451
32	SC	9,157	29	AR	12,236	28	AR	13,046
33	VA	9,045	30	IL	12,131	29	IL	13,014
34	GA	8,866	31	MO	12,096	31	MO	12,232
35	IL	8,819	N/A	US	<b>12,032</b>	N/A	US	<b>12,111</b>
N/A	US	<b>8,801</b>	33	SC	11,900	33	SC	12,023
36	AR	8,564	35	KY	<b>11,220</b>	35	KY	<b>11,441</b>
37	LA	8,266	36	VA	11,186	37	AL	11,033
41	KY	<b>7,922</b>	37	GA	11,082	39	VA	10,899
42	FL	7,877	38	AL	11,080	40	GA	10,892
43	AL	7,862	40	FL	10,805	41	MS	10,863
44	OK	7,811	41	MS	10,671	42	FL	10,682
45	TX	7,717	43	OK	10,563	43	TX	10,429
47	NC	7,389	47	TX	9,988	44	OK	10,352
49	MS	7,308	49	NC	9,481	48	TN	9,540
50	TN	6,881	50	TN	9,272	50	NC	9,325

Notes: Staff adjusted revenues using the National Center for Education Statistics Comparable Wage Index. Per-pupil revenues are calculated using fall membership.

Sources: Staff analysis of data from United States. Dept. of Educ. Institute for Education Sciences. National Center for Education Statistics. *Common Core of Data* and NCES Comparable Wage Index Data Files. Web. June 4, 2013.

Table 6.2 ranks states by the percentages of revenues from local, state, and federal sources. When reporting revenues, states are instructed to include tax revenues, investment earnings, and student fees for textbooks, transportation, and tuition.

State revenue sources should include funds for school construction, equalization, state payments made on behalf of districts, debt service, and transportation. Most state revenues in Kentucky are distributed through SEEK. Federal revenue sources include 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.

Percentages for Kentucky are imprecise because, as mentioned earlier, Kentucky omits school activity funds from local revenues and SFCC funds from state revenues.

In 2010, less than one-third of funds came from local sources in Kentucky, compared to the national percentage of about 44 percent; Kentucky ranked 40<sup>th</sup>. Kentucky's share of revenues from local sources has changed little since 2002. Although Kentucky's percentage of revenues from federal sources changed little between 2002 and 2009, being about 11 percent in both of those years, it increased to almost 17 percent of total revenues in 2010, causing Kentucky's rank to rise from 21<sup>st</sup> in 2009 to 9<sup>th</sup> in 2010. While state funding amounts have changed little, the increase in federal revenues caused the proportion of state revenues to decline, from about 60 percent in 2002 to about 52 percent in 2010, when Kentucky ranked 15<sup>th</sup>. Much federal funding is tied to poverty indicators, which are high for Kentucky.

**Table 6.2**  
**Percentages Of Revenues By Source, 2002, 2009, And 2010**

Local Sources								
2002			2009			2010		
Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%
3	IL	58.4	2	IL	60.5	2	IL	59.2
5	MD	56.4	5	MO	57.6	5	MO	55.8
6	MO	56.2	8	FL	55.4	11	FL	52.3
9	VA	52.8	12	VA	51.8	11	VA	52.3
14	TX	49.8	14	MD	51.2	14	MD	50.7
16	OH	48.5	16	IN	49.1	18	GA	47.2
19	TN	46.9	20	GA	47.4	21	OH	45.1
22	FL	44.6	21	TX	46.8	22	TX	45.0
23	GA	43.7	23	OH	46.3	<b>N/A</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>43.8</b>
25	IN	43.1	<b>N/A</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>43.8</b>	25	SC	42.3
<b>N/A</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>42.9</b>	26	TN	42.7	26	IN	41.7
29	SC	39.9	27	SC	42.3	27	TN	41.4
31	LA	38.3	31	LA	38.2	30	LA	37.9
33	AR	33.7	35	OK	33.4	34	OK	35.0
37	OK	31.5	36	AR	32.8	37	AR	32.1
39	AL	30.9	38	AL	31.7	39	AL	31.4
39	MS	30.9	<b>38</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>31.7</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>31.3</b>
<b>42</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>29.8</b>	40	MS	31.0	41	MS	31.2
44	WV	28.5	41	WV	29.8	43	DE	29.1
46	DE	27.1	43	DE	29.5	44	WV	29.0
46	NC	27.1	46	NC	26.4	46	NC	26.5

  

State Sources								
2002			2009			2010		
Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%
5	NC	64.5	7	NC	63.1	7	DE	58.6
6	DE	64.3	8	DE	62.4	8	NC	58.2
10	WV	60.9	10	WV	59.1	10	WV	55.4
<b>11</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>59.6</b>	12	AL	57.5	14	AL	52.5
14	AL	58.7	<b>14</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>57.3</b>	15	AR	52.1
16	OK	56.7	17	AR	55.6	<b>15</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>52.1</b>
19	AR	55.5	18	MS	53.5	19	OK	47.8
20	MS	54.1	19	OK	53.1	20	MS	47.5
23	SC	51.0	23	SC	47.8	22	IN	47.2
24	IN	50.8	<b>N/A</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>46.7</b>	24	TN	45.1
25	GA	49.2	25	LA	46.2	26	OH	44.1
25	LA	49.2	26	OH	46.1	28	SC	43.8
<b>N/A</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>49.2</b>	28	TN	46.0	<b>N/A</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>43.5</b>
32	OH	45.6	33	MD	43.5	30	LA	43.0
33	FL	45.3	34	GA	43.2	32	MD	41.5
35	TN	43.7	35	TX	42.5	36	TX	39.4
41	VA	40.9	36	VA	42.1	38	GA	37.9
42	TX	40.8	39	IN	39.5	39	VA	37.3
45	MD	37.2	46	FL	34.4	47	FL	31.5
47	MO	36.3	47	MO	34.1	49	MO	29.3
49	IL	33.9	50	IL	27.6	50	IL	28.4

Continued on next page.



**Table 6.2 (cont.)**

			Federal Sources					
2002			2009			2010		
Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%
2	MS	15.0	2	LA	15.6	2	MS	21.3
8	LA	12.5	3	MS	15.5	6	LA	19.1
9	OK	11.9	7	OK	13.5	8	OK	17.2
10	AR	10.7	12	IL	11.9	<b>9</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>16.6</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>10.5</b>	16	AR	11.5	10	AL	16.1
11	WV	10.5	18	IN	11.4	10	FL	16.1
13	AL	10.4	19	TN	11.3	13	AR	15.9
14	FL	10.0	20	WV	11.2	15	TX	15.6
16	TN	9.5	<b>21</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>11.0</b>	15	WV	15.6
17	TX	9.3	23	AL	10.7	17	NC	15.3
19	SC	9.1	23	TX	10.7	18	MO	14.9
22	DE	8.6	25	NC	10.6	20	GA	14.8
24	NC	8.5	27	FL	10.2	21	SC	13.9
<b>N/A</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>7.9</b>	29	SC	9.9	23	TN	13.6
31	IL	7.7	<b>N/A</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>12.7</b>
32	MO	7.6	33	GA	9.4	31	IL	12.4
34	GA	7.2	35	MO	8.3	32	DE	12.2
37	MD	6.4	36	DE	8.1	37	IN	11.1
39	VA	6.3	40	OH	7.5	39	OH	10.8
42	IN	6.1	45	VA	6.1	42	VA	10.4
45	OH	5.9	49	MD	5.3	49	MD	7.8

Source: United States. Dept. of Educ. Institute for Education Sciences. National Center for Education Statistics. *Common Core of Data*. Web. June 4, 2013.

### Current Expenditures

*Current expenditures* refers to those 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; it also includes payments made by the state government on behalf of school systems. 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, and community services. Expenditures for items lasting more than 1 year, such as school buses and computers, are also excluded from current expenditures.<sup>18</sup>

Table 6.3 ranks states by per-pupil current expenditures, both unadjusted and adjusted for geographic cost differences. Adjusted per-pupil expenditures in 2010 totaled \$10,139 in Kentucky, compared to \$10,652 for the US; Kentucky was ranked 35<sup>th</sup>, which is an increase in rank from 2002.

Table 6.4 ranks states by expenditures on instruction as a percentage of all current expenditures. Instruction expenditures include salaries, benefits, supplies, materials, and contractual services. Instruction covers regular, special, and vocational programs offered in both the regular school year and summer school. In Kentucky in 2010, instruction accounted for about 59 percent of expenditures, compared to about 61 percent for the US, and Kentucky ranked 34<sup>th</sup>.

**Table 6.3**  
**Current Expenditures Per Pupil, Nominal Dollars, 2002, 2009, And 2010**

**Not Adjusted For Geographic Cost Differences**

2002			2009			2010		
Rank	State	\$	Rank	State	\$	Rank	State	\$
9	DE	9,284	10	MD	13,737	10	MD	14,007
11	MD	8,692	15	DE	12,109	14	DE	12,222
16	OH	8,069	17	IL	11,097	15	IL	11,739
17	IL	7,956	19	VA	10,928	16	WV	11,730
19	WV	7,844	21	OH	10,669	20	OH	11,224
22	IN	7,734	22	LA	10,625	21	LA	10,701
N/A	US	<b>7,728</b>	23	WV	10,606	N/A	US	<b>10,652</b>
24	VA	7,496	N/A	US	<b>10,540</b>	23	VA	10,594
26	GA	7,380	29	GA	9,649	29	MO	9,721
30	MO	7,136	31	MO	9,617	32	IN	9,479
33	SC	7,017	35	IN	9,254	33	GA	9,432
36	TX	6,771	36	SC	9,228	35	AR	9,281
38	LA	6,567	37	AL	8,964	37	SC	9,080
39	KY	<b>6,523</b>	38	FL	8,867	39	KY	<b>8,957</b>
40	NC	6,495	39	AR	8,854	41	AL	8,907
42	AR	6,276	40	KY	<b>8,786</b>	42	FL	8,863
43	OK	6,229	42	TX	8,562	43	TX	8,788
44	FL	6,213	44	NC	8,463	45	NC	8,225
46	AL	6,029	46	MS	8,064	46	TN	8,117
48	TN	5,948	48	TN	7,992	47	MS	8,104
50	MS	5,354	49	OK	7,878	49	OK	7,929

**Adjusted For Geographic Cost Differences**

2002			2009			2010		
Rank	State	\$	Rank	State	\$	Rank	State	\$
12	DE	9,328	16	MD	12,703	12	WV	13,854
17	IN	8,663	17	WV	12,526	17	MD	12,953
22	OH	8,367	18	LA	12,254	19	LA	12,341
26	WV	8,247	21	DE	11,906	21	DE	12,017
27	MD	8,212	26	OH	11,139	24	OH	11,719
28	VA	8,114	28	AR	10,756	26	IL	11,372
30	MO	7,935	29	IL	10,750	27	AR	11,275
32	IL	7,789	30	MO	10,632	30	MO	10,747
33	SC	7,728	N/A	US	<b>10,540</b>	32	IN	10,672
N/A	US	<b>7,728</b>	33	IN	10,419	N/A	US	<b>10,652</b>
35	AR	7,558	34	SC	10,237	33	AL	10,166
36	LA	7,483	35	AL	10,231	35	KY	<b>10,139</b>
37	GA	7,419	36	VA	10,095	36	SC	10,073
38	OK	7,324	37	KY	<b>9,946</b>	37	VA	9,786
40	KY	<b>7,272</b>	38	GA	9,827	38	MS	9,756
42	FL	6,818	39	MS	9,708	39	GA	9,606
43	AL	6,814	40	FL	9,576	40	FL	9,572
44	NC	6,778	41	OK	9,369	41	OK	9,430
45	TX	6,739	44	NC	8,966	44	TX	8,882
48	TN	6,401	47	TN	8,695	45	TN	8,831
49	MS	6,371	49	TX	8,654	47	NC	8,713

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

Sources: Staff analysis of data from United States. Dept. of Educ. Institute for Education Sciences. National Center for Education Statistics. *Common Core of Data* and NCES Comparable Wage Index Data Files. Web. June 4, 2013.

**Table 6.4**  
**Instruction Expenditures As A Percentage Of Current Expenditures, 2002, 2009, And 2010**

2002			2009			2010		
Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%	Rank	State	%
4	TN	65.2	7	NC	63.5	8	TN	63.0
9	GA	63.9	8	TN	62.8	9	NC	62.6
12	NC	63.4	9	GA	62.7	10	GA	62.5
16	MD	62.2	13	MD	61.7	13	MD	62.2
20	WV	61.7	16	DE	60.9	15	DE	61.5
21	AR	61.6	N/A	US	<b>60.9</b>	N/A	US	<b>61.3</b>
21	DE	61.6	18	VA	60.7	19	VA	61.0
21	VA	61.6	19	FL	60.5	21	WV	60.6
N/A	US	<b>61.5</b>	24	MO	60.1	24	FL	60.4
<b>24</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>61.4</b>	26	TX	60.0	24	TX	60.4
26	AL	61.2	29	WV	59.6	26	MO	60.3
27	LA	61.1	<b>32</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>59.2</b>	30	IL	59.9
29	IN	60.9	33	IL	58.8	<b>34</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>59.3</b>
29	MO	60.9	35	MS	58.7	36	IN	58.8
33	TX	60.4	36	IN	58.4	36	MS	58.8
34	MS	60.2	38	AL	58.3	38	AL	58.5
34	SC	60.2	40	AR	58.1	38	LA	58.5
39	IL	59.5	41	LA	58.0	42	AR	57.7
42	FL	59.0	44	SC	57.7	43	OK	57.6
46	OH	58.0	47	OK	57.2	43	SC	57.6
47	OK	57.8	48	OH	57.0	48	OH	57.2

Source: Staff analysis of data from United States. Dept. of Educ. Institute for Education Sciences. National Center for Education Statistics. *Common Core of Data*. Web. June 4, 2013.

### Classroom Teacher Salaries

Table 6.5 ranks states by average annual classroom teacher salary. A salary is the total amount regularly paid before deductions; it excludes extra-duty pay. Teacher salary information is not collected by the federal government, but it is collected by the National Education Association.

Historically, Kentucky's average classroom teacher salary was well below the national average until 2008, when a legislative mandate increased teacher salaries by \$3,000. In 2011, Kentucky's adjusted average teacher salary was \$55,365, just under the national average of \$55,623; Kentucky ranked 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Table 6.5**  
**Average Classroom Teacher Salary, 2002, 2009, 2010, and 2011**  
**Not Adjusted For Geographic Cost Differences**

2002			2009			2010			2011		
Rank	State	\$	Rank	State	\$	Rank	State	\$	Rank	State	\$
9	IL	49,435	6	MD	62,849	7	MD	63,971	7	IL	64,509
11	DE	48,363	8	IL	61,344	8	IL	62,077	8	MD	63,960
12	MD	48,251	13	DE	56,667	13	DE	57,080	13	DE	57,934
<b>N/A</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>44,683</b>	15	OH	54,656	14	OH	55,958	14	OH	56,715
15	IN	44,195	<b>N/A</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>54,319</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>55,202</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>55,623</b>
16	GA	44,073	18	GA	52,879	18	GA	53,112	22	GA	52,815
17	OH	44,029	24	IN	49,569	24	VA	50,015	24	IN	50,801
19	NC	42,680	25	NC	48,648	25	IN	49,986	28	LA	49,006
23	VA	41,731	27	LA	48,627	<b>27</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>49,543</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>48,908</b>
27	SC	39,923	29	VA	48,365	30	LA	48,903	30	VA	48,761
30	FL	39,275	<b>31</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>47,875</b>	31	TX	48,261	31	TX	48,638
32	TX	39,232	32	AR	47,472	32	OK	47,691	32	AL	47,803
33	TN	38,515	33	SC	47,421	33	AL	47,571	38	SC	47,050
35	MO	37,996	34	TX	47,157	34	SC	47,508	41	NC	46,605
<b>36</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>37,951</b>	35	FL	46,921	36	NC	46,850	43	AR	46,500
40	AL	37,194	36	AL	46,879	37	FL	46,708	44	TN	45,891
42	AR	36,962	40	TN	45,549	38	AR	46,700	45	FL	45,732
43	WV	36,751	44	WV	44,701	40	TN	46,290	46	MO	45,321
45	LA	36,328	45	MS	44,498	45	WV	45,959	48	OK	44,343
47	OK	34,744	47	MO	44,249	48	MS	45,644	49	WV	44,260
49	MS	33,295	48	OK	43,846	49	MO	45,317	50	MS	41,975

**Adjusted For Geographic Cost Differences**

2002			2009			2010			2011		
Rank	State	\$	Rank	State	\$	Rank	State	\$	Rank	State	\$
6	IN	49,502	8	IL	59,427	9	IL	60,137	9	IL	62,493
9	DE	48,594	12	MD	58,121	12	MD	59,158	15	OH	59,215
10	IL	48,396	15	AR	57,672	15	OH	58,425	16	MD	59,148
19	OH	45,654	17	OH	57,065	20	AR	56,734	20	IN	57,195
20	MD	45,586	20	LA	56,080	21	OK	56,718	22	DE	56,961
<b>N/A</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>44,683</b>	22	IN	55,808	22	LA	56,399	24	LA	56,518
22	NC	44,539	23	DE	55,716	23	IN	56,278	26	AR	56,491
24	AR	44,509	<b>N/A</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>54,319</b>	24	DE	56,122	<b>N/A</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>55,623</b>
26	GA	44,303	<b>25</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>54,195</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>56,083</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>55,365</b>
28	SC	43,967	27	GA	53,854	<b>N/A</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>55,202</b>	32	AL	54,558
32	WV	43,241	31	MS	53,570	29	MS	54,950	34	GA	53,789
34	FL	43,101	32	AL	53,503	31	AL	54,293	37	OK	52,736
<b>36</b>	<b>KY</b>	<b>42,311</b>	34	WV	52,795	32	WV	54,280	39	WV	52,274
37	MO	42,252	35	SC	52,608	34	GA	54,091	40	SC	52,196
39	AL	42,040	37	OK	52,145	38	SC	52,704	45	MS	50,533
41	TN	41,448	39	NC	51,537	45	FL	50,445	46	MO	50,102
42	LA	41,397	41	FL	50,675	46	TN	50,359	47	TN	49,925
43	OK	40,854	46	TN	49,553	47	MO	50,098	48	FL	49,391
49	VA	40,112	47	MO	48,917	49	NC	49,632	49	NC	49,373
50	MS	39,618	48	TX	47,662	50	TX	48,778	50	TX	49,159
51	TX	39,046	51	VA	44,677	51	VA	46,201	51	VA	45,043

Note: Staff adjusted salaries using the National Center for Education Statistics Comparable Wage Index. National Education Association data used with permission of the National Education Association © 2013. All rights reserved.

Sources: Staff analysis of data from United States. Dept. of Educ. Institute for Education Sciences. National Center for Education Statistics. NCES Comparable Wage Index Data Files; National Education Association. Rankings of the States and Estimates of School Statistics. Washington. For fiscal years 2002, 2009, 2010, and 2011. Web. Feb. 6, 2013.

## Endnotes

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