

# Kentucky High Schools

## GRADUATION RATE ESTIMATES DIFFER DEPENDING ON THE SOURCE

	State-Reported <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Department of Education-Reported <sup>2</sup>	Independent Estimate <sup>3</sup>
Kentucky Graduation Rates	81.5%	73%	70%

According to independent estimates, Kentucky ranks 33rd in the nation in graduation rates.<sup>4</sup>

## THE HIGH SCHOOL CRISIS IS CONCENTRATED IN THE NATION'S "DROPOUT FACTORIES"

"Dropout factories" are schools where 60% or fewer of the students progress to twelfth grade in four years.

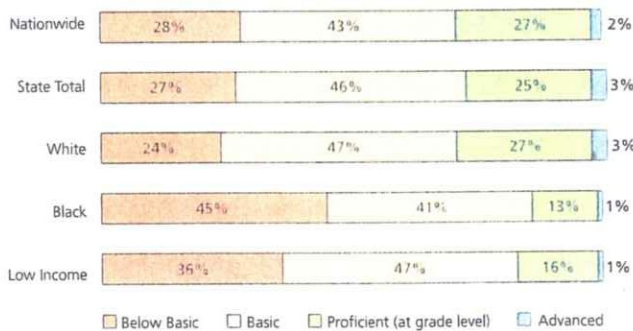
	Number of Federally Reported Regular High Schools <sup>5</sup>	Number of Dropout Factories <sup>6</sup>
Kentucky	221	28
Nation	15,409	1,642

## THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP REMAINS A CHALLENGE

### Graduation Rates by Race<sup>7</sup>

	Kentucky	Nation
All Students	70%	70%
White	70%	76%
Black	59%	53%
Hispanic	67%	58%
Asian	85%	80%

### National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Reading Scores for Kentucky Eighth Graders<sup>8</sup>



48% of Kentucky eighth graders are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch.<sup>9</sup>

## COMPREHENSIVE DATA SYSTEMS ARE NEEDED

The national Data Quality Campaign recommends ten elements as the start of a robust P-12 longitudinal data system.<sup>10</sup>

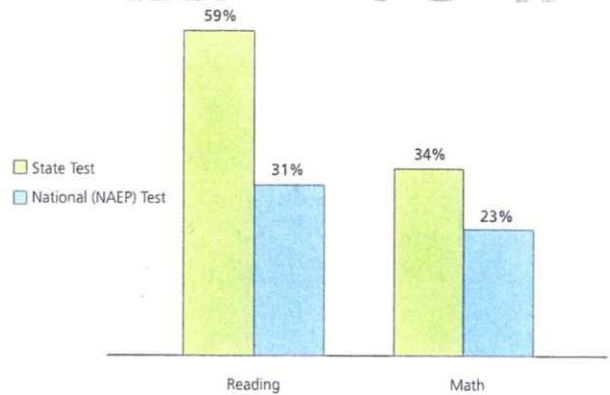
	Kentucky
1. The ability to track individual students over time	YES
2. Student-level demographic information	YES
3. The ability to track individual students' test records from year to year to measure academic growth	YES
4. The ability to know which students have not been tested	YES
5. The ability to match teachers to students by classroom and subject	YES
6. Student-level transcript information	YES
7. Information on student performance on college-readiness examinations like the SAT, ACT, and AP	NO
8. Student-level graduation and dropout data	YES
9. The ability to match student records between the K-12 and higher education systems	YES
10. System in place to evaluate data system quality	NO

To date, only four states have achieved all ten elements.



## STATE AND FEDERAL PROFICIENCY MEASURES DIFFER

### Kentucky Eighth-Grade Proficiency as Measured by Kentucky State and National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Tests<sup>11</sup>



The average gap nationally between state- and NAEP-reported reading scores is 37 percentage points.

The average gap nationally between state- and NAEP-reported math scores is 31 percentage points.

## DROPOUTS AND POORLY PREPARED STUDENTS HAVE A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE ECONOMY

Approximately 16,400 students did not graduate from Kentucky's high schools in 2007; the lost lifetime earnings in Kentucky for that class of dropouts alone are more than \$4.3 billion.<sup>12</sup>

Kentucky would save more than \$161.8 million in health care costs over the lifetimes of each class of dropouts had they earned their diplomas.<sup>13</sup>

If Kentucky's high schools graduated all students ready for college, the state would save almost \$52.3 million a year in community college remediation costs and lost earnings.<sup>14</sup>

Kentucky's economy would see a combination of crime-related savings and additional revenue of about \$87.4 million each year if the male high school graduation rate increased by just 5%.<sup>15</sup>

## ALL STUDENTS NEED ACCESS TO HIGH-QUALITY TEACHERS<sup>16</sup>

96.7% of secondary classes in high-poverty schools in Kentucky are taught by a highly qualified teacher.

97.6% of secondary classes in low-poverty schools in Kentucky are taught by a highly qualified teacher.

1. Kentucky Department of Education 2007
2. United States Department of Education 2007
3. Editorial Projects in Education Research Center 2007
4. Editorial Projects in Education Research Center 2007
5. National Center for Education Statistics 2007
6. Center for Social Organization of Schools, Johns Hopkins University 2007
7. Editorial Projects in Education Research Center 2007
8. National Center for Education Statistics 2007
9. National Center for Education Statistics 2007
10. National Center for Education Accountability 2007
11. National Center for Education Statistics 2006; Kentucky Department of Education 2006
12. Alliance for Excellent Education 2007
13. Alliance for Excellent Education 2006
14. Alliance for Excellent Education 2006
15. Alliance for Excellent Education 2006
16. Consolidated State Performance Reports 2007