

# The Prichard Committee

Building a Groundswell for Excellent Education

**TOP  
20** BY  
**2020**

## FINAL REPORT

In 2008, the Prichard Committee challenged Kentuckians to move the education system to the Top 20 among the 50 states by 2020. It is time to report out on that challenge: our Commonwealth gained ground on many indicators but has not, overall, moved into the upper tier of states.

Celebration should come first: science scores in fourth and eighth grade, high school graduation rates, and graduations from two year institutions have reached the top 20.

In reading, fourth and eighth grade scores were in the top 20 for our 2016 report, but those rankings have slipped in the years since.

Kentucky improved six other indicators more slowly, moving up among the states in fourth grade math scores, students earning AP college credit in high school, graduations from four year institutions, bachelor degrees earned in STEM fields, and young adults' attainment of high school diplomas and bachelor degrees. That movement, not strong enough to reach top 20, suggests a loss of educational momentum in recent years.

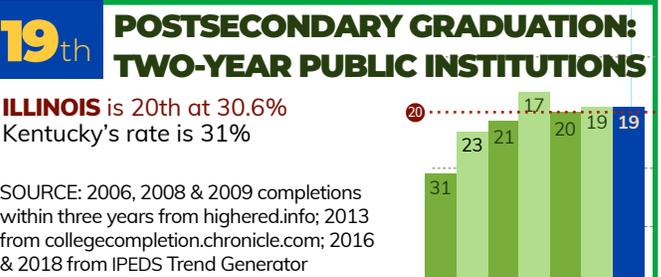
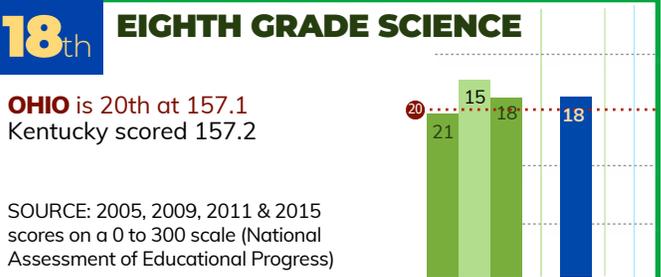
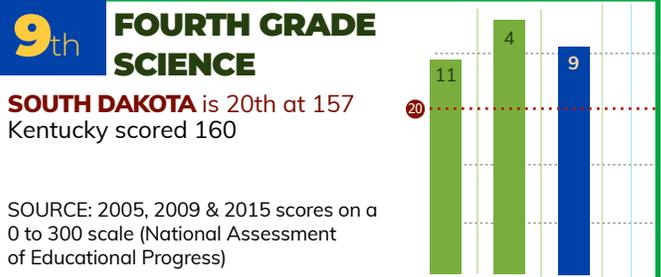
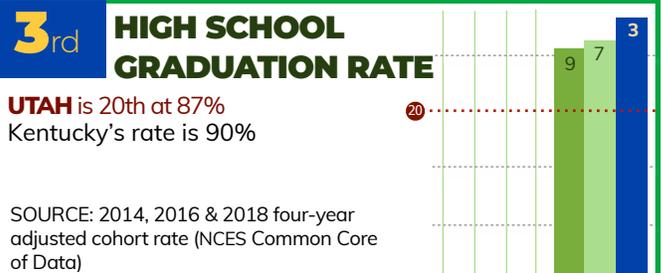
Two declining indicators raise extra concern: Kentucky's pre-school enrollment rank has dropped dramatically, and eighth grade math results are lower now than in our first report.

Elementary and secondary education have seen some small progress in funding per-pupil and average teacher salaries, but higher education, Kentucky's rankings for funding per pupil and family share of education costs have declined. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, concerns were already swirling about the lack of new revenue to sustain the scale of investments necessary to ensure education excellence. These concerns are now amplified by the global recession.

More broadly, the education progress that moved Kentucky to the middle of national rankings since 1990 has appeared to lag in recent years. As early as 2015, lags in NAEP and K-PREP scores and widening achievement gaps signaled that it was time to re-engage Kentucky's citizens in a new battle for education excellence.

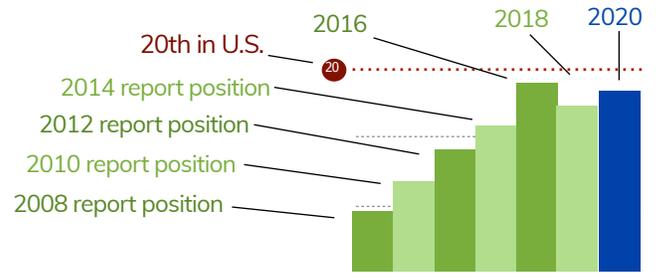
Now, as we enter unknown territory caused by COVID-19, our mission is more urgent. Inequities abound in education access for our most vulnerable students, with or without a pandemic. With it, the situation is dire. Citizens and communities must unite, putting politics aside, to promote excellence, equity and innovation for all students as we navigate this new normal. We invite all Kentuckians to join us in the critically important work of building Kentucky's big, bold future.

### REACHED THE TOP 20



# READING THE CHARTS

Each category shows Kentucky's current standing among the 50 states in the most recent data, highlighted with the blue bar. The green bars show Kentucky's position in our 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016 and 2018 reports. The red circle and dotted line mark the goal of reaching the top 20. Gray dotted lines mark 10th, 30th and 40th position.



## REACHED THE TOP 20 BRIEFLY AND THEN DROPPED OUT AGAIN

**22<sup>nd</sup> FOURTH GRADE READING**

**MAINE** is 20th at 221.2  
Kentucky scored 220.9

SOURCE: 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017 & 2019 scores on a 0 to 500 scale (National Assessment of Educational Progress)

**25<sup>th</sup> EIGHTH GRADE READING**

**MINNESOTA** is 20th at 264  
Kentucky scored 263

SOURCE: 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017 & 2019 scores on a 0 to 500 scale (National Assessment of Educational Progress)

## IMPROVED TOO SLOWLY

**25<sup>th</sup> ADULTS 18 TO 24 WITH HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR EQUIVALENT**

**PENNSYLVANIA** is 20th at 88%  
Kentucky's rate is 87.7%

SOURCE: 2006, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2014, 2016 & 2018 three-year average estimates (American Community Survey)

**30<sup>th</sup> FOURTH GRADE MATH**

**OHIO** is 20th at 241  
Kentucky scored 239

SOURCE: 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017 & 2019 scores on a 0 to 500 scale (National Assessment of Educational Progress)

**30<sup>th</sup> STUDENTS EARNING AP COLLEGE CREDIT IN HIGH SCHOOL**

**RHODE ISLAND** is 20th at 22%  
Kentucky's rate is 18%

SOURCE: 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017 & 2019 graduates scoring 3 or higher (on a 1-5 scale) on at least one Advanced Placement test (College Board)

**32<sup>nd</sup> POSTSECONDARY GRADUATION: FOUR-YEAR PUBLIC**

**NEBRASKA** is 20th at 59%  
Kentucky's rate is 52%

SOURCE: 2006, 2008 & 2009 completions within six years from highered.info; 2013 from collegecompletion.chronicle.com; 2016 & 2018 from IPEDS Trend Generator

**39<sup>th</sup> ADULTS 25 TO 34 WITH A BACHELOR'S DEGREE OR HIGHER**

**OREGON** is 20th at 36%  
Kentucky's rate is 28%

SOURCE: 2006, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2014, 2016 & 2018 three-year average estimates (American Community Survey)

**41<sup>st</sup> SCIENCE, TECH, ENGINEERING, MATH SHARE OF BACHELORS**

**VIRGINIA** is 20th at 20%  
Kentucky's rate is 16%

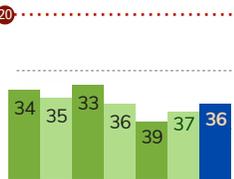
SOURCE: 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016 & 2017 natural science, computer science and engineering degrees (Digest of Education Statistics)

## LOST GROUND

### 36<sup>th</sup> EIGHTH GRADE MATH

**MONTANA** is 20<sup>th</sup> at 284  
Kentucky scored 278

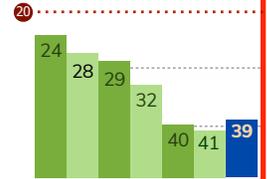
SOURCE: 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017 & 2019 scores on a 0 to 500 scale (National Assessment of Educational Progress)



### 39<sup>th</sup> PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT OF CHILDREN AGES 3 & 4

**MICHIGAN** is 20<sup>th</sup> at 47% >  
Kentucky's rate is 43%

SOURCE: 2006, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2014, 2016 & 2018 three-year average estimates (American Community Survey)



## SLOW INVESTMENT GAINS IN K-12

### 29<sup>th</sup> AVERAGE TEACHER SALARY

**IOWA** is 20<sup>th</sup> at \$58,140  
Kentucky's average is \$53,434

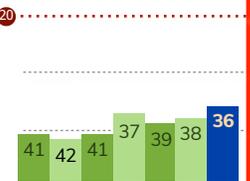
SOURCE: 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017 & 2019 estimated average salaries (Digest of Education Statistics)



### 36<sup>th</sup> PER-PUPIL ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY FUNDING

**OREGON** is 20<sup>th</sup> at \$13,560  
Kentucky's level is \$11,101

SOURCE: 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016 & 2018 state and local funding per pupil (Public Elementary-Secondary Education Finances)

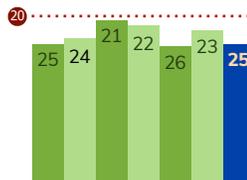


## STEADY INVESTMENT LOSSES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

### 25<sup>th</sup> SHARE OF HIGHER EDUCATION PAID BY FAMILIES

**MISSOURI** is 20<sup>th</sup> at 48%  
Kentucky's rate is 51%

SOURCE: 2006, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017 & 2019 net tuition total revenue for public higher education, excluding med schools (State Higher Education Finance)



### 36<sup>th</sup> PER-PUPIL TOTAL HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING

**MINNESOTA** is 20<sup>th</sup> at \$16,349  
Kentucky's level is \$13,558

SOURCE: 2006, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017 & 2019 total revenue divided by full-time equivalent enrollment in public higher education, excluding med schools (State Higher Education Finance)



## A NOTE ON DATA & INDICATORS

Three indicators from the 2008 report are omitted here: the National Assessment of Educational Progress did not provide state-level reports on writing after 20xx, and 2014 was the last available year of data on high school graduates going on to college within a year. Also, the 2008 report did not include high school graduation data: that indicator was added after Kentucky began reporting a cohort rate.

## Our Work



### The Groundswell Initiative

Engaged communities are vital to increase excellence with equity in education.



### Student Voice Team

100 students from across the Commonwealth who work to integrate students as partners to improve Kentucky schools.



### Equity Coalition

Educators and advocates from throughout the Commonwealth united to close persistent and growing achievement gaps between student groups in Kentucky's schools.



### Kentucky Collaborative for Families and Schools

Created to build and sustain engagement, support and resources for Kentucky families and schools.



### Strong Start KY

Kentucky's early childhood advocates united through shared goals to strengthen early care and education for Kentucky children from birth through third grade.