

Student Achievement: CATS

Definition

2006-08 Goal is the school district's target score for the biennium on the Commonwealth Accountability Testing System (CATS). *2006-08 Score* is the result of CATS testing for the two years of the biennium and the percent of goal attained.

Data in context

Kentucky's future depends on preparing youth with a quality education and making sure they are successful in school. In an effort to improve academic achievement and accountability in the public school system, provisions of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) passed by Congress in 2001 require each state to measure Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) toward academic achievement through indicators such as mathematics and reading scores and graduation rates for high schools.¹

A primary goal of NCLB was to close achievement gaps created by limited educational opportunities for some subpopulations, including students of color, children with disabilities or those from low-income households. The elementary level has shown greater and more consistent progress than the secondary level in overall achievement gains and narrowing the gap for subpopulations.²

In the early 1990s Kentucky led the nation in education reform by implementing the Kentucky Education Reform Act, which included an accountability testing system known as CATS. Kentucky continues to use CATS as one component of the NCLB assessment of elementary and middle schools; the graduation rate is used as an additional accountability measure for high schools. The CATS test is administered each year, and accountability index scores are calculated by combining results over a two-year span.

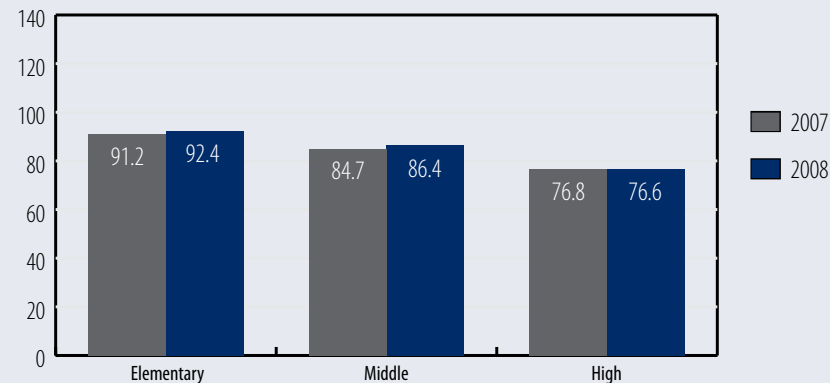
Schools have a target to reach 100 or higher (Proficiency) in the biennium cycle that concludes in 2014.³ Schools must also reduce the percent of their students scoring Novice (the lowest category of scores) each biennium so no more than 5 percent of their students

fall in that category by 2014.⁴ High schools must also have a dropout rate less than or equal to 5.3 percent or have reduced their percentage of dropouts by 0.5 percent while maintaining a dropout rate less than or equal to 6 percent.⁵

The total accountability index score for all students in elementary, middle, and high school levels in SY 2008 increased by 0.4 points from SY 2007,⁶ for an overall index score of 82.0 for 2006-08. As a result, the state reached 96 percent of its 2006-08 biennial goal. School district overall scores ranged from 64.2 to 112.4. Of Kentucky's 175 school districts, 60 reached their improvement goal in the second year of the 2006-2008 biennium. Anchorage Independent, Corbin Independent, and Jackson Independent School Districts exceeded their goal by more than 10 percent. Covington Independent, Providence Independent, and Silver Grove Independent school districts scored below their goals by more than 12 percent. While over one third of school districts in Kentucky have reached their accountability index goals, many schools have work remaining to meet their goal by the 2014 deadline.

Several states have identified strategies to reduce achievement gaps and improve education outcomes for all children. They include community-based methods such as developing a state task force to identify best practices from high-performing schools as well as policies that can effectively close gaps. Addressing the needs for early childhood care and education, improving teacher quality, developing early intervention for college programs, and providing students with extra learning opportunities are other promising strategies.⁷

Total CATS Academic Indices by Elementary, Middle, and High School, 2007 and 2008



Source: Kentucky Department of Education, 2008 CATS Briefing Packet.

Data Source: Kentucky Department of Education website.

Data Note: Independent school districts are listed after the school district for the county in which they are located.

Rate Calculation: (2006-08 score * 100) / (2006-08 goal)

- 1 U.S. Department of Education (2001). *Executive Summary of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*. Available at <http://www.ed.gov>. Accessed September 2008.
- 2 The Education Trust. (2005). *Stalled in Secondary: A Look at Student Achievement Since the No Child Left Behind Act*. Available at www2.edtrust.org. Accessed September 2008.
- 3 Kentucky Department of Education (2008). *2008 CATS Briefing Packet*. Available at <http://www.education.ky.gov>. Accessed September 2008.
- 4 Ibid.
- 5 Ibid.
- 6 Ibid.
- 7 National Governors Association Center for Best Practices. *Closing the Achievement Gap (Policy Primer)*. Available at <http://www.subnet.nga.org>. Accessed September 2008.

CATS Scores (goal, score & percent of goal attained)

	2006-08 Goal	2006-08 Score	Percent		2006-08 Goal	2006-08 Score	Percent		2006-08 Goal	2006-08 Score	Percent		2006-08 Goal	2006-08 Score	Percent
Kentucky	85.0	82.0	96	Clay Co.	79.4	81.4	103	Johnson Co.	86.2	91.0	106	Bardstown Ind.	83.7	80.5	96
Adair Co.	82.9	82.0	99	Clinton Co.	81.2	83.9	103	Paintsville Ind.	89.1	92.3	104	Nicholas Co.	81.1	74.1	91
Allen Co.	84.5	85.0	101	Crittenden Co.	88.1	82.8	94	Kenton Co.	87.5	83.6	96	Ohio Co.	85.7	87.4	102
Anderson Co.	88.2	83.5	95	Cumberland Co.	83.9	76.9	92	Beechwood Ind.	91.9	98.9	108	Oldham Co.	92.9	97.0	104
Ballard Co.	84.4	84.2	100	Daviess Co.	91.4	92.0	101	Covington Ind.	78.3	64.2	82	Owen Co.	85.6	77.8	91
Barren Co.	86.9	83.3	96	Owensboro Ind.	87.0	87.2	100	Erlanger-Elsmere Ind.	87.2	82.0	94	Owsley Co.	80.1	73.2	91
Caverna Ind.	82.6	75.1	91	Edmonson Co.	85.3	83.0	97	Ludlow Ind.	87.7	84.5	96	Pendleton Co.	84.7	80.8	95
Glasgow Ind.	89.6	94.6	106	Elliott Co.	81.6	71.8	88	Knott Co.	80.9	76.1	94	Perry Co.	82.8	80.0	97
Bath Co.	81.9	78.6	96	Estill Co.	83.9	80.2	96	Knox Co.	79.7	71.8	90	Hazard Ind.	85.5	89.6	105
Bell Co.	82.0	79.8	97	Fayette Co.	87.4	86.1	99	LaRue Co.	82.7	82.1	99	Pike Co.	83.6	89.1	107
Middlesboro Ind.	81.7	81.8	100	Fleming Co.	82.5	83.1	101	Laurel Co.	85.0	83.8	99	Pikeville Ind.	90.2	94.0	104
Pineville Ind.	83.9	79.5	95	Floyd Co.	81.2	82.7	102	East Bernstadt Ind.	83.5	86.5	104	Powell Co.	84.6	78.2	92
Boone Co.	88.6	89.5	101	Franklin Co.	86.6	78.9	91	Lawrence Co.	82.0	73.7	90	Pulaski Co.	83.6	84.7	101
Walton Verona Ind.	91.2	92.2	101	Frankfort Ind.	85.0	79.0	93	Lee Co.	83.9	78.4	93	Science Hill Ind.	91.3	93.7	103
Bourbon Co.	84.8	81.7	96	Fulton Co.	81.1	73.3	90	Leslie Co.	81.9	78.1	95	Somerset Ind.	86.5	84.5	98
Paris Ind.	84.0	78.9	94	Fulton Ind.	82.7	76.9	93	Letcher Co.	81.2	77.9	96	Robertson Co.	81.4	77.7	95
Boyd Co.	85.9	83.9	98	Gallatin Co.	80.3	77.9	97	Jenkins Ind.	80.4	71.2	89	Rockcastle Co.	87.7	91.2	104
Ashland Ind.	87.2	82.2	94	Garrard Co.	84.4	82.4	98	Lewis Co.	81.9	79.1	97	Rowan Co.	85.0	85.0	100
Fairview Ind.	82.2	79.1	96	Grant Co.	85.7	82.2	96	Lincoln Co.	83.4	80.5	97	Russell Co.	85.8	89.5	104
Boyle Co.	87.5	88.8	101	Williamstown Ind.	86.3	93.2	108	Livingston Co.	84.6	77.9	92	Scott Co.	85.6	86.9	102
Danville Ind.	86.4	80.8	94	Graves Co.	87.0	93.6	108	Logan Co.	85.1	85.9	101	Shelby Co.	85.6	80.7	94
Bracken Co.	84.1	77.8	93	Mayfield Ind.	84.7	81.8	97	Russellville Ind.	85.1	77.8	91	Simpson Co.	86.3	80.0	93
Augusta Ind.	81.7	80.3	98	Grayson Co.	84.4	81.8	97	Lyon Co.	84.9	84.8	100	Spencer Co.	82.6	78.0	94
Breathitt Co.	79.8	86.8	109	Green Co.	84.0	85.0	101	McCracken Co.	87.8	91.1	104	Taylor Co.	85.8	83.2	97
Jackson Ind.	80.3	94.8	118	Greenup Co.	82.0	76.4	93	Paducah Ind.	85.5	79.9	93	Campbellsville Ind.	86.1	76.7	89
Breckinridge Co.	86.1	81.3	94	Raceland Ind.	85.1	79.8	94	McCreary Co.	80.2	78.7	98	Todd Co.	83.6	80.8	97
Cloverport Ind.	85.1	91.3	107	Russell Ind.	88.1	86.9	99	McLean Co.	89.3	90.0	101	Trigg Co.	84.3	87.0	103
Bullitt Co.	83.3	77.2	93	Hancock Co.	88.9	97.5	110	Madison Co.	85.6	85.5	100	Trimble Co.	85.6	76.9	90
Butler Co.	84.2	79.0	94	Hardin Co.	84.6	80.0	95	Berea Ind.	85.4	79.4	93	Union Co.	85.5	76.0	89
Caldwell Co.	86.0	84.5	98	Elizabethtown Ind.	89.1	90.3	101	Magoffin Co.	81.5	85.7	105	Warren Co.	87.4	87.1	100
Calloway Co.	86.7	85.8	99	West Point Ind.	77.2	71.0	92	Marion Co.	85.2	88.2	104	Bowling Green Ind.	86.6	89.7	104
Murray Ind.	91.1	91.9	101	Harlan Co.	79.3	77.2	97	Marshall Co.	86.1	87.7	102	Washington Co.	83.4	83.6	100
Campbell Co.	85.6	85.0	99	Harlan Ind.	85.2	86.3	101	Martin Co.	80.9	75.1	93	Wayne Co.	84.3	86.6	103
Bellevue Ind.	83.2	78.1	94	Harrison Co.	88.0	81.2	92	Mason Co.	86.5	88.0	102	Monticello Ind.	83.0	74.7	90
Dayton Ind.	80.9	73.2	90	Hart Co.	83.1	83.8	101	Meade Co.	86.8	85.6	99	Webster Co.	84.3	84.8	101
Fort Thomas Ind.	95.3	102.7	108	Henderson Co.	84.7	82.9	98	Menifee Co.	83.2	77.2	93	Providence Ind.	78.7	68.3	87
Newport Ind.	81.8	72.5	89	Henry Co.	83.7	76.4	91	Mercer Co.	85.0	81.6	96	Whitley Co.	82.9	85.1	103
Silver Grove Ind.	83.3	66.1	79	Eminence Ind.	83.7	85.4	102	Burgin Ind.	83.8	80.7	96	Corbin Ind.	87.6	98.5	112
Southgate Ind.	84.9	90.6	107	Hickman Co.	85.2	86.4	101	Metcalfe Co.	83.9	76.8	92	Williamsburg Ind.	87.8	90.3	103
Carlisle Co.	87.5	85.3	97	Hopkins Co.	84.6	81.7	97	Monroe Co.	84.2	85.4	101	Wolfe Co.	83.3	79.3	95
Carroll Co.	82.8	78.0	94	Dawson Springs Ind.	86.0	85.8	100	Montgomery Co.	85.8	78.5	91	Woodford Co.	86.8	84.6	97
Carter Co.	83.1	78.4	94	Jackson Co.	82.2	75.1	91	Morgan Co.	84.0	79.9	95				
Casey Co.	83.4	79.4	95	Jefferson Co.	83.2	78.5	94	Muhlenberg Co.	87.3	87.9	101				
Christian Co.	82.1	73.2	89	Anchorage Ind.	98.1	112.4	115	Nelson Co.	84.8	78.3	92				
Clark Co.	86.0	79.8	93	Jessamine Co.	85.7	81.5	95								