

Student Achievement: NCLB

Definition

Students scoring proficient or above is the percentage of all students, students enrolled in the free or reduced lunch program, and students with a disability who performed at or above proficiency on the Kentucky Core Content Test in reading and math.

Data in context

All children need a high-quality education and the opportunity to perform at their highest academic level. In response to the need for increased accountability in the education system, the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) was signed into law in 2002. This historic legislation gave the federal government unprecedented authority in developing academic achievement standards that states must meet in order to secure federal funding for public K-12 schools. NCLB seeks to have all children achieving at their state's proficiency level in reading, language arts, math, and science by 2014.¹

Under NCLB, each state must set academic standards and yearly goals for improving achievement. All public schools and districts must show adequate yearly progress (AYP) toward their statewide objectives for all students, as well as every subgroup of students, which includes the five largest ethnic groups, English learners, students with disabilities, and low-income students.²

These subgroups face significant barriers to academic success, creating an achievement gap between them and their counterparts. Students of color and students from families living in poverty are more likely to attend under-resourced schools with fewer academic opportunities and poorer teacher quality.³ These challenges mean African-American and Hispanic students are about four years behind other young people by the time they reach the twelfth grade.⁴

While this gap has begun to close in recent years, the need for improvement remains. Achievement gaps between African-American and White students in Kentucky narrowed at the elementary school grade levels in math and reading from 2002 to 2006.⁵ During the same time period,

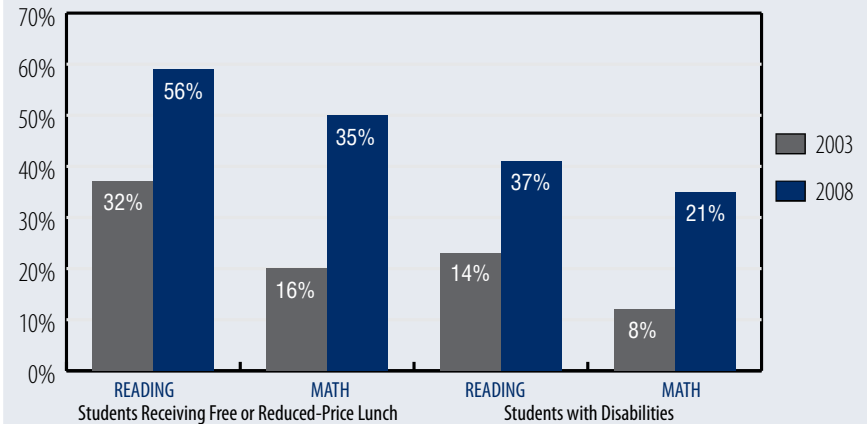
however, the gap in percentages of students reaching proficiency in middle school math widened.⁶

Students with disabilities also disproportionately lack educational opportunities. Even with disabilities identified at an earlier age, two-thirds of secondary school students with learning disabilities had the reading level of three or more grade levels behind in 2003.⁷ However, the 2007 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) suggests that the achievement gap is closing; students with disabilities are making significant improvement in both reading and math and in most cases have made gains that far outpace the gains made by students who do not have disabilities.⁸

Statewide, the percentages of students receiving free or reduced-price lunch and students with disabilities who score proficient or higher on reading and math are much lower than the percentages for all students. Among students receiving free or reduced-price lunch, Jackson Independent has the highest percentage of students scoring proficient or better in reading and math, while Berea Independent, Covington Independent, Frankfort Independent, and Union County School Districts scored among the lowest in both subjects. Trigg County School District had the greatest percentages of students with disabilities scoring proficient or above in reading and math, while Christian County, Covington Independent, and Henry County School Districts were among the lowest percentages in both subjects.

While NCLB has posed some challenges for educators, the legislation has focused increased attention on closing achievement gaps. Best practices for closing achievement gaps not only focus on curriculum, instruction, and

Percentage of Students Performing at or above Proficiency Level, 2003 and 2008



Source: Kentucky Department of Education, NCLB data files.

assessment but also incorporate culture, community engagement, and parent involvement.⁹

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.

- 1 Virella, K. (2007). *No Child Left Behind: Advocates for Educational Justice Disagree about How to Change It*. Connect for Kids. Available at: <http://www.connectforkids.org>. Accessed September 2008.
- 2 Ibid.
- 3 Annie E. Casey Foundation (2006). "Unequal Opportunities in Education." *Race Matters Toolkit*. Available at <http://www.aecf.org>. Accessed August 2008.
- 4 National Governors Association Center for Best Practices. *Closing the Achievement Gap (Policy Primer)*. Available at <http://www.subnet.nga.org>. Accessed September 2008.
- 5 Kober, N., Chudowsky, N., and Chudowsky, V. (2008). *Has Student Achievement Increased Since 2002? State Test Score Trends Through 2006-07*. Center on Education Policy. Available at <http://www.cep-dc.org>. Accessed September 2008.
- 6 Ibid.
- 7 National Center for Learning Disabilities (2006). *Why Students with Learning Disabilities Need No Child Left Behind*. Available at <http://www.ncl.org>. Accessed September 2008.
- 8 Ibid.
- 9 National Education Association (2007). *C.A.R.E.: Strategies for Closing the Achievement Gaps*. Available at <http://www.nea.org>. Accessed September 2008.

Students scoring proficient or above (percent of all students, free & reduced-price lunch recipients, and students with disabilities)

	SY 2008					
	Reading			Math		
	All students	Free/reduced-price lunch recipients	Students with disabilities	All students	Free/reduced-price lunch recipients	Students with disabilities
Kentucky	68	59	41	60	50	35
Adair Co.	65	53	29	60	49	26
Allen Co.	72	64	55	66	57	55
Anderson Co.	68	55	37	60	46	30
Ballard Co.	74	69	* 58	60	49	*
Barren Co.	73	64	34	62	52	27
Caverna Ind.	60	56	*	49	48	*
Glasgow Ind.	77	66	*	69	54	*
Bath Co.	66	57	*	53	42	*
Bell Co.	71	69	59	57	55	42
Middlesboro Ind.	65	58	49	55	50	49
Pineville Ind.	70	64	*	44	39	*
Boone Co.	76	64	46	71	55	39
Walton Verona Ind.	77	60	*	73	57	*
Bourbon Co.	67	58	41	60	52	30
Paris Ind.	60	55	* 47	39	*	*
Boyd Co.	76	69	55	57	47	41
Ashland Ind.	70	61	44	56	45	35
Fairview Ind.	63	58	*	55	51	*
Boyle Co.	75	60	47	67	48	34
Danville Ind.	66	55	37	55	43	33
Bracken Co.	66	54	* 53	46	*	*
Augusta Ind.	66	*	* 58	*	*	*
Breathitt Co.	73	70	67	68	66	66
Jackson Ind.	82	79	*	75	73	*
Breckinridge Co.	67	63	38	58	52	32
Cloverport Ind.	75	*	* 73	*	*	*
Bullitt Co.	65	55	32	55	45	25
Butler Co.	71	66	43	53	48	37
Caldwell Co.	72	64	36	61	51	23
Calloway Co.	72	62	43	61	52	37
Murray Ind.	78	60	*	69	51	*
Campbell Co.	69	59	40	68	56	38
Bellevue Ind.	65	65	* 56	54	*	*
Dayton Ind.	55	55	* 40	38	*	*
Fort Thomas Ind.	86	*	* 82	*	*	*
Newport Ind.	57	53	* 53	51	*	*
Silver Grove Ind.	50	*	* 33	*	*	*
Southgate Ind.	70	*	* 70	*	*	*
Carlisle Co.	70	62	* 68	64	*	*
Carroll Co.	66	56	47	60	50	42
Carter Co.	63	56	32	56	49	28
Casey Co.	68	60	51	57	48	46
Christian Co.	59	51	26	51	42	19
Clark Co.	64	53	37	54	43	26
Clay Co.	64	59	45	59	55	44
Clinton Co.	74	69	* 60	51	*	*
Crittenden Co.	70	62	* 60	51	*	*
Cumberland Co.	68	61	* 50	42	*	*
Daviess Co.	81	73	50	71	61	42
Owensboro Ind.	76	72	55	70	66	55
Edmonson Co.	71	65	56	65	60	58
Elliott Co.	61	57	* 43	39	*	*
Estill Co.	66	59	31	52	46	21
Fayette Co.	72	57	39	68	52	36
Fleming Co.	68	62	53	61	56	49
Floyd Co.	70	68	65	65	63	68
Franklin Co.	65	52	32	55	40	24
Frankfort Ind.	62	49	* 45	33	*	*
Fulton Co.	61	56	* 50	42	*	*
Fulton Ind.	63	59	* 49	45	*	*
Gallatin Co.	63	60	* 53	50	*	*
Garrard Co.	69	60	43	63	52	45
Grant Co.	69	64	41	67	61	39
Williamstown Ind.	72	61	* 67	59	*	*
Graves Co.	79	73	57	75	69	56
Mayfield Ind.	65	61	* 55	48	*	*
Grayson Co.	62	55	37	62	56	34
Green Co.	72	68	66	63	61	69
Greenup Co.	66	59	38	52	47	31
Raceland Ind.	66	55	* 52	46	*	*
Russell Ind.	70	57	44	68	50	47
Hancock Co.	81	75	* 71	62	*	*
Hardin Co.	63	53	33	52	41	25
Elizabethtown Ind.	74	60	45	63	46	34
West Point Ind.	52	*	* 42	*	*	*
Harlan Co.	65	63	57	54	49	46
Harlan Ind.	74	65	* 64	52	*	*
Harrison Co.	64	56	42	58	49	36
Hart Co.	73	67	63	69	64	63
Henderson Co.	72	64	49	62	55	43
Henry Co.	63	53	28	50	38	14
Eminence Ind.	72	*	* 54	*	*	*
Hickman Co.	72	63	* 63	55	*	*
Hopkins Co.	69	59	46	59	50	41
Dawson Springs Ind.	70	68	* 63	56	*	*
Jackson Co.	59	55	37	49	46	38
Jefferson Co.	63	51	30	55	42	25
Anchorage Ind.	96	*	* 95	*	*	*
Jessamine Co.	67	57	37	62	51	32
Johnson Co.	78	74	70	70	68	67
Paintsville Ind.	78	66	* 70	60	*	*
Kenton Co.	69	57	30	63	50	26
Beechwood Ind.	86	*	* 80	*	*	*
Covington Ind.	47	45	23	40	38	17
Erlanger-Elsmere Ind.	68	63	43	55	49	31
Ludlow Ind.	74	68	* 53	46	*	*
Knott Co.	62	58	39	52	48	35
Knox Co.	54	50	34	47	44	33
Barbourville Ind.	67	59	* 46	36	*	*
LaRue Co.	70	64	48	67	60	40
Laurel Co.	73	65	49	66	58	42
East Bernstadt Ind.	70	58	* 59	46	*	*
Lawrence Co.	61	55	* 47	41	*	*
Lee Co.	58	54	* 48	44	*	*
Leslie Co.	70	66	58	53	49	42
Letcher Co.	64	58	50	59	53	50
Jenkins Ind.	57	53	* 43	37	*	*
Lewis Co.	61	55	36	56	49	41
Lincoln Co.	69	64	47	59	56	38
Livingston Co.	61	50	* 52	43	*	*
Logan Co.	71	62	46	65	57	39
Russellville Ind.	58	46	* 43	31	*	*
Lyon Co.	73	62	* 54	42	*	*
McCracken Co.	79	69	50	71	60	43
Paducah Ind.	65	56	44	56	47	33
McCreary Co.	66	64	55	58	56	53
McLean Co.	78	75	58	69	64	46
Madison Co.	73	61	50	63	52	37
Berea Ind.	59	45	* 48	36	*	*
Magoffin Co.	69	67	65	70	68	60
Marion Co.	74	67	46	67	59	50
Marshall Co.	75	68	48	64	57	41
Martin Co.	63	57	43	50	46	27
Mason Co.	69	60	* 63	52	*	*
Meade Co.	73	67	38	64	54	30
Menifee Co.	62	59	35	45	43	30
Mercer Co.	72	64	62	60	52	49
Burgin Ind.	74	*	* 53	*	*	*
Metcalfe Co.	60	57	* 56	52	*	*
Monroe Co.	69	63	45	62	56	41
Montgomery Co.	66	54	33	56	45	26
Morgan Co.	69	63	* 57	51	*	*
Muhlenberg Co.	72	65	52	70	64	54
Nelson Co.	64	54	31	54	46	22
Bardstown Ind.	68	60	* 57	48	*	*
Nicholas Co.	59	50	* 51	39	*	*
Ohio Co.	71	64	38	62	57	23
Oldham Co.	82	59	49	76	51	45
Owen Co.	62	53	* 57	46	*	*
Owsley Co.	56	*	* 42	*	*	*
Pendleton Co.	69	63	33	65	56	34
Perry Co.	66	62	57	59	55	52
Hazard Ind.	72	56	* 60	44	*	*
Pike Co.	72	68	55	64	60	50
Pikeville Ind.	80	67	* 69	53	*	*
Powell Co.	64	57	34	52	45	25
Pulaski Co.	71	65	34	63	57	29
Science Hill Ind.	85	73	* 74	59	*	*
Somerset Ind.	73	59	* 52	35	*	*
Robertson Co.	57	49	* 48	42	*	*
Rockcastle Co.	76	71	61	73	69	56
Rowan Co.	71	61	30	63	55	24
Russell Co.	75	71	51	69	64	42
Scott Co.	75	61	47	68	51	41
Shelby Co.	65	49	37	57	42	33
Simpson Co.	71	62	31	56	46	18
Spencer Co.	67	56	31	54	42	18
Taylor Co.	67	60	31	63	57	32
Campbellsville Ind.	60	54	* 56	50	*	*
Todd Co.	64	58	* 60	52	*	*
Trigg Co.	76	71	76	70	66	74
Trimble Co.	64	54	* 50	39	*	*
Union Co.	59	49	38	45	36	27
Warren Co.	74	63	41	64	51	33
Bowling Green Ind.	74	57	34	68	51	33
Washington Co.	70	60	36	59	53	34
Wayne Co.	73	68	58	65	61	57
Monticello Ind.	58	53	* 47	39	*	*
Webster Co.	70	63	35	59	52	31
Providence Ind.	56	*	* 36	*	*	*
Whitley Co.	70	67	59	62	59	57
Corbin Ind.	82	73	48	73	64	38
Williamsburg Ind.	80	75	* 65	61	*	*
Wolfe Co.	68	65	* 63	59	*	*
Woodford Co.	72	48	44	59	38	31