
Kentucky

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|---|---|--|
| School Management | C | |
| Finance | C | |
| Staffing: Hiring & Evaluation | C | |
| Staffing: Removing Ineffective Teachers | F | |
| Data | B | |
| Pipeline to Postsecondary | B | |
| Technology | B | |
| State Reform Environment | ? | |
| Gold Stars | | |

School Management. Kentucky does a mediocre job managing its schools in a way that encourages thoughtful innovation. Ninety-two percent of teachers report that routine duties and paperwork interfere with their teaching, and the state does not have a charter school law.

Finance. Overall, Kentucky earns a middling grade in this category. While the state gets an average mark for the simplicity of its state funding mechanism, it receives an excellent score for the online accessibility of its financial data. However, Kentucky does not have a performance pay program for teachers.

Staffing: Hiring & Evaluation. Kentucky receives a mediocre mark for its teacher hiring and evaluation system. Ten percent of teachers enter the profession through an alternative certification program, compared with the national average of 13%. Kentucky also does not require incoming teachers to pass basic skills tests.

Staffing: Removing Ineffective Teachers. Kentucky receives a very low score on the ability to remove poor-performing teachers from the classroom. Sixty-four percent of principals say that teacher unions or associations are a barrier to the removal of ineffective teachers, and 86% of principals report that tenure is a barrier to the removal of poor-performing teachers.

Data. Kentucky gets a good mark for its state data system. The state publicly reports college remediation data, but it does not factor that information into its accountability system.

Pipeline to Postsecondary. Kentucky receives an above-average mark for its efforts to improve college and career readiness. Kentucky has high school exams that gauge college and career readiness, and the state requires a college- and career-ready diploma. However, only 56% of its schools report offering dual-enrollment programs, which allow students to earn high school and college credits simultaneously. That is 9 percentage points below the national average.

Technology. Kentucky receives a solid grade in this category. While the state needs to significantly improve how it evaluates its return on investments in technology, Kentucky has established a virtual school and requires technology testing for teachers.

State Reform Environment. There are few reliable state-by-state data on local education advocacy and research efforts—a reflection of the lack of overall commitment to this issue. As a result, we are unable to issue a meaningful grade. However, the Kentucky-based Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence is a member of the forward-thinking Policy Innovators in Education Network, and the state supports common academic standards.
