

BETTER OUTCOMES: KENTUCKY



The state of Kentucky has shown exemplary success in all three areas of IP 65's focus -- CTE programs, dropout prevention, and college credit course availability (dual credit/AP classes). Most notably, however, is the fact that Kentucky has graduated its large number of low-income students (60% of total student population) on time at an impressive 85%. This represents one of the highest graduation rates in the nation for low-income students and, as only a few points less than the state's overall graduation rate of 88%, exceptionally rare consistent achievement across all socioeconomic student groups. By comparison, Oregon's low-income students graduate on time at 65%, with much room for improvement. *(figures from 2014-2015 school year)*

- **Career-Technical Education (CTE)**

Roughly 70% of Kentucky's nearly 200,000 high school students are enrolled in some sort of CTE class or program, and the number of students deemed "college or career ready" has risen steadily in past years, nearly doubling since the '09-'10 school year.

- **Dropout Prevention**

Kentucky's **Persistence to Graduation** tool is an early warning indicator system based on multiple data points, identifying students in grades 8-12 who are most likely to be at risk of academic failure or dropping out so educators can intervene before it's too late.

- **College-credit coursework (Dual credit/AP)**

Kentucky's Advanced Placement program gives high school students the opportunity to earn college credit in more than 30 subjects ranging from high-level math and science to fine arts. In the past five years, the number of Kentucky public high school students taking AP exams is up 35%, and the number of test results qualifying for college credit has increased 40%.

A great deal of this success can be attributed to the statewide math-science initiative called **AdvanceKentucky**, which offers rigorous AP coursework to participating schools. A total of 101 Kentucky public high schools (out of 281) in 74 districts have participated since the program's inception in 2008.

"The state has made an investment in AdvanceKentucky and it is paying off based on the number of students who are not only taking higher level coursework, but also are succeeding on AP exams."

--Education Commissioner Kevin Brown

BETTER OUTCOMES: NORTH CAROLINA



North Carolina public high schools have achieved impressive academic results, especially in spite of a largely rural and remote landscape not dissimilar to Oregon. The most recent available data shows North Carolina enjoyed an 82% on time graduation rate in 2013, representing a 12 point increase over the previous five years.

- Career-Technical Education (CTE)

The state is nationally recognized as an innovative leader in its implementation of CTE programs, with approximately 3/4 of North Carolina high school students taking CTE courses each year. Graduation rates for CTE students are generally about 10 points higher than the overall state rate. In fact, career exploration may begin for middle school students in 6th, 7th, or 8th grade in some school districts.

Additionally, since 2010 all secondary students in North Carolina receive instruction that will prepare them to graduate career- and college-ready. Career preparation training through CTE serves as an enhancement to the state's existing college preparation program outlined below.

- College-credit coursework (Dual credit/AP)

Career & College Promise ("CCP") is North Carolina's dual enrollment program for high school students. It allows eligible students to enroll in college classes at state community colleges and universities through their high school.

CCP includes the state's "New Schools" program, which is a rural initiative that brings high standards and greater opportunity to students in the more rural areas of the state. Essentially they are early college high schools that not only provide high school diplomas, but also up to an associate's degree, two years of college credit, or a technical certificate at no cost to the student. 88% of the 140 New Schools had 2014 graduation rates above the state average.

- Dropout Prevention

Ninth Grade Academies is a program that provides participating high schools with additional resources and personalized support for incoming 9th graders to overcome transitional obstacles. Of the state's 700+ public high schools, 134 employ these internal "academies." North Carolina also uses an early warning system that identifies at-risk students as early as the 8th grade. As a result, state dropout rates have been more than cut in half over the past decade:

2003-2004 -- 4.86% (20,035 students)
2013-2014 -- 2.28% (10,404 students)

Note: The data gathered in this section was pulled from a variety of state and national department of education materials, including website content, press releases, official report cards, and special reports.