

We don't need charters

Our public schools are making greater progress statewide than neighboring states with charters. And SBDM already cuts through red tape and empowers schools locally.

GRADING SUMMARY

	Overall State Grade			Quality Counts 2012		Quality Counts 2012		Quality Counts 2012		Quality Counts 2011		Quality Counts 2012		Quality Counts 2012	
				Chance for Success		K-12 Achievement		Standards, Assessments, & Accountability		Transitions & Alignment		Teaching Profession		School Finance	
	grade	score	rank	grade	rank	grade	rank	grade	rank	grade	rank	grade	rank	grade	rank
Alabama	C	76.1	32	C-	43	D	44	A-	13	B-	14	C	19	C-	32
Alaska	C-	70.8	46	C	32	D	43	C	43	D+	45	D-	51	B-	11
Arizona	C-	71.7	44	C-	48	D+	31	B+	25	C	28	D-	47	D+	41
Arkansas	B-	81.6	5	C-	44	D	34	A	6	A	1	B+	2	C	27
California	C	76.1	33	C	41	D	35	A	10	B-	14	C-	25	C-	31
Colorado	C	75.1	35	B	10	C	10	B-	32	C	28	D	42	C-	38
Connecticut	C+	78.6	15	B+	4	C-	16	C+	39	C	28	C	29	B+	4
Delaware	C+	76.8	25	B-	22	D+	29	B+	26	C-	36	C	22	C+	13
District of Columbia	C-	69.9	49	C+	28	F	51	B	30	C-	36	D-	48	NA	NA
Florida	C+	79.4	11	C	35	C-	12	A	5	B-	14	B	4	D+	39
Georgia	B-	79.7	7	C	37	C-	22	A-	18	B+	6	B-	10	C	24
Hawaii	C+	78.5	16	C+	25	D+	28	B+	22	C+	22	C+	17	NA	NA
Idaho	C-	70.0	47	C	34	C-	18	B+	27	D	48	D-	50	D	49
Illinois	C	76.3	29	B-	21	C-	21	A-	19	C	28	D+	34	C	28
Indiana	C+	77.5	22	C	33	D+	33	A	1	B+	6	D	46	C-	29
Iowa	C	76.1	31	B	12	D	40	C	47	B-	14	C+	13	C	23
Kansas	C	74.4	39	B-	13	D+	26	B-	34	D+	45	D+	37	C+	16
Kentucky	C+	78.6	14	C	36	C-	13	A-	20	B-	14	B-	5	C-	35
Louisiana	C+	77.2	23	C-	46	F	48	A	2	B-	14	B-	11	C	22
Maine	C	76.4	28	B-	23	C	11	C-	50	B	11	D+	35	B-	10
Maryland	B+	87.8	1	B+	5	B	3	B+	24	A	1	B	3	B+	7
Massachusetts	B	84.2	2	A	1	B	1	B+	23	C	28	C+	14	B	8
Michigan	C+	78.0	19	C+	31	D	41	A-	17	B	11	C	19	C	21
Minnesota	C	74.6	37	B+	8	C	9	C-	49	C-	36	D+	36	C+	19
Mississippi	C-	71.2	45	D+	49	F	50	A	10	C	28	D	41	D+	45
Missouri	C-	72.3	41	C+	29	D	37	C+	38	C-	36	D+	33	C-	34
Montana	C-	72.3	40	B-	20	C	6	C	41	D-	49	D+	32	C-	33
Nebraska	C-	69.6	50	B-	14	D	39	D+	51	F	51	C-	31	C+	18
Nevada	C-	70.0	48	D	51	D	36	C	45	C+	22	C-	28	D	47
New Hampshire	C	76.0	34	A-	3	C+	5	C	42	C-	36	D	44	C+	17
New Jersey	B-	80.5	6	A-	2	B	2	C	44	C+	22	D+	38	B+	6
New Mexico	C	76.3	30	D+	50	D-	47	A-	15	B+	6	C	23	C	25
New York	B	83.9	3	B-	17	C-	24	A-	15	B+	6	B-	7	B+	2
North Carolina	C+	78.3	17	C+	30	C-	20	A	10	B	11	C+	16	D	46
North Dakota	C	74.7	36	B+	6	C-	23	B	28	D+	45	D+	40	C-	37
Ohio	C+	79.5	10	C+	27	C-	15	A	4	C+	22	C	18	C	20
Oklahoma	C+	76.5	27	C-	42	D	38	A	8	B+	6	C-	24	D+	42
Oregon	C-	71.7	43	C	39	D	46	B-	35	C+	22	D	45	C-	30
Pennsylvania	C+	78.7	13	B	11	C	7	C+	40	B-	14	C	21	B-	12
Rhode Island	C+	77.7	20	B-	19	C-	19	B	29	C-	36	C-	27	B+	5
South Carolina	C+	77.2	24	C	38	D	45	A	6	C-	36	B+	1	C-	36
South Dakota	D+	68.1	51	B-	15	D+	30	C	48	D-	49	D-	49	D	48
Tennessee	C+	77.7	21	C-	45	D	42	A-	21	A	3	B-	9	D+	43
Texas	C+	79.2	12	C	40	C-	17	A-	13	A	3	C+	15	D+	40
Utah	C-	71.9	42	C+	24	D+	32	B-	33	C-	36	D	43	D+	44
Vermont	B-	79.6	8	B+	7	C+	4	B	30	C-	36	C-	30	B+	3
Virginia	B	82.6	4	B	9	C	8	A	8	B-	14	B-	6	C+	15
Washington	C	74.5	38	C+	26	C-	25	C+	37	C	28	C-	26	C	26
West Virginia	B-	79.5	9	C-	47	F	49	A	3	A	3	B-	8	C+	14
Wisconsin	C+	78.1	18	B-	16	C-	14	C	46	C+	22	C+	12	B-	9
Wyoming	C+	76.8	26	B-	18	D+	27	C+	36	C	28	D+	39	B+	1
U.S.	C	76.3		C+		C-		B		C+		C		C	

Note: States are ranked based on unrounded scores. The District of Columbia and Hawaii are single-district jurisdictions. As a result, it is not possible to calculate measures of financial equity, which capture the distribution of funding across districts within a state. The District of Columbia and Hawaii do not receive grades for school finance.

SOURCE: EPE Research Center, 2012. This table integrates findings reported in the 2011 and 2012 editions of *Quality Counts*.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2012

Kentucky students are not behind Indiana, Ohio, Tennessee, or the nation

After receiving questions regarding the Kentuckians Advocating for Reform in Education's television commercials and website text we researched the data, and this post shares our findings.

The information presented by KARE in commercials [here](#) and [here](#) and website text [here](#) invites serious misunderstandings. No matter your position on charter schools, Indiana, Ohio, Tennessee, and the nation are not doing better than Kentucky on the student performance measures KARE presents.

Fourth-Grade Reading

KARE's commercials cite 2011 NAEP results showing:

- 65% of Kentucky students reading below the proficient level.

That figure is correct, but Kentucky is not scoring behind the states with charter schools listed in the KARE commercial. Instead, the same assessment shows:

- 67% of Indiana students reading below the proficient level.
- 66% of Ohio students reading below the proficient level.
- 74% of Tennessee students reading below the proficient level.
- 68% of students nationwide reading below the proficient level.

Fourth grade reading results do not show Kentucky scoring behind the states listed in the KARE commercial

African-American Eighth Grade Reading

KARE's commercials also cite 2011 NAEP results showing:

- 42% of Kentucky African-American students reading below the basic level.

Again, that does not mean Kentucky students are at a disadvantage compared to the states KARE cites for comparison. The same assessment shows:

- 41% of Indiana African-American students reading below the basic level.
- 42% of Ohio African-American students reading below the basic level.
- 52% of Tennessee African-American students reading below the basic level.
- 42% of African-American students nationwide reading below the basic level.

Graduation Rates

KARE's commercials and website do not give a source for the claim that 25% of Kentucky high school freshmen will not graduate on time. If they add a reference, PrichBlog will be happy to report on how other states compare.

As a first analysis, though, the federal calculations of all states' average freshman graduation rates estimate that for ninth graders from fall 2005 who should have graduated in 2009:

- 23% of Kentucky freshmen did not graduate on time.
- 25% of Indiana's freshmen did not graduate on time.
- 20% of Ohio's freshmen did not graduate on time.
- 23% of Tennessee's freshmen did not graduate on time.
- 24% of freshmen nationwide did not graduate on time.

Other NAEP Results

KARE's website shows some additional NAEP results not included in the commercials. In context, those results show Kentucky tied or ahead of the country and the other three states far more often than Kentucky is behind.

SUBJECT	GRADE	GROUP	KY	US	IN	OH	TN
PERCENT PROFICIENT AND ABOVE (A HIGHER PERCENTAGE IS A GOOD THING)							
Reading	Fourth	African-American	19	16	13	13	11
Reading	Eighth	All	36	32	32	37	27
Reading	Eighth	Low Income	25	18	19	21	17
Math	Fourth	Low Income	26	24	31	30	19
Math	Eighth	All	31	34	34	39	24
Math	Eighth	African-American	12	13	11	12	9
PERCENT BELOW BASIC (A LOWER PERCENTAGE IS A GOOD THING)							
Reading	Fourth	African-American	48	51	56	54	59
Reading	Fourth	Low Income	39	48	45	43	52

Adding Science to the Mix

The KARE site does not share any of Kentucky's 2009 NAEP science results. Here's an important snapshot of Kentucky students results related to the jurisdictions mentioned in KARE's commercials, further clarifying that Kentucky public schools are not falling behind the comparison group.

SUBJECT	GRADE	GROUP	KY	US	IN	OH	TN
PERCENT PROFICIENT AND ABOVE (A HIGHER PERCENTAGE IS A GOOD THING)							
Science	Fourth	All	45	32	35	41	33
Science	Fourth	African-American	15	10	9	10	8
Science	Fourth	Low Income	30	16	21	20	20
Science	Eighth	All	34	29	32	37	28
Science	Eighth	African-American	16	8	8	6	6
Science	Eighth	Low Income	23	14	17	20	14

To restate the main point, whatever the merits of charter schools, Kentucky students are not being left behind the students of Indiana, Ohio, Tennessee, and the nation.

Source Notes: NAEP data downloaded from the [Data Explorer](#) on January 24, 2012. AFGR results downloaded from the [National Center for Education Statistics](#) on January 24, 2012.

Posted by Susan Perkins Weston at 3:53 PM

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2011

Hold onto your hats: NAEP science results by family income level

In the 2009 NAEP science results released yesterday, Kentucky student scale score performance ranked:

- 2nd of 46 states for fourth graders eligible for free or reduced-price lunches.
- 1st of 46 states for fourth graders not eligible for those lunches.
- 5th of 46 states for eighth graders eligible for free or reduced-price lunches.
- 9th of 46 states for eighth graders not eligible for free or reduced-price lunches.

By all means, read those bullets twice, and the second bullet one more time. If you need to see the results in their official habitat, try the [NAEP Data Explorer](#), run your own analysis, and then come back here. But however long you need to let this sink in, let it sink in until you're sure that something truly good is happening in Kentucky's public schools.

As I always say, there's work still be done. We've still got a gap between those two groups to close, and the whole country needs to move science learning to a higher level.

Nevertheless, we've got a leading position on figuring out those challenges. There are just a few states with a case that we should look to them for a model, and many states with a reason to look to us.

So, for these results and our overall scale score rankings of 4th in grade 4 and 16th in grade 8, a little celebration is surely in order: celebration of our children, and our educators, and our decades of statewide effort to keep attention on the full curriculum of knowledge and skills that each and every child will need for adult success.

