

# KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
June 1, 2010

No. 10-027  
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## NONACADEMIC MEASURES REMAIN GENERALLY STABLE

(FRANKFORT, Ky.) – Data from the 2008-09 school year show that Kentucky's public school students had slightly lower graduation rates than those in the 2007-08 school year, and dropout rates improved during the same time period.

The graduation rate decreased from 84.52 percent in 2008 to 83.91 percent in 2009. Kentucky began reporting graduation rate data with the 2000-01 school year to comply with requirements of the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act. Because NCLB requires that graduation rates not include students who received certificates of completion and those who took longer than four years to graduate, a more rigid formula to determine the rates was adopted by the Kentucky Board of Education in 2002. The 2001 and 2002 rates include students who received certificates of completion and those who took longer than four years to graduate. Rates collected after those years include only those students who finished high school within four years and those students with Individual Education Plans (IEP) that allow more than four years to graduate.

The overall high school dropout rate decreased, from 3.29 percent in 2008 to 2.89 percent in 2009. Dropout rates for nearly all ethnic groups decreased from 2008 to 2009, with those for African American, Hispanic and Native American students showing the greatest improvement.

The school retention rate -- the percentage of students held back a grade -- increased slightly, from 2.55 percent to 2.75 percent. School attendance rates increased slightly, from 94.17 percent to 94.18 percent.

The rate of successful transition to adult life decreased slightly from 2008 to 2009, and the percentage of public high school graduates who went on to college increased, from 55.17 percent in 2008 to 56.35 percent in 2009.

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**COMPARISONS OF NONACADEMIC DATA - STATEWIDE RATES**

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
<b>Attendance</b>	94.43%	94.31%	94.26%	94.31%	94.60%	94.18%	94.17%	94.18%
<b>Dropout (grades 9-12)</b>	3.93%	3.31%	3.34%	3.47%	3.34%	3.17%	3.29%	2.89%
<b>Graduation</b>	80.83%	79.14%	81.53%	82.85%	83.24%	83.76%	84.52%	83.91%
<b>Retention</b>	3.55%	3.38%	3.27%	3.30%	2.92%	3.00%	2.55%	2.75%
<b>Successful Transition</b>	95.67%	96.03%	96.00%	96.15%	96.07%	95.80%	95.27%	94.37%

**HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUT RATES BY RACE AND GENDER**

	MALE	FEMALE	WHITE	AFRICAN AMERICAN	HISPANIC	ASIAN	AMERICAN INDIAN	OTHER
<b>2002</b>	4.63%	3.20%	3.78%	5.52%	5.96%	2.09%	1.64%	2.72%
<b>2003</b>	3.91%	2.75%	3.23%	4.45%	4.65%	1.80%	2.08%	2.29%
<b>2004</b>	3.91%	2.77%	3.22%	4.56%	4.77%	1.73%	5.32%	2.50%
<b>2005</b>	4.06%	2.86%	3.21%	5.75%	5.08%	1.39%	2.81%	3.38%
<b>2006</b>	3.91%	2.69%	3.03%	5.45%	6.11%	1.11%	2.64%	3.67%
<b>2007</b>	3.69%	2.64%	2.94%	4.77%	5.46%	1.22%	2.45%	3.96%
<b>2008</b>	3.77%	2.79%	2.87%	6.14%	6.07%	1.82%	4.28%	4.09%
<b>2009</b>	3.26%	2.50%	2.60%	4.91%	4.06%	2.27%	3.04%	3.49%

Nonacademic data has been one component of the Commonwealth Accountability Testing System (CATS), which was ended by the passage of Senate Bill 1 in the 2009 session of the Kentucky General Assembly. However, graduation rates are required to be reported under the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act, and schools and districts are held accountable for meeting annual goals for graduation rates through NCLB.

In the past, all Kentucky schools and districts were required to meet the same annual graduation rate goals, and any improvement from year to year was considered to have met the U.S. Department of Education's requirement of "continuous and substantial improvement." Final regulations and a peer review by the agency earlier this year indicated that "any improvement" was not sufficient to meet the federal requirement, and the state was required to set targets for minimum improvement from year to year.

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For this year's data release, for the purposes of Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) calculations under NCLB, growth on the graduation rate means a rate that is equal to or greater than the corresponding annual goal; or, a graduation rate that exceeds that of the prior year by a minimum of 2.00 percentage points. The graduation rate goal for 2009 is 86.75. This change will be reflected in the September 2010 No Child Left Behind Adequate Yearly Progress reports.

Kentucky currently uses a "leaver" graduation rate that divides the number of on-time graduates with a diploma plus the number of graduates with a diploma that have extended time written into their IEPs by the total number of students who do graduate or would have graduated with a particular year's class. Beginning with the 2010-11 school year and through the 2012-13 school year, the Kentucky Department of Education will use the Averaged Freshmen Graduation Rate (AFGR) definition from the National Center for Education Statistics for the calculation of graduation rates. The AFGR for the 2010-11 school year will be used to publicly report nonacademic data and to make AYP determinations as defined by NCLB.

See details on the AFGR at this link: [http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2009/dropout07/app\\_a3.asp](http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2009/dropout07/app_a3.asp)

In 2013-14, Kentucky will move to using a Cohort Graduation rate. A cohort rate tracks individual students over a four-year period to determine their status at the end of the senior year.

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