



## UNDERSTANDING ACCOUNTABILITY DATA

Each year in Kentucky, students take state and national tests to gauge whether they have mastered the material they need to be successful in school and beyond.

Changes to state and national laws have prompted a redesign of the state accountability system that families are used to.

While the system is in transition, the Kentucky Department of Education will no longer calculate a single score or assign labels to schools and districts. You will not see classifications such as “Distinguished” or “Top 10” when looking at officially released accountability data.

Instead, this fall, the state has released separate scores for each of the five previously reported Next Generation Leader categories, which generally should not be compared with previous years because of changes in who was tested and how calculations were made.

### **What does this mean for my child?**

Test scores for individual students will be calculated and provided to families as it has been in the past during fall open houses and parent/teacher conferences. Although Kentucky is moving away from the past system, the data is still valid for helping to determine how your child performed last year and what interventions might be needed this year.

### **How do I view scores for my child’s school or KCPS?**

Visit the KCPS website at [www.knoxkyschools.com](http://www.knoxkyschools.com) and click on the school report card link or visit the KDE website at [www.education.ky.gov](http://www.education.ky.gov). Reports may also be obtained at your child’s school.

### **Who should I contact if I have questions?**

The assessment coordinator and principal at your child’s school can help answer questions about the change in accountability system and understanding your child’s performance on the prior year assessments.

### *The accountability data is divided into five different categories including:*

**Achievement:** A score of between 0 and 100 to show how students did on state tests. Student scores are divided into the following categories: novice, apprentice, proficient, or distinguished. Schools receive one point for the percentage of students who were proficient or distinguished and a half point for students who were apprentice. If the percentage of students scoring distinguished is higher than the percentage of students scoring novice, then bonus points are awarded.

**Gap:** A score of between 0 and 100 to show how historically under-served students did on state tests. This category includes the scores of students who qualify for free or reduced lunch, receive special education services, need support in learning English, or whose race is identified as African-American, Hispanic, or Native American. Schools receive one point for the percentage of students who were proficient or distinguished. Credit is also given for reducing the number of student who score novice.

**Growth:** A score of between 0 and 100 which compares student performance in reading and math from year to year.

**Graduation Rate (High School):** The percentage of students in each school or district who earn a high school diploma. Two scores are released -- one showing the percent of students who graduated in four years and one showing the percent of students who graduated in five years.

**College and Career Readiness (High School):** A score between 0 and 100 calculated by combining student performance on the ACT and other national tests of college readiness and the number of students who earned industry certifications.

