

Understanding Kentucky's School Rating System

The Kentucky Department of Education implemented a new system of accountability ratings in 2022 for schools and districts in the Commonwealth based on student performance on standardized tests and other measures of student success. This year, they have changed the way ratings are calculated, so comparisons between 2022 and 2023 are inaccurate.

Here is an overview of how this year's data was determined.

In the spring of 2023, students took a standardized test called the Kentucky Summative Assessment.

Subject Area	Grades Tested
Reading	3 to 8, 10
Mathematics	3 to 8, 11
Science	4, 7, 11
Social Studies	5, 8, 11
Writing	5, 8, 22

The Kentucky Department of Education takes those test results, along with other measures to give each school and district scores in four areas:

- **Reading and Math:** Based on how students performed in reading and math on the Kentucky Summative Assessments – called KSA for short – as well as a comparison to student performance the prior year.
- **Science, Social Studies, and Writing:** Based on how students performed in science, social studies, and writing on KSA, as well as a comparison to student performance the prior year.
- **English Learner Progress:** Based on how students whose first language is not English are growing in their English proficiency, as well as a comparison to student performance the prior year.
- **Quality of School Climate and Safety:** Based on student survey results as well as how those results changed from the previous year.

High schools also receive scores in these two additional categories:

- **Postsecondary Readiness:** Based on student performance on the ACT and/or AP/IB tests, and how many students earn college credit or industry certifications, or complete apprenticeship programs, as well as a comparison to those benchmarks the previous year.
- **Graduation Rate:** Based on the percentage of students who graduate within four or five years, as well as a comparison of those metrics from the prior year..

Scores in those categories are multiplied by different weights and combined into an overall performance rating.

- Based on the distribution of performance ratings across the state, KDE has established five ranges for scores they consider “very low,” “low,” “medium,” “high,” or “very high.”

Each of those categories has a corresponding color:

- “very low,” is red
- “low,” is orange
- “medium,” is yellow
- “high,” is green
- “very high” is blue

There is also a federal way of evaluating schools, which could result in one of the following three federal labels:

- **Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI):** Schools that score in the lowest 5 percent of schools in the state or have been in Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) status for too many consecutive years.
- **Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI):** Schools where the performance of one or more groups of students (based on race, special education status, English language proficiency, and family income) fell into the range of the CSI school scores.
- **Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI):** Schools that were previously labeled TSI and did not make enough progress.

Schools identified for Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI), Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI), or Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI) will receive additional assistance and be required to develop improvement plans to improve outcomes for students.