# 2024-2025 Assessment and Accountability Results for Russell County Schools

The U.S. Department of Education (USED) required states to implement school accountability and school identification requirements for the 2024-2025 school year.

The Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) approved amendments to 703 KAR 5:270 to include changes required by Senate Bill 158 (2020). The current accountability system includes an exclusive list of six state indicators that measure school performance: (1) State Assessment Results in reading and mathematics, (2) State Assessment Results in science, social studies, and writing, (3) English Learner Progress, (4) Quality of School Climate and Safety, (5) Postsecondary Readiness (high school only) and (6) Graduation Rate (high school only).

The accountability system's overall performance for each district, school and student demographic group determined by the state indicators shall combine current year performance, called "Status" and improvement from the prior year to current year, called "Change." Status and change receive equal weight in determining overall performance.

For each state indicator, there are five Status Levels, ranging from Very High to Very Low and five Change Levels, ranging from Increased Significantly to Declined Significantly. Indicator color ratings are based on the combination of Status and Change using a 5 X 5 table.

| | Change Declined Significantly | Change Declined | Change Maintained | Change Increased | Change Increased Significantly |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Very High Status in current year | Yellow | Green | Blue | Blue | Blue |
| High Status in current year | Yellow | Yellow | Green | Green | Blue |
| Medium Status in current year | Orange | Orange | Yellow | Green | Green |
| Low Status in current year | Red | Orange | Orange | Yellow | Yellow |
| Very Low Status in current year | Red | Red | Red | Orange | Yellow |

*5 x 5 table: Indicator Performance Rating-a color- based on combination of Status and Change

Overall Performance Ratings are reported using a color rating system to communicate performance of schools. Color ratings will include five performance levels from highest to lowest, Blue, Green, Yellow, Orange and Red.

The 2024-2025 school year marks the first time Kentucky's accountability system will have three years of Change data available, enabling full implementation of the Change calculation for federal accountability determinations, as required by KRS 158.6455. Therefore, this year, Kentucky's accountability system introduces two distinct calculations. While both federal and state indicator scores use the same foundational components, Status and Change, they differ in how Change is calculated and applied.

- State Change Score: A simple year-to-year comparison (current year minus prior year). State calculations will determine color ratings for schools.
- Federal Change Score: A three-year average of Change scores using current and prior years' status scores, offering a more transparent view of performance over time for the purpose of determining the lowest-performing 5% of schools. Federal calculations will determine classifications such as Comprehensive School and Improvement (CSI), Targeted School and Improvement (TSI), and Additional Targeted School and Improvement (ATSI).

Russell County does not have any schools with a federal classification (CSI, TSI or ATSI).

With the release of 2024-2025 school year assessment data, families, educators, lawmakers and education stakeholders across the Commonwealth have a way to understand how their local schools are performing. However, assessment results are just one component the Russell County School District is utilizing to create a more robust and equitable education system.

## SPOTLIGHT on SCHOOLS of RUSSELL COUNTY

### RUSSELL COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

With an overall state score of 67.1, Russell County High School (RCHS) received a color rating of **YELLOW**. The combined reading and math state indicator of 62.4 is **YELLOW**. The current status is 64.2 - medium, maintaining change with a -1.8 from the prior year. The science, social studies and writing state indicator is 52.8 **YELLOW** with a current medium status of 53.8, maintaining change with -1.0 from the prior year. The proficient/distinguished percentages were higher than the state averages in math, social studies and combined writing while the proficient/distinguished percentages were lower than the state in reading and equal to the state in science. The federal indicator of reading and math is 65.7 with an applied change of 1.5 and the science, social studies and writing indicator is 54.1 with an applied change of 0.3.

| Subject | Novice/Apprentice % | | Proficient/Distinguished % | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | RCHS | State | RCHS | State |
| Reading | 56 | 54 | 44 | 46 |
| Mathematics | 53 | 60 | 47 | 40 |
| Science | 79 | 79 | 21 | 21 |
| Social Studies | 61 | 63 | 39 | 38 |
| Combined Writing | 50 | 57 | 49 | 43 |

Note: Number is rounded to the nearest whole number

All Kentucky public school juniors participated in the ACT, which tests students in English, mathematics, reading and science. The ACT is scored on a scale of 1 to 36. Overall, scores for Russell County students decreased from the prior year with the exception of reading, but scores were competitive with the state level in all categories.

| Students | English | Mathematics | Reading | Science | Composite |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Russell County | 17.3 | 17.6 | 18.2 | 18.2 | 18.0 |
| State | 17.3 | 17.5 | 18.6 | 18.4 | 18.1 |

The graduation state indicator rating is 95.5 **GREEN** for Russell County. The high status level increased 0.1 from 95.3% to 95.4% increasing the change level. Furthermore, the Postsecondary Readiness state indicator landed in the **GREEN** at 95.1. The current status is 97.9 - very high with a -2.8 decrease. This indicator gives students flexibility on how they demonstrate either academic or career readiness. The federal indicator for graduation is 95.8 with an applied change of 0.4 while the Postsecondary Readiness indicator is 99.3 with a 1.4 change.

## RUSSELL COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL

Russell County Middle School (RCMS) received a **GREEN** color rating overall with a score of 73.9. The combined reading and math state indicator of 78 is **BLUE** with a high level of 71.6 – significantly increasing the change level with a 6.4 increase from the prior year and the science, social studies and writing indicator of 70.1 is **GREEN** with a current high status of 64.3, a 5.8 increase from the prior year. The proficient/distinguished performance levels were higher than the state in all content areas - reading, mathematics, science, social studies and combined writing. The federal indicator of reading and math is 74.6 with an applied change of 3 and the science, social studies and writing indicator is 68 with an applied change of 3.7.

| Subject | Novice/Apprentice % | | Proficient/Distinguished % | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | RCMS | State | RCMS | State |
| Reading | 44 | 52 | 56 | 47 |
| Mathematics | 48 | 59 | 52 | 41 |
| Science | 68 | 72 | 32 | 29 |
| Social Studies | 55 | 61 | 46 | 39 |
| Combined Writing | 46 | 53 | 53 | 48 |

Note: Number is rounded to the nearest whole number

## JAMESTOWN, RUSSELL SPRINGS and SALEM ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Jamestown Elementary School (JES) received an overall state score of 66.1 for a **YELLOW** color rating. The combined reading and math state indicator of 60.8 is **ORANGE** with a current medium status of 63.8, a decline of -3.0 from the prior year. The science, social studies and writing state indicator of 71.4 is **GREEN** with a high status level of 69.6, an increase of 1.8. The overall state score of 77.1 **GREEN** for Russell Springs Elementary School (RSES) consisted of a combined reading and math state indicator of 78.2 **GREEN** with a current status of 79.4 - high, maintaining change with a decrease of -1.2 from the prior year and the science, social studies and writing state indicator of 81.6 GREEN that reflects a very high current status of 84, a -2.4 decrease. Salem Elementary School (SES) received an overall state score of 64.0 with a **YELLOW** color rating. The combined reading and math state indicator of 71.2 is **GREEN** with a medium current status level of 68.8, a 2.4 increase from the prior year. The science, social studies and writing state indicator of 53.5 is **ORANGE.** The current status is 61.7 - medium, a significant decline of -8.2 change from the prior year**.** The overall federal indicator and applied change for elementary schools follow: JES – reading and math – 62.8, -1.0 and science, social studies and writing – 74.6, 5.0; RSES – reading and math – 80.1, 0.7 and science, social studies and writing – 86.6, 2.6; SES – reading and math – 69.9, 1.1 and science, social studies and writing – 62, 0.3.

Performance levels among the elementary schools were diverse compared to the state. The proficient/distinguished performance levels in reading and mathematics for RSES and SES were above the state while JES was below. Both JES and RSES, specifically, scored above the state in science while

SES was equal to the state. JES and RSES proficient/distinguished levels in Social Studies were above the state and SES was below. Combined Writing for all elementary schools reflected higher proficient/distinguished levels than the state.

| Subject | Novice/Apprentice % | | | | Proficient/Distinguished % | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | JES | RSES | SES | State | JES | RSES | SES | State |
| Reading | 55 | 35 | 49 | 51 | 45 | 65 | 51 | 49 |
| Mathematics | 58 | 44 | 52 | 56 | 42 | 56 | 48 | 43 |
| Science | 55 | 50 | 64 | 62 | 44 | 51 | 37 | 37 |
| Social Studies | 57 | 38 | 66 | 62 | 43 | 62 | 33 | 38 |
| Combined Writing | 50 | 19 | 57 | 57 | 51 | 80 | 44 | 43 |

Note: Number is rounded to the nearest whole number

## KINDERGARTEN READINESS, ENGLISH LEARNERS and QUALITY of SCHOOL CLIMATE and SAFETY SURVEY

### KINDERGARTEN READINESS

Kentucky's Common Kindergarten Entry Screener, the BRIGANCE Early Childhood Kindergarten Screen III, provides a quick and accurate assessment of a child's development in five areas: Academic/Cognitive, Language Development, Physical Development, Self-Help and Social-Emotional Development. 41% were kindergarten ready compared to the state's 48%. 27% were average/above average in academic/cognitive, 5% lower than the state percentage of 32% average/above average. 64% performed average/above average in language development while the state average was 66% and 74% performed average/above average in the social emotional area with the state average being 75%.

### ENGLISH LEARNERS

English Language Learners take an ACCESS test to examine English Proficiency in comprehension, listening, literacy, oral, reading, speaking and writing. During the 2024-2025 school year, eight Russell County students reached attainment, a decrease of ten from the prior year. More specifically, RSES and RCHS (first year qualifying) were the only schools in the district with a population of EL students to count toward accountability. RSES received an overall score of 26.1 **ORANGE** with a medium current status of 48.3, a -22.2 significant decline from the prior year. RCHS received an overall score of 20 **ORANGE** with a low status of 20. The federal indicator for RSES is 42.3 with an applied change of -6.0 while the indicator for RCHS is 20 and no applied change due to the first year of qualifying status.

### QUALITY of SCHOOL CLIMATE and SAFETY SURVEY

All participating students in tested grades completed the Quality of School Climate and Safety Survey. One form was given to grades 3 through 5 and another form given to grades 6 through high school. The overall state indicator scores and color ratings for schools follow: Russell County High School – 67.9 **GREEN**; Russell County Middle School – 70.4 **GREEN**; Jamestown Elementary School – 80.9 **GREEN**; Russell Springs Elementary School – 81.2 **GREEN**; and Salem Elementary School – 76.3 **YELLOW**. The current status of RCHS is 64.3 – high, with a 3.6 increase. RCMS had an increase of 1.9 with a high

68.5. A high 78.7 current status for JES was a 2.2 increase from the prior year while a high 79.9 with an increase of 1.3 for RSES and a medium 76.9, a -0.6 decrease for SES are reflected. The overall federal indicator and applied change for schools follow: Russell County High School – 65.9, 1.6; Russell County Middle School – 69.5, 1.0; Jamestown Elementary School – 79.3, 0.6; Russell Springs Elementary School – 81, 1.1; Salem Elementary School – 75.9, -1.0.

Elementary, middle and high school survey items reflected positive results, as well as areas for growth, from students.

| High School Survey Item | Percentage |
|---|---|
| There is at least one adult from my school who listens to me when I have something to say. | 96% Strongly Agree/Agree |
| My teachers expect me to do my best all the time. | 93% Strongly Agree/Agree |
| Internet bullying is NOT a problem for students from my school. | 59% Strongly Disagree/Disagree |

| Middle School Survey Item | Percentage |
|---|---|
| My teachers expect me to do my best all the time. | 97% Strongly Agree/Agree |
| If I have a problem, there is an adult from school I can talk to. | 94% Strongly Agree/Agree |
| Internet bullying is NOT a problem for students from my school. | 44% Strongly Disagree/Disagree |

| Elementary Survey Item | Percentage |
|---|---|
| Adults from my school work hard to make sure students are safe. | 99% Strongly Agree/Agree |
| My teachers expect me to do my best all the time. | 97% Strongly Agree/Agree |
| Students being mean or hurtful to other students is NOT a problem for this school. | 57% Strongly Disagree/Disagree |

In summary, a single test score does not provide a complete or precise measure of student achievement, however, the Russell County School District is utilizing the information gained from the assessment as an important tool. The results, combined with local formative measures, experiences in the classroom and other non-academic indicators will be used to direct improvement plans. Multiple data sources regarding students, allow the district more opportunities to understand their needs and how to be equipped to help them succeed.

***All data for the 2024-2025 assessment and accountability reporting is available at** School Report Card (SRC) Dashboard .