

TRANSITION INDEX

The Council for Better Education, the Kentucky Association of School Councils, and the Prichard Committee are partnering to provide overall school results (called a transition index) during the Senate Bill 1 transition. Using 2009 test results reported by KDE, we'll publish an index for all tested subjects. To provide usable trend data, we will share 2007 and 2008 data calculated by the same formula as the 2009 transition index. For schools and districts, this data will be helpful in evaluating student improvement. For parents, citizens, and policy-makers, it will be a quick snapshot of progress.

TRANSITION INDEX PROJECTS

- Results for **each school AND combined** results for district and state results at the elementary, middle, and high
 - Overall index results — 2007, 2008, and 2009
 - Projected 2014 index each school if the 2007 through 2009 trend continues
 - Subject area index results for 2007, 2008, and 2009
- Disaggregated results as possible with KDE released data
- A statewide press release summarizing results
- Regional press releases summarizing results for local districts
- A one-page explanation of data and formulas

For a *KASC-only* project, we'll also produce the following as a members-only benefit or for purchase:

- Graph of the transition index and KPR information for schools
- Graph of gap results for schools
- Worksheet to lead educators and parents through an analysis of the results
- Sortable data-base with ACT-KCCT comparison for high school

FORMULA FOR THE TRANSITION INDEX

The index for each subject will be calculated by:

1. Taking the percent of students at each performance level.
2. Multiplying each percent by the appropriate weight below.

Novice Nonperformance	0.00
Medium Novice	0.13
High Novice	0.26
Low Apprentice	0.40
Medium Apprentice	0.60
High Apprentice	0.80
Proficient	1.00
Distinguished	1.40

3. Adding up the resulting numbers to get a number on a 0-140 scale.

Then the transition index for the whole school will be calculated by:

1. Taking the index results for each subject.
2. Multiplying each index by the appropriate weight below (shown rounded to three decimal places).

	Elementary	Middle	High
Reading	0.266	0.253	0.222
Mathematics	0.266	0.253	0.222
Science	0.186	0.196	0.222
Social Studies	0.186	0.196	0.222
Writing On-Demand	0.096	0.102	0.111

3. Adding up the results to get a number on a 0-140 scale.

DETAILS ON PRODUCING THE INDEX

HOW WILL YOU BE ABLE TO CALCULATE THE TRANSITION INDEX WHEN SOME PARTS OF THE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM (ARTS, PRACTICAL LIVING, AND WRITING PORTFOLIO) ARE NO LONGER INCLUDED?

The state Department of Education will release subject area scores showing percent novice, apprentice, proficient, and distinguished in the remaining tests. KDE will not provide an “accountability index” combining all results that are still reported in a single snapshot of progress being made. To fill the gap, we will use the test results to calculate a “transition index” that closely resembles the academic data published by the state in past years.

THE LEGISLATURE HAS RECOGNIZED THAT THE CURRENT MATH STANDARDS NEED REVISION. WHY ARE YOU BASING YOUR INDEX ON THEM?

Narrowing of the math standards will take place, but for now, we can only work with what is in place. Even though the standards may be broad, Kentucky students are all taking the same test. The transition index will provide another tool for measuring how students perform on Kentucky’s current standards. The Kentucky standards for math and reading also determine school/district success for No Child Left Behind.

ACCESSING THE RESULTS

WHEN WILL THE RESULTS BE AVAILABLE?

Within two weeks after the Department lifts the embargo on public discussion of the scores.

HOW WILL WE BE ABLE TO GET COPIES OF THE RESULTS?

You’ll be able to download a report listing the transition index results for all the schools at your level, and backup reports listing the index numbers for each subject. KASC will host the data on its website so anyone who wants to see the results can do so.

IS THE TRANSITION INDEX SOMETHING THAT HAS TO BE PURCHASED FROM KASC?

No. KASC is partnering with the Prichard Committee and the Council for Better Education to make the index available free to anyone who requests it. The information will also be available on the KASC website. KASC will be developing some products that can be used with the new transition index that you will be able to purchase.

ACCOUNTABILITY

WILL THE STATE USE THIS INDEX TO HOLD SCHOOLS OR DISTRICTS ACCOUNTABLE FOR PERFORMANCE?

No. There will be no overall performance index from the Kentucky Department of Education. Schools and districts will be only be held accountable for reaching math and reading goals under the federal No Child Left Behind law.

WHAT WILL THE TRANSITION INDEX TELL SCHOOLS THAT NCLB REPORTING CANNOT?

The NCLB standard is based on a pass-fail model for specific percentages of student proficiency for all student groups. The transition index will honor school improvement in a way that NCLB will not.

IS THIS LEGAL? DOESN’T THE LAW STIPULATE NO PUBLIC RELEASE OF DATA?

Senate Bill 1 prohibits a KDE accountability index to hold schools accountable by the standards previously dictated by CATS. The math, reading, social studies, and science test results for schools will be released by KDE. You will still get a revised Kentucky Performance Report with core content results. Schools and districts will be able to use this information to evaluate student performance.

KASC, the Prichard Committee, and the Council for Better Education are all independent organizations, and we are taking public data to figure an overall index that we’re calling the transition index. There is absolutely no accountability or consequences from our index. We want to provide this index, including applying the same formula to 2007 and 2008 scores, to give schools and districts academic performance trend data so schools and districts have as many tools as possible to see how well they are meeting student needs and to be able to make decisions to further improve student achievement.