

KERA UPDATE

July 2003

About The Kentucky Education Reform Act

#72

Kentucky's 2002 NAEP Reading Is FLAT #3: But, Our Ranking Plummeted!

The 2002 NAEP reading results released on June 19th. Two previous KERA Updates discussed several important issues for Kentucky such as statistically flat scores and the fact that in recent years Kentucky's NAEP scores only rose significantly when lots more kids with learning disabilities were excluded from testing. Thus, it is not much of a surprise that Kentucky's recent scores are above the national average —

that is just because the state eliminated more than the national average number of weak students from testing.

But, there are other ways to look at NAEP, and one that isn't discussed in the NAEP literature is a simple ranking of the states according to their scores. When we do this, something rather incredible happens. **Even without correction for its inflated scores, Kentucky lost serious ground in state rankings on the 2002 NAEP!**

exclusion-based inflation. For example, regression analysis of the changes in scores versus the changes in exclusion of students with learning disabilities (SD) indicates Kentucky's true 2002 score could be only about 212! Other states might also have lower scores if exclusion were properly accounted for in NAEP, but few would drop as much as Kentucky, because only three states, Louisiana, North Carolina, and West Virginia have higher exclusion rates for SD. And, there is growing evidence that SD exclusion is the factor that leads to NAEP score inflation. Exclusion of students with limited English proficiency does not seem to have much impact.

It is pretty obvious that just ranking the official scores leads to very bad news for Kentucky. Our ranking decline in 2002 NAEP reading is very disturbing. We are obviously losing ground.

This raises more doubts about Kentucky's CATS results, of course. Even if our NAEP scores did rise in 1998, and this is doubtful, the rest of the country and the Southern region are beginning to leave us behind.

The table on the left shows all the participating states in the various NAEP 4th grade reading assessments. Using the published NAEP scores as shown in the table, which, I reiterate, are not corrected for exclusion, **Kentucky ranks below the median, just 25th among the 43 states that participated in the 2002 NAEP 4th grade reading assessment.**

Even if we only consider the 36 states that participated in NAEP both in 1998 and 2002, Kentucky slips 8 places from 10th to 18th ranking as shown in the other table!

In 1998 only one Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) state, Oklahoma, outscored Kentucky. In 2002 Oklahoma had a disastrous score decline but 3 other SREB states, Virginia, Delaware, and North Carolina moved ahead of Kentucky. **So, we lost ground in the regional rankings as well.**

Things would look worse if Kentucky's scores were corrected for

NAEP 4 th Grade Reading									
	1992		1994		1998		2002		
#	State	Score	State	Score	State	Score	State	Score	#
1	NH	228	ME	228	CT	232	MA	234	1
2	ME	227	ND	225	MT	226	CT	229	2
3	MA	226	WI	224	NH	226	VT	227	3
4	ND	226	IA	223	MA	225	ME	225	4
5	IA	225	MA	223	ME	225	MN	225	5
6	WI	224	NH	223	WI	224	VA	225	6
7	NJ	223	CT	222	IA	223	DE	224	7
8	WY	223	MT	222	CO	222	MT	224	8
9	CT	222	WY	221	KS	222	ND	224	9
10	IN	221	IN	220	MN	222	WA	224	10
11	MN	221	NE	220	OK	220	IA	223	11
12	NE	221	RI	220	WY	219	IN	222	12
13	PA	221	NJ	219	KY	218	KS	222	13
14	VA	221	MN	218	RI	218	NE	222	14
15	MO	220	MO	217	VA	218	NY	222	15
16	UT	220	UT	217	MI	217	NC	222	16
17	CO	217	PA	215	NC	217	OH	222	17
18	RI	217	NC	214	TX	217	UT	222	18
19	WV	216	CO	213	WA	217	PA	221	19
20	NY	215	TN	213	MO	216	WY	221	20
21	KY	213	VA	213	NY	216	ID	220	21
22	DE	213	WA	213	WV	216	MO	220	22
23	TX	213	WV	213	MD	215	OR	220	23
24	GA	212	KY	212	UT	215	RI	220	24
25	NC	212	NY	212	OR	214	KY	219	25
26	TN	212	TX	212	DE	212	MI	219	26
27	AR	211	MD	210	TN	212	WV	219	27
28	MD	211	AR	209	AL	211	MD	217	28
29	NM	211	AL	208	GA	210	TX	217	29
30	SC	210	GA	207	SC	210	GA	215	30
31	AZ	209	AZ	206	AR	209	FL	214	31
32	FL	208	DE	206	NV	208	SC	214	32
33	AL	207	FL	205	AZ	207	TN	214	33
34	LA	204	NM	205	FL	207	AR	213	34
35	HI	203	SC	203	NM	206	OK	213	35
36	CA	202	MS	202	LA	204	NV	209	36
37	MS	199	HI	201	MS	204	HI	208	37
38			CA	197	CA	202	NM	208	38
39			LA	197	HI	200	AL	207	39
40							LA	207	40
41							CA	206	41
42							AZ	205	42
43							MS	203	43

NAEP 4th Grade Reading, States That Participated Both in 1998 and 2002				
	1998		2002	
Rank	State	Score	State	Score
1	CT	232	MA	234
2	MT	226	CT	229
3	MA	225	ME	225
4	ME	225	MN	225
5	IA	223	VA	225
6	KS	222	DE	224
7	MN	222	MT	224
8	OK	220	WA	224
9	WY	219	IA	223
10	KY	218	KS	222
11	RI	218	NC	222
12	VA	218	NY	222
13	MI	217	UT	222
14	NC	217	WY	221
15	TX	217	MO	220
16	WA	217	OR	220
17	MO	216	RI	220
18	NY	216	KY	219
19	WV	216	MI	219
20	MD	215	WV	219
21	UT	215	MD	217
22	OR	214	TX	217
23	DE	212	GA	215
24	TN	212	FL	214
25	AL	211	SC	214
26	GA	210	TN	214
27	SC	210	AR	213
28	AR	209	OK	213
29	NV	208	NV	209
30	AZ	207	HI	208
31	FL	207	NM	208
32	NM	206	AL	207
33	LA	204	LA	207
34	MS	204	CA	206
35	CA	202	AZ	205
36	HI	200	MS	203