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# KENTUCKY

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## Education Index Shows Measurable Gains

FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY (October 12, 2007) — The Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center released the Index of Educational Progress today that combines 11 indicators and shows that the state has made progress over time *and* relative to the nation. In 2005, Kentucky ranked 34th compared to a ranking of 43rd in 1992, according to the index.

While Kentucky continues to lag on indicators of educational attainment among working-age adults, rising levels of educational achievement among current students bode well for the future. Kentucky National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) scores on 4th and 8th grade science and 4th grade reading, as well as a steady decline in the dropout rate, combined to lift the state out of the bottom tier of states to the ranking of 34th in 2005. The ranking of 34th on the index is consistent with recent rankings by both the Quality Counts 2007 Achievement Index (*Education Week*), which ranked Kentucky 34th, and the “Smartest States Index” by publisher Morgan Quitno, which recently ranked Kentucky 31st.

In spite of the gains made, the Center’s index creator notes that the distance between Kentucky and leading states on virtually every measure is significant, reminding Kentuckians that educational reform is an ongoing process, not a destination.

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