

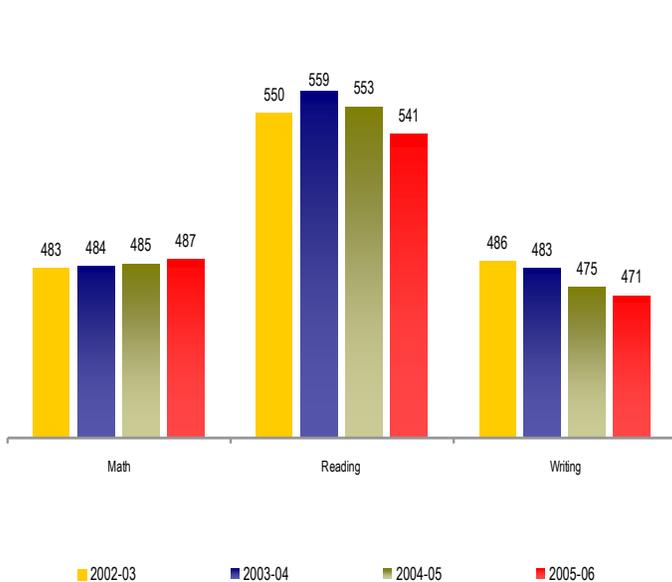
Between the 1990 and 2000 U.S. Census, Kentucky was successful in reducing the number of adults 18 and older without a high school diploma or GED. Still, 785,000 Kentuckians 18 and older do not have a GED or high school diploma and Kentucky ranks 49th in the nation as a percentage of the adult population without a high school diploma or GED.

In the first few years following the last U.S. Census study of the population 18 and older without a high school diploma or GED which occurred in 2000, Kentucky GED graduates has been stagnant. More recently, analysis of the last four years of GED graduate data confirms that Kentucky has produced on average 1,500 fewer GED graduates per year than our historical 25-year average of 11,000 graduates.

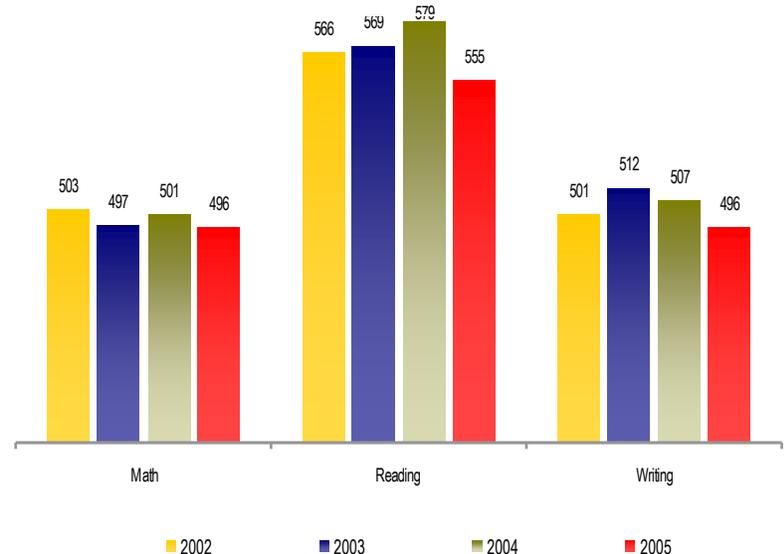
Nationally and in other southern states, GED graduates have been steadily increasing. Approximately 423,000 students in the U.S. in calendar year 2005 earned a GED representing a 4.4 percent increase from calendar year 2004. Increases occurred in 36 states and Kentucky was not one of these states. In fact, Kentucky had the largest decrease in GED graduates (12.1 percent decrease) for calendar year 2005. In addition, Kentucky Adult Education did not meet the state GED goal of 10,040 for fiscal year 2005-06.

In order to continue raising the educational level of the Commonwealth, improve the quality of life, and increase economic development, Kentucky needs to begin addressing, not only, the decrease in GED graduates, but also, raising the average standard scores. Of increasing importance, is raising the scores on the five GED Tests so that students are better prepared for postsecondary education and/or higher quality employment. In the United States as well as Kentucky, the average standard scores are lowest in Math, Reading, and Writing. In Kentucky the Reading and Writing scores are on a downward trend (Graph 1). For the last four years Kentucky's average standard scores in Math, Reading, and Writing have been lower than the national average (Graph 2).

Graph 1: Kentucky Mean Scores for GED® Graduates by Fiscal

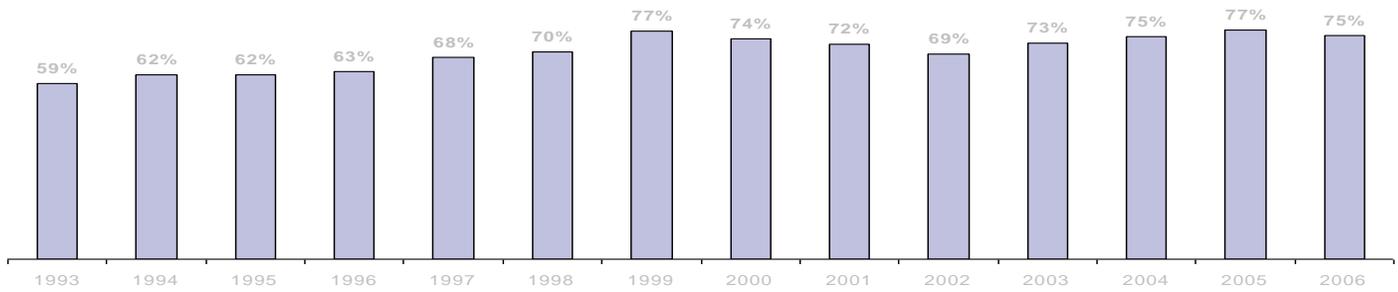


Graph 2: National Mean Scores for GED® Graduates by Calendar Year



The national pass rate in calendar year 2005 was 72 percent, which Kentucky, and 30 other states exceeded. The passing rate in Kentucky has increased steadily over the years (Graph 3). Kentucky's pass rate has increased even though fewer people have taken the GED Tests, they have passed at a higher percentage.

Graph 3: Kentucky's GED® Pass Rate by Fiscal Year



Data represented on pages 4-10 of this research brief are specific to county programs. The data used to generate this research brief are from the following sources: AERIN, Oklahoma Scoring System, GEDTS and the U.S. Census.

It is important to avoid over-interpretation of average scores and pass rates at the county level. For example, a county that has a higher passing rate than another county may reflect natural variability due to a small number of GED graduates.

The intentions of this research brief are to provide trend information at the state level and national comparisons and to assist programs in making informed educational and policy decisions at the local level.

Definitions of Terms

- Mean score is calculated by dividing the sum of the average standard scores by the total number of standard scores.
- Pass rate is calculated by dividing the number of GED graduates by the number of completed GED Tests.
- GED graduates completed all five subject batteries with standard score total of 2,250 (average of 450 per test) and a passing standard score of 410 on each of the subject batteries.
- GED non-passers completed all 5 subject batteries but either did not have a minimum standard score of 2250 and/or a standard score of 410 on one or more subject batteries.
- Standard deviation measures the average distance of the scores from the mean (abbreviated STD).

Analysis of Learners Attending an Adult Education Center or Receiving Instruction from a KYAE Instructor

The GED® mean scores in Math, Reading, and Writing on page 1 (Graph 1) represent the averages for the entire state in these three GED Tests which include student scores not affiliated with an adult education center. The GED mean scores in Table 1 and Table 2 represent the mean scores in each battery for learners attending an adult education center or receiving instruction from a KYAE instructor, including local correctional facilities. The mean scores in Math, Reading, and Writing are slightly higher when the data are disaggregated by learners receiving instruction from a KYAE instructor (Table 1 versus Graph 1).

Table 1: Mean Scores for GED® Graduates Who Received Instruction from an Adult Education Instructor by Subject Battery for Fiscal Year 2005-06

Subject Battery	Number	Mean	Range	Mode	Median	STD
Math	6494	490	410-800	440	480	61
Reading	6494	544	410-800	490	520	91
Writing	6494	473	410-800	440	460	57
Social Studies	6494	527	410-800	500	520	67
Science	6494	540	410-800	530	530	69

Table 2: Mean Scores for GED® Non-Passers that Received Instruction from an Adult Education Instructor by Subject Battery for Fiscal Year 2005-06

Subject Battery	Number	Mean	Range	Mode	Median	STD
Math	2234	413	210-590	400	410	46
Reading	2234	452	410-800	440	450	64
Writing	2234	395	0-620	400	410	99
Social Studies	2234	445	410-680	420	440	52
Science	2234	461	310-800	450	450	49

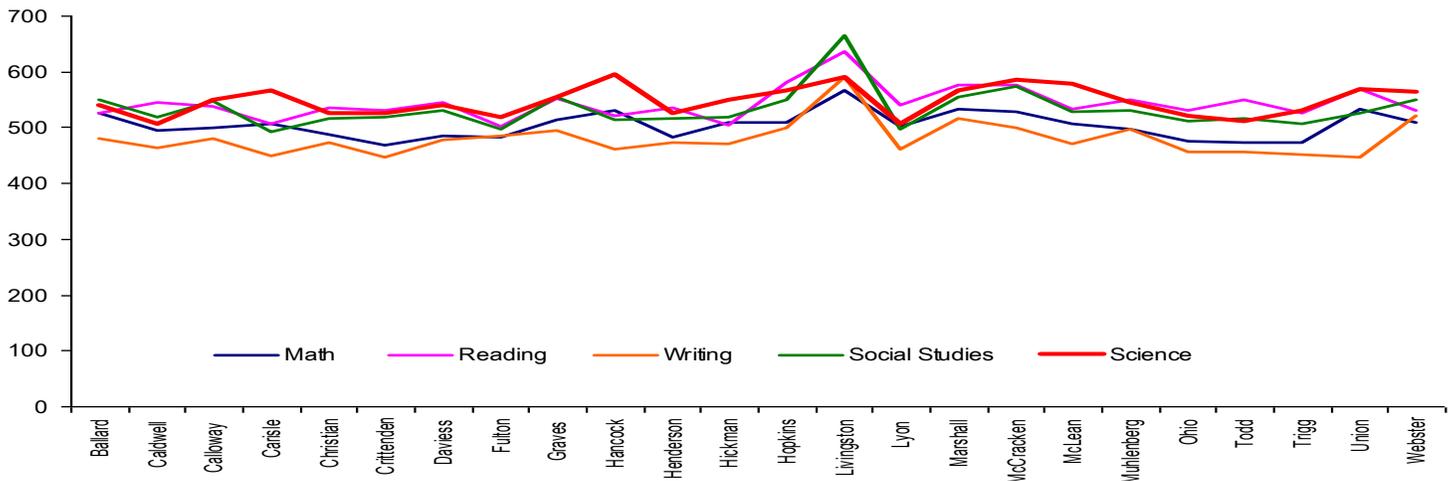
Region 1

Table 3: County GED® Mean Scores by Subject Battery for GED Graduates for Fiscal Year 2005-06

County	Total Graduates	Math	Reading	Writing	Social Studies	Science	Total
Ballard	7	524	526	479	550	539	2617
Caldwell	16	494	543	463	519	506	2525
Calloway	41	499	537	480	546	548	2609
Carlisle	6	507	505	448	492	567	2518
Christian	143	486	534	473	516	526	2536
Crittenden	27	468	530	445	519	526	2488
Daviess	127	485	545	478	529	539	2576
Fulton	20	482	502	485	497	518	2483
Graves	33	513	552	495	555	555	2669
Hancock	3						
Henderson	138	483	536	471	515	526	2530
Hickman	6	508	503	470	518	548	2548
Hopkins	102	508	579	498	548	565	2697
Livingston	2						
Lyon	8	501	539	461	496	506	2504
Marshall	30	532	576	516	555	566	2744
McCracken	39	527	575	499	573	584	2759
McLean	6	505	532	470	528	578	2613
Muhlenberg	39	496	550	496	530	545	2618
Ohio	33	474	531	456	510	521	2492
Todd	29	472	549	455	515	512	2502
Trigg	49	473	525	452	507	529	2486
Union	8	531	568	446	525	569	2639
Webster	11	509	531	519	550	563	2672

*Scores not posted for counties with less than 5 students

Graph 4: County GED® Means Scores by Subject for GED Graduates for Fiscal Year 2005-06

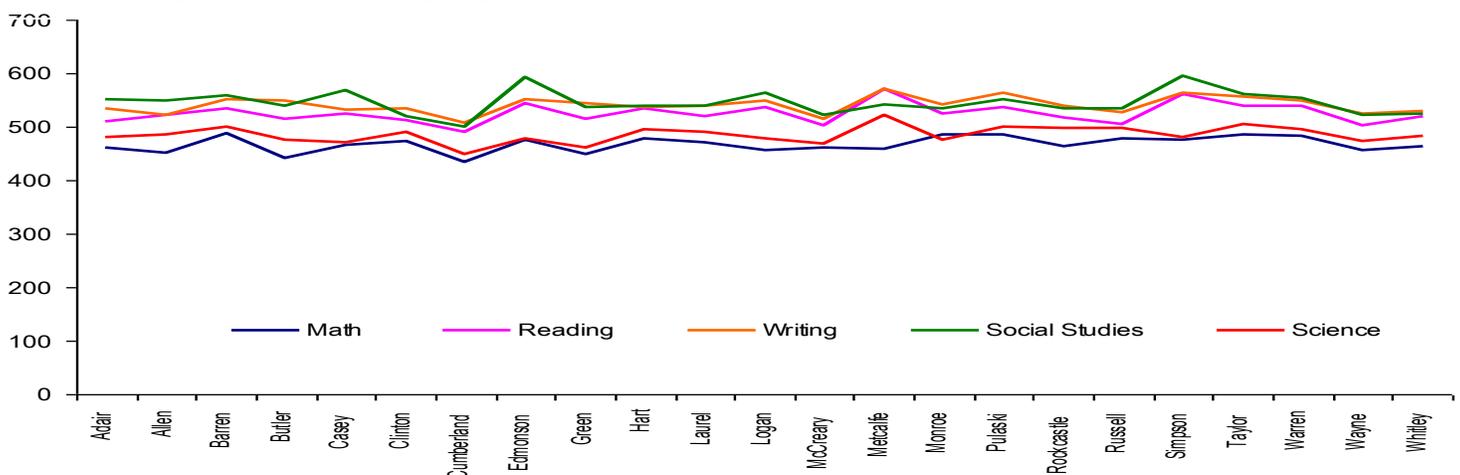


Region 2

Table 4: County GED® Mean Scores by Subject Battery for GED Graduates for Fiscal Year 2005-06

County	Total Graduates	Math	Reading	Writing	Social Studies	Science	Total
Adair	46	462	509	535	552	480	2537
Allen	46	451	522	523	549	485	2530
Barren	55	489	533	552	558	499	2631
Butler	24	442	514	549	540	476	2520
Casey	39	466	524	533	569	470	2563
Clinton	43	472	512	534	520	491	2529
Cumberland	10	435	490	508	501	448	2382
Edmonson	22	476	543	550	592	478	2640
Green	16	449	514	544	536	462	2504
Hart	21	477	534	536	539	496	2582
Laurel	120	472	519	538	539	489	2557
Logan	26	456	535	548	563	477	2581
McCreary	37	462	501	514	523	469	2470
Metcalfe	6	458	570	572	542	522	2663
Monroe	34	485	525	540	534	474	2558
Pulaski	105	485	535	564	552	501	2637
Rockcastle	29	464	518	539	534	498	2552
Russell	32	478	505	527	533	498	2542
Simpson	44	475	561	563	594	481	2674
Taylor	29	484	540	557	560	504	2645
Warren	93	483	539	550	553	496	2620
Wayne	53	456	502	525	522	472	2478
Whitley	89	462	519	530	525	484	2520

Graph 5: County GED® Means Scores by Subject for GED Graduates for Fiscal Year 2005-06

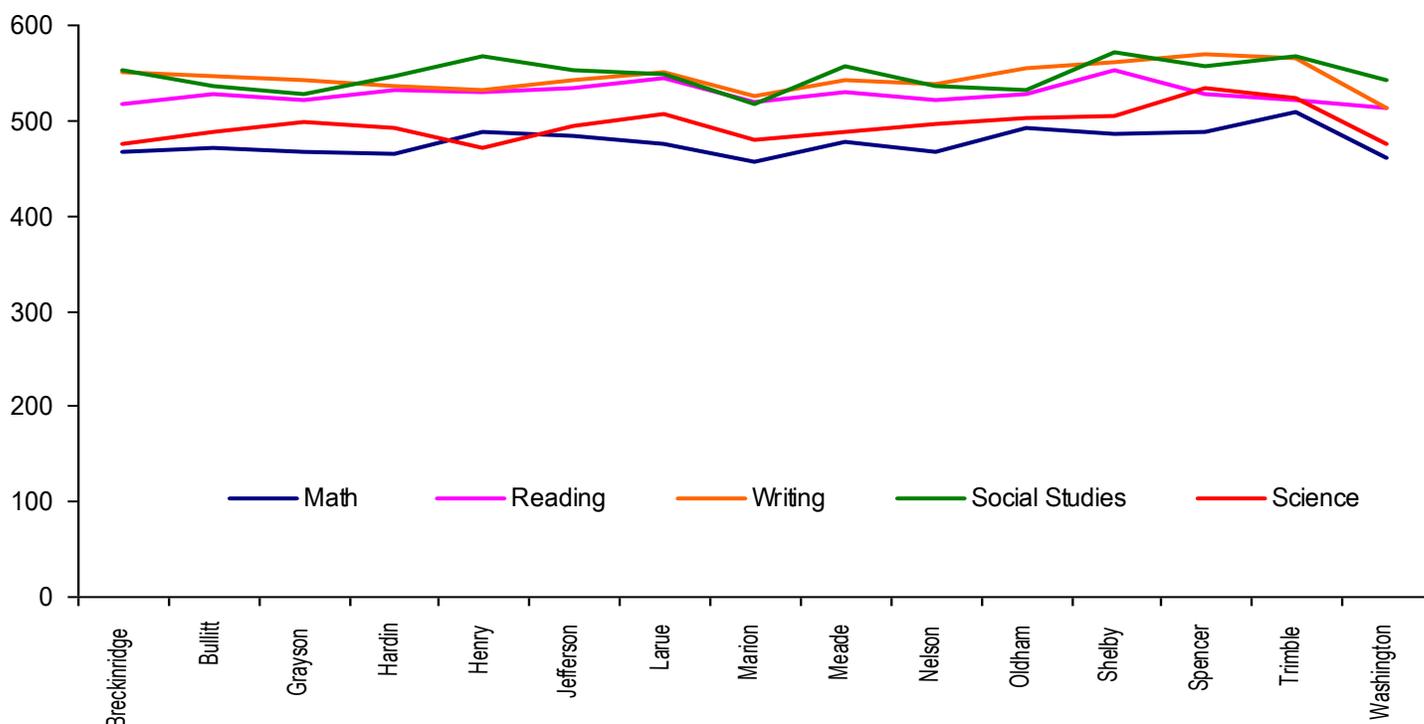


Region 3

Table 5: County GED® Mean Scores by Subject Battery for GED Graduates for Fiscal Year 2005-06

County	Total Graduates	Math	Reading	Writing	Social Studies	Science	Total
Breckinridge	49	467	517	550	551	475	2559
Bullitt	116	471	526	546	535	486	2564
Grayson	78	466	521	541	526	498	2551
Hardin	221	464	532	535	545	492	2568
Henry	27	487	529	530	566	470	2581
Jefferson	855	482	532	542	551	494	2602
Larue	21	475	544	550	547	506	2621
Marion	49	456	519	525	516	479	2496
Meade	42	477	528	542	556	488	2592
Nelson	82	466	521	538	536	496	2557
Oldham	34	491	527	555	531	502	2606
Shelby	47	485	552	561	571	504	2672
Spencer	10	488	526	569	557	533	2673
Trimble	10	508	521	565	567	523	2684
Washington	36	459	511	513	542	475	2500

Graph 6: County GED® Means Scores by Subject for GED Graduates for Fiscal Year 2005-06

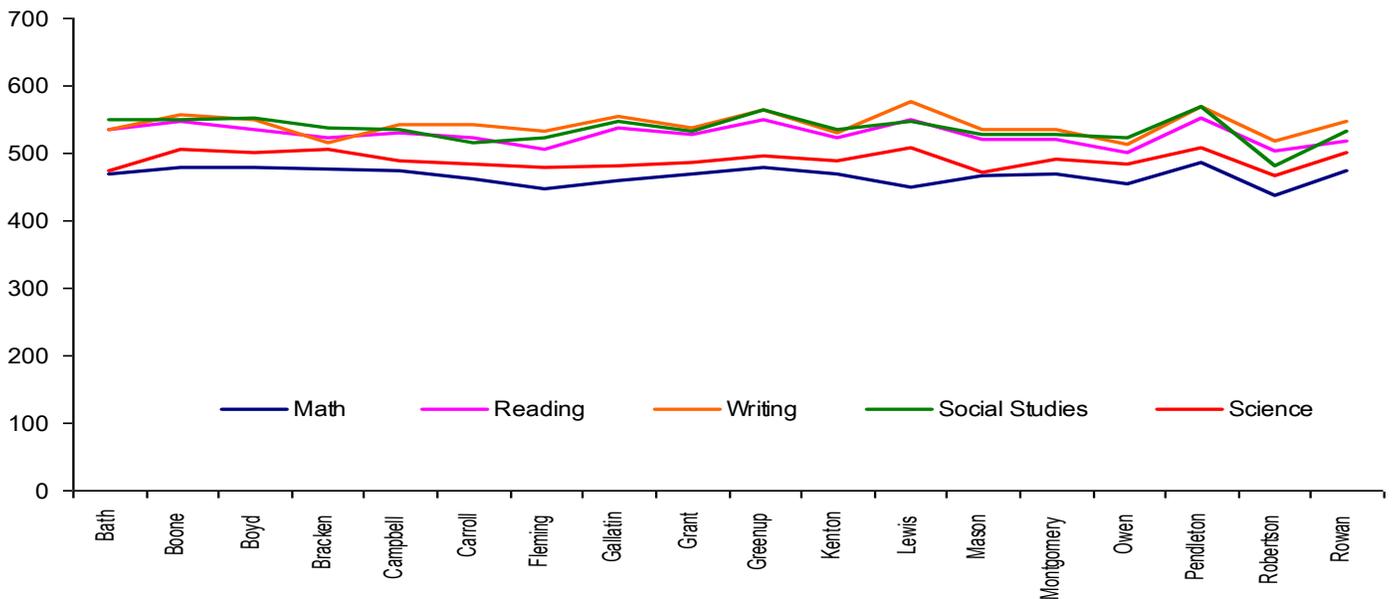


Region 4

Table 6: County GED® Mean Scores by Subject Battery for GED Graduates for Fiscal Year 2005-06

County	Total Graduates	Math	Reading	Writing	Social Studies	Science	Total
Bath	14	468	535	535	548	473	2559
Boone	174	477	546	556	550	504	2634
Boyd	78	479	533	549	552	500	2613
Bracken	12	475	523	514	536	504	2552
Campbell	166	473	528	542	535	488	2565
Carroll	51	462	521	543	515	483	2523
Fleming	23	446	504	532	522	479	2483
Gallatin	16	459	537	554	547	481	2578
Grant	93	468	527	536	532	485	2548
Greenup	43	478	549	562	563	495	2648
Kenton	220	469	521	528	534	487	2540
Lewis	17	449	548	575	546	508	2625
Mason	42	465	520	533	528	471	2516
Montgomery	62	469	519	534	528	491	2541
Owen	17	454	501	512	523	484	2473
Pendleton	18	485	552	569	569	508	2684
Robertson	5	436	502	516	480	466	2400
Rowan	46	473	518	545	532	500	2567

Graph 7: County GED® Means Scores by Subject for GED Graduates for Fiscal Year 2005-06

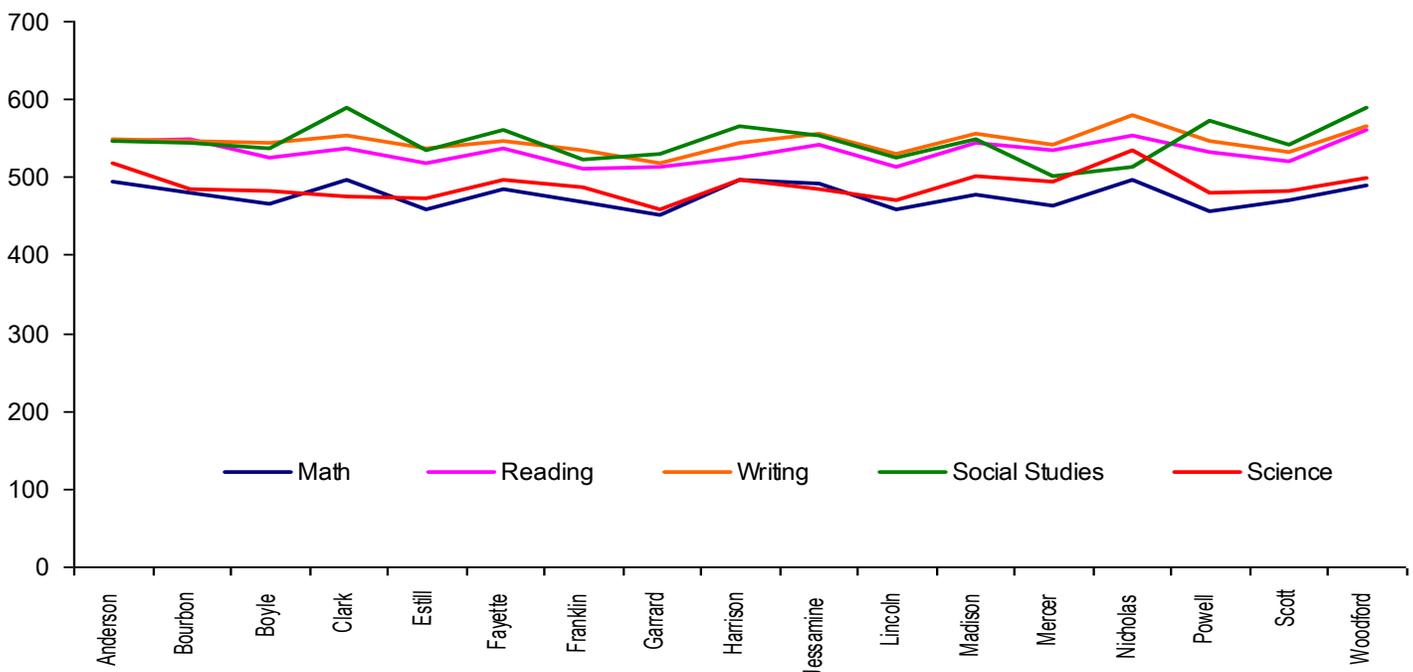


Region 5

Table 7: County GED® Mean Scores by Subject Battery for GED Graduates for Fiscal Year 2005-06

County	Total Graduates	Math	Reading	Writing	Social Studies	Science	Total
Anderson	49	492	545	549	546	518	2650
Bourbon	29	479	547	546	543	484	2600
Boyle	42	465	525	543	536	482	2551
Clark	25	496	537	553	588	474	2648
Estill	47	459	516	536	534	471	2516
Fayette	326	484	537	546	560	497	2623
Franklin	114	467	511	534	521	486	2520
Garrard	27	452	513	517	529	458	2469
Harrison	17	496	524	543	565	495	2624
Jessamine	72	491	540	555	552	484	2623
Lincoln	34	458	513	530	524	471	2496
Madison	95	477	543	554	547	500	2621
Mercer	10	462	535	541	501	494	2533
Nicholas	5	496	554	580	512	534	2676
Powell	48	455	532	546	571	480	2585
Scott	75	471	519	531	541	482	2543
Woodford	26	488	560	565	587	499	2700

Graph 8: County GED® Means Scores by Subject for GED Graduates for Fiscal Year 2005-06



Region 6

Table 8: County GED® Mean Scores by Subject Battery for GED Graduates for Fiscal Year 2005-06

County	Total Graduates	Math	Reading	Writing	Social Studies	Science	Total
Bell	45	457	526	534	544	484	2546
Breathitt	52	461	517	531	542	478	2529
Carter	67	468	522	534	542	487	2553
Clay	81	445	500	511	510	471	2438
Elliott	9	443	539	543	528	489	2542
Floyd	29	480	524	547	569	496	2617
Harlan	43	463	514	523	535	480	2515
Jackson	45	455	521	525	521	487	2509
Johnson	34	482	525	541	561	479	2589
Knott	19	450	493	499	516	461	2418
Knox	27	477	526	551	583	485	2621
Lawrence	20	465	517	521	524	470	2495
Lee	32	462	520	553	531	468	2535
Leslie	15	499	549	564	609	511	2733
Letcher	22	463	517	547	555	495	2578
Magoffin	16	489	508	522	537	484	2540
Martin	9	509	539	567	549	513	2677
Menifee	11	433	502	512	521	476	2444
Morgan	37	454	498	523	536	461	2472
Owsley	12	470	504	518	549	472	2513
Perry	40	502	541	569	583	514	2709
Pike	64	463	515	537	545	480	2540
Wolfe	8	443	523	530	503	469	2466

Graph 9: County GED® Means Scores by Subject for GED Graduates for Fiscal Year 2005-06

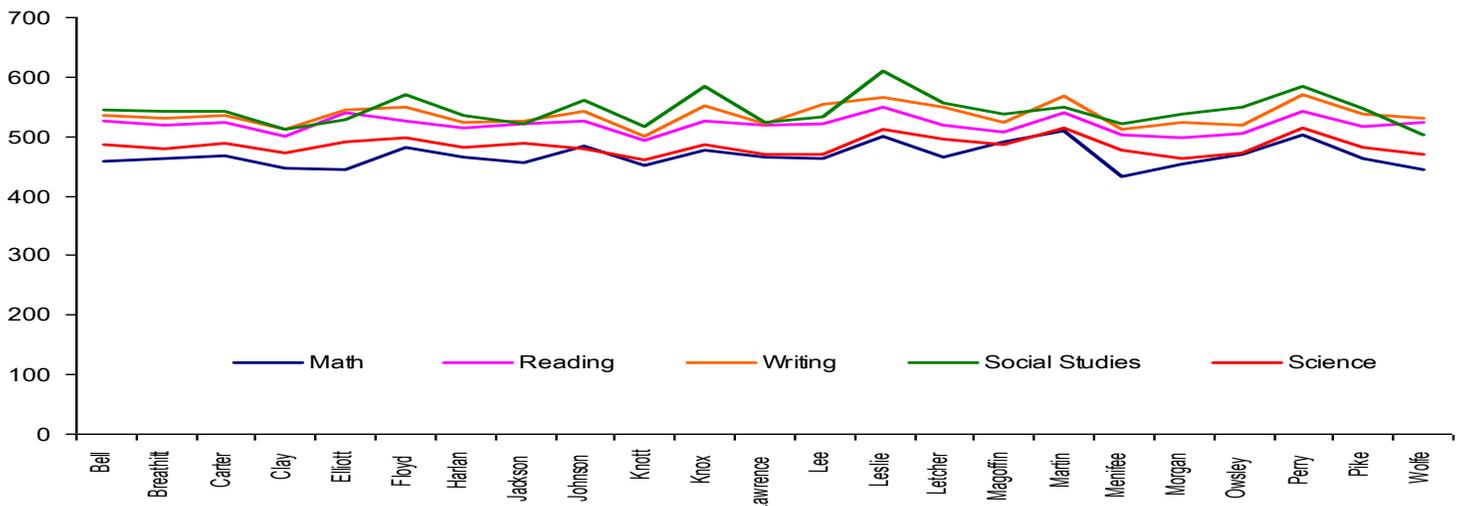


Table 9: GED® Pass Rate by County for Fiscal Year 2005-06

County	Pass Rate
Adair	65%
Allen	58%
Anderson	86%
Ballard	58%
Barren	87%
Bath	74%
Bell	60%
Boone	83%
Bourbon	76%
Boyd	83%
Boyle	78%
Bracken	75%
Breathitt	66%
Breckinridge	61%
Bullitt	72%
Butler	62%
Caldwell	64%
Calloway	84%
Campbell	70%
Carisle	100%
Carroll	77%
Carter	74%
Casey	62%
Christian	63%
Clark	89%
Clay	73%
Clinton	62%
Crittenden	93%
Cumberland	63%
Daviess	80%
Edmonson	96%
Elliott	75%
Estill	75%
Fayette	81%
Fleming	77%
Floyd	76%
Franklin	78%
Fulton	77%
Gallatin	73%
Garrard	73%

County	Pass Rate
Grant	78%
Graves	83%
Grayson	79%
Green	57%
Greenup	69%
Hancock	75%
Hardin	79%
Harlan	68%
Harrison	85%
Hart	72%
Henderson	71%
Henry	66%
Hickman	100%
Hopkins	89%
Jackson	65%
Jefferson	74%
Jessamine	82%
Johnson	79%
Kenton	72%
Knott	73%
Knox	36%
Larue	81%
Laurel	76%
Lawrence	77%
Lee	80%
Leslie	100%
Letcher	58%
Lewis	89%
Lincoln	67%
Livingston	100%
Logan	62%
Lyon	100%
Madison	81%
Magoffin	73%
Marion	68%
Marshall	81%
Martin	90%
Mason	59%
McCracken	74%
McCreary	55%

County	Pass Rate
McLean	100%
Meade	72%
Menifee	58%
Mercer	63%
Metcalfe	43%
Monroe	69%
Montgomery	76%
Morgan	70%
Muhlenberg	80%
Nelson	80%
Nicholas	63%
Ohio	80%
Oldham	87%
Owen	63%
Owsley	67%
Pendleton	90%
Perry	85%
Pike	78%
Powell	66%
Pulaski	83%
Robertson	56%
Rockcastle	83%
Rowan	75%
Russell	84%
Scott	70%
Shelby	87%
Simpson	92%
Spencer	83%
Taylor	85%
Todd	76%
Trigg	80%
Trimble	91%
Union	73%
Warren	78%
Washington	67%
Wayne	70%
Webster	100%
Whitley	74%
Wolfe	38%
Woodford	93%