Who We Are

CPE is Kentucky’s higher education coordinating board over 8 public universities and a community and technical college system (KCTCS) of 16 colleges. We are guided by the state strategic agenda, “Higher Education Matters,” which outlines objectives and strategies in six priority areas: Equity, Affordability, Transitions, Success, Talent, and Value.

Recent Accomplishments

- Kentucky is among the most improved states in educational attainment. At 54.3%, we are 6 points shy of our goal to reach 60% by 2030.
- Degree production is up 70% at public universities, 34% at KCTCS, and 77% for underrepresented minority students over the decade.
- CPE’s Higher Education Matters campaign raises awareness of the value of postsecondary credentials.
- CPE and its partners developed the Kentucky Graduate Profile, a set of career-focused learning outcomes each graduate should demonstrate as part of their undergraduate curriculum. CPE is working with campuses to imbed 10 essential skills into every degree and credential program.
- CPE leads the Commonwealth Education Continuum, a collaborative group of education, business, and government leaders united in strengthening Kentucky’s education pipeline.
- CPE’s Basic Needs Action Network is a group of stakeholders committed to increasing college students’ access to public benefits and basic needs services. A recently published report recommends statewide strategies for connecting Kentucky postsecondary students with low incomes to federal and state resources.
- Kentucky is one of 7 states participating in the Launch impact cohort to evaluate, strengthen, and scale college and career pathways systems.
- A recent Adult Learner Action Plan articulates strategies to alleviate barriers to college enrollment and completion for adult students in Kentucky.
- The updated Dual Credit Policy establishes a statewide goal for 50% of high school graduates to complete at least one dual credit course by the year 2030. The policy revises credentialing requirements for dual credit teachers and promotes uniformity in course quality and rigor.
- A new Transfer Framework outlines strategies to make the student transfer experience more transparent and efficient. Transfer rates have increased 54% among partner institutions.
- Kentucky’s Healthcare Workforce Collaborative is a $10 million effort to respond to the state’s critical healthcare workforce shortage.
- The new Kentucky Humanitarian Assistance Scholarship provides funding for students displaced from their home countries or participating in international exchange programs.
- The Kentucky Advising Academy provides guidance and resources to 75% of KY’s school districts to improve college and career preparation.
- CPE and KYStats maintain the Students’ Right to Know dashboard, which compares Kentucky institutions on cost, program offerings, student outcomes and other variables.

Featured Publications

- 2023 Progress Report examines annual performance on statewide and campus metrics and goals.
- SJR 98 Findings & Recommendations examines the adequacy of Kentucky’s higher education governance structure, the need for an enhanced postsecondary presence in Southeast Kentucky, and the effectiveness of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System.