

Dear Garrard Countians:

It is with great pride that we announce the release of Spring, 2015 Kentucky Test data. We are pleased to announce for the second consecutive year that Garrard County School System has been identified as a **“Proficient”** school district by the Kentucky Department of Education. Proficiency is the mark for which we always aim, and is the first time in school history the district has been “Proficient” for two consecutive years. Our students, staff, and administrators have worked tirelessly to achieve and maintain the “Proficient” status, and we are proud of the success demonstrated by our data. We are excited to announce Garrard County High School as a “Distinguished” school and are very pleased with the progress made at that level. Two other schools identified as “Proficient” are Paint Lick Elementary and Camp Dick Robinson Elementary. Both are very close to the “Distinguished” rating, only .1 and .2 points away respectively. At Garrard Middle School and Lancaster Elementary School, while there are areas of growth, there are areas designated for improvement. Both schools are working very hard to show continuous improvement and we are highly confident they will be “Proficient” or “Distinguished” in the near future.

Our journey to be a top tier school district in Kentucky continues to progress. The district is working diligently in pursuit of a “Distinguished” rating and our progress toward that goal is evident in the latest data. The progress our school district has made demonstrates we are providing the quality instruction our students deserve. The progress also indicates the support of parents and community members who provide the encouragement and home life for our students to have continuity and stability.

- Garrard County Schools district score improved an impressive 68.4 = “Proficient”
- Garrard County Schools jumped from the 80th percentile to the 85th percentile.
- Garrard County Schools increased its college/career readiness (with bonus points) by 14.9 %.
- Garrard County Schools’ scores are above the state average at every level – elementary, middle, and high in these areas:
 - Social studies
 - Social studies gap students
- Garrard County Schools’ scores were above the state average in the following areas:
 - High School College Readiness
 - High School Career Readiness
 - High School combined College and Career Readiness
 - High School reading and math growth
 - High School Gap reading, social studies, language mechanics, and social studies
 - Middle School reading (even with state)
 - Middle School social studies
 - Middle School Gap social studies, language mechanics and reading
 - Middle School Explore English

- Middle School Language Mechanics
- Elementary School Math growth
- Elementary School Gap social studies

By schools, our results are as follows:

CDR: From Principal Scott Bolin

We are extremely pleased to announce that we are a proficient school for the fourth year in a row! We are excited about the jump that our school made this past year, as we are now knocking on the door to being a distinguished school! This is evidence of the hard work that our students and teachers put in each day. We are going to continue our push to distinguished this year with our continued focus on academic success and our intentional plan for each student. We love the atmosphere that is in the building, each day, here at Camp Dick Robinson! We feel like Garrard County has the best kids in the state!

- *Camp Dick Robinson Elementary reached proficiency for the 4th year in a row!*
- *Camp Dick Robinson Elementary made a 16 percentile jump in the rankings, the highest in school history!*
- *Social studies made a 16.8 point jump!*
- *On-Demand writing made a 13 point jump!*

LES: From Principal Tracie Bottoms

Our test scores are not near what we had planned for, but we know we have work to do to gain back our momentum and to move forward. Positives are we increased by 2.5% in on demand writing and are above the district Prof/Dist in 3rd grade math and our gaps are no larger than 5%. Our students are getting the foundations, but we need to make sure they know how to apply what they know. One of our main goals for next year is to increase our scores to reach our projected AMO for this past year and to reduce novice.

PLE: From Principal Larry Sparks

We are happy with our students' academic gains and achievement with KPREP results showing growth in all subject areas. We are pleased to be a high Proficiency/Progressing school. Paint Lick Elementary is in the 89% percentile in Kentucky.

**Reading made great academic gains with our students scoring 7.7% above the state average in students scoring Proficient/Distinguished.*

**Math also showed improvement with a 9.1% increase of students scoring Proficient/Distinguished.*

**In Social Studies PLE students made outstanding growth with students scoring 27.2% above the state average. 87.8% of PLE students scored Proficient/Distinguished.*

**Writing showed tremendous student growth with PLE students improving 30.2% from the previous year. Students scoring Proficient/Distinguished are 9.3% above the state.*

**In Language Mechanics, PLE students also made excellent gains with a 17.5% increase in students meeting Proficient/Distinguished criteria. We are 13.8% above the state in this area.*

GMS: From Principal Andrew Pickerill

Garrard Middle School has much to celebrate this year with the release of K-PREP scores. The celebrations include:

- Reading NAPD calculation increased by 0.9 points and is above the state average.*
- 6th grade percentage of students scoring Proficient or Distinguished increased by 7.1%.*
- Social Studies NAPD calculation increased by 1.1 points and remains 7.5 points above the state average.*
- The percentage of students scoring Proficient or Distinguished in Language Mechanics increased by 12.1% and is now 3.7% above the state average.*
- Language Mechanics NAPD calculation increased by 11.0 points and is now 3.8 points above the state average (last year it was 3.5 points below state average).*

Additionally, more students scored in the Distinguished range (9.1% higher) than Novice for Social Studies and received bonus points in this category. Also, GAP scores were above the state average for reading (3.4 points), Social Studies (7.6 points), and Language Mechanics (4.4 points).

Andrew Pickerill, Principal of GMS, stated, "We know that school improvement is a process and takes time. Although we are nowhere near the level we want to be we have begun sowing the seeds to return to 'Proficient' designation and beyond. All staff are committed to using data to improve our daily instruction and will work tirelessly to provide an education that will meet the physical, social, and emotional developmental needs that in turn leads to academic growth."

GCHS: From Principal Kalem Grasham

As you may recall, GCHS was recognized as a Proficient High School the last two years. The state results are in for this year and.....GCHS is now recognized as a DISTINGUISHED High School for the first time in school history by the Kentucky Department of Education!!!! The designation means that GCHS is in the 90th percentile in the state of Kentucky!

I am extremely proud of the hard work and dedication of our staff and students. I honestly feel we have the BEST student body in the state of Kentucky. The test data is starting to support that statement. We are so excited to have this distinction, but we are not satisfied. GCHS will continue to foster continuous improvement as we begin down the path of being a school of distinction.

We are in the process of breaking down our data to celebrate the positives and identify the areas for improvement. We will work to maintain the areas of strength and look for research based strategies to improve the areas of need. A few of the celebrations include:

- *An increase in our overall score by 4.2 points!*
- *An increase in our percentile ranking by 17%!*
- *An increase of our Growth calculation by 12.7 points!*
- *An increase in our Writing score by 19.1 points!*
- *A 16.1 increase in our College & Career Ready students!*
- *Our CCR score is 14.9 points above the state average!*

Becoming “Distinguished” as a district will require always putting student’s needs first, asking the tough questions, challenging ourselves, and working collaboratively as a school district. If you would like to follow our progress and our plans for continuous improvement, just log onto the website at www.garrard.kyschools.us to see our 30-60-90 day plans for improvement which are updated monthly by the district and at each school.

“The road to ‘Excellence’ is a marathon, it is not a sprint”.

Sincerely,

Paul Mullins, Superintendent

Garrard County Schools