Kentucky’s accountability system, Unbridled Learning: College/Career Readiness for All evaluates schools and districts based on three categories: Next-Generation Learners, Next-Generation Instructional Programs and Support, and Next-Generation Professionals. Results from the 2013-14 school year are calculated based on two of the three: Next-Generation Learners and Next-Generation Instructional Programs and Support.

### Next-Generation Learners:

The Next-Generation Learner category totals 77% of a school’s overall score and is comprised of data from student assessments such as the Kentucky Performance Rating for Educational Progress or K-PREP, and end-of-course exams. Achievement tests determine how well students learned the academic content. Other exams: EXPLORE, PLAN and ACT are used to show whether students are on track to graduate college-ready.

A school’s achievement score ranges from 0 – 100 with points awarded based on how well a school performs in three to five components, as determined by their school level (see pie charts above):

- **School Achievement** percentages are based on overall student performance on the state tests. Student scores are labeled as novice, apprentice, proficient or distinguished and schools receive points for proficient and distinguished scores. Kentucky’s goal is 100 percent proficiency or above for all students.
- **Gap** indicates the percentage of proficient and distinguished scores of traditionally at-risk students: African-American, Hispanic, Native American, special education, low income, and limited English proficiency.
- **Growth** measures how individual students improve from one year to the next based on statistical growth of other students in their peer group.
- **College/Career Readiness** is added at the middle school level and is based on 8th grade EXPLORE scores. At the high school level, the College/Career Readiness Component is based on PLAN and ACT scores or career certification tests.
- **Graduation Rate** included at the high school only, compares the number of students who entered 9th grade four years ago to how many students graduated in May 2014.

### Next-Generation Instructional Programs and Support:

Twenty-three percent of a school’s overall score is calculated based on reviews of writing, practical
living/career studies, and arts & humanities. The program reviews are designed to be part of an ongoing, year-round process.

Internal reviews at the school level are conducted three times per year by a team or committee of stakeholders, and that process includes identifying evidence from each program, completing rubrics and preparing evaluation reports. An external review is conducted at the end of each year by district leaders also reviewing evidence, school reports and recommendations. A state review may also include the evaluation of reports, rubrics and evidence.

**Next-Generation Professionals:**
Not included in overall 2013-14 accountability, but implemented statewide is the third category, Next-Generation Professionals. This includes a statewide evaluation system for all certified employees and incorporates many sources of evidence such as the Teaching, Empowering, Leading and Learning (TELL) Survey, the Vanderbilt Assessment of Leadership, teacher self-reflection, professional growth plans, student growth goals, teacher observations, and student voice or opinion surveys.

**Overall School Results:**

Accountability data available on School and District Report Cards, located on the Open House Portal of the Kentucky Department of Education: openhouse.education.ky.gov.

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After combining weighted totals of Next Generation Learners and Instructional Programs and Support, Kentucky schools and districts will be ranked. Depending on where schools and districts are in that order, they will be classified into one of four main categories:

- **Distinguished:** 90th percentile and above;
- **Proficient:** 70th percentile and above;
- **Progressing:** schools/districts meeting their annual measurable objective, but not proficient or distinguished;
- **Needs Improvement:** the remaining districts.

Additional rewards and assistance categories may also be applied to schools or districts based on student achievement scores.

The Unbridled Learning system provides schools with rigorous academic standards and a plan for continuous improvement. The goal for the entire Commonwealth of Kentucky is to ensure students of our schools graduate prepared for their future. Thank you for your support of our schools.