

Adair Elementary Climbs as Region Dips; ACHS Ranks in State's Top 10% for Post-Secondary Readiness

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Adair County Schools' 2025-26 Kentucky Summative Assessment (KSA) results show continued growth across all three grade bands. All three schools earned an overall Yellow/Medium rating. Adair County High School and Adair County Middle School came in below last year's record results, but both schools remain above where they stood in 2024, and above the state average. This was a difficult year across south-central Kentucky. Of 93 schools in the 19-district regional comparison group*, 61 schools saw their overall scores decline. Adair County Elementary School was one of the few schools that moved up!

ACES raised its overall score from 64.0 to 67.1 and now sits above the state average on every indicator.

ACHS posted a Blue/Very High postsecondary readiness rate of 122.0, third-highest of 20 high schools in the region and 21st of 227 statewide.

Kentucky's combined indicator score adds a school's current performance to its change from the prior year. After double-digit gains in 2025, ACHS and ACMS faced a high bar: a school can hold strong performance and still see its combined score fall, based on comparison to the previous year.

No Adair County school is identified for federal support for any group of students. ACMS, which exited Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) status for students with disabilities in 2025, continues to remain out of that status this year.

ACES Grows on Every Indicator

This year's elementary gains belong to two buildings. Adair County Primary Center and Adair County Elementary School share one set of state accountability results. Students first take the state test in third grade, so every ACES score rests on the reading, math and learning habits students build at the Primary Center.

ACPC principal, Sarah Burton, states, "At Adair County Primary Center, we know that the success our students experience in third grade and beyond begins with the foundation we build in preschool through second grade. While our students may not take the state assessment in our building, the work happening in our classrooms every day plays an important role in these results. Our teachers and staff are intentional about building strong literacy and math foundations, developing positive learning habits, and meeting students where they are. Seeing our elementary scores continue to grow is a reflection of the hard work and dedication of both buildings. I am incredibly proud of our staff and students, and we remain committed to giving every child the strongest possible start. At ACPC, we truly believe this is where little kids do BIG things!"

Together, the elementary schools improved their overall score by 3.1 points, the 12th-largest gain among 48 elementary schools in the region and one of only 14 to improve! The elementary schools sit mid-range in the region: 26th of 48 elementary schools overall, 23rd in reading and math, and 23rd in science, social studies and writing. Every elementary indicator is above the state average this year.

- **Reading and math** rose for a third straight year, with status climbing from 62.9 (2024) to 66.0 (2025) to 67.2 (2026). The combined score of 68.4 is rated Green, or High, and beats the state's 65.2.
- **Science, social studies and writing** rebounded, with status up 3.9 points to 60.6. The combined score of 64.5 is rated Green/High and tops the state's 62.0.

- **School climate and safety** also rose for a third year, with status moving from 75.2 to 76.2 to 76.9. The combined score of 77.6 is rated Green/High.

ACES principal Jordan Williams states, "At ACES, our mission is simple: Relate. Educate. Celebrate. It begins with our teachers and staff building strong relationships with students. Those connections create the foundation for meaningful learning and successes worth celebrating. We're incredibly proud of our academic growth and the positive school culture we're building. I'm fortunate to have a building full of competitive, dedicated staff members who want the very best for our kiddos and refuse to settle for the status quo."

ACMS Holds Its Reading and Math Gains

ACMS's overall score of 59.2 is down from last year's 69.0 but 6.0 points above its 2024 score of 53.2. It ranks 12th of 25 middle schools in the region, just above the regional median of 58.8.

- **Reading and math** status of 64.2 ranks 7th of 25 in the region and is above the state's 61.6. ACMS has held most of last year's jump and remains 2.7 points above 2024.
- **School climate and safety** improved for a second straight year, with status rising from 60.7 to 64.4 to 66.9. The combined score of 69.4 is rated High and above the state's 68.9.
- **Students with disabilities:** ACMS remains out of federal TSI status, a year after exiting it through continued implementation of strong co-teaching practices.
- **Science, social studies and writing** is the main growth area. At 56.3, ACMS is still 8.9 points above 2024, but below the state's 57.2 and 15th of 25 in the region.

Samanta Ellis, principal at ACMS states, "I am extremely proud of the hard work and dedication of our students, teachers, and staff at Adair County Middle School. While our overall score decreased from last year, we continue to see the progress we have made over the past two years, especially in reading and math, where we remain above the state average. I am also proud of the continued improvement in our school climate and safety, as well as the progress we have made in supporting our students with disabilities.

We recognize that there are areas where we need to improve, particularly in science, social studies, and writing, and we are committed to addressing those areas. Our teachers work hard every day to provide meaningful learning opportunities for our students. We will celebrate our successes, learn from our challenges, and continue working together to ensure every student has the opportunity to succeed. At ACMS, our focus will always be on doing what is best for kids."

ACHS Leads in College and Career Readiness

ACHS's postsecondary readiness rate of 122.0 is rated Blue/Very High and is the school's best yet, with a gain of 16 points in the last three years, and far above the state average of 98.7.

- **Postsecondary readiness** ranks 3rd of 20 high schools in the region and 21st of 227 in Kentucky, placing ACHS in the state's top 10%.
- **Graduation rate** of 97.5 is rated Green/High and is well above the state's 94.7.
- **Science, social studies and writing** status rose for a third straight year, from 46.6 to 51.2 to 52.4. The combined score of 53.6 is rated Green/High and above the state's 52.2.
- **Reading and math** is the ongoing priority. Status fell from 71.6 to 60.3, close to the state's 61.0 average, but the state's change calculation compared to last year's score pulled the combined score to 49.0. Because these subjects are only tested in grade 10, each year reflects a different group of students.

- **Overall**, ACHS's 68.9 is above the state's 67.5 and its own 2024 score of 68.3.

Chad Parnell, ACHS principal, states, "I am very proud of the continued success we are seeing in preparing students for life beyond high school. Ranking among the top 10 percent of Kentucky high schools in postsecondary readiness is a tremendous accomplishment and reflects the many opportunities and experiences we are providing our students. ACHS is committed to building on our success, addressing challenges, and ensuring students are prepared to learn, lead, and succeed."

Fewer Students Scoring Novice

Novice is the lowest level on the state accountability system, and fewer Adair students scored at this level than students statewide in every subject.

- **ACES** cut novice rates in social studies (32% to 27%) and writing (24% to 21%), and held reading and math at last year's lows. Over two years, reading novice fell from about 24% to 20% and math from about 28% to 24%.
- **ACMS** held reading novice at 26%, about 2 points below 2024, and stays below the state in every reported subject.
- **ACHS** trimmed science novice to 47% and stays below the state in all five subjects. Reading novice, 24%, remains below 2024's 27%, while math novice returned to its 2024 level of 31%, a key focus this year.

District Summative Data by School with change from 2025

School	Reading/ Math	Sci/SS/ Writing	Climate/ Safety	Postsecondary Readiness	Graduation Rate	Overall Score
ACHS	49.0 (-11.3) Low	53.6 (+1.2) High	61.8 (-1.0) Medium	122.0 (+12.0) Very High	97.5 (-0.1) High	68.9 (-12.6) Medium
ACMS	63.0 (-1.2) Medium	54.5 (-1.8) Medium	69.4 (+2.5) High	Not applicable	Not applicable	59.2 (-9.8) Medium
ACES	68.4 (+1.2) High	64.5 (+3.9) High	77.6 (+0.7) High	Not applicable	Not applicable	67.1 (+3.1) Medium

Regional* Standing, 2025-26

School	Overall rank in region	Strongest regional standing	Overall School Standing vs. state average
ACHS	13th of 20	Postsecondary readiness: 3rd of 20	ACHS: 68.9/Yellow/Medium Need 2.1 gain to be ranked High/Green. State: 67.5
ACMS	12th of 25	Reading/math: 7th of 25	ACMS: 59.2/Yellow/Medium

			Need 4.8 gain to be ranked High/Green State: 59.1
ACES	26th of 48	Overall gain: 12th of 48	ACES: 67.1/Yellow/Medium Need 2.9 gain to be ranked High/Green. State: 64.7

Looking Ahead

Adair County Schools will focus on high school reading and math, middle and elementary science, social studies and writing, and moving all three schools from Yellow to Green status, requiring gains of less than 5 points across all grade bands. This work builds on continued implementation of high-quality instructional resources, lesson internalization in PLCs, and ongoing MTSS supports. For full school results, visit the School Report Card at reportcard.kyschools.us and search Adair County. Additional questions can be directed to Sarah Hatton, District Assessment Coordinator at sarah.hatton@adair.kyschools.us.

*Regional comparison group: Adair, Allen, Barren, Casey, Clinton, Cumberland, Green, Hart, Larue, Marion, Metcalfe, Monroe, Pulaski, Russell, Taylor and Wayne counties, plus Campbellsville, Glasgow and Somerset Independent. Rankings use 2025-26 school-level scores from the KDE accountability profile.