

# **Kentucky's Priority Schools**

## **What the Data Tells Us: Executive Summary**

### **January 2015**

#### **Celebrations**

Three schools exited Priority status with the release of 2013-14 data; 36 exist for the 2014-15 school year. Of the 39 Priority Schools that were assessed during the 2013-14 school year:

- 5 schools scored in the Distinguished category
- 5 schools scored in the Proficient category
- 21 schools were categorized as Progressing [met annual measurable objective (AMO), student participation rate for all groups, and graduation rate goal] in addition to their classification as Distinguished, Proficient or Needs Improvement
- 24 of 39 schools had a 5 percentage point or less difference in the combined reading/math score between the Gap group and all students.
- All received extensive training in order to effectively implement the Professional Growth and Effectiveness System (PGES) in their schools
- 14 schools are on track to exit Priority status with the release of 2014-15 school report card

Three Hub Schools currently exist – Franklin-Simpson High School, Pulaski County High School, and East Carter High School. These schools have made extremely high levels of progress; all are rated Distinguished/Progressing (top 10%) in the last state assessment. Hub schools are regional models that showcase best or promising practices based on data and results to share with other schools in their region. They are recognized for their work in improving student learning and building core processes for sustainability. The schools exponentially have more students that are college- and career-ready. A Kentucky Hub School is designed to be a hub of learning for both students and adults. During the 2013-14 school year, 625 people from 89 districts visited these schools.

#### **Opportunities for Improvement/Next Steps**

Kentucky's Priority Schools have made tremendous gains and are improving the culture and climate for students. However, there are many areas that present opportunities for improvement and will drive our next steps;

- Implement intentional strategies to reduce the number of students scoring Novice
- Continue to collaborate with Priority Schools and Districts in the implementation of PGES
- Continue to implement the LEAD-KY (NISL) curriculum to strengthen the capacity of leadership in Priority Schools and Districts
- Continue to review data quarterly and develop sustainability plans for exiting schools that impact cultural change