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1989

Nicholas Schools fall in rankings based on statewide test program; '89 figure (159) down from '88 (181)

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By Josh Shepherd
Of The Carlisle Mercury Staff

Results from the new Comprehensive Test of Basic Skills (CTBS) have left Nicholas County Administration officials frustrated at the drop in the Lexington Herald-Leader's statewide ranking of Kentucky school systems from 82 to 159.

The CTBS replaces the standard Kentucky Essential Skills Test (KEST) in order to compare Kentucky's educational performance to other students nationwide.

Only scores from the 3rd, 5th, 7th and 10th grades are involved in scoring for national comparisons.

The mean average of all scores nationwide is 50 and most schools in the state, according to Kentucky State School Superintendent John Brock, scored above the national average.

However, only the 10th grade scored above the average in Nicholas County.

To determine a school's composite score, test evaluators averaged the mean scores of the Reading, Language, and Math tests. They excluded scores in tests on spelling and general science.

In the Nicholas County third grade, which had the lowest scores of all four grades considered in the statewide analysis, they achieved a mean score of 40.6 in Reading, 41.3 in Language, and 43.0 in Math for a total battery average of 41.1.

The 5th grade fared better with a 46.4 in Reading, 45.5 in Language, and a 49.4 in Math for a total battery of 48.8.

Reading in the 7th grade declined sharply to a mean score of 39.9, a Language score of 42.8, and a math score of 47.8. Total Battery: 41.0.

Best overall, and scoring well over the national average was the 10th grade with a 53.6 in Reading, 59.7 in Language, and a 52.0 in Math for a 56.1 score in the total battery calculation.

The Kentucky Department for Education said evaluating the results of the test are difficult due to the differences within each test.

An equating study between the KEST and the CTBS has not been completed, the department has written, in order for school test evaluators to draw any inferences from the CTBS scores.

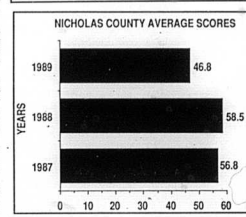
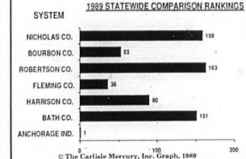
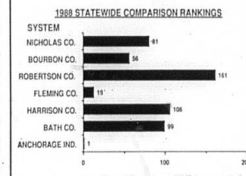
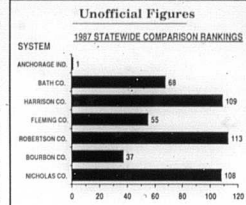
An equating study will link the two tests and show equivalent scores between the tests," the department said.

However, Nicholas County School Test Evaluator Bill Guthrie said the tests are related.

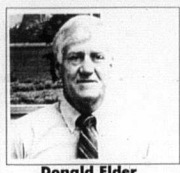
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able from a comparison between states.

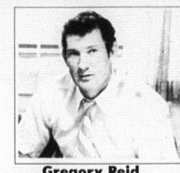
The KEST established a standard norm in 1981 to compare school systems across the state. It was a test designed for Kentucky schools and the data we received from the tests, over time, did not adequately represent the performance of Kentucky students. The standard we were comparing ourselves to had become obsolete. The CTBS, however, up



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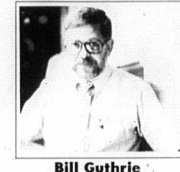
Donald Elder



Gregory Reid



Gerald Hammons



Bill Guthrie

Kentucky students do surprisingly well on latest battery of school testing program

By Mark R. Chelgren
Associated Press Writer

FRANKFORT, Ky. (AP) — Kentucky students did surprisingly well on a new series of achievement tests last school year and rank higher than the national average in most categories, Department of Education officials said Monday.

In only three of 19 categories did Kentucky students fail to reach the national average. Even in tests for 10th grade students, a long-standing problem area in Kentucky, the state showed marked improvement.

"I think it is something for us to get excited about," Superintendent of Public Instruction John Brock said during a news conference.

The exams, given to all students in third, fifth, seventh and 10th grades in April, were the Comprehensive Test of Basic Skills, a standardized achievement test in the areas of reading, language, math, spelling and learning skills. Third graders were not tested in learning skills.

The CTBS replaced the oft-criticized Kentucky Essential Skills Test, which was abandoned after four years.

Unlike the KEST, which was designed to reflect the progress of students in designated areas, the new test can be used to rank Kentucky students against others nationally.

Not all of the news was good, Brock said.

Test scores showed that students in the poorest areas of the state, the 5th and 7th congressional districts, had the lowest scores.

Brock said that is proof to him that Kentucky does have an unfair education system as dictated by the state Supreme Court in its ruling that the school system as currently constituted penalizes students from poorer areas.

"In general, the districts with the highest rankings have a tradition of excellence; they have strong parental and community support. Historically, they have higher levels of funding than the other districts and fewer economically deprived students," Brock said.

John Brock State School Superintendent.

The ranking was impressive in spite of fears that test scores would be very low, Brock said.

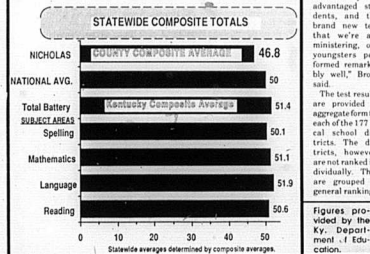
"We are pleased, in fact we are very, very excited, to report that did not happen in Kentucky," Brock said. "We did not have the expected decline in scores."

Only in third grade reading and seventh grade spelling and learning skills did Kentucky scores fail to meet the national average.

One reason the scores were expected to fall was that the KEST scores were compared to 1981 averages. The latest test is compared to 1988 averages.

The scores also reflected an overall encouraging trend, Brock said. While in previous years, test scores declined in higher grades, this year the reverse happened.

"Just looking, you see that we got just a little bit better as we



Final slate announced for city elections

- Incumbent Mayor City of Carlisle
- Cartmell Lester 325 Kennedy Heights
Election Day November 7, 1989 306 Kennedy Heights
Jeff Tyrer 440 Broadway
Lee Bentz 214 Elm Street
Franklin M. Hughes
- Carlisle City Council
- Tommy Vaughn 102 Emmert Drive
 Betty H. Barton 220 High Street
 Bobby Barnett 326 Sycamore
 Charles Fay 300 Kennedy Heights
Rennie Clark 110 Sycamore
Louise Gates 319 Sycamore
Election Day November 7, 1989
- Douglas Garrett 373 West Main Street
James Frogg Puller P.O. Box 85, Carlisle
Spud Marshall 305 Kennedy Heights
Sharon Faulconer 313 Dorsey Avenue
Dennis C. Allison 210 Chiffway Drive