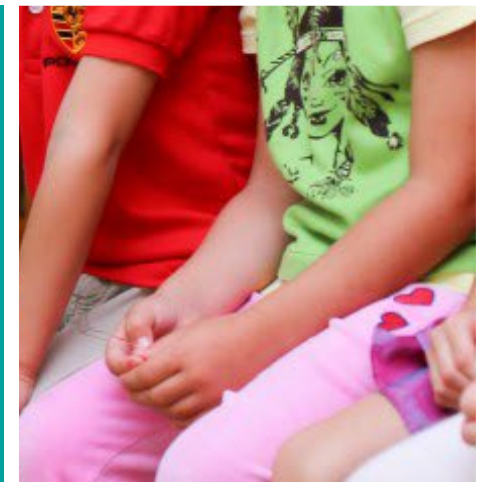




# Investing in the Education of State Agency Children

Ronnie Nolan, Ed.D.  
Executive Director, Kentucky Educational Collaborative for State Agency Children



# State Agency Children

School Age Children and Youth who are in the custody or care of the Commonwealth and being served in a program that is operated or contracted with the Cabinet for Health and Family Services or the Department of Juvenile Justice. (KRS 158.135)

Programs Include:

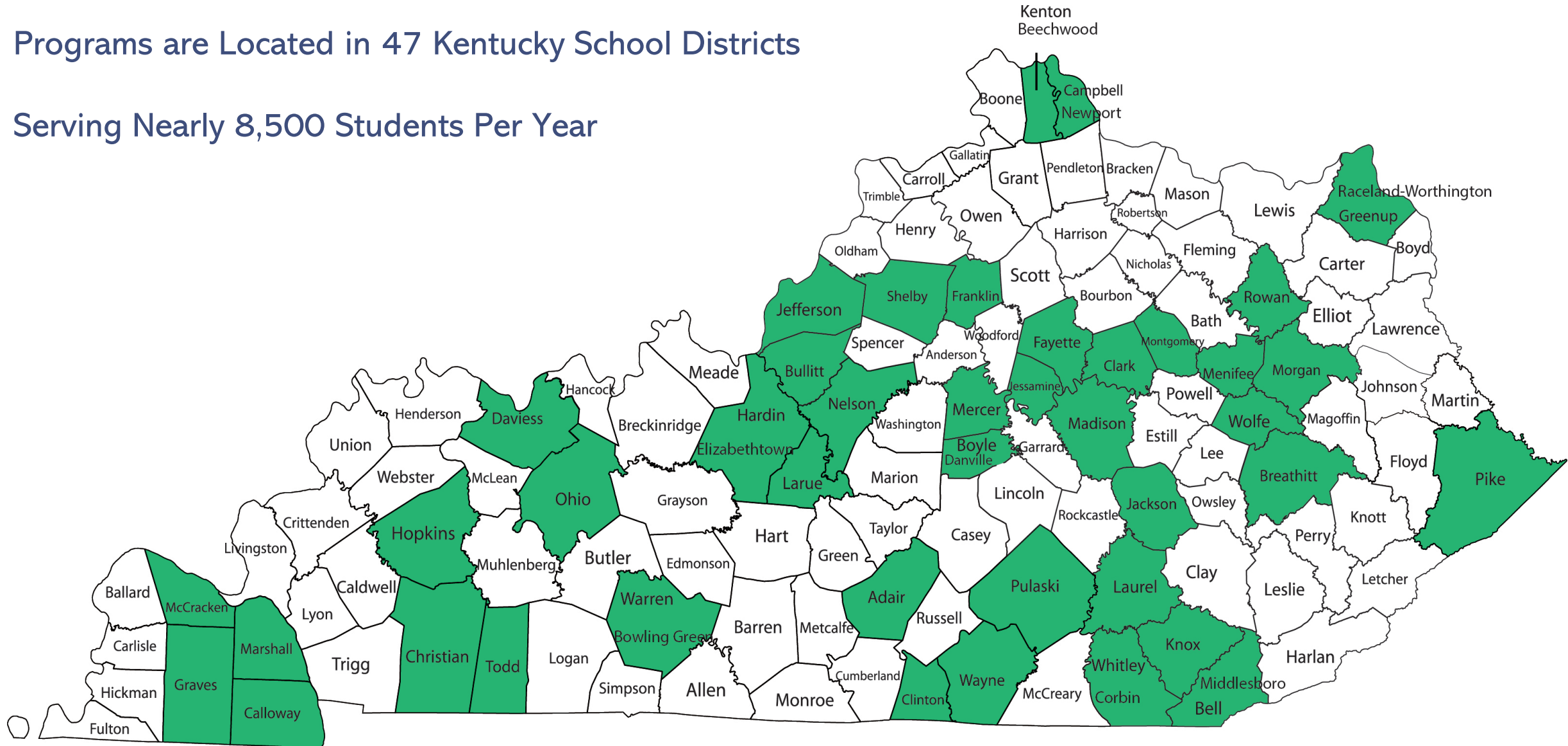
- Residential Treatment Programs
- Group Homes
- Hospital Based Programs
- Detention Centers
- Youth Development Centers
- Day Treatment Programs
- Community Based Shelters



# State Agency Children are Educated in 72 Programs Operated or Contracted with the Commonwealth

Programs are Located in 47 Kentucky School Districts

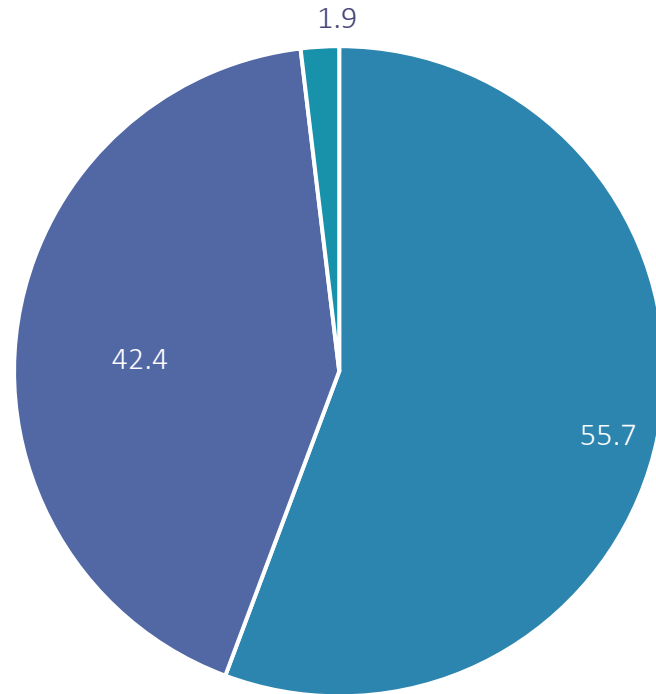
Serving Nearly 8,500 Students Per Year



# State Agency Children Demographics



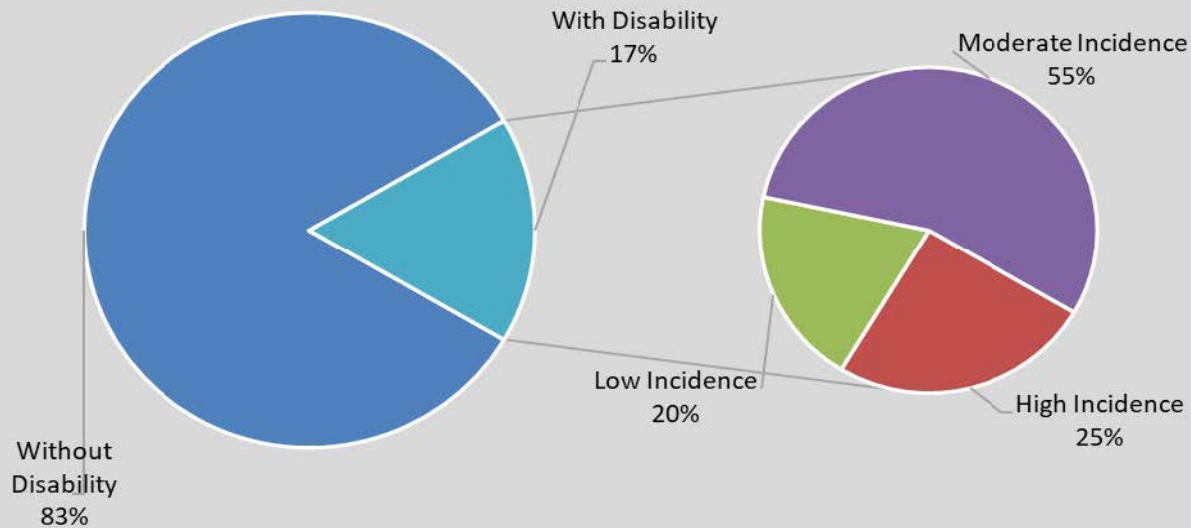
# Kentucky Agencies Serving State Agency Children



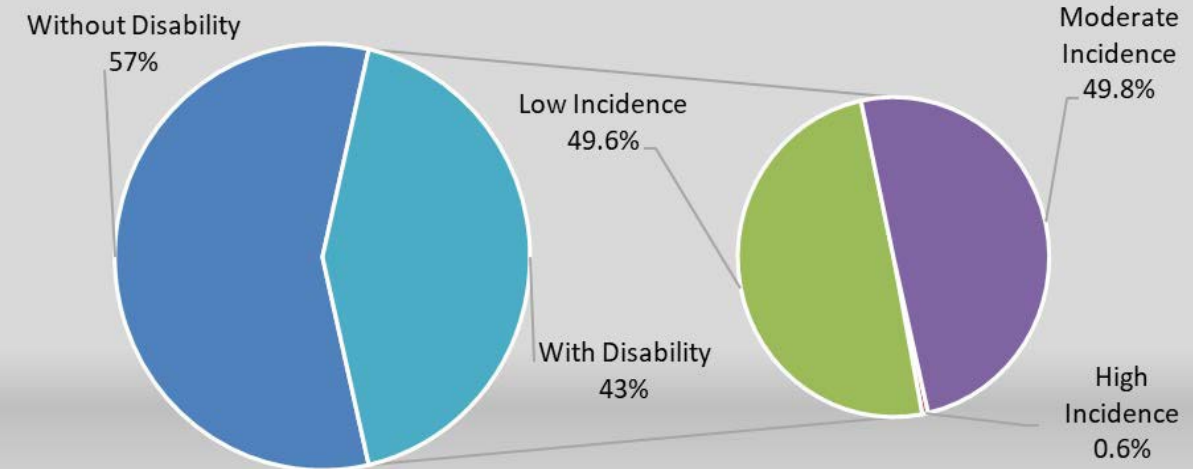
- Department for Community Based Services
- Department of Juvenile Justice
- Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities

# All Kentucky Students with Identified Educational Disabilities Compared to State Agency Children

### Kentucky Students Disabilities by Incidence Category



### State Agency Children Disabilities by Incidence Category



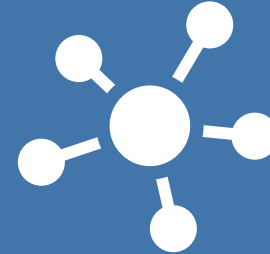
# Academic Preparedness of State Agency Children



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All State Agency Children are academically assessed upon enrollment in an education program. State requirements note a 30-day assessment window, but KY programs assess within 10 days.

Eighty-two (82) percent of State Agency Children test below grade level in math upon enrollment.



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Seventy-nine (79) percent of State Agency Children test below grade level in reading upon enrollment.

Most State Agency Children are more than two grade levels behind their peers upon enrollment.



# How are We Solving this Issue: Enhanced Educational Opportunities

- Year-Round School Calendar
  - 230 Day School Year
  - 210 Instructional Days vs. 177 in Traditional Settings
  - KRS 158.135



- Smaller Classroom Sizes
  - 10:1 Student to Teacher Ratio
  - 15:1+ Aide
  - KRS 158.135



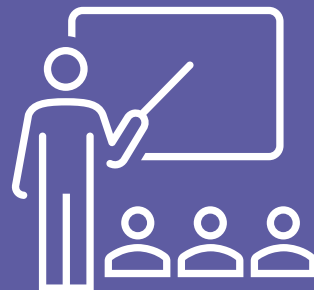
# How are We Solving this Issue: Enhanced Educational Opportunities



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Individualized instruction with fully certified educators. Each student has an individualized plan of instruction and receives both direct instruction and technology assisted support.

Over sixty percent (60%) of educators in state agency programs are certified in special education.



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All programs are monitored annually by multiple agencies to ensure State Agency Children are receiving the education they need and deserve.

Local school districts offer the full curriculum, credit recovery, high school equivalency programs, and vocational training.



# Return on Investment

Students enrolled in a state agency program at a local school district for 90 days show significant academic growth:

- Nearly 60% of state agency children grow up to a full grade level or more in math in 90 days.
- Nearly 55% of state agency children grow up to a full grade level in reading in 90 days.

Kentucky Foster Youth have a 40% higher high school graduation rate than the national average for foster youth! (Kentucky School Report Card)



# Financial Support



- Nearly 8,500 students per year enter state agency programs, nearly all are behind their peers academically upon entry.
- Supplemental educational services that are necessary to close the achievement gap for these students are expensive.
  - State Agency Children are disproportionately identified with special education needs, requiring highly certified teachers.
  - Extended school calendars require significant investment of resources.
- State Agency Children’s Funds allocated by the General Assembly are expended only to support the education of state agency children. Districts do not have discretion to redistribute these funds for other purposes. All funds are tracked down to the local program level.
- Typically, local districts provide supplemental funding for these programs, in addition to the line item.
- Financial documents related to all funds provided for the education of state agency children, including district level allocations and expenditures, are available at [www.kecsac.org](http://www.kecsac.org)
- Our budget request is for \$18,000,000 during each fiscal year in the upcoming biennium to meet the educational needs of our Commonwealth’s most vulnerable student population.