

EKU's Model Laboratory School – Myth vs. Fact

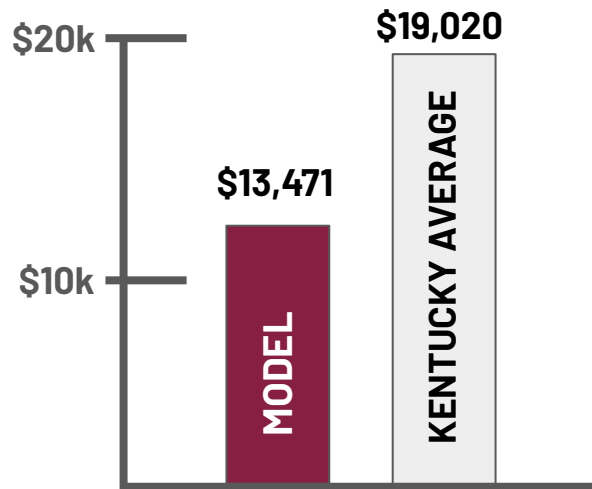
MYTH	FACT
Model Lab is a private school.	Model Lab is a public school as defined in KRS 164.380.
Model Lab has selective admissions.	Model Lab has open admission (no screening - Model Lab accepts students in order of date of application). Class size outlined in KRS 157.360.
Model Lab is a school just for the children of ECU employees.	75% of Model Lab students are not connected to ECU , but instead attend because it's a great fit for their educational needs.
Model Lab only serves students from Madison County.	Model Lab serves ECU and other undergraduate students as a learning lab. Model Lab P-12 students come from 9 school districts, some as far as an hour away , including - Fayette, Jessamine, Lee, Estill, Laurel and Garrard.
Model Lab's high academic ratings are only the result of serving a select or unrepresentative group of students.	Model Lab's student population reflects the geographic and demographic makeup of the surrounding community. 10% of Model Lab students have special needs, and many parents select Model for its excellent curriculum and quality instruction. KDE ruled Model ineligible for federal funding because Model charges tuition.
Model Lab benefits from exemptions/flexibilities that other public school districts don't get.	Model Lab adheres to the same state accountability & assessment and teacher certification standards as all public schools in Kentucky.
Model Lab is not necessary because its students could just attend county or private schools.	Model Lab exists not just to educate students, but to serve as a living laboratory for teacher training, educational research, and innovation – a mission established by Kentucky statute. It's the only public lab school in the state, and it plays a critical role in preparing future educators.
Model Lab receives SEEK and federal funding.	Model DOES NOT receive any SEEK funding nor does it receive any federal funding (e.g. IDEA-B, Title I, School Lunch Program, etc.). KDE ruled Model Lab ineligible for federal funding, despite the fact that 10% of Model Lab students are identified as special needs. As enrollment grows, Model's state funding remains flat, resulting in a decrease in per-pupil support. ECU receives \$4.571M annually in state support for Model Lab. In 2024-2025, with 720 students, Model received the equivalent of \$6,350 per pupil from the state with additional tuition/fees paid by parents. Model is still more efficient by per pupil expenditure (\$13,471) than Kentucky's average (\$19,020) according to latest audited financial data.

EKU receives **\$4.571M annually** in state support for Model. **As enrollment grows, Model's state funding remains flat, resulting in a decrease in per-pupil support.**

In 2024-25, Model received the equivalent of **\$6,350 per pupil state support** for 720 students plus tuition/fees from parents. EKU does not receive SEEK funding or federal funding for Model.

We request per pupil funding of \$10,000+ and (in subsequent fiscal years) base support **increased by the same per pupil increase in the guaranteed base funding** for other districts.

Per Pupil Expenses in 2023-24



- In 2024, Model elementary earned the **highest possible academic rating**, and Model high ranked in the **top ten statewide**
- **Open admission** with no academic screening
 - Students accepted by application date, class size limits set in KRS 157.360
- **Students from 9 districts** including Clark, Fayette, Estill, Garrard, Jackson, Jessamine Laurel, & Lee

