

# **Educator Preparation Programs at Kentucky's Independent Colleges and Universities**

**Report to the House Budget Review Subcommittee on Postsecondary Education**

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**Association of Independent  
Kentucky Colleges & Universities**

# 18 AIKCU institutions. 17 EPSB-approved educator preparation programs.

(Centre College discontinued its standalone program to partner with UofL and Vanderbilt MAT programs.)

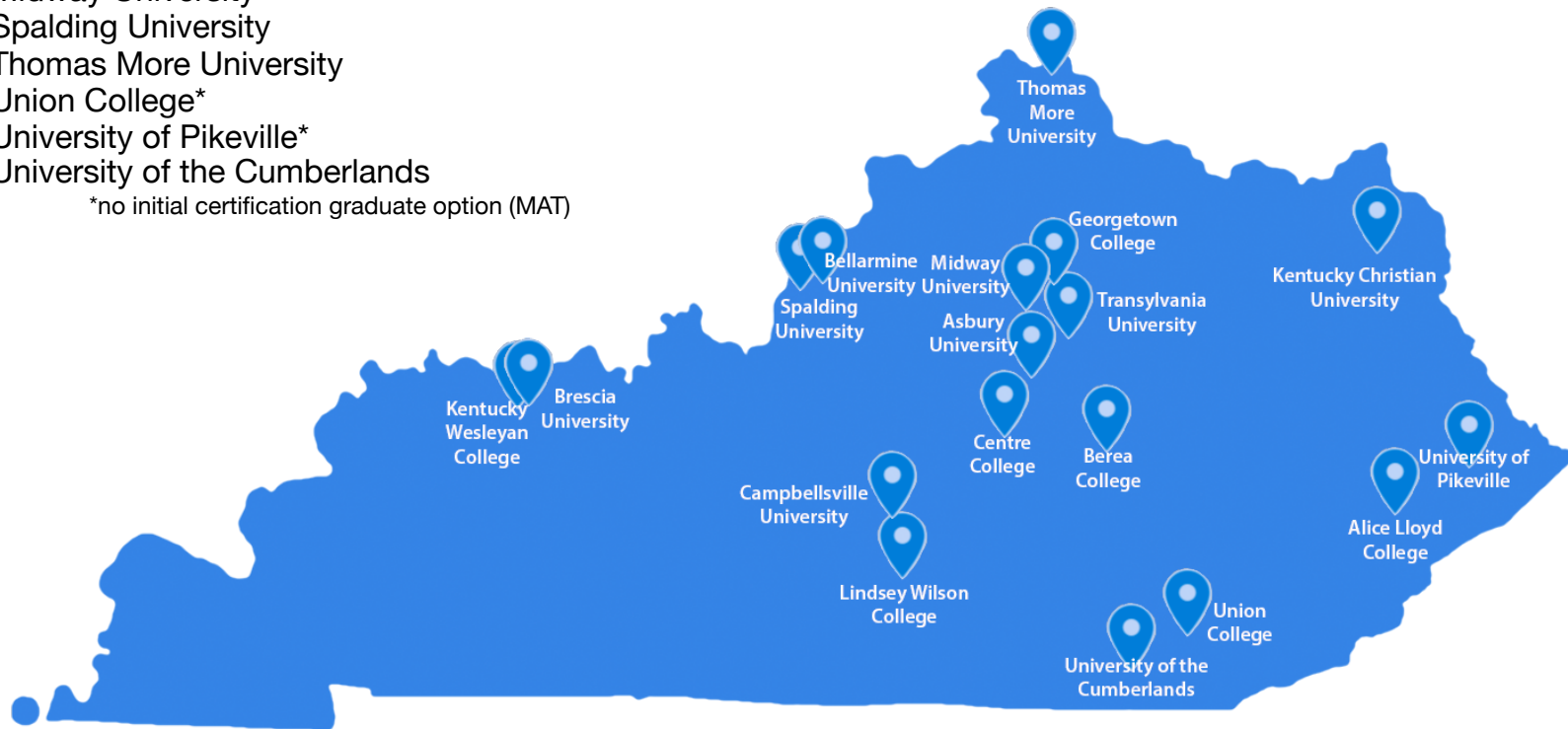
## Undergraduate and Graduate

Asbury University  
Bellarmine University  
Campbellsville University  
Georgetown College  
Kentucky Christian University\*  
Lindsey Wilson College\*  
Midway University  
Spalding University  
Thomas More University  
Union College\*  
University of Pikeville\*  
University of the Cumberlands

\*no initial certification graduate option (MAT)

## Undergraduate Only

Alice Lloyd College  
Berea College  
Brescia University  
Kentucky Wesleyan College  
Transylvania University



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## AIKCU Educator Preparation Programs (EPPs)

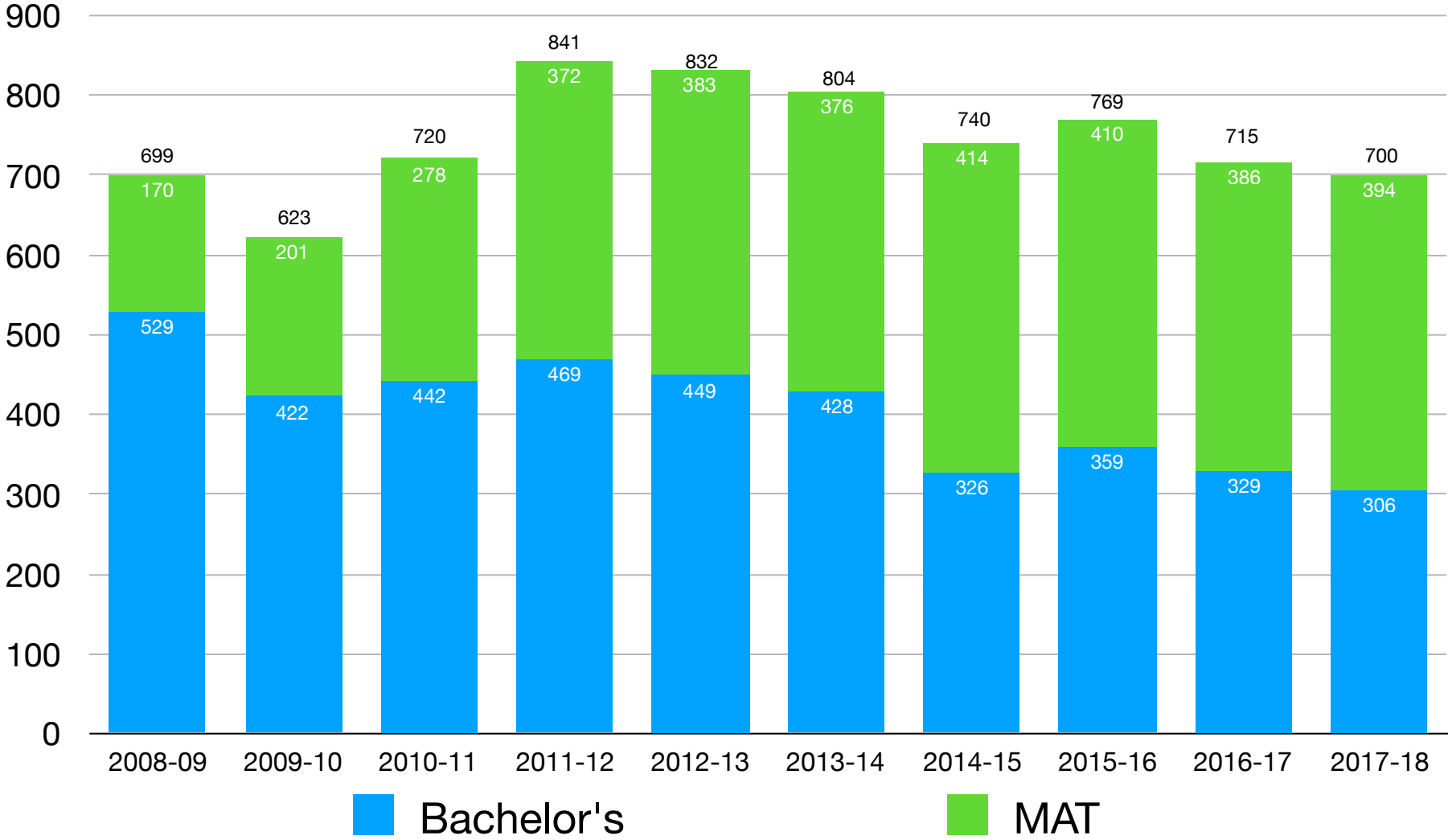
- All programs authorized by EPSB
- 11/17 have national accreditation
- Traditional undergraduate educator preparation programs (EPPs) range in size from around 5 to 70 completers per year
- Many graduate programs and some undergraduate programs offered online



AIKCU

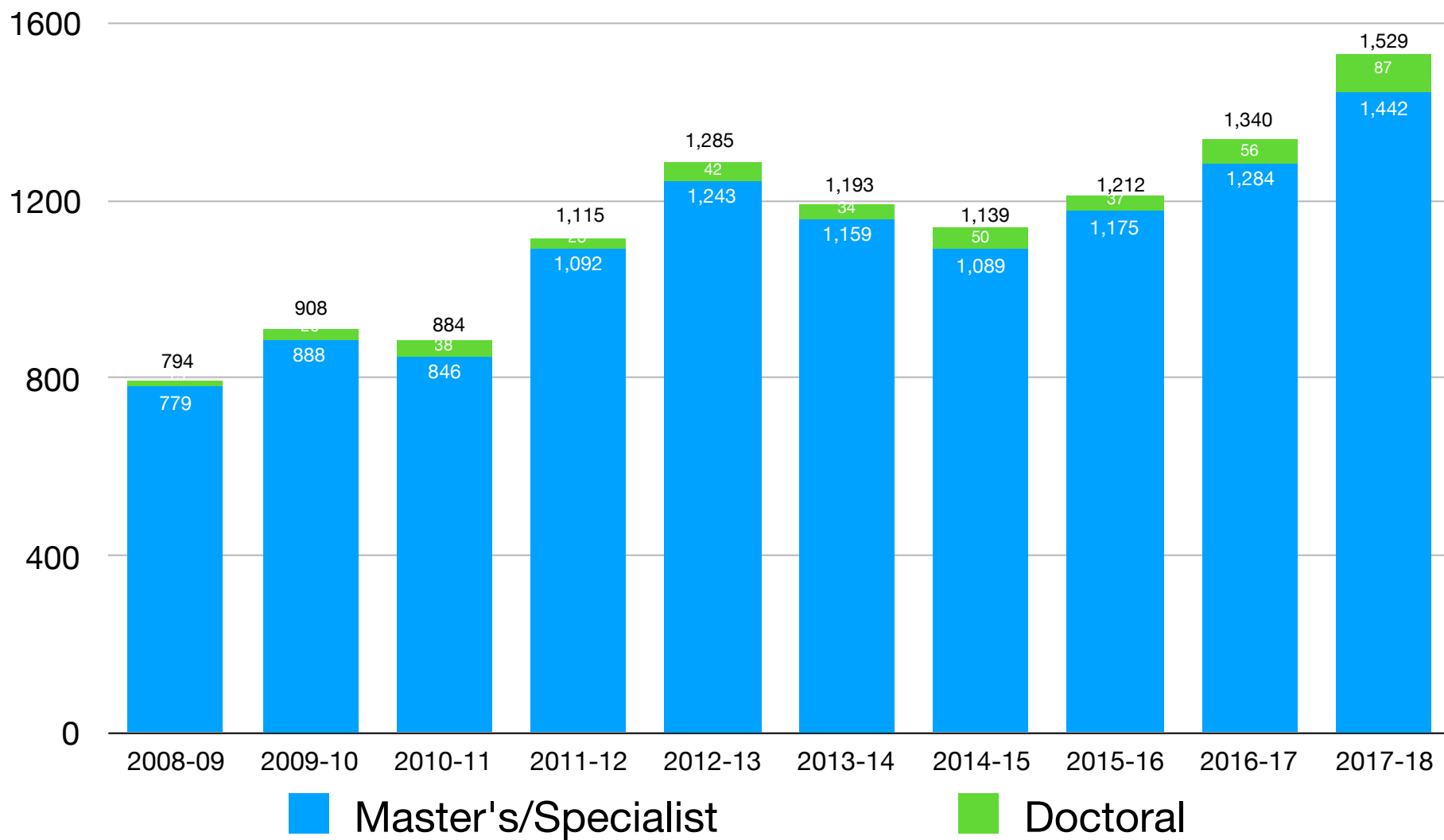
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# AIKCU education degrees leading to initial certification



Source: CPE

# Other AIKCU graduate education degrees



Source: CPE

## Examples of efforts to grow a diverse teacher pipeline

- **Asbury University, Campbellsville University, Lindsey Wilson College, and Midway University** have dual credit partnerships to offer introductory education courses in local high schools.
- **Berea College** is regularly exchanging data and meeting with an advisory group of local educators with a goal of increasing the number of racially/ethnically diverse, male, and identified shortage area candidates.
- **Union College**, in collaboration with local P-12 districts, has developed new undergraduate scholarships for future educators interested in pursuing high need/shortage fields.
- **Bellarmino University** requires all elementary and middle school education majors to dual major in special education to ensure all candidates are prepared to work with students who have diverse learning needs.
- **Transylvania University** hosts a “Spotlight on Education” event for local high school students interested in education each year, hosting more than 20 students from the Bryan Station HS Teaching and Learning Career Pathway last year.
- **Campbellsville University** (Early Childhood) and **Bellarmino University** (elementary education) have KCTCS 2+2 transfer articulation agreements.

# Examples of collaborations to enhance teacher quality

- **Asbury University** faculty are working directly with first-year teachers through the Jessamine Excellence in Teaching (JET) partnership to provide the mentorship and guidance that was previously accessible through KTIP.
- **Bellarmino University's** Literacy and STEAM Academies provide ongoing professional development through an intensive, research-supported framework that helps districts build teacher capacity.
- **Berea College's** Community of Teachers group, composed of local educators and Berea faculty and students, meets regularly, with a focus on developing culturally responsive instruction to meet the needs of all students and developing meaningful assessments.
- Two **Campbellsville University** faculty members recently completed a two year grant program to help elementary and middle school math teachers use mathematical modeling with their students.
- **Lindsey Wilson College** has been working with partner districts to increase training in the use of educational technology.
- Every **Midway University** education professor serves as a liaison to a school district where they consult and work directly with new teachers.
- **Transylvania University** has a deep partnership with James Lane Allen Elementary through its 21st Century grant program. The partnership incorporates professional development for educators, student involvement in the school, and mutual advisory relationships.
- **Union College** provides professional development for local P-12 districts at no cost, often in partnership with KEA and other statewide organizations.

# Broader environment impacting EPPs

- “Our candidates are very aware and concerned over the changes in education and it does have an impact on interest in the program. The conversations around pension bills and the removal of the master’s requirement have affected the number of prospective students for our program.” (Asbury University)
- “We have experienced a drop in both our initial and advanced education programs. I have regular conversations with parents and students about the instability of teacher retirement. Both are concerned about the security of the profession.” (Bellarmine University)
- “Many are concerned with the lack of respect and dignity offered to educators despite the effort that goes into both the cognitive and affective domains of the work...[and policies] limiting the scope of pay and/or benefits. As a result, many of our would-be teacher candidates are choosing the path of general education without certification to teach in places like community centers, non-profit organizations, etc.” (Berea College)
- “Faculty are hearing student anxieties about job safety, retirement cuts and longevity in the career itself. However, interest and enrollment in our entry level course has increased over the last several years. There is a dramatic decrease in student enrollment in graduate programs, as the state has made the decision to waive the Master’s degree requirement for teachers. The steep decline in enrollment has led the EPP to explore the viability of continuing the Master’s program.” (Lindsey Wilson College)
- “There has been a decline in our undergraduate and graduate programs. Students are very concerned about all of the changes that are occurring in state education and they are being told by teachers in the field not to go into education.” (Midway University)
- “We regularly engage students in class discussions regarding public conversations about the teaching profession. The current debates and challenges in education have influenced some students’ decisions to enroll in graduate programs upon graduation.” (Transylvania University)
- “We have seen an increase of majors into our undergraduate program based on what are perceived to be a lot of job opportunities for high need teaching areas and the numbers of anticipated teacher retirements over the next 4-5 years.” (Union College)



Questions?

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