



Academic growth in NIS schools outpaces state averages

Four of five schools identified as “meeting goal” or “progressing”

Superintendent Brandt, “Overall we are extremely pleased with this year’s results and applaud the hard work of our students, teachers, parents, site-based councils and school board members. While we still have significant challenges toward meeting our goal of becoming the finest small urban school district in America, the overall trends indicate that our investment in human and teaching resources have clearly resulted in an acceleration in academic growth.”

Newport, KY, September 10: The Newport Independent School District (NIS) today announced its results for the 2007-2008 Kentucky Core Content Test (KCCT) which is part of the Commonwealth Accountability Testing System (CATS). Overall results for the schools and district were strong.

A summary of district results:

All school levels posted academic growth that exceeded the academic growth for the state:

Table 1	State Academic Growth '06-'07 vs. 07'-08 (Overall academic index)	NIS Academic Growth '06-'07 vs. 07'-08 (Overall academic index)
Elementary Schools	1.3%	3.1%
Middle School	2.0%	4.4%
High School	-0.2%	3.5%

Reviewing individual school results 4 of 5 schools posted positive gains in their accountability index, which is comprised of both academic and non-academic measures.

Table 2	Accountability Index 2006-2007	Accountability Index 2007-2008	Annual Percentage Growth	State Status
A.D. Owens Elementary	78.8	83.0	5.3%	Progressing
Fourth Street Elementary	71.5	73.5	2.8%	Progressing
Mildred Dean Elementary	101.1	93.6	-7.4%	Meets Goal
Newport Middle School	68.4	70.1	2.5%	Progressing
Newport High School	64.9	67.3	3.7%	Assistance Level 2*

Newport High School’s growth has raised its status from a Level 3 to a Level 2 “Assistance Level”, which places the school in the middle third of high schools in Kentucky not currently meeting their accountability goals.

Individual school highlights:

Included are all core content academic increases of 5% or higher:

- **A.D. Owens Elementary:** Mathematics (13.9%), Social Studies (5.2%), Practical Living (11.6%), Writing Portfolios (5%), On-demand Writing (16.4%)
- **Fourth Street Elementary:** Mathematics (18.6%), Arts & Humanities (21.1%), Practical Living (24.3%)
- **Mildred Dean Elementary:** No core subjects increasing over 5%, however, Mildred Dean Elementary remains the highest performing school in the district.
- **Newport Middle School:** Mathematics (6.3%), Science (8.5%), Social Studies (6.4%), Practical Living (16.2%), Writing Portfolios (15.8%)
- **Newport High School:** Reading (9.8%), Mathematics (5.3%), Practical Living (13.4%), Writing Portfolios (10.4%), On-demand Writing (39.3%).

Since the implementation of the NIS district strategic improvement plan in 2004-2005 academic growth has significantly accelerated across the majority of school levels:

Table 3	Average annual increase in academic indices 1999-2003	Average annual increase in academic indices 2004-2008	Percentage increase in annual academic indices growth
Elementary Schools	1.9	3.6	89%
Newport Middle School	2.0	4.3	115%
Newport High School	4.3	-2.4	-156%*

*It should be noted that despite the overall negative academic growth at NHS over this period, for 2007-2008 the school has posted gains in both its academic and accountability indices, and in a number of core content areas.

Commenting on the KCCT results Superintendent Brandt stated, "Overall we are extremely pleased with this year's results and applaud the hard work of our students, teachers, parents, site-based councils and school board members. While we still have significant challenges toward meeting our goal of becoming the finest small urban school district in America, the overall trends indicate that our investment in human and teaching resources have clearly resulted in an acceleration in academic growth."

About the Newport Independent School District

The Newport Independent District is a small urban public school district of approximately 1,900 students, serving the residents of Newport, Kentucky. The district is in the process of implementing of an aggressive strategic plan for improvement, with the goal of becoming the finest small urban school system in the country. The district's five schools are A.D. Owens Elementary, Fourth Street Elementary, Mildred Dean Elementary, Newport Middle School and Newport High School.

Members of the Newport Independent School Board include: Board Chair: Mr. Robert Usleaman, Vice Chair: Ms. Andrea Janovic, Board Members: Ms. Ramona Malone, Mr. Robert Rummel and Dr. Julie Smith-Morrow.

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