



## Student Supports— Integrated Services

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### Kentucky School-Based Family Support: Twenty Years Later

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#### Background

The Kentucky Education Reform Act of 1990 (KERA) was a total legislative rewrite and restructuring of the state's system of education. One piece of this education act established Family Resource and Youth Services Centers ([FRYSC](#)), entities that coordinate a network of resources for students and families in neighborhoods where 20% or more of the students qualify for federal free- and reduced-price meals. A state-level partnership between the Kentucky Department of Education and the Cabinet for Health and Family Services was developed to implement and sustain the centers.

The FRYSC's mission is "to help academically at-risk students succeed in school by helping to minimize or eliminate noncognitive barriers to learning." Based on the needs and resources of the community, the centers provide a variety of services, referrals and programs. Design and delivery of services at each center are influenced by the center coordinator and a local advisory council that includes parents, school district personnel and community members.

Family Resource Centers (FRCs) serve children birth through elementary school. Youth Services Centers serve students in middle and high schools. Generally, the centers are separate, but they may be joined together to better fit the community or school needs. *Core components* for each center include the following:

#### **Family Resource Centers**

- Full-time preschool/child care for children 2 and 3 years of age
- After-school child day care (ages 4-12), full-time care for summer and no school days
  - *Support and Training for Child Day Care Providers* component removed
- "Families in Training" program for new and expectant parents
- Family literacy services (brought back after having been removed in 2000)
- Health services and/or referrals

#### **Youth Services Centers**

- Referrals to health and social services
- Career exploration and development
- Summer and part-time job development for high school students
- Substance abuse education and counseling
- Family crisis and mental health counseling

*Core components* are met by a network of services within the community. FRYSCs are the bridge between the people in need and those agencies. **FRYSCs primarily provide referrals and arrange contracts for services, only providing direct service when it is the necessary option.** Service delivery for child care, for example, might incorporate any of the following activities:

- Refer to Child Care Resource & Referral Agency in the community
- Organize and facilitate supervised play groups
- Refer to local programs such as Even Start, Head Start, Early Head Start, preschools
- Provide on-site care.

### ***How does Kentucky financially maintain support?***

The initial \$1 billion tax increase that covered KERA has now been exhausted, yet funding for FRYSC has increased overall in the 18 years of the program. To offset the costs incurred by KERA, the legislature increased taxes on construction machinery, motor vehicles and U-Drive-It permits, and raised corporate taxes (KRS 139.320). This additional revenue goes directly to KERA programs, including the FRYSCs. Funds for the centers come from budgets of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services (which maintains funding authority) and the Kentucky Department of Education, as well as public and private grants and donations.

A funding formula, \$189.25 per free-lunch-eligible child, is used to determine the funds allocated yearly to each center (calculation based on a minimum of 165 students to a maximum of 450 students) through a contract between the Cabinet for Health and Family Services and each participating local board of education. Schools with FRYSCs that drop below the threshold of 20% of students qualifying for free- or reduced-price lunch are eligible to receive funding for five additional years. The district must maintain compliance with the contract to receive the quarterly payments. The salary schedule of the local board of education determines personnel and other fixed costs. District coordination with the FRYSC coordinator is accounted for at the state level as an in-kind donation and does not provide for nor allow budget provisions for such necessary work. As additional in-kind donations, school districts provide the center space, utilities, bookkeeping services, and maintenance and custodial services.

State allocation of funds may not be sufficient, so a district or local advisory committee may need to search for supplemental funds to meet center costs. Supplemental fundraising has provided as much as \$44,932,749 (2005).<sup>1</sup> It might include:

- Solicitation of in-kind services or materials
- Monetary donations
- Fundraising activities
- Program income based on fees charged for services and/or activities
- Supplemental grants.<sup>2</sup>

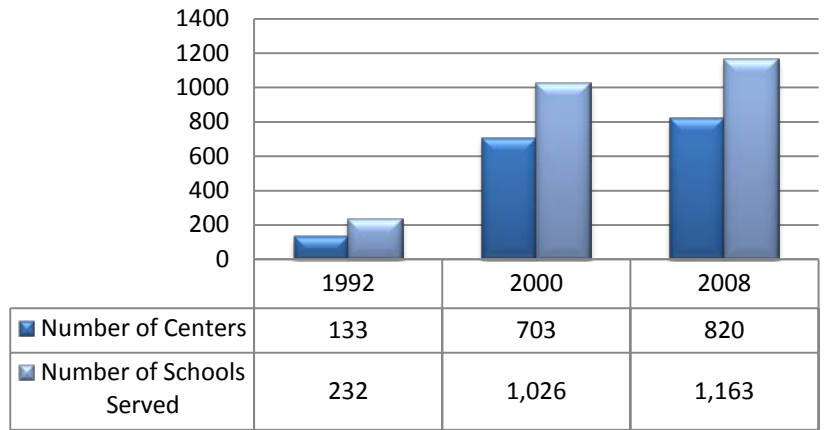
Kentucky has made the FRYSCs a priority by including provisions for them in state law and by providing a limited amount of core funding. Other states, including California, [Connecticut](#), [Florida](#), [Rhode Island](#) and [Tennessee](#), have versions of school-based family resource centers similar to those in Kentucky. Yet, in a report prepared by the Office of School-based Support Services in the Office of Early Learning Tennessee Department of Education, "T.C.A. § 49-2-115 authorizes the development of school-administered Family Resource Centers, however, school revenue constraints have restricted Local Education Agencies (LEAs) from developing FRCs without funding assistance."<sup>3</sup> To meet the Kentucky state mandate, FRYSC coordinators, schools and local advisory committees have solicited the communities and generated the necessary funding to make FRYSCs productive.

### ***Longitudinal growth***

The number of schools served by FRYSCs has grown nearly 500% between the program's launch in 1991 and the latest evaluation in 2008. More schools, families and students are served every year. Only 1% of qualifying schools remain without an FRYSC.

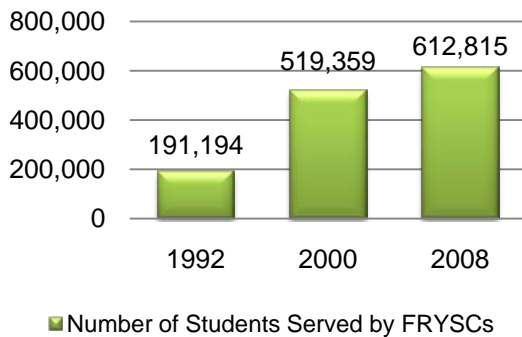
## FRYSC Growth

Source: Kentucky's Family Resource and Youth Services Center [History and Mission 2008](#)<sup>4</sup>

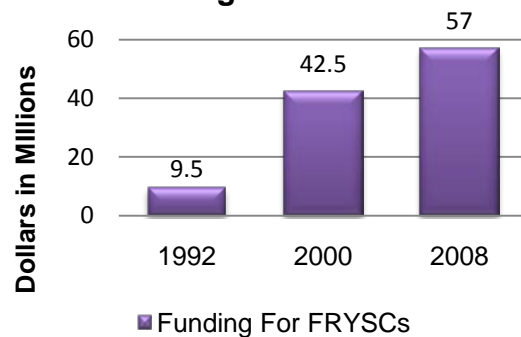


The funding also has increased exponentially since initiation of the centers. Kentucky has continued to make the FRYSCs a priority, even during economically challenging fiscal years.

## Students Served by FRYSCs



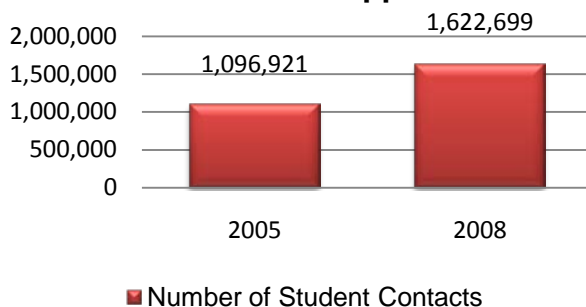
## Funding For FRYSCs



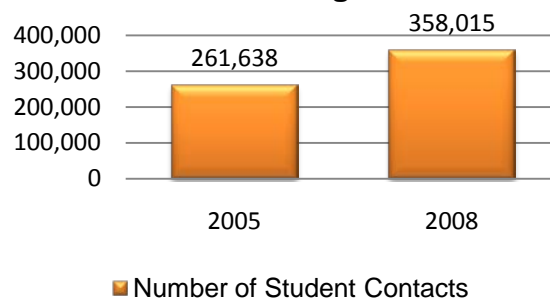
Source: Kentucky's Family Resource and Youth Services Center [History and Mission 2008](#)

Each year, more students receive education support and tutoring both during and outside of school hours. In 2008 alone, 397,787 students benefitted from education support provided by the FRYSCs.<sup>5</sup> Education support may include character education, peer mediation, conflict resolution, in-school reading programs or mentoring.

## Education Support



## Tutoring



Source: Kentucky's Family Resource and Youth Services Center [FY 08 Reporting](#)<sup>6</sup> and [FY 05 Reporting](#)<sup>7</sup>

## Results

While one cannot directly correlate the growth in FRYSCs to student achievement, Kentucky assessment results from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) show an improvement in the achievement gap, overall state scale scores and national comparisons since 1992.<sup>8</sup> In 1992, Kentucky scored below the national average in most student subgroups of the 4th- and 8th-grade reading and math assessments. As of 2009, Kentucky scored higher than the national average scale score in 4th- and 8th-grade reading. Fourth grade math is in line with the national average, and 8th-grade math is three points below the national average. Kentucky has improved the scale score more than the national average change in all three subject areas of reading, math and science.

### Reading Scale Scores Over Time

Note: *Free- and Reduced-Price Lunch* is a marker used to differentiate socio-economic status throughout the United States and will be used as a stand-in for the achievement gap.

	1992		2009		Scale Score Change	
	Kentucky	Nation	Kentucky	Nation	Kentucky	Nation
4th Grade	Overall Score: 213	Overall Score: 215	Overall Score: 226	Overall Score: 220	Overall Score: +13	Overall Score: +5
			Free/Reduced Lunch: 215	Free/Reduced Lunch: 206		
8th Grade	1998		2009		Overall Score: +5	Overall Score: +1
	Overall Score: 262	Overall Score: 261	Overall Score: 267	Overall Score: 262	Free/Reduced Lunch: +6	Free/Reduced Lunch: +3
	Free/Reduced Lunch: 251	Free/Reduced Lunch: 246	Free/Reduced Lunch: 257	Free/Reduced Lunch: 249		

Eighth-grade students who were eligible for free- or reduced-price lunch scored eight points higher than their national average counterparts in 2009. Low-income 4th-grade students scored nine points above the national average for low-income students.

### Math Scale Scores Over Time

	1992		2009		Scale Score Change	
	Kentucky	Nation	Kentucky	Nation	Kentucky	Nation
4th Grade	Overall Score: 215	Overall Score: 219	Overall Score: 239	Overall Score: 239	Overall Score: +24	Overall Score: +20
			Free/Reduced Lunch: 229	Free/Reduced Lunch: 228		
8th Grade	Overall Score: 262	Overall Score: 267	Overall Score: 279	Overall Score: 282	Overall Score: +17	Overall Score: +15
			Free/Reduced Lunch: 266	Free/Reduced Lunch: 268		

Fourth-grade students who were eligible for free- or reduced-price lunch were one point above the national average for the same category in 2009. Math achievement for low-income Kentucky 8th-graders was two points below the national average, but two points ahead overall.

## Science Scale Scores Over Time

	2000		2005		Scale Score Change	
	Kentucky	Nation	Kentucky	Nation	Kentucky	Nation
4th Grade	Overall Score: 152	Overall Score: 148	Overall Score: 158	Overall Score: 149	Overall Score: +6	Overall Score: +1
	Free/Reduced Lunch: 142	Free/Reduced Lunch: 129	Free/Reduced Lunch: 151	Free/Reduced Lunch: 135	Free/Reduced Lunch: +9	Free/Reduced Lunch: +6
8th Grade	1996		2005		Overall Score: +6	Overall Score: -1
	Overall Score: 147	Overall Score: 148	Overall Score: 153	Overall Score: 147	Free/Reduced Lunch: +10	Free/Reduced Lunch: -3

Fourth-grade students who were eligible for free- or reduced-price lunch outscored their national average counterparts by nine points in 2005. African American students who were eligible for free- or reduced-price lunch were 13 points higher than their national average counterparts in 2005. Also in 2005, 8th-grade students who were eligible for free- or reduced-price lunch scored 15 points more than the average score of students with similar backgrounds.

### Statutes Referenced:

KY. REV. STAT. ANN. §§ 156.496 to 156.497, 157.330 to 157.360  
 TENN. CODE ANN. §§ 49-2-115

*Dinah Frey, Intern for ECS Clearinghouse prepared this note.*

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## Equipping Education Leaders, Advancing Ideas

<sup>1</sup> Cabinet for Health and Family Services, *Family Resource and Youth Service Centers: FY 08 Reporting Compilation Charts and Graphs* PowerPoint, slide 26 (Kentucky: Cabinet for Health and Family Services, 2008), [chfs.ky.gov/NR/rdonlyres/FE9FDC9D-B89C-47DE-AD34-5C33004A67CD/0/PPTReporting08Slideshow.pps](http://chfs.ky.gov/NR/rdonlyres/FE9FDC9D-B89C-47DE-AD34-5C33004A67CD/0/PPTReporting08Slideshow.pps), (accessed October 26, 2010).

<sup>2</sup> Division for Family Resource and Youth Services Centers, *FRYSC School Administrator's Guidebook* (Kentucky: Division for Family Resource and Youth Services Centers, 2010), [chfs.ky.gov/NR/rdonlyres/AF50C7AD-F321-43F0-AB9A-4A6987135B80/0/ADMINGUIDBOOK8\\_10.doc](http://chfs.ky.gov/NR/rdonlyres/AF50C7AD-F321-43F0-AB9A-4A6987135B80/0/ADMINGUIDBOOK8_10.doc), (accessed October 15, 2010).

<sup>3</sup> Tennessee Department of Education, *Tennessee's School-Based Family Resource Centers* (Tennessee: Tennessee Department of Education, 2008), [www.tennessee.gov/education/earlylearning/doc/OEL\\_FRC\\_Report\\_0607.doc](http://www.tennessee.gov/education/earlylearning/doc/OEL_FRC_Report_0607.doc) (accessed November 8, 2010).

<sup>4</sup> Cabinet for Health and Family Services, *History and Mission: Kentucky's Family Resource and Youth Service Centers* PowerPoint, slide 13 (Kentucky: Cabinet for Health and Family Services, 2008), [chfs.ky.gov/nr/rdonlyres/6ca8e214-68d2-4d68-9bd6-7aa462d3a046/0/ppthistoryandmission08.ppt](http://chfs.ky.gov/nr/rdonlyres/6ca8e214-68d2-4d68-9bd6-7aa462d3a046/0/ppthistoryandmission08.ppt), (accessed October 26, 2010).

<sup>5</sup> *FY 08 Reporting Compilation Charts and Graphs* PowerPoint, slide 6.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, slide 6.

<sup>7</sup> Cabinet for Health and Family Services, *Family Resource and Youth Service Centers: FY 05 Reporting Charts and Graphs* PowerPoint, slide 7 (Kentucky: Cabinet for Health and Family Services, 2005), [chfs.ky.gov/NR/rdonlyres/5C6008F2-2C01-4342-8D97-FDFA1A08F7AD/0/PPTReporting05.ppt](http://chfs.ky.gov/NR/rdonlyres/5C6008F2-2C01-4342-8D97-FDFA1A08F7AD/0/PPTReporting05.ppt), (accessed November 8, 2010).

<sup>8</sup> Institute of Educational Sciences National Center for Educational Statistics, NAEP Data Explorer (Washington, DC: United States Department of Education), [nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/naepdata/dataset.aspx](http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/naepdata/dataset.aspx), (accessed October 28, 2010).