

School Funding in Kentucky Still Well Below 2008 Level

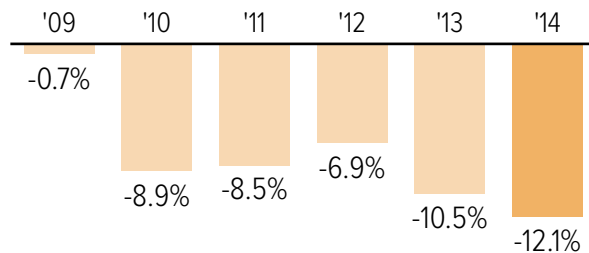


Kentucky is one of at least 31 states that provided less school funding per student in the 2014 school year (the most recent available) than in 2008, before the recession took hold. Large cuts in K-12 funding weaken education systems, diminishing their capacity to develop fully the intelligence and creativity of the nation's future workers and entrepreneurs.

State funding per student down by one-eighth

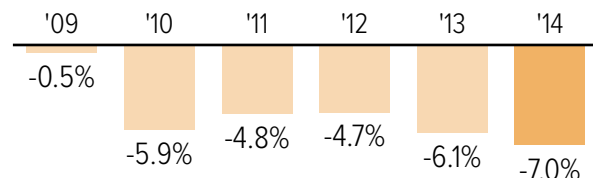
Kentucky state funding per student fell by 12.1 percent between 2008 and 2014. Only nine states imposed larger cuts.

Change in state K-12 funding per student relative to 2008, adjusted for inflation



Local governments in Kentucky raised school funding over the same period, but not by enough to fully offset the state cut. **Total state and local school funding combined fell by 7.0 percent** per student between 2008 and 2014.

Change in state and local K-12 funding per student relative to 2008, adjusted for inflation



Kentucky's "general" or "formula" funding per student — the primary form of state funding for schools — fell by 0.2 percent this year and is **10.6 percent below the 2008 level** due to earlier cuts.

State K-12 cuts have serious consequences

Kentucky schools receive more than half (54 percent) of their funding from the state. Cuts at the state level force school districts to scale back educational services and/or raise more local tax revenue to cover the gap. They also impede reforms to boost student achievement, such as improving teacher quality, reducing class sizes, and increasing student learning time.

For more information see Michael Leachman et al., "Most States Have Cut School Funding, and Some Continue Cutting," CBPP, December 10, 2015

Sources for graphics: CBPP budget analysis and National Center for Education Statistics enrollment estimates