



OVEC Report Shows 5% Average Teacher Pay Increase Across North Central Kentucky in 2025-2026

Increases reflect continued investment through SEEK funding and regional commitment to educator recruitment and retention.

A new report from the Ohio Valley Educational Cooperative (OVEC) shows that classroom teachers across thirteen North Central Kentucky districts saw an average salary increase of approximately 5% for the 2025–2026 school year. OVEC released the 2025-2026 Salary and Wage Report on January 28th. OVEC publishes this report annually to show salary schedules of participating member districts.

This year's report is available online at <https://www.ovec.org/reports>. This includes data from thirteen school districts in North central Kentucky: Anchorage Public School District, Bullitt County Public Schools, Carroll County Schools, Eminence Independent Schools, Frankfort Independent School District, Gallatin County Schools, Grant County Schools, Henry County Public Schools, Oldham County Schools, Owen County Schools, Shelby County Public Schools, Spencer County Schools, and Trimble County Schools.

In this region, a classroom teacher's starting salary rose to a regional average of \$47,504.53. This figure represents a \$2,265 increase from the prior year's report. The regional averages for teachers with five years and fifteen years of experience had commensurate increases. These salary figures are increases of approximately 5% compared to 2024-2025 regional averages.

The increase aligns with projected growth in Kentucky's Support Education Excellence in Kentucky (SEEK) funding, which is forecasted to rise from \$4,326 per student in 2024-2025 to \$4,586 per student in 2025-2026.

Superintendent of Carroll County Schools and OVEC Board Chair, Casey Jaynes says, *"First, I want to extend sincere appreciation to the Kentucky General Assembly for its commitment to public education through the recent increases in SEEK funding for the 2024-2026 biennium budget. As this data shows, across the OVEC region districts have been able to translate this investment directly into meaningful salary increases for teachers and school staff, helping us remain competitive, attract high-quality educators, and reward the dedicated professionals already serving our students."*

The report includes the number of full-time equivalent positions, contract days, hours per day, and the salary or hourly pay rates for 100 positions common among the region's schools.

CEO of the Ohio Valley Educational Cooperative (OVEC), Jason Adkins says, *"OVEC member districts continue to demonstrate their commitment to the educator workforce. Continued growth in SEEK funding is imperative if districts are to sustain momentum, further strengthen the educator workforce, and ensure that staff compensation keeps pace with the demands and importance of the profession. Ongoing legislative support allows our districts to invest in people first, which ultimately benefits every classroom and every child in Kentucky."*

In addition to supporting districts through data and advocacy, OVEC also provides multiple pathways to become an educator. Visit www.ovec.org/educatorsuccess to learn more about these opportunities.

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Ohio Valley Educational Cooperative

The Ohio Valley Educational Cooperative (OVEC) is a regional consortium in Kentucky dedicated to serving school districts by providing a range of support services, professional development, and innovative educational programs. OVEC makes educators' work more fulfilling and sustainable through intentional opportunities, resources, and relationships.