

## Region's Science Scores Improve

**Hazard, KY, December 2003** – According to a recently released report from the Kentucky's Department of Education, the 7<sup>th</sup> grade science scores of students in what was the former Region 8 Service Center have increased substantially and has narrowed the gap dramatically between this region and the rest of the state.

Five year trend data collected from 7<sup>th</sup> grade Commonwealth Accountability Testing (CATS) science index scores shows that in the former Region 8 Service Center scores had increased by 11.7 points verses a 6.875 increase by Kentucky schools as a whole. In addition, Region 8's science index had increased by over 21% versus an increase in the state index of only 11%. Furthermore, the area moved a greater percentage of novice and apprentice learners into the proficient and distinguished categories than did the state. This data supports the fact that students in this service area are improving their knowledge of science, particularly in the sub domain of Earth and Space Science. Congratulations are certainly in order!

“Having the Challenger Learning Center of Kentucky as a science resource for our teachers, right here in our backyard certainly is an asset,” said Dr. Paul Fanning, Floyd County Schools Superintendent. “Lack of motivation is very detrimental to learning,” said Fanning, “Challenger's mission simulations and other inquiry-based learning programs unquestionably increase a student's interest in, and understanding of, science.”

“The Challenger Learning Center of Kentucky has worked closely with our teachers, administrators, and the Kentucky Department of Education to align all of their programs to the Kentucky Program of Studies, Core Content for Assessment and to model CATS testing practiced,” said John Paul Amis, Perry County Schools Superintendent. “We certainly are fortunate to have such a valuable educational tool in our area,” said Amis.