

Grading the States

GRADE	ACHIEVEMENT LEVEL				ACHIEVEMENT GAINS					
	NAEP mathematics 2019 percent proficient		NAEP reading 2019 percent proficient		NAEP math scale score change 2003 to 2019		NAEP reading scale score change 2003 to 2019			
	4th grade	8th grade	4th grade	8th grade	4th grade	8th grade	4th grade	8th grade		
MASSACHUSETTS	B	84.8	50.2%	47.4%	45.4%	44.6%	+5.7	+8.0	+3.5	+0.2
NEW JERSEY	B	83.5	48.2	44.1	41.9	42.9	+7.2	+10.4	+2.1	+2.6
FLORIDA	B-	80.2	47.5	30.6	37.7	33.9	+12.2	+7.2	+6.7	+6.1
CONNECTICUT	C	76.3	45.0	39.2	40.1	41.0	+2.6	+2.4	-4.0	+2.5
VIRGINIA	C	76.1	47.9	37.8	38.3	33.2	+7.7	+5.4	+0.3	-6.2
ILLINOIS	C	76.0	38.5	33.8	34.4	35.4	+4.5	+5.4	+1.9	-1.7
MARYLAND	C	75.7	39.1	32.6	35.1	36.0	+5.5	+2.4	+1.2	+2.8
WISCONSIN	C	75.4	44.8	41.3	35.5	38.5	+4.9	+4.7	-1.1	+0.9
PENNSYLVANIA	C	75.2	47.3	38.6	39.7	35.2	+8.0	+6.5	+4.5	-0.1
UTAH	C	74.3	46.3	37.3	40.0	37.8	+9.0	+4.3	+5.9	+3.1
MINNESOTA	C	74.3	52.9	44.2	38.1	34.2	+6.5	+0.1	-0.2	-3.9
TENNESSEE	C	73.9	39.9	31.2	34.6	31.6	+11.9	+11.9	+7.1	+4.4
COLORADO	C	73.8	44.5	36.9	39.7	37.7	+6.7	+1.3	+1.2	-0.3
NORTH CAROLINA	C	73.6	41.4	36.5	36.0	32.9	-0.6	+2.4	+0.1	+0.8
INDIANA	C	73.6	47.1	37.4	37.0	37.0	+6.9	+4.4	+1.4	+1.1
NEW YORK	C	73.4	36.9	33.5	34.3	32.5	+0.8	+0.7	-2.6	-3.6
IDAHO	C	73.3	43.0	37.3	37.4	37.1	+7.0	+6.0	+4.2	+2.0
NEVADA	C	73.0	34.3	25.7	30.9	28.6	+8.1	+5.7	+10.7	+5.8
CALIFORNIA	C	73.0	33.6	28.5	32.1	29.8	+7.3	+8.6	+10.8	+7.8
WYOMING	C	72.5	47.8	37.1	40.6	33.9	+4.8	+2.8	+4.6	-2.4
WASHINGTON	C-	72.5	39.3	40.0	35.1	38.5	+1.2	+4.7	-1.4	+1.8
ARIZONA	C-	72.1	37.3	31.0	31.4	28.4	+8.7	+8.8	+7.0	+4.2
NEW HAMPSHIRE	C-	72.1	45.8	38.5	38.2	37.7	+1.4	+1.0	-3.5	-2.8
GEORGIA	C-	72.1	36.5	31.1	32.2	32.1	+7.4	+9.8	+4.4	+4.7
HAWAII	C-	72.0	39.8	27.7	33.8	29.2	+11.7	+9.6	+9.3	+6.9
OHIO	C-	71.5	41.1	37.5	36.1	38.1	+3.4	+4.1	+0.1	+0.5
RHODE ISLAND	C-	71.2	40.5	29.5	35.4	35.0	+9.0	+3.7	+3.7	+1.3
VERMONT	C-	71.0	38.8	38.3	37.1	40.2	-3.0	+1.0	-4.3	-2.0
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	C-	70.8	34.2	23.0	30.1	23.0	+29.7	+26.1	+25.9	+11.1
SOUTH DAKOTA	C-	70.7	43.0	39.4	36.0	31.9	+4.0	+2.2	-0.3	-7.2
NEBRASKA	C-	70.5	45.5	36.9	36.8	33.8	+7.5	+2.8	+1.8	-2.3
KENTUCKY	C-	70.4	39.9	29.0	35.1	33.4	+10.6	+3.8	+1.9	-3.2
TEXAS	C-	70.3	43.7	29.6	30.3	25.0	+6.3	+2.6	+1.2	-3.0
MAINE	C-	69.9	41.8	33.6	36.0	35.6	+3.1	+0.5	-2.6	-3.2
MISSISSIPPI	D+	69.4	38.8	24.3	31.5	25.0	+17.8	+12.8	+13.9	+1.4
NORTH DAKOTA	D+	69.2	44.3	37.4	34.3	31.6	+5.4	-1.6	-0.5	-6.5
MICHIGAN	D+	69.1	35.6	31.0	31.6	31.5	+0.5	+3.8	-0.5	-1.8
MONTANA	D+	68.9	42.6	35.7	36.4	34.3	+5.4	-2.0	-1.1	-5.0
DELAWARE	D+	68.5	39.1	29.2	32.5	31.0	+3.5	-0.5	-6.2	-4.9
MISSOURI	D+	67.3	39.3	31.6	34.2	33.3	+3.6	+2.0	-4.3	-4.1
ARKANSAS	D+	67.2	33.2	27.3	31.2	29.5	+4.2	+8.6	+1.4	+0.8
OREGON	D+	66.8	37.2	31.4	33.8	34.0	+0.0	-1.4	+0.1	-0.3
IOWA	D	66.4	42.0	32.5	35.1	32.6	+2.2	-2.3	-2.8	-5.2
KANSAS	D	66.4	40.3	32.9	33.8	32.3	-2.3	-2.0	-1.0	-3.2
SOUTH CAROLINA	D	66.2	36.3	28.9	31.8	29.3	+1.0	-1.0	+1.2	+0.9
OKLAHOMA	D	66.0	34.5	25.5	28.5	25.6	+8.1	+4.6	+2.8	-3.5
WEST VIRGINIA	D	65.0	29.6	24.1	30.3	25.3	+0.7	+1.6	-6.0	-3.9
ALABAMA	D	64.3	28.1	21.3	28.2	23.6	+6.3	+6.8	+4.6	+0.2
LOUISIANA	D	64.1	28.8	23.1	25.7	27.2	+5.0	+5.3	+5.1	+4.0
NEW MEXICO	D-	62.0	28.7	20.7	23.7	23.3	+8.6	+5.5	+4.4	+0.1
ALASKA	D-	61.5	33.2	29.0	25.1	23.3	-0.7	-4.7	-7.2	-4.0
U.S.	C	73.0	40.4%	32.9%	34.3%	32.4%	+6.1	+4.9	+3.0	+0.7

Note: States are ordered based on unrounded values for the K-12 Achievement Index.

Sources and Notes

CHANCE FOR SUCCESS

The Chance-for-Success Index combines information from 13 indicators intended to offer perspective on the role that education in a state plays as a person moves from early childhood through the formal pre-K-12 school system and ultimately into postsecondary education and/or the workforce.

Several indicators, such as family income and parent education, examine educational

foundations in early childhood.

Measures of participation and performance include reading and math scores from the National Assessment of Educational Progress, high school graduation rates, and other indicators. Outcomes in adulthood, such as educational attainment and annual income, form an additional component of the analysis. Most data for the index are taken from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2019 American Community Survey.

K-12 ACHIEVEMENT

The K-12 Achievement Index examines 18 distinct measures of reading and math performance, high school graduation, and success on Advanced Placement tests. It scores states on current performance, changes over time, and poverty-based gaps. Data for the index are largely drawn from the 2019 National Assessment of Educational Progress.

POVERTY GAP				ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE		HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION		ADVANCED PLACEMENT		
National school lunch program non-eligible minus eligible 2019		Poverty-gap change 2003 to 2019 (negative value = narrowing gap)		NAEP math 2019 percent advanced	NAEP math percent advanced change 2003 to 2019	ACGR graduation rates (all students, public schools)		High test scores (3 or above) per 100 students in grades 11 and 12 (public schools)		
Reading 4th grade NAEP scale score difference	Math 8th grade NAEP scale score difference	4th grade	8th grade	8th grade	8th grade	2018-2019	Change 2014 to 2019	2020	Change 2000 to 2020	
26.4	30.9	-0.1	-2.9	17.8	+9.4	88.0%	+1.9	47.6	+34.8	MASSACHUSETTS
29.9	37.8	-0.6	+3.4	17.3	+10.9	90.6	+2.0	51.6	+39.3	NEW JERSEY
22.0	26.9	-4.4	-1.3	8.5	+4.4	87.2	+11.1	45.6	+35.3	FLORIDA
34.5	37.0	+1.6	+5.1	13.4	+5.1	88.5	+1.5	50.2	+38.2	CONNECTICUT
28.0	28.0	+0.9	+0.7	11.2	+5.3	87.5	+2.2	47.0	+31.5	VIRGINIA
27.9	26.4	-6.9	-7.7	10.2	+4.3	86.2	+0.2	46.3	+35.5	ILLINOIS
30.1	35.4	-1.4	+5.3	11.8	+5.0	86.9	+0.5	57.9	+43.6	MARYLAND
29.0	31.9	+6.8	-1.4	12.5	+6.0	90.1	+1.5	36.1	+27.1	WISCONSIN
31.1	35.9	-2.0	+4.9	12.7	+7.6	86.5	+1.2	29.9	+22.3	PENNSYLVANIA
26.4	28.3	+6.3	+8.3	10.9	+5.2	87.4	+3.5	27.9	+11.1	UTAH
29.0	32.7	+1.7	+6.9	14.0	+5.3	83.7	+2.5	30.0	+22.7	MINNESOTA
25.1	24.9	+0.8	-3.7	8.6	+5.7	90.5	+3.3	19.0	+14.2	TENNESSEE
29.9	31.7	+5.2	+1.7	10.7	+3.2	81.1	+3.8	38.8	+29.5	COLORADO
25.9	27.1	-1.3	-0.8	11.2	+4.0	86.5	+2.6	33.7	+24.1	NORTH CAROLINA
27.2	25.8	+4.0	+4.0	10.4	+5.1	87.2	-0.7	26.1	+21.6	INDIANA
30.6	27.6	+0.6	-3.4	11.2	+5.4	82.8	+5.0	48.6	+31.1	NEW YORK
22.7	25.5	+4.0	+5.5	10.5	+6.2	80.8	+3.5	16.4	+11.5	IDAHO
20.7	24.7	-4.8	+4.6	6.7	+4.0	84.1	+14.1	24.0	+18.3	NEVADA
31.1	35.8	+0.2	+6.0	9.6	+5.2	84.5	+3.5	43.8	+31.5	CALIFORNIA
19.6	20.7	+3.0	+3.4	8.5	+4.1	82.1	+3.5	14.1	+10.7	WYOMING
28.1	34.0	+6.4	+11.3	13.1	+7.0	81.1	+2.9	29.7	+23.6	WASHINGTON
28.9	21.1	-2.6	-3.4	8.8	+6.1	77.8	+2.1	20.8	+16.7	ARIZONA
25.5	24.3	-1.0	+2.9	9.6	+3.1	88.4	+0.3	24.2	+17.9	NEW HAMPSHIRE
33.4	35.0	+6.0	+3.2	8.9	+4.9	82.0	+9.5	36.6	+29.5	GEORGIA
22.5	22.8	+1.0	+1.9	6.0	+3.6	85.2	+3.4	20.3	+15.2	HAWAII
26.7	36.5	+2.6	+11.2	11.4	+6.3	82.0	+0.2	28.7	+22.3	OHIO
28.6	35.7	+0.0	+5.3	7.9	+4.8	83.9	+3.1	31.6	+26.4	RHODE ISLAND
26.5	22.6	+8.9	-0.5	11.0	+4.2	84.5	-3.3	29.4	+20.4	VERMONT
40.7	42.0	+17.2	+23.7	7.8	+6.6	68.9	+7.5	42.6	+36.0	DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
20.8	23.4	+0.6	+3.9	10.0	+5.2	84.1	+1.4	16.3	+10.3	SOUTH DAKOTA
24.8	26.4	+2.9	+1.4	9.1	+4.0	88.4	-1.3	14.7	+12.1	NEBRASKA
23.6	25.5	+3.7	+3.0	6.9	+3.2	90.6	+3.1	25.1	+20.3	KENTUCKY
26.5	23.3	+5.0	-0.6	7.5	+3.4	90.0	+1.7	36.4	+27.5	TEXAS
22.1	24.9	+5.2	+5.3	9.1	+4.1	87.4	+0.9	22.3	+14.4	MAINE
23.6	28.3	-5.4	+4.1	5.0	+4.0	85.0	+7.4	7.5	+5.6	MISSISSIPPI
19.5	25.7	+2.6	+8.3	8.6	+3.8	88.3	+1.1	17.7	+13.0	NORTH DAKOTA
26.4	27.9	-2.2	+0.5	8.5	+3.8	81.4	+2.8	26.8	+19.7	MICHIGAN
26.0	25.3	+2.2	+6.6	9.2	+3.5	86.6	+1.2	18.2	+11.5	MONTANA
22.8	24.5	+3.2	+0.6	7.2	+2.8	89.0	+2.0	28.5	+22.1	DELAWARE
27.2	27.1	+3.2	+4.2	7.4	+3.3	89.7	+2.4	17.1	+14.0	MISSOURI
25.4	28.6	+2.7	+8.6	5.9	+3.8	87.6	+0.7	24.2	+19.9	ARKANSAS
29.5	28.1	+11.1	+8.4	9.6	+2.9	80.0	+8.0	19.2	+14.5	OREGON
25.0	26.6	+3.4	+2.8	7.1	+1.6	91.6	+1.1	14.6	+9.8	IOWA
26.9	26.1	+3.4	+5.6	9.2	+2.8	87.2	+1.5	13.5	+9.3	KANSAS
31.9	32.1	+6.0	+6.2	8.3	+3.4	81.1	+1.0	30.4	+21.5	SOUTH CAROLINA
21.5	21.7	-1.9	-0.1	5.3	+3.3	84.9	+2.2	11.5	+5.3	OKLAHOMA
19.9	19.2	+4.3	+0.7	4.8	+3.1	91.3	+6.8	14.2	+9.3	WEST VIRGINIA
30.2	30.2	-1.4	+0.9	3.9	+2.0	91.7	+5.4	18.0	+14.3	ALABAMA
27.8	28.8	-1.6	+4.7	4.4	+2.6	80.1	+5.5	12.5	+10.6	LOUISIANA
29.6	27.6	+3.3	+4.9	4.2	+2.5	75.1	+6.6	14.3	+9.2	NEW MEXICO
32.3	28.8	+0.1	+3.6	7.1	+1.4	80.4	+9.3	14.9	+6.6	ALASKA
27.8	29.9	-0.1	+1.5	9.7	+4.8	85.8%	+3.5	34.7	+25.6	U.S.

¹Values in the U.S. row report results for the nation as a whole, if it had been treated as a state. SOURCE: EdWeek Research Center, 2021

SCHOOL FINANCE

The school finance analysis evaluates two dimensions of state performance: spending and equity.

To assess state spending patterns in K-12 education, the EdWeek Research Center analyzes results on four metrics: per-pupil expenditures adjusted for regional cost differences, percent of students in districts with per-pupil spending at or above U.S. average, Spending

Index, and percent of total taxable resources spent on education. State expenditures are adjusted by factors such as regional cost differences to facilitate apples-to-apples comparisons.

For the equity component of the grading, the Research Center conducts an analysis to capture the degree to which education funding is equitably distributed across the districts within a state. Equity is measured by four

distinct indicators: Wealth-Neutrality Score, McLoone Index, Coefficient of Variation, and Restricted Range.

The finance analysis is based on the most recent information available from federal agencies, which is from 2018.

Additional indicator-by-indicator details for all three graded categories can be found in the full Sources & Notes online at edw.link/QC2021overall