

Renewing our Schools,  
Securing our Future



Center for American Progress



INSTITUTE FOR  
AMERICA'S FUTURE

# Education: The State We're In

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# Overview

**E**ducation in America is a shared responsibility – shared among teachers and students, administrators and parents, and all levels of government. While the federal government plays targeted roles in education, such as providing extra support to high-poverty schools, making financial aid available to college students, and disseminating best practices in teaching and learning, it is states and local communities that bear the major public responsibility for education in the United States. States and districts establish and operate schools, set course content standards, and determine graduation requirements. Moreover, states and local communities provide more than 90% of the funding for public education. The strong influence exerted by states and localities means that educational practices and student performance vary widely from state to state and from district to district.

*Education: The State We're In* provides a comprehensive, state-by-state snapshot of education today in America. It brings together publicly available data on a number of topics, slicing the numbers in two ways. First, seven of the most pressing issue areas in education today are explored in reports encompassing all 50 states. The issues considered include: the achievement gap, standards and student performance measurements, early childhood education, the high-school-to-college pipeline, teachers' subject-matter qualifications, participation in after-school programs, and the accessibility of higher education. Second, individual state report cards provide a comprehensive look at education in each of the 50 states. In both instances, *Education: The State We're In* offers some indication of comparative performance by ranking states from first to worst across a range of education issues.

*Education: The State We're In* is a companion to *Getting Smarter, Becoming Fairer: A Progressive Education Agenda for a Stronger Nation*, the report of the *Renewing Our Schools, Securing Our Future* National Task Force on Public Education. The Task Force set out in early 2004 to develop a clear picture of America's education system at the start of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and to consider innovative strategies for revitalizing public education. The Task Force's report addresses challenges and builds on opportunities that exist today in schools and communities across the 50 states.

Together, *Education: The State We're In* and *Getting Smarter, Becoming Fairer: A Progressive Education Agenda for a Stronger Nation* give readers a picture of the current state of education across the country and provide recommendations at the national, state and local levels to guide politicians, policymakers, educators and administrators as they continue the challenging but vitally important work of preparing our public education system, and all the students within it, to meet the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

# Education: The State We're In

## Achievement gaps persist among people of color and the economically disadvantaged

Great divides in health, economic well-being and academic achievement continue to separate Americans of different races, ethnicities and incomes. These disparities typically accrue over a lifetime and frequently start before students even enter school. While there have been periods of improvement, minority and poor students still do worse in school than their peers. These gaps in achievement remain, despite the 1954 Brown vs. Board of Education ruling, which called for the desegregation of schools, and the passage of Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) in 1965, which provided extra assistance to high-poverty schools.

Young low-income and minority children are more likely to start school without having gained important school readiness skills, such as recognizing letters and counting.<sup>1</sup> Because they tend to begin school behind, they are less likely to get ahead. By the 4<sup>th</sup> grade, low-income students read about three grade levels behind non-poor students.<sup>2</sup> Across the nation only 15% of low-income 4<sup>th</sup> graders achieved proficiency in reading in

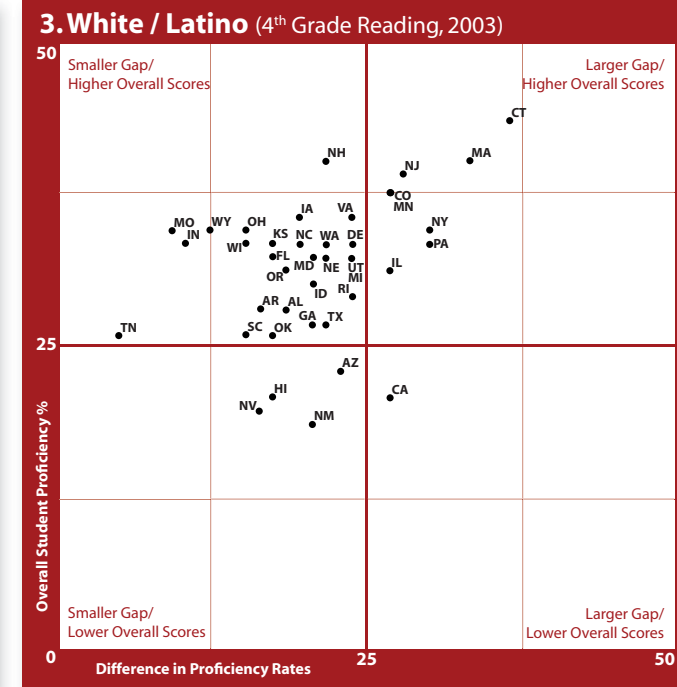
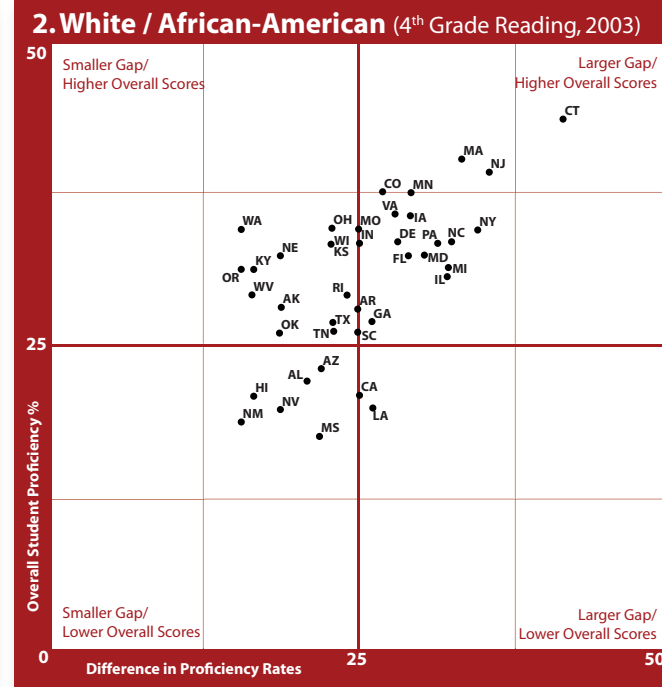
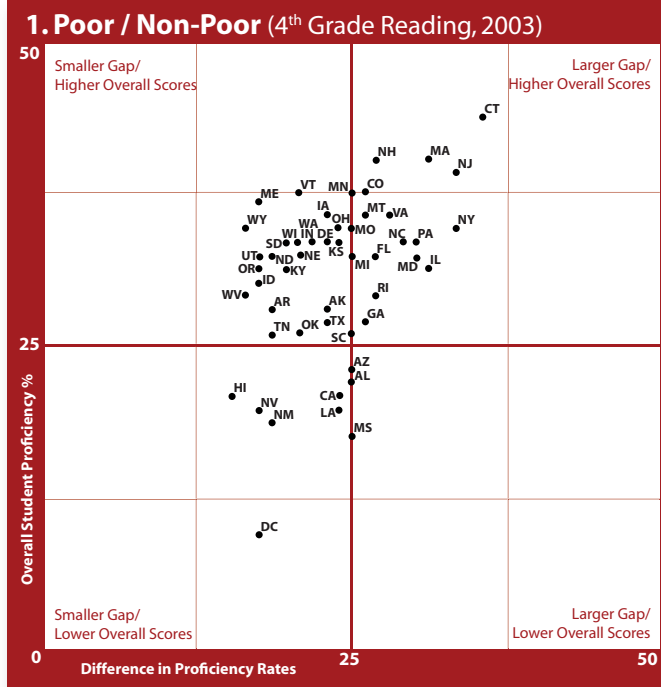
2003, compared to 41% of non-poor students.<sup>3</sup> Put differently, non-poor students are almost three times as likely as low-income students are to be able to read proficiently.

Similar disparities exist between white students and students of color; 39% of white 4<sup>th</sup> graders can read at the proficient level, compared to only 12% of African-American students and 14% of Latinos.<sup>4</sup> Overall, about three in 10 4<sup>th</sup> graders can read proficiently, and this in itself is a cause for concern. However, the markedly lower proficiency rates among low-income, African-American and Latino students are clearly unacceptable.

Although achievement gaps exist in every state, some have done a better job than others in closing the divides. Oregon and Washington have the smallest difference in achievement between white and African-American 4<sup>th</sup> graders; white students there have a proficiency rate that is 15 percentage points higher than that of African-Americans. These states contrast with DC and Connecticut, which have the widest gaps

in proficiency rates among whites and African-Americans – 63 and 42 percentage points respectively. On the white-Latino achievement gap, Tennessee performs the best, with only a 5 percentage point disparity in reading proficiency. At the other end of the spectrum, the gap in reading between white and Latino 4<sup>th</sup> graders is largest in DC and Connecticut, where the proficiency rates of 4<sup>th</sup> graders differs by 62 and 36 percentage points respectively.

The gap in academic achievement narrows little as students grow older. By the end of high school, Latino and African-American high-schoolers score at the same achievement level as white middle-schoolers in reading and math.<sup>5</sup> Academically unprepared for the demands of high school, the completion rates of low-income and minority children lag their peers significantly. About 78% of white students graduate from high school in four years, compared to only 56% of African-American students and 52% of Latinos.<sup>6</sup>



Source: Daane, M., P. Donahue and W. Grigg, *The Nation's Report Card: Reading Highlights 2003*, (Washington, DC: National Center for Education Statistics, Nov. 2003)

Of those who do graduate from high school, 66% of white students enroll in college the following fall, compared to only 58% of African-American students and 59% of Latinos.<sup>7</sup> While African-American enrollment in college has increased over the last 20 years, completion rates have not kept pace. Latinos, on the other hand, have not seen an increase in either college enrollment or completion.<sup>8</sup> The gaps are widest at the most elite institutions; at the nation's 146 most selective colleges and universities, 74% of all freshmen entering college in 2000 came from the top socioeconomic status (SES) group, while only 10% of students came from the bottom half.<sup>9</sup> Similarly, only 6% of students at those schools are African-American, and another 6% are Latino.<sup>10</sup>

Our nation's education system is supposed to offer all children, regardless of race/ethnicity, income, geographic location, or language, the knowledge and skills to enable them to reach their fullest potential. In this sense, schools bear primary responsibility for creating equal opportunity for all. To date, however, this promise of opportunity has gone unfulfilled. *Renewing Our Schools, Securing Our Future: A National Task Force on Public Education* calls for a number of changes to our school system in order to close the achievement gap, both as a matter of fairness and a matter of economic and civic necessity.

- Elena Rocha and Amanda Sharkey

<sup>1</sup> Child Trends, *Early School Readiness* (Washington, DC: Child Trends Databank, 2003).

<sup>2</sup> M. Daane, P. Donahue and W. Grigg, *The Nation's Report Card: Reading Highlights 2003* (Washington, DC: National Center for Education Statistics, Nov. 2003).

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Perie, M. and R. Moran and A.D. Lutkus, *NAEP 2004 Trends in Academic Progress: Three Decades of Student Performance in Reading and Mathematics* (Washington, DC: National Center for Education Statistics, July 2005).

<sup>6</sup> Greene, Jay and and Marcus A. Winters, *Public High-School Graduation and College Readiness Rates: 1991-2002*. (New York, NY: Manhattan Institute for Policy Research, Feb. 2005).

<sup>7</sup> Wirt, John, *The Condition of Education 2005* (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education, 2005).

<sup>8</sup> The Education Trust, *Latino Achievement in America* and *African American Achievement in America*, (Washington, DC: The Education Trust, Spring 2004).

<sup>9</sup> Carnevale, Anthony P. and Stephen J. Rose, *Socioeconomic Status, Race/Ethnicity and Selective College Admissions*, (Washington, DC: Century Foundation, March 2003).

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

## Achievement Gap

Percent of 4<sup>th</sup>-graders Achieving Proficiency on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Reading Exam (2003)

State	Overall % Proficient	Proficiency by Sub-Group					White/African-American Gap	Rank 1=Best	White/Latino Gap	Rank 1=Best	Poor/Non-Poor Gap	Rank 1=Best
		White	African-American	Latino	Non-Poor	Poor						
Alabama	22	30	9	--	36	11	21	11	--	--	25	31
Alaska	28	40	21	21	36	13	19	7	19	14	23	22
Arizona	23	35	13	12	36	11	22	12	23	26	25	31
Arkansas	28	35	10	18	39	20	25	20	17	8	19	9
California	21	36	11	9	34	10	25	20	27	32	24	26
Colorado	37	45	18	18	45	19	27	27	27	32	26	38
Connecticut	43	54	12	18	53	18	42	41	36	40	35	51
Delaware	33	44	16	20	41	18	28	28	24	27	23	22
District of Columbia	10	70	7	8	24	6	63	42	62	41	18	4
Florida	32	42	13	24	45	18	29	30	18	10	27	40
Georgia	27	38	12	17	39	13	26	25	21	18	26	38
Hawaii	21	35	18	17	29	13	17	5	18	10	16	1
Idaho	30	33	--	12	38	20	--	--	21	18	18	4
Illinois	31	42	10	15	45	14	32	35	27	32	31	47
Indiana	33	36	11	26	40	18	25	20	10	3	22	20
Iowa	35	37	8	17	42	19	29	30	20	16	23	22
Kansas	33	37	14	19	42	18	23	14	18	10	24	26
Kentucky	31	33	16	--	41	21	17	5	--	--	20	14
Louisiana	20	34	8	--	36	12	26	25	--	--	24	26
Maine	36	36	--	--	42	24	--	--	--	--	18	4
Maryland	32	44	14	23	43	13	30	33	21	18	30	45
Massachusetts	40	48	15	15	51	20	33	38	33	39	31	47
Michigan	32	40	8	16	41	16	32	35	24	27	25	31
Minnesota	37	43	14	16	44	19	29	30	27	32	25	31
Mississippi	18	30	8	--	36	11	22	12	--	--	25	31
Missouri	34	39	14	30	44	19	25	20	9	2	25	31
Montana	35	38	--	--	44	20	--	--	--	--	24	26
Nebraska	32	36	17	14	40	19	19	7	22	22	21	16
Nevada	20	28	9	11	28	10	19	7	17	8	18	4
New Hampshire	40	41	--	19	45	18	--	--	22	22	27	40
New Jersey	39	49	14	21	48	15	35	40	28	36	33	49
New Mexico	19	34	18	13	32	13	16	3	21	18	19	9
New York	34	48	14	18	51	18	34	39	30	37	33	49
North Carolina	33	44	12	24	45	16	32	35	20	16	29	44
North Dakota	32	34	--	--	38	19	--	--	--	--	19	9
Ohio	34	39	16	23	43	19	23	14	16	5	24	26
Oklahoma	26	32	13	14	38	17	19	7	18	10	21	16
Oregon	31	34	19	15	37	18	15	1	19	14	19	9
Pennsylvania	33	40	9	10	44	14	31	34	30	37	30	45
Rhode Island	29	36	12	12	41	14	24	19	24	27	27	40
South Carolina	26	36	11	20	39	14	25	20	16	5	25	31
South Dakota	33	37	--	--	41	21	--	--	--	--	20	14
Tennessee	26	32	9	27	34	15	23	14	5	1	19	9
Texas	27	39	16	17	39	16	23	14	22	22	23	22
Utah	32	35	--	11	38	20	--	--	24	27	18	4
Vermont	37	37	--	--	43	22	--	--	--	--	21	16
Virginia	35	44	16	20	44	16	28	28	24	27	28	43
Washington	33	38	23	16	42	20	15	1	22	22	22	20
West Virginia	29	29	13	--	38	21	16	3	--	--	17	2
Wisconsin	33	36	13	20	39	18	23	14	16	5	21	16
Wyoming	34	36	--	23	40	23	--	--	13	4	17	2
National Average	30	39	13	18	41	15	26		22		26	

Source: Daane, M., P. Donahue and W. Grigg, *The Nation's Report Card: Reading Highlights 2003*, (Washington, DC: National Center for Education Statistics, Nov. 2003)

-- Reporting standards not met. Sample size insufficient to permit a reliable estimate.

# Education: The State We're In

## High-quality preschool inaccessible to many

Children learn the most between birth and age 5, yet far too few young children are enrolled in early care and education programs. According to 2000 Census data, there are nearly 8 million 3- and 4-year olds in the United States. Only 4 in 10 3-year olds and 7 in 10 4-year olds attend some form of preschool whether public or private.<sup>1</sup>

Participation in early childhood programs varies by state and strongly correlates to family income. Because state-funded preschool programs as well as federally-funded Head Start target children with the greatest need, particularly low-income children and children with disabilities, there are income eligibility requirements. While many low-income children are in such programs, those from families

whose income is just above the eligibility requirement have decreased access to preschool as their families are less able to pay for private preschool programs. Preschool enrollment among higher-income families increases with income.

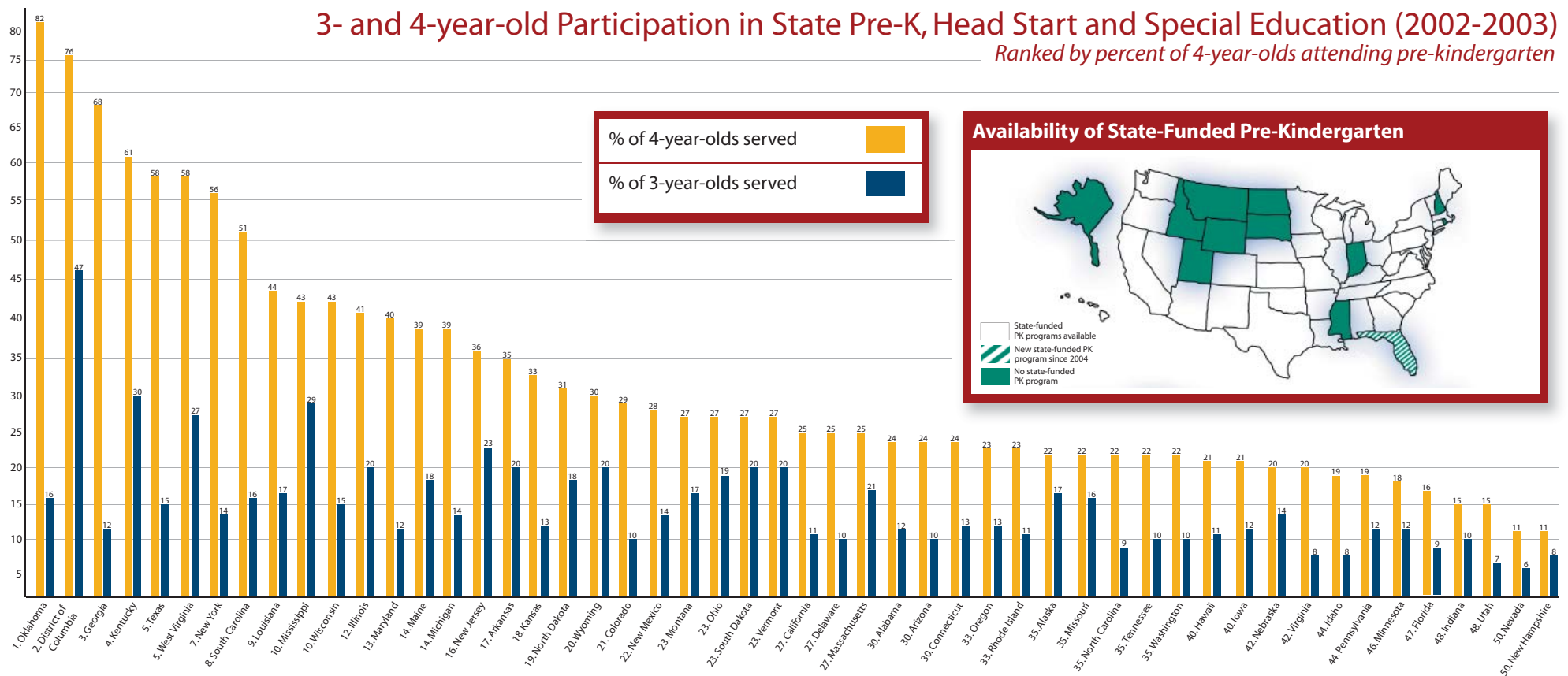
Participation, however, is only part of the story. Many children who are enrolled in programs are not enrolled in "high-quality" programs. By design, high-quality programs pay equal attention to the social, emotional, and healthy development of young children, as well as their cognitive pre-academic skill development. Programs that are high-quality provide children with a solid foundation for academic success; children who enter kindergarten ready to learn excel academically while those who begin behind are at an increased risk of staying behind throughout their academic career.

While overall enrollment in state preschool programs is increasing, spending per student has not been able to keep pace. State budget constraints are leading to reduced spending per child and cutbacks in the number of eligible children served. More than half of the 3- and 4-year olds who are not in pre-school are children from low-income families. While there are significant disparities in state spending per child, the average amount spent is about \$3,500.<sup>2</sup> Head Start spending is about twice that amount. Currently, 11 states are without state-funded preschool programs and only 2 states, Georgia and Oklahoma, truly offer universal preschool to all children.<sup>3</sup>

*Renewing Our Schools, Securing Our Future: A National Task Force on Public Education* addresses the issue by calling for universal pre-kindergarten, beginning with those most in need.

### 3- and 4-year-old Participation in State Pre-K, Head Start and Special Education (2002-2003)

Ranked by percent of 4-year-olds attending pre-kindergarten



Source: Barnett, Steve and Jason T. Husted, *The State of Preschool: 2004 State Preschool Yearbook* (New Jersey: Rutgers, State University of New Jersey, 2004)

## Few states required to offer full-day kindergarten

**K**indergarten, the beginning of formal education in the United States, is an important time in the education of children. Unfortunately, too many children enter kindergarten under-prepared; those who participate in early childhood care and education programs begin their academic careers with a stronger foundation than those who did not attend preschool. Given the range of development among children in kindergarten, the school year is often utilized to help under-prepared students learn what others may have gained in preschool, such as the pre-literacy skills of letter recognition, familiarity with sounds, the conventions of print, listening and thinking, and so on.

Currently, only 14 states plus the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands require children to attend at least half-day kindergarten.<sup>4</sup> The remaining 36 states have

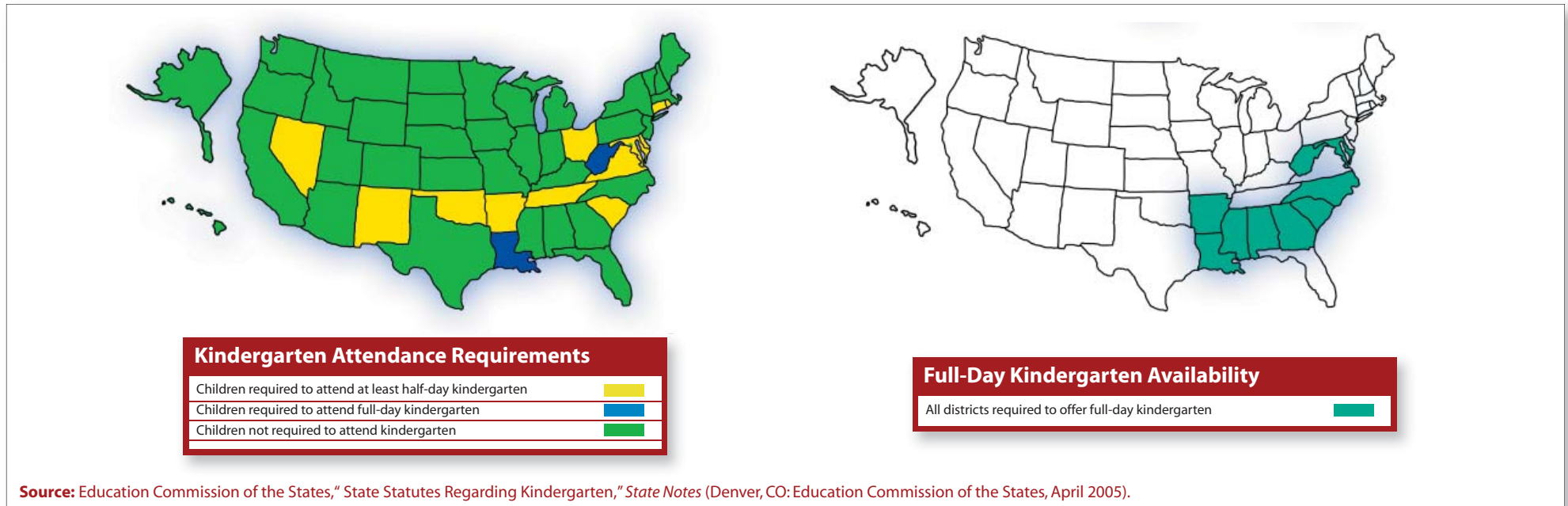
no such requirement. Although 98% of our nation's children attend kindergarten, only 60% attend full-day kindergarten.<sup>5</sup> Research indicates that full-day kindergarten particularly benefits low-income and minority children, and that children in full-day kindergarten show greater academic achievement than children in half-day kindergarten. Recent studies also link full-day kindergarten to positive impacts on social and behavioral development, a reduced number of special education referrals and reduced need for grade retention, greater academic success in reading and math (compared to those in half-day kindergarten), longer-lasting effects on economically disadvantaged children, and increased preparedness for academic success beyond the first grade.

While children from low-income families are more likely to be enrolled in and benefit from full-day kindergarten, it

is a valuable experience for all children regardless of race, ethnicity, income, or language status. It is therefore a missed opportunity for children not enrolled in full-day kindergarten. Although demand is growing, particularly among families with working parents, access varies greatly from state to state. According to the Education Commission of the States, only nine states currently mandate that all school districts even offer full-day kindergarten. Two of these nine, Louisiana and West Virginia, require that all children attend full-day kindergarten.<sup>6</sup>

*Renewing Our Schools, Securing Our Future: A National Task Force on Public Education* addresses the issue by calling for full-day kindergarten for all students.

- Elena Rocha



Source: Education Commission of the States, "State Statutes Regarding Kindergarten," *State Notes* (Denver, CO: Education Commission of the States, April 2005).

<sup>1</sup> Dr. Steve Barnett, *Testimony to the Subcommittee on Education Reform*, April 21, 2005.

<sup>2</sup> Barnett, Steve and Jason T. Hustedt, *The State of Preschool: 2004 State Preschool Yearbook* (New Jersey: Rutgers, State University of New Jersey, 2004).

<sup>3</sup> Ibid

<sup>4</sup> Education Commission of the States, "State Statutes Regarding Kindergarten," *State Notes* (Denver, CO: Education Commission of the States, April 2005).

<sup>5</sup> Education Commission of the States, *The Progress of Education Reform 2004: Kindergarten*. Vol. 5, No. 4, (Denver, CO: September 2004).

<sup>6</sup> Education Commission of the States, "State Statutes Regarding Kindergarten," *State Notes* (Denver, CO: Education Commission of the States, April 2005).

# Education: The State We're In

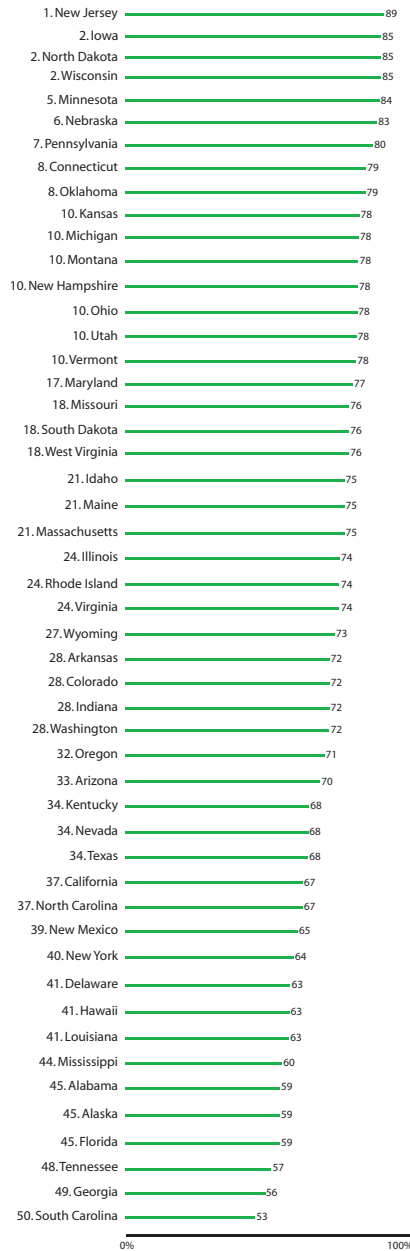
## The link between high school and post-secondary education is weak

For the last 50 years, high-school graduation has been the ultimate educational goal for most American students. However, in today's global, technology- and information-driven society, a high-school diploma is no longer sufficient for achieving the American dream of a middle-class lifestyle. Our global society and economy demand many more employees with knowledge and skill sets beyond those typically learned in high school, and a college or post-secondary vocational credential is often necessary to prove that students have developed such abilities. Unfortunately, in a world where higher education is increasingly essential, too few students even meet the baseline requirements for high-school graduation. Further, many of those who do graduate are not academically prepared for post-secondary opportunities, do not enroll in post-secondary education, and do not earn a college diploma or a post-secondary vocational credential of any kind.

Nationally, the high-school graduation rate is approximately 70%.<sup>1</sup> Among minorities, the graduation rate is significantly lower. Approximately 56% of African-Americans and 52% of Latinos graduate from high school, compared to 78% of whites.<sup>2</sup> Completion of a high-school diploma has a huge impact on one's employment status and income; among all education levels, unemployment rates are the highest (8.8%)<sup>3</sup> and average annual earnings are the lowest (less than \$19,000)<sup>4</sup> for those who lack a high-school diploma. States vary widely in the degree to which they are succeeding in graduating students from high school. The best high-school graduation rates are in New Jersey (89%), Iowa (85%), North Dakota (85%) and Wisconsin (85%). In contrast, the nation's lowest high-school graduation rates are found in Georgia (56%) and South Carolina (53%).

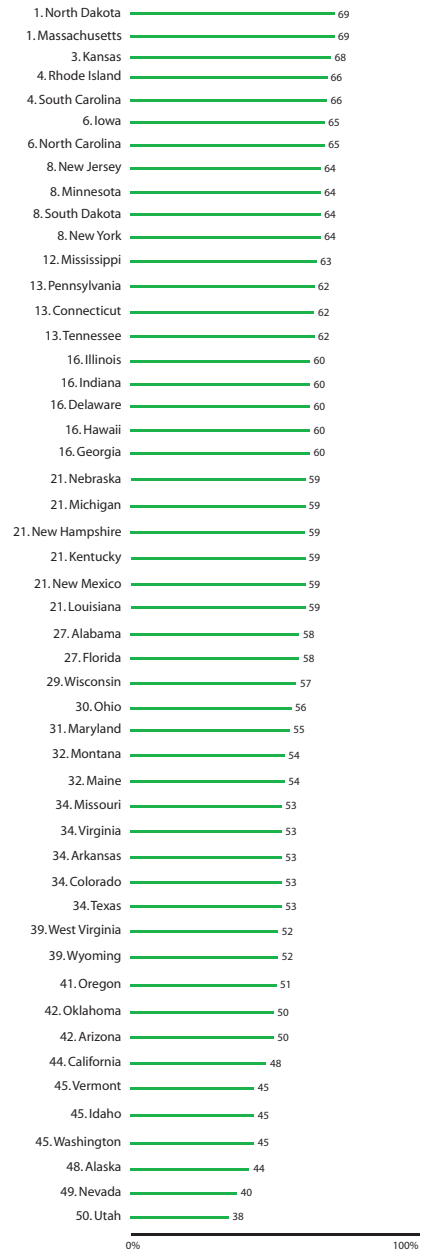
Among the students who do graduate from high school, only 57% enroll directly in college.<sup>5</sup> Although the percent of high-school graduates with college-ready skills<sup>6</sup> has increased over time, it remains shockingly low at just 34%.<sup>7</sup> These students who are under-prepared for college must often take additional coursework to make up for what they did not learn in high school. Analyses of student transcripts reveal that

### High School Graduation Rate (2002)



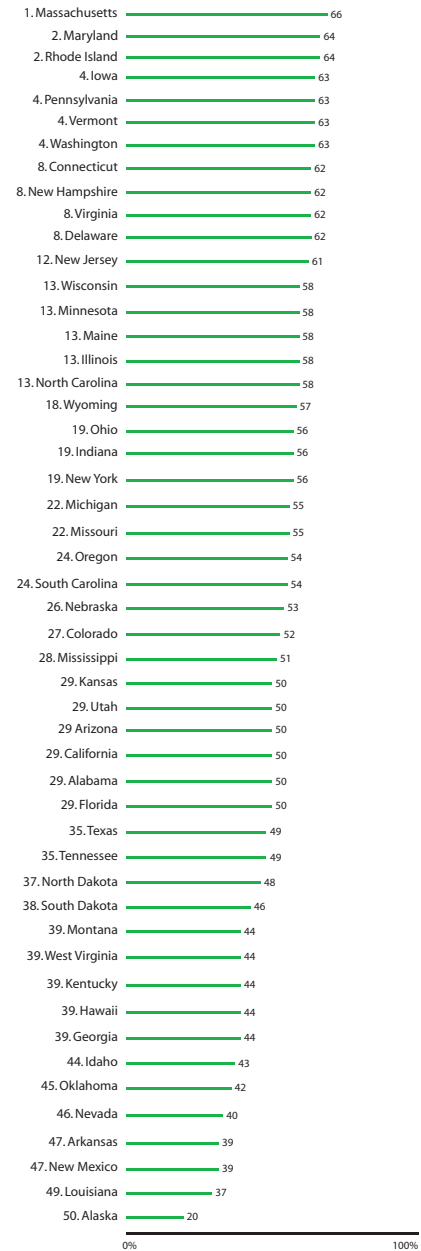
Source: Jay Greene and Marcus A. Winters, *Public High-School Graduation and College Readiness Rates: 1991-2002* (New York, NY: Manhattan Institute for Policy Research, 2005).

### College Enrollment Rate (2002) (% of h.s. graduates matriculating directly to college)



Source: Committee for Economic Development, *Cracks in the Education Pipeline: A Business Leader's Guide to Higher Education Reform* (Washington, DC: May 2005).

### College Graduation Rate (2003) (% of college freshmen graduating within 6 years)



Source: Committee for Economic Development, *Cracks in the Education Pipeline: A Business Leader's Guide to Higher Education Reform* (Washington, DC: May 2005).

half (53%) of all college students take at least one remedial English or math class during their college career.<sup>8</sup>

Lack of academic preparation, inability to pay for a full college experience, and economic pressures to seek full-time employment prevent many students from completing a post-secondary program and receiving credentialing. Across the states, little more than half of all college freshmen actually receive a bachelor's degree within six years.<sup>9</sup> Massachusetts, Maryland and Rhode Island have the highest college graduation rates with 66%, 64% and 64%, respectively. Those states with the lowest college graduation rates are New Mexico (39%), Louisiana (37%) and Alaska (20%). Of the six in 10 high school graduates who enroll in college immediately after high school, only three will earn a college degree.

*Renewing Our Schools, Securing Our Future: A National Task Force on Public Education* addresses the leaky pipeline between high school enrollment and college completion by calling for more rigorous high-school coursework, three alternative pathways for the senior year of high school, and enhanced financial aid to help students better afford college.

- Elena Rocha

<sup>1</sup> Greene, Jay P. and Marcus Winters. *Public High School Graduation and College-Readiness Rates: 1991-2002*, (New York, NY: The Manhattan Institute, Feb. 2005).

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Occupational Outlook Quarterly, *More Education: Lower Unemployment, Higher Pay*, (Washington, DC: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Fall 2004). Available at: <http://www.bls.gov/opub/ooq/2004/fall/oochart.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, *Educational Attainment in the United States: 2004, Table 9, 2005*. [www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/education/cps2004.html](http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/education/cps2004.html).

<sup>5</sup> Committee for Economic Development, *Cracks in the Education Pipeline: A Business Leader's Guide to Higher Education Reform*, (Washington, DC: May 2005).

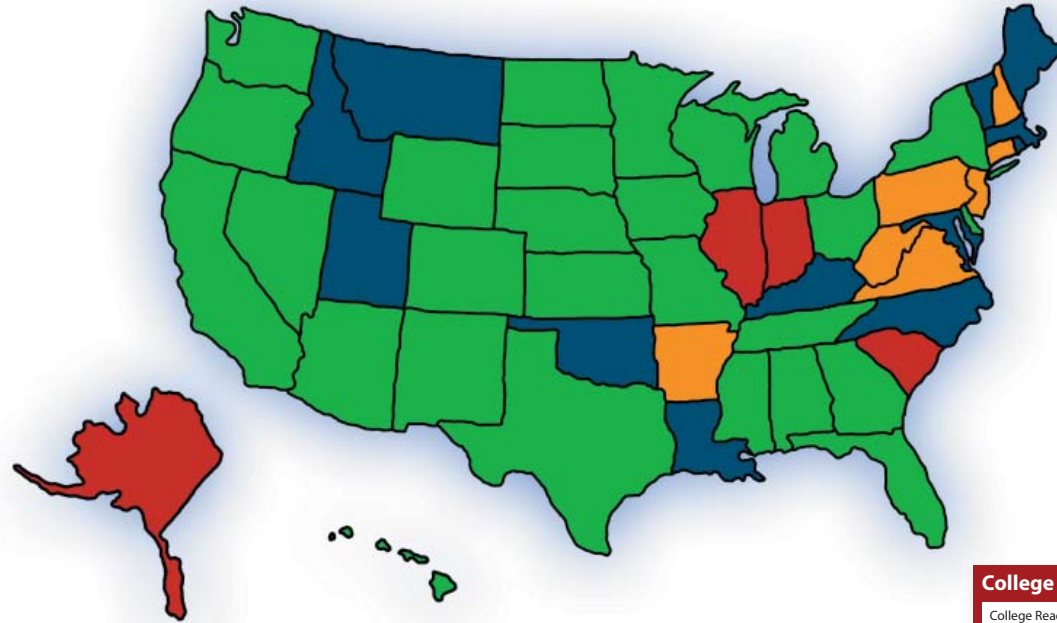
<sup>6</sup> College readiness was calculated based on attainment of a regular high school degree, completion of a minimum set of course requirements, and ability to read at a basic level. See footnote 1 for more information.

<sup>7</sup> Greene, Jay P. and Marcus Winters. *Public High School Graduation and College-Readiness Rates: 1991-2002*, (New York, NY: The Manhattan Institute, Feb. 2005).

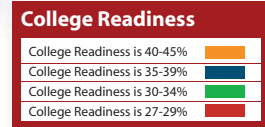
<sup>8</sup> American Diploma Project, *Ready or Not: Creating a High-School Diploma That Counts*, (Washington, DC: Achieve, Inc., 2004). Available at: [http://www.achieve.org/dstore.nsf/Lookup/ADPreport/\\$file/ADPreport.pdf](http://www.achieve.org/dstore.nsf/Lookup/ADPreport/$file/ADPreport.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> Committee for Economic Development, *Cracks in the Education Pipeline: A Business Leader's Guide to Higher Education Reform*, (Washington, DC: May 2005).

## College Readiness Rates, 2002



Source: Jay Greene and Marcus A. Winters, *Public High-School Graduation and College Readiness Rates: 1991-2002* (New York, NY: Manhattan Institute for Policy Research, 2005).



1. New Jersey	45	25. Minnesota	33
2. Pennsylvania	41	25. Nebraska	33
2. West Virginia	41	25. Oregon	33
4. Connecticut	40	25. Arizona	33
4. New Hampshire	40	25. Mississippi	33
4. Virginia	40	25. Florida	33
4. Arkansas	40	32. Nevada	32
8. Vermont	39	32. Texas	32
8. Maryland	39	32. California	32
10. Maine	38	32. New York	32
10. Massachusetts	38	32. Delaware	32
12. Oklahoma	37	32. Alabama	32
12. Utah	37	38. Kansas	31
12. Rhode Island	37	38. Michigan	31
12. Kentucky	37	38. Ohio	31
12. North Carolina	37	38. Tennessee	31
17. Montana	36	38. Georgia	31
18. Idaho	35	43. Missouri	30
18. Louisiana	35	43. South Dakota	30
20. Iowa	34	43. New Mexico	30
20. Wisconsin	34	43. Hawaii	30
20. Wyoming	34	47. Illinois	29
20. Colorado	34	47. South Carolina	29
20. Washington	34	49. Indiana	28
25. North Dakota	33	50. Alaska	27

# Education: The State We're In

Cost of attending a 4-year public university tops 40% of average annual family income in some states

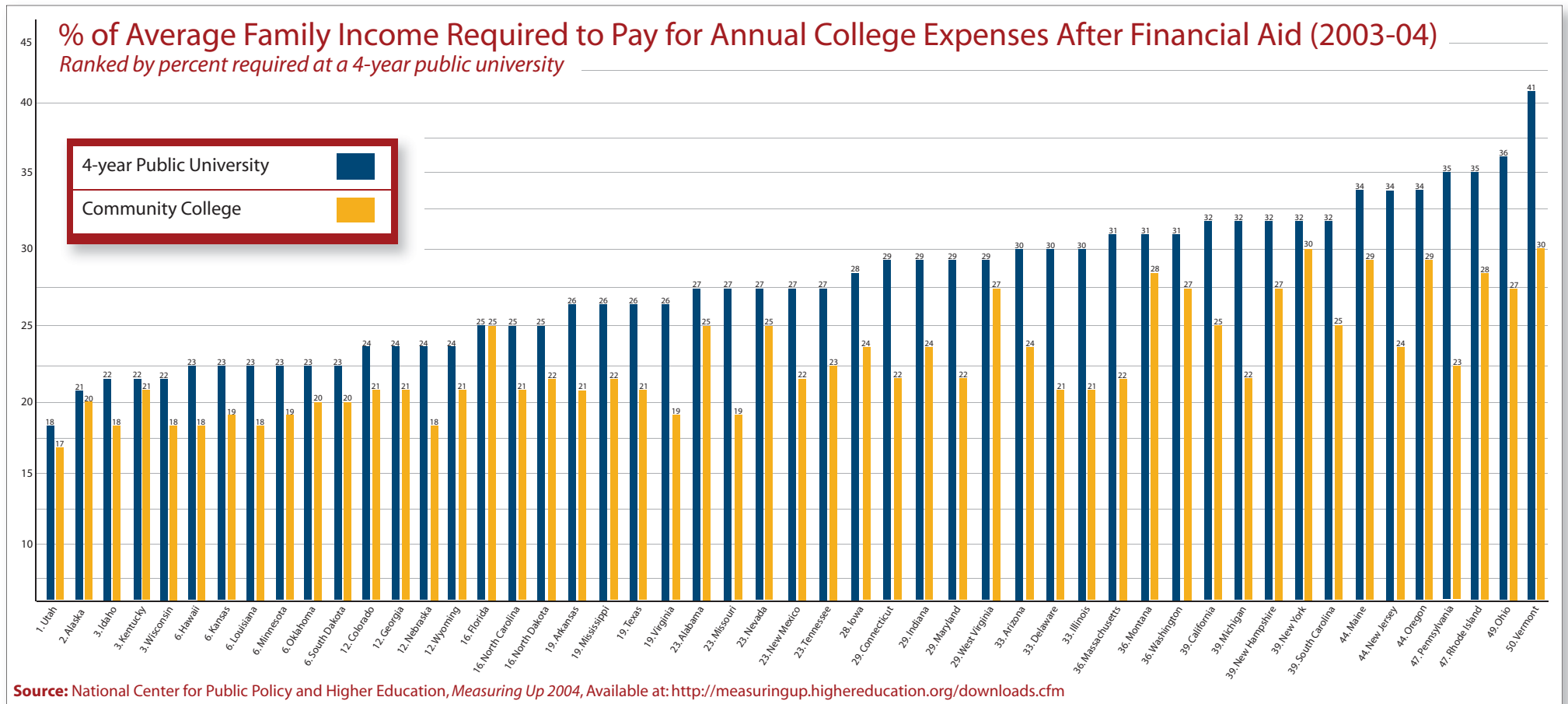
Although our nation today boasts a few famously successful college dropouts, achieving a middle-class lifestyle in the United States is nearly impossible without a college diploma or post-secondary vocational credential. The average college graduate earns about double what someone with only a high-school diploma makes<sup>1</sup> and faces significantly greater long-term career opportunities. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century knowledge economy, graduating from college means gaining a foothold on the ladder of upward economic mobility.

Yet, in a time when a college education is more important than ever to both individuals and to the overall economy, financial barriers prevent far too many young Americans

from pursuing higher education. It is estimated that between 2001 and 2010, 4.4 million low- and moderate-income academically-qualified students will opt not to enroll in a four-year university, and 2 million of them will forgo college entirely – all because the cost of a college education is beyond their reach.<sup>2</sup>

Three factors – the cost of college, the size of a family's earnings and assets, and the amount of financial aid available – affect the ability of students and their families to pay for post-secondary education. Taking all these factors into account, states vary substantially on the extent to which tuition and financial aid policies are aligned with family income levels. The cost of attending a four-

year public university accounts for more than one-third of the average family income in states ranked worst for college affordability, such as Vermont (41%), Ohio (36%), Pennsylvania (35%) and Rhode Island (35%). In other states, however, college costs amounted to only about one-fifth of the average state income. The top-performing states on this measure were Utah (18%), Alaska (21%), Idaho (22%), Kentucky (22%) and Wisconsin (22%). While the cost of attending a community college typically represented a smaller chunk of family income, it still varied widely by state. For example, in top-performing Utah, the cost of attending a community college represented only about 17% of the average family income, but it reached 30% in New York and Vermont, the states ranked worst on this measure.



Source: National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, *Measuring Up 2004*, Available at: <http://measuringup.highereducation.org/downloads.cfm>

In order to reap the benefits of a well-educated workforce and citizenry, states have historically provided substantial funding for public universities. In the last fiscal year alone, states appropriated \$63 billion for college operating expenses and student aid.<sup>3</sup> This funding has enabled those institutions to set tuition below the average cost of educating a student. Despite this, public universities have boosted tuition significantly. The average cost of attending a four-year public university, which includes tuition, fees, room and board, rose to \$11,354 last year alone, up 7.8% from a year earlier<sup>4</sup> and outpacing both inflation and wage growth.

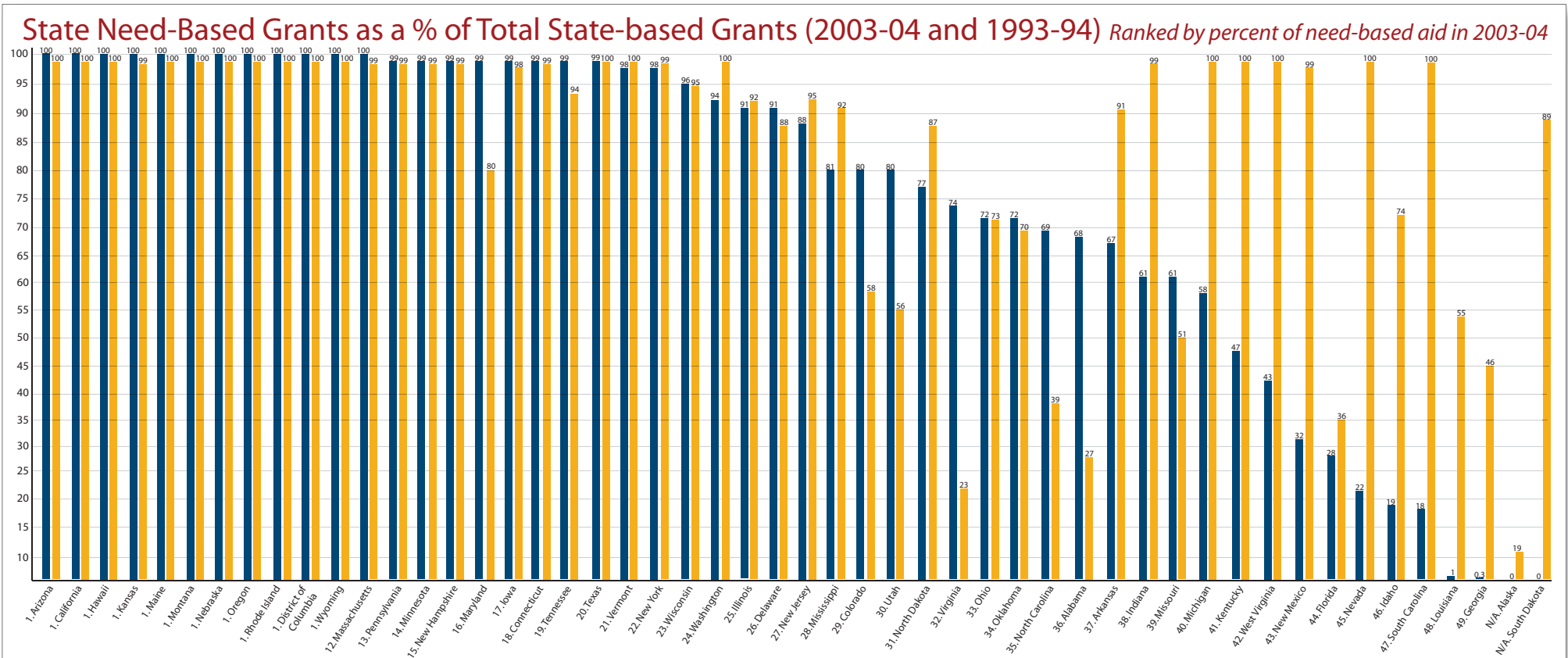
These tuition increases would be less troubling if financial aid had risen enough to offset them. But that has not been the

case. The federal Pell grant has remained stagnant over the last several years, and now covers only 36% of the average cost of tuition, fees, room and board at a four-year public college – down from 50% twenty years ago.<sup>5</sup> At the same time, state-based grants and those offered directly by colleges are increasingly awarded on the basis of merit, rather than financial need. Need-based aid awarded by states decreased from 90% of total state-based aid in 1993-94 to 74% in 2003-04. The states ranked worst in terms of need-based aid as a share of total student aid are: Georgia (0.3%), Louisiana (1%) and South Carolina (18%). At the other end of the spectrum, a number of states have indicated their commitment to using financial aid to ensure equal college opportunities for low-income students by requiring that all state-based

grants to students be based on demonstrated financial need. These include: Arizona, California, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, Kansas, Maine, Montana, Nebraska, Oregon, Rhode Island and Wyoming.

All qualified students should be able to attend college or earn a postsecondary vocational credential, regardless of their financial means. *Renewing Our Schools, Securing Our Future: A National Task Force on Public Education* addresses this issue by calling for enhancements in the Pell grant program, to be funded at least partially by a shift of student loan volume from the bank-subsidizing student loan programs to more cost-effective ones.

- Amanda Sharkey



Source: National Association of State Student Grant Aid Programs, 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Survey Report on State-Sponsored Student Financial Aid, (Washington, DC: NASSGAP, 2004)

Need-based aid as a % of total (2003-04)

Need-based aid as a % of total (1993-94)

\* AK and SD did not give out any grants to college students in 2003-04

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, *College Degree Nearly Doubles Annual Earnings*, (Washington, DC: U.S. Census Bureau, March 2005)  
<sup>2</sup> Brian Fitzgerald, *Empty Promises: The Myth of College Access in America*, (Massachusetts: New England Board of Higher Education, Sept. 27, 2003).  
<sup>3</sup> Center for the Student of Education Policy, *50-State Summary Table*, (Bloomington, IL: Illinois State University.) Available at: <http://coe.ilstu.edu/grapevine/50state.htm>  
<sup>4</sup> Baum, Sandy and Kathleen Payea, *Trends in College Pricing 2004*, (Washington, DC: College Board, 2004).  
<sup>5</sup> Calculated from Baum, Sandy and Kathleen Payea, *Trends in College Pricing 2004*, (Washington, DC: College Board, 2004) and College Board, *Trends in Student Aid 2004*, (Washington, DC: College Board, 2004)  
 \* Charts reflects rounded numbers. Ranking is based on calculation of need-based aid to 2 decimal places.

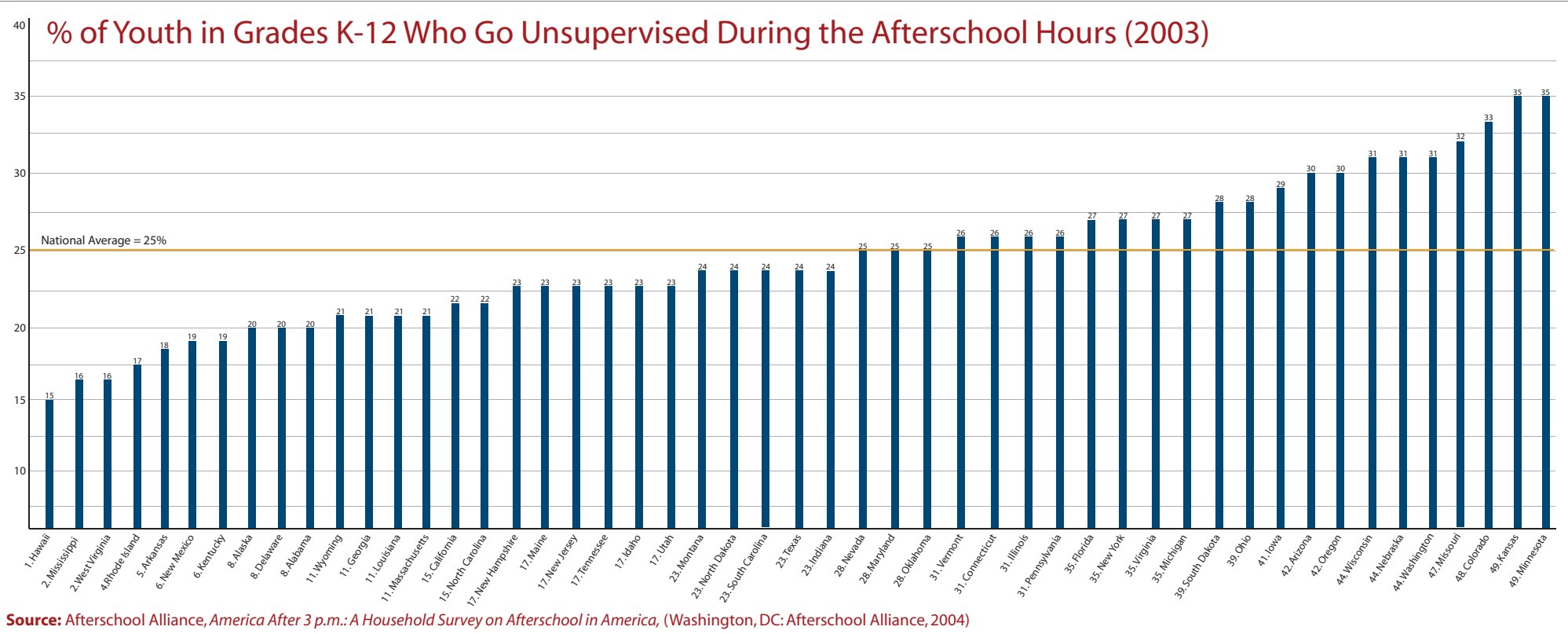
# Education: The State We're In

## More youth go unsupervised than participate in after-school programs

For most American students, school accounts for only about a fifth of the day.<sup>1</sup> When they are not in the classroom, some youth have the opportunity to participate in a myriad of after-school programs run by their public or private schools, YM/YWCAs, religious groups, Boys and Girls Clubs, and other organizations. Participants benefit from the mentorship, academic support, and social or athletic opportunities that such programming provides. In addition, a structured activity may serve as a protective barrier against substance abuse, crime, violence, and other dangers children may face if left unsupervised. These activities are particularly important given the growing number of families in which both parents work outside the home.

Yet, in 46 states, more K-12 students go unsupervised during after-school hours than participate in after-school programs. Oftentimes, this gap is dramatic. In Minnesota, for example, 35% of youth are unsupervised, while only 8% are in after-school programs. In New York, the 27% of unsupervised youth compare with 15% in after-school programs. While lack of supervision is most prevalent among high-school students, many younger children are also responsible for their own afternoon care. Thirty-four percent of the students who reported caring for themselves were in grades 6-8. Eleven percent were in grades 1-5. The After-School Corporation (TASC) found in a study of New York City students that nearly 50% of the students in TASC-funded programs had spent at least one and often more than three afternoons each week without an adult present prior to enrollment.<sup>2</sup>

Nationwide, only 11% of students in grades K-12 currently participate in after-school programs; by contrast, 25% of youth in this age group are responsible for their own afternoon care.<sup>3</sup> A recent study, entitled “America After 3 PM: A Household Survey on Afterschool in America,” has shown that while participation varies by state, the overwhelming dearth of extracurricular programming is a nationwide phenomenon.<sup>4</sup> While Utah has the lowest participation rate, with just 5% of K-12 students involved in after-school programs, only Alaska and Hawaii exceed 20%. In total, 14 states have less than 10% of their K-12 student populations participating in programs after school.



Those students in after-school programs attend for varying amounts of time. Students in Alabama spend an average of 3.8 afternoons per week in after-school programs for about 2.1 hours. By contrast, Wyoming participants attend programs an average of just 2.5 times a week for about 1.7 hours. Students in most states spend between 6 and 10 hours per week in programs.

After-school programs can cater to a variety of needs and interests. Some focus explicitly on literacy. Studies show that this extra language support helps non-native English

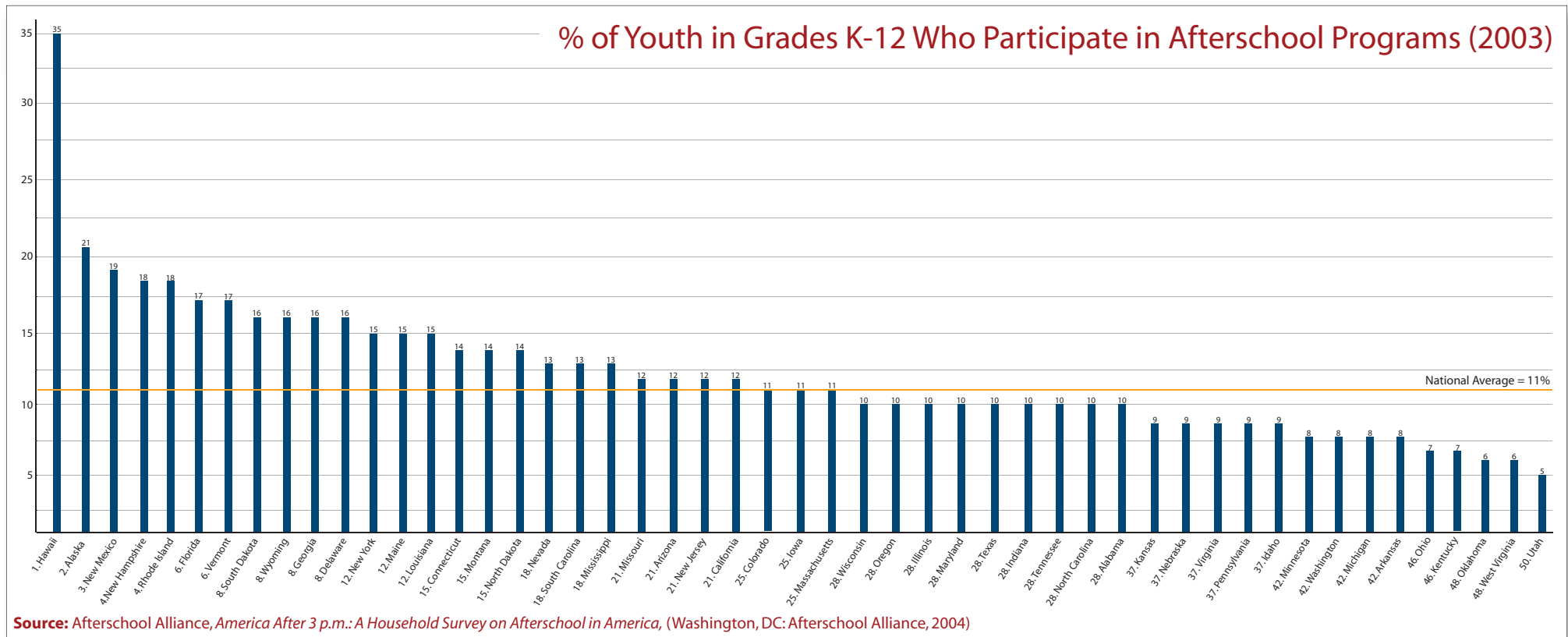
speakers adopt English as their primary language, and can also help low-income children improve their reading proficiency. Other programs incorporate service-learning and educate students, particularly those in middle and high school, about career options.<sup>5</sup>

Students who participate in after-school programs are often more academically engaged and perform at a higher level than their peers. An Ohio study demonstrated that fourth grade after-school participants tended to score above the proficiency level in reading.<sup>6</sup> Similarly, TASC found that two-year

participants outscored non-participants in math. It also found that both middle and high school aged participants attended school more regularly than their non-participant peers.<sup>7</sup>

*Renewing Our Schools, Securing Our Future: A National Task Force on Public Education* addresses this issue by calling for after-school programming to be made more widely accessible.

- Shoshana Lew



<sup>1</sup> Beth M. Miller, *Critical Hours, Afterschool Programs and Educational Success*, (Brookline: Nellie Mae Educational Foundation, 2003). See: [http://www.nmeafd.org/uimages/documents/Critical\\_Hours\\_Summary.pdf](http://www.nmeafd.org/uimages/documents/Critical_Hours_Summary.pdf).  
<sup>2</sup> The After-School Corporation, *Quality, Scale and Effectiveness in After-School Programs*, (New York: The After-School Corporation, 2005). See: <http://www.tascorp.org/publications/catalog/qseas>.  
<sup>3</sup> Afterschool Alliance, *America After 3 p.m.: A Household Survey on Afterschool in America*, (Washington, DC: Afterschool Alliance, 2004). See: [http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/press\\_archives/america\\_3pm/Key\\_Findings.pdf](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/press_archives/america_3pm/Key_Findings.pdf)  
<sup>4</sup> This study was conducted by the Afterschool Alliance, a nonprofit organization, with a grant from the JCPenny Afterschool Fund.  
<sup>5</sup> Ann Yost, "City of Firsts: Turning Classrooms Upside Down. In *Making Afterschool Count* (Michigan, The Mott Foundation, 1999). See: <http://www.mott.org/publications/pdf/mascv2n3.pdf>.  
<sup>6</sup> Andrea Warren, "Literacy and Afterschool: a Perfect Fit," in *Making Afterschool Count* (Michigan: The Mott Foundation, 2001). See: <http://www.mott.org/publications/pdf/mascv4n1.pdf>.  
<sup>7</sup> The After-School Corporation, *Quality, Scale and Effectiveness in After-School Programs*, (New York: The After-School Corporation, 2005). See: <http://www.tascorp.org/publications/catalog/qseas>.

# Education: The State We're In

States vary widely on standards, and consequently, student results

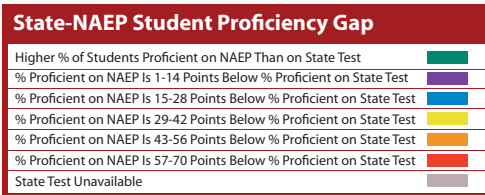
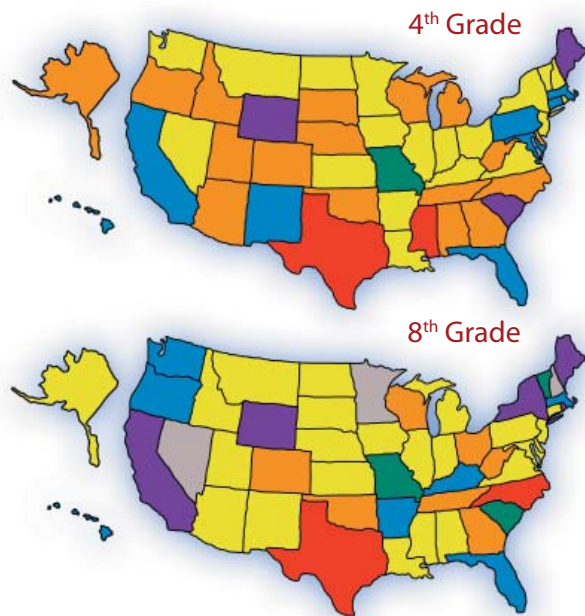
Every child – regardless of race, ethnicity, income, or language status – can and should learn to read and do math well. This basic premise guides the No Child Left Behind Act, the bipartisan law that requires each state to set steadily rising annual student achievement targets that move toward the long-term goal of proficiency for all by 2014. If schools fall short of these annual measures, the law requires them to take a series of steps to improve.

Under NCLB, however, states set their own curriculum standards. The law leaves it up to states to adopt their own standards-aligned tests for measuring students' skills. Then each state decides what scores students need in order to be deemed proficient. As a result, knowing how to read and do math well, and determining whether students can actually do so, does not mean the same thing in Texas as in Missouri.

Some states have chosen to set high expectations of their students, while others have set the bar low. Perversely, it is those states that have established stringent standards that are most likely to have schools labeled as “in need of improvement” under NCLB. And because there is no direct and easy way of determining which route states have chosen, parents are left in the dark about whether their children are truly getting a world-class education.

Fortunately, states must also administer a national test, known as the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) to a sample of 4<sup>th</sup>- and 8<sup>th</sup>-graders from each state. This test has long been considered the gold standard for measuring student achievement nationwide. Comparing the percent of students in each state who achieve proficiency on this test with the percent who achieve proficiency on the state-specific test gives a rough measure of how state standards compare to national measures. In those states where large percentages of students pass the state test, but

## Reading



Source: Skinner, Ronald A., *State of the States*, Education Week, Jan. 6, 2005

<sup>1</sup> If states did not offer tests in 2003 at grade 4 or 8, test results from the next closest grade level were used.

<sup>2</sup> Column denotes differences between the total percent of students scoring at or above proficient on NAEP and the total percent of students scoring at or above proficient on the state required assessment at the equivalent subject and grade.

Percent of 4 <sup>th</sup> graders scoring at or above proficient in 2003				
Rank	State	NAEP Test <sup>1</sup>	Gap <sup>2</sup>	
1	Missouri	34	34	0
2	South Carolina	26	31	5
3	Wyoming	34	44	10
4	Maine	36	49	13
5	Massachusetts	40	56	16
6	California	21	39	18
7	Hawaii	21	42	21
8	Pennsylvania	33	58	25
9	Connecticut	43	69	26
9	New Mexico	19	45	26
9	Maryland	32	58	26
12	Florida	32	60	28
13	Nevada	20	49	29
14	New York	34	64	30
15	Illinois	31	62	31
15	Kentucky	31	62	31
17	Ohio	34	66	32
18	Rhode Island	29	62	33
18	Vermont	37	70 <sup>3</sup>	33
20	Washington	33	67	34
20	Arkansas	28	62	34
22	Kansas	33	69	36
22	New Hampshire	40	76	36
24	Virginia	35	73	38
25	New Jersey	39	78	39
25	Indiana	33	72	39
25	Minnesota	37	76	39
28	Louisiana	20	61	41
28	Iowa	35	76 <sup>4</sup>	41
28	Montana	35	76	41
31	North Dakota	32	74	42
32	Michigan	32	75	43
33	West Virginia	29	73 <sup>5</sup>	44
34	Idaho	30	75	45
35	Utah	32	78	46
35	Alaska	28	74	46
35	Delaware	33	79	46
38	Nebraska	32	79	47
39	Oklahoma	26	74	48
39	North Carolina	33	81	48
41	Wisconsin	33	82	49
42	Colorado	37	87	50
43	Oregon	31	83	52
43	South Dakota	33	85	52
45	Georgia	27	80	53
46	Arizona	23	77	54
46	Tennessee	26	80	54
48	Alabama	22	77 <sup>5</sup>	55
49	Texas	27	85	58
50	Mississippi	18	87	69
	Average			37

Percent of 8 <sup>th</sup> graders scoring at or above proficient in 2003				
Rank	State	NAEP Test <sup>1</sup>	Gap <sup>2</sup>	
1	South Carolina	24	20	-4
2	Vermont	39	36 <sup>3</sup>	-3
3	Missouri	34	32	-2
4	Wyoming	34	39	5
5	California	22	30	8
5	Maine	37	45	8
7	New York	35	45	10
8	Rhode Island	30	41	11
9	Washington	33	48	15
9	Arkansas	27	42	15
11	Hawaii	22	39	17
12	Massachusetts	43	65	22
12	Florida	27	49	22
14	Kentucky	34	57	23
15	Oregon	33	60	27
16	Illinois	35	64	29
16	Maryland	31	60	29
16	Michigan	32	61	29
19	Arizona	25	55	30
20	North Dakota	38	69	31
20	Indiana	33	64	31
20	New Mexico	20	51	31
20	Louisiana	22	53	31
20	Pennsylvania	32	63	31
25	Iowa	36	69 <sup>4</sup>	33
25	Montana	37	70	33
27	Virginia	36	70	34
28	Kansas	35	71	36
28	Utah	32	68	36
28	Mississippi	21	57	36
28	Alabama	22	58 <sup>5</sup>	36
32	New Jersey	37	74	37
33	Delaware	31	70	39
33	South Dakota	39	78	39
35	Connecticut	37	77	40
36	Alaska	27	68	41
36	Idaho	32	73	41
38	Nebraska	35	77	42
39	Wisconsin	37	84	47
40	Oklahoma	30	79	49
41	Colorado	36	86	50
42	Ohio	34	87	53
43	Tennessee	26	80	54
44	Georgia	26	81	55
44	West Virginia	25	80 <sup>5</sup>	55
46	North Carolina	29	86	57
47	Texas	26	88	62
N/A	New Hampshire	40	--	N/A
N/A	Minnesota	37	--	N/A
N/A	Nevada	21	--	N/A
	Average			31



# Education: The State We're In

## Nearly 25% of classes are led by out-of-field teachers

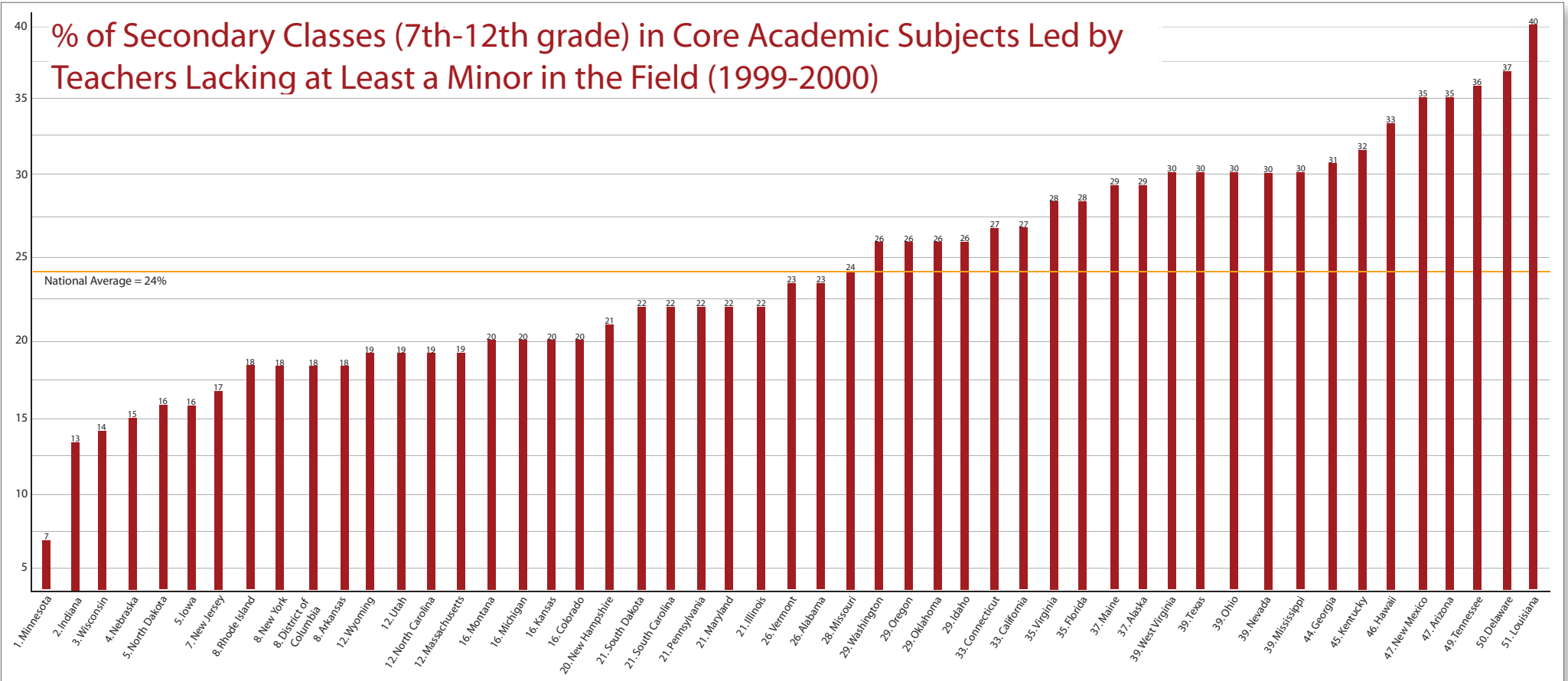
Teachers are the single most important element in the education of children. Dedicated, caring teachers who have deep knowledge of what they teach can help their students master challenging material and instill in them a lifelong love of learning. The difference such teachers can make in their students' lives is well documented. One study conducted in Tennessee found that students placed with effective teachers three years in a row performed 50 points better on a 100-point scale than their counterparts placed with three ineffective teachers.<sup>1</sup> In a similar vein, a study done in Texas found that a high-quality teacher can “substantially offset or even eliminate the disadvantage of low socio-economic background.”<sup>2</sup> Every child deserves to have such

individuals both in their classroom and in their life.

While many classrooms are led by high-quality teachers, a startlingly high number are not. One major challenge to ensuring that every child is taught by an able and well-prepared instructor is the practice of out-of-field teaching, in which instructors are assigned to teach subjects that they have not minored or majored in during college. Because teachers cannot teach what they do not know, this practice has real consequences for students. Out-of-field teaching occurs in 24% of all middle- and high-school core academic classes, and it is especially prevalent in low-income, rural and/or minority neighborhoods.

In 22 states and the District of Columbia, more than one-fourth of core academic subjects in middle- and high-schools – language arts, social studies, math and science – are taught by out-of-field teachers. Delaware and Louisiana are the worst offenders, with 37% and 40% of their core subjects taught by out-of-field teachers, respectively. Minnesota and Indiana represent the opposite end of the spectrum, with the lowest rates of out-of field teaching among all states.

Even more alarming than the high overall rate of out-of-field teaching is that 19 states have a ten or more percentage-point difference between out-of-field teaching rates in all schools and in high-poverty schools. At overwhelmingly



unsatisfactory rates, Kentucky, Louisiana and Utah have 50% or more of their secondary classes in high-poverty schools taught by out-of-field teachers. In these states, it would appear that the achievement gap is also a teacher gap.

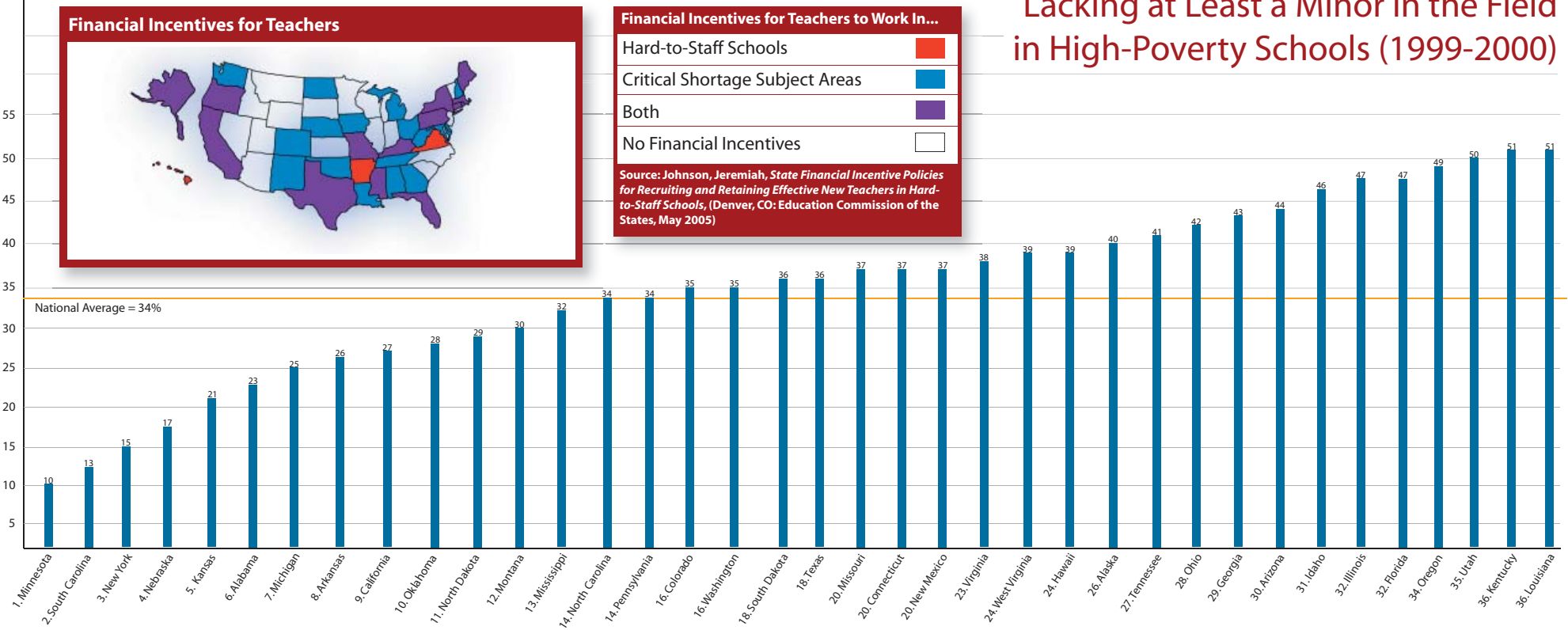
Out-of-field teaching occurs in part because administrators have a hard time finding enough instructors – and especially well-qualified ones – willing to teach in certain subject areas, such as math and science, and in the high-poverty, high-minority schools where teaching is most challenging.

Several policy initiatives have been put in place to recruit and retain effective new teachers. Approximately 17 states offer financial incentives to teachers in hard-to-staff schools, and 31 use such tools to attract teachers in critical shortage subject areas. These policies, especially those that provide financial assistance to teachers, can have considerable affect on the teaching profession and the quality of public education in the United States. This cannot be more clearly supported than by the fact that most teachers leaving the profession note that a better salary, in addition to better working conditions, might have encouraged them to remain in the classroom.<sup>3</sup>

*Renewing Our Schools, Securing Our Future: A National Task Force on Public Education* addresses this issue, as well as other challenges to ensuring that every classroom is led by a high-quality teacher, by recommending upgraded professional development, restructured compensation and career advancement systems, a more equitable distribution of high-quality teachers and more rigorous teacher preparation programs.

- Denise St. Just

## % of Secondary Classes (7th-12th grade) in Core Academic Subjects Led by Teachers Lacking at Least a Minor in the Field in High-Poverty Schools (1999-2000)



**Source:** Jerald, Craig D. and Richard M. Ingersoll, *All Talk, No Action: Putting an End to Out-of-Field Teaching*, (Washington, DC: The Education Trust, August 2002)

Samples taken in Delaware, Nevada, Maine, Vermont, Maryland, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Wyoming, the District of Columbia, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Iowa, Wisconsin, and Indiana were too small to make a reliable estimate. High-poverty schools are defined as having 50% or more students qualifying for the federal free/reduced-price lunch program.

<sup>1</sup> Sanders, William L. and June T. Rivers, *Cumulative and Residual Effects of Teachers on Future Student Academic Achievement*, (Knoxville, TN: University of Tennessee Value-Added Research and Assessment Center, 1996).

<sup>2</sup> Carey, Kevin, *The Real Value of Teachers: Using New Information About Teacher Effectiveness to Close the Achievement Gap*, (Washington, DC: The Education Trust, 2004).

<sup>3</sup> Ingersoll, Richard M., *Why Do High-Poverty Schools Have Difficulty Staffing Their Classrooms With Qualified Teachers?* (Washington, DC: Center for American Progress, 2004).

# Alabama: The State We're In

Among the key findings for the state of Alabama are:

## **1. The Achievement Gap**

- 11% of low-income 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 36% of non-poor students. Alabama ranks 31<sup>st</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 9% of African-American 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 30% of white students. Alabama ranks 11<sup>th</sup> out of 42 states that had data available on this measure.

## **2. Early Childhood Education**

- 12% of 3-year-olds participate in state-sponsored pre-kindergarten or the federal Head Start program. Alabama ranks 30<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 24% of 4-year-olds participate in such programs. Alabama ranks 30<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **3. The High-School-to-College Pipeline**

- The state's high-school graduation rate is 59%. Alabama ranks 45<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 32% of high-school graduates are academically ready for college. Alabama ranks 32<sup>nd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 58% of high-school graduates enroll in college the fall after they graduate. Alabama ranks 27<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 50% of college freshmen earn a bachelor's degree within 6 years. Alabama ranks 29<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **4. Accessibility of Higher Education**

- 25% of the average family income is required to pay for annual community college expenses after accounting for financial aid. Alabama ranks 36<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 27% of the average family income is required to pay for annual expenses at a 4-year public university, after accounting for financial aid. Alabama ranks 23<sup>rd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 67.7% of Alabama's grants to college students are need-based. Alabama ranks 36<sup>th</sup> among the 48 states and the District of Columbia for which data are available on this measure.

## **5. Participation in Afterschool Programs**

- 20% of youth go unsupervised after school. Alabama ranks 8<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 10% participate in after-school programs. Alabama ranks 28<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **6. Standards and Student Performance Measurements**

- Among 4<sup>th</sup> graders, 77% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 22% are proficient on the National Assessment of Educational Progress. With a 55-point gap, Alabama ranks 48<sup>th</sup> in the nation on the disparity between state and national performance measures for 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading.
- In math, 72% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 19% who do so on the NAEP. With a 53-point gap, Alabama ranks 47<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- Among 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 58% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 22% achieve proficiency on the NAEP. With a 36-point gap, Alabama ranks 28<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available on this measure.
- In math, 25% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 16% who do so on the NAEP. With a 9-point gap, Alabama ranks 13<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available.

## **7. Teachers' Subject-Matter Qualifications**

- 23% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects are taught by instructors who lack at least a college minor in their subject. Alabama ranks 26<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 23% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects in high-poverty schools are led by teachers without at least a college minor in their subject. Alabama ranks 6<sup>th</sup> of the 37 states with data available on this measure.

A full report on Alabama, as well as recommendations on each of these issue areas, can be found at: [www.americanprogress.org/schools](http://www.americanprogress.org/schools) or [www.ourfuture.org/task\\_force.cfm](http://www.ourfuture.org/task_force.cfm)

# Alaska: The State We're In

Among the key findings for the state of Alaska are:

## **1. The Achievement Gap**

- 13% of low-income 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 36% of non-poor students. Alaska ranks 22<sup>nd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 21% of African-American 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 40% of white students. Alaska ranks 7<sup>th</sup> out of 42 states that had data available on this measure.
- 21% of Latino 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 40% of white students. Alaska ranks 14<sup>th</sup> out of 41 states with data available on this measure.

## **2. Early Childhood Education**

- 17% of 3-year-olds participate in state-sponsored pre-kindergarten or the federal Head Start program. Alaska ranks 15<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 22% of 4-year-olds participate in such programs. Alaska ranks 35<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **3. The High-School-to-College Pipeline**

- The state's high-school graduation rate is 59%. Alaska ranks 45<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 27% of high-school graduates are academically ready for college. Alaska ranks 50<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 44% of high-school graduates enroll in college the fall after they graduate. Alaska ranks 48<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 20% of college freshmen earn a bachelor's degree within 6 years. Alaska ranks 50<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **4. Accessibility of Higher Education**

- 20% of the average family income is required to pay for annual community college expenses after accounting for financial aid. Alaska ranks 11<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 21% of the average family income is required to pay for annual expenses at a 4-year public university, after accounting for financial aid. Alaska ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **5. Participation in Afterschool Programs**

- 20% of youth go unsupervised after school. Alaska ranks 8<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 21% participate in after-school programs. Alaska ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **6. Standards and Student Performance Measurements**

- Among 4<sup>th</sup> graders, 74% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 28% are proficient on the National Assessment of Educational Progress. With a 46-point gap, Alaska ranks 35<sup>th</sup> in the nation on the disparity between state and national performance measures for 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading.
- In math, 72% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 30% who do so on the NAEP. With a 42-point gap, Alaska ranks 33<sup>rd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- Among 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 68% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 27% achieve proficiency on the NAEP. With a 41-point gap, Alaska ranks 36<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available on this measure.
- In math, 64% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 30% who do so on the NAEP. With a 34-point gap, Alaska ranks 30<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available.

## **7. Teachers' Subject-Matter Qualifications**

- 29% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects are taught by instructors who lack at least a college minor in their subject. Alaska ranks 37<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 40% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects in high-poverty schools are led by teachers without at least a college minor in their subject. Alaska ranks 26<sup>th</sup> of the 37 states with data available on this measure.

# Arizona: The State We're In

Among the key findings for the state of Arizona are:

## **1. The Achievement Gap**

- 11% of low-income 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 36% of non-poor students. Arizona ranks 31<sup>st</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 13% of African-American 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 35% of white students. Arizona ranks 12<sup>th</sup> out of 42 states that had data available on this measure.
- 12% of Latino 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 35% of white students. Arizona ranks 26<sup>rd</sup> out of 41 states with data available on this measure.

## **2. Early Childhood Education**

- 10% of 3-year-olds participate in state-sponsored pre-kindergarten or the federal Head Start program. Arizona ranks 39<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 24% of 4-year-olds participate in such programs. Arizona ranks 30<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **3. The High-School-to-College Pipeline**

- The state's high-school graduation rate is 70%. Arizona ranks 33<sup>rd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 33% of high-school graduates are academically ready for college. Arizona ranks 25<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 50% of high-school graduates enroll in college the fall after they graduate. Arizona ranks 42<sup>nd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 50% of college freshmen earn a bachelor's degree within 6 years. Arizona ranks 29<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **4. Accessibility of Higher Education**

- 24% of the average family income is required to pay for annual community college expenses after accounting for financial aid. Arizona ranks 32<sup>nd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 30% of the average family income is required to pay for annual expenses at a 4-year public university, after accounting for financial aid. Arizona ranks 33<sup>rd</sup> in the nation on this measure.

- 100% of Arizona's grants to college students are need-based. Arizona ranks 1<sup>st</sup> among the 48 states and the District of Columbia for which data are available on this measure.

## **5. Participation in Afterschool Programs**

- 30% of youth go unsupervised after school. Arizona ranks 42<sup>nd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 12% participate in afterschool programs. Arizona ranks 21<sup>st</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **6. Standards and Student Performance Measurements**

- Among 4<sup>th</sup> graders, 77% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 23% are proficient on the National Assessment of Educational Progress. With a 54-point gap, Arizona ranks 46<sup>th</sup> in the nation on the disparity between state and national performance measures for 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading.
- In math, 66% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 25% who do so on the NAEP. With a 41-point gap, Arizona ranks 31<sup>st</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- Among 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 55% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 25% achieve proficiency on the NAEP. With a 30-point gap, Arizona ranks 19<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available on this measure.
- In math, 21% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 21% who do so on the NAEP. With a 0-point gap, Arizona ranks 5<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available. (Arizona is outranked by 4 states where more students are proficient on the NAEP than on the state test.)

## **7. Teachers' Subject-Matter Qualifications**

- 35% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects are taught by instructors who lack at least a college minor in their subject. Arizona ranks 47<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 44% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects in high-poverty schools are led by teachers without at least a college minor in their subject. Arizona ranks 30<sup>th</sup> of the 37 states with data available on this measure.

# Arkansas: The State We're In

Among the key findings for the state of Arkansas are:

## **1. The Achievement Gap**

- 20% of low-income 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 39% of non-poor students. Arkansas ranks 9<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 10% of African-American 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 35% of white students. Arkansas ranks 20<sup>th</sup> out of 42 states that had data available on this measure.
- 18% of Latino 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 35% of white students. Arkansas ranks 8<sup>th</sup> out of 41 states with data available on this measure.

## **2. Early Childhood Education**

- 20% of 3-year-olds participate in state-sponsored pre-kindergarten or the federal Head Start program. Arkansas ranks 7<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 35% of 4-year-olds participate in such programs. Arkansas ranks 17<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **3. The High-School-to-College Pipeline**

- The state's high-school graduation rate is 72%. Arkansas ranks 28<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 40% of high-school graduates are academically ready for college. Arkansas ranks 4<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 53% of high-school graduates enroll in college the fall after they graduate. Arkansas ranks 34<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 39% of college freshmen earn a bachelor's degree within 6 years. Arkansas ranks 47<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **4. Accessibility of Higher Education**

- 21% of the average family income is required to pay for annual community college expenses after accounting for financial aid. Arkansas ranks 14<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 26% of the average family income is required to pay for annual expenses at a 4-year public university, after accounting for financial aid. Arkansas ranks 19<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

- 66.8% of Arkansas's grants to college students are need-based. Arkansas ranks 37<sup>th</sup> among the 48 states and the District of Columbia for which data are available on this measure.

## **5. Participation in Afterschool Programs**

- 18% of youth go unsupervised after school. Arkansas ranks 5<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 8% participate in after-school programs. Arkansas ranks 42<sup>nd</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **6. Standards and Student Performance Measurements**

- Among 4<sup>th</sup> graders, 62% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 28% are proficient on the National Assessment of Educational Progress. With a 34-point gap, Arkansas ranks 20<sup>th</sup> in the nation on the disparity between state and national performance measures for 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading.
- In math, 61% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 26% who do so on the NAEP. With a 35-point gap, Arkansas ranks 23<sup>rd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- Among 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 42% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 27% achieve proficiency on the NAEP. With a 15-point gap, Arkansas ranks 9<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available on this measure.
- In math, 23% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 19% who do so on the NAEP. With a 4-point gap, Arkansas ranks 8<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available.

## **7. Teachers' Subject-Matter Qualifications**

- 18% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects are taught by instructors who lack at least a college minor in their subject. Arkansas ranks 8<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 26% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects in high-poverty schools are led by teachers without at least a college minor in their subject. Arkansas ranks 8<sup>th</sup> of the 37 states with data available on this measure.

# California: The State We're In

Among the key findings for the state of California are:

## **1. The Achievement Gap**

- 10% of low-income 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 34% of non-poor students. California ranks 26<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 11% of African-American 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 36% of white students. California ranks 20<sup>th</sup> out of 42 states that had data available on this measure.
- 9% of Latino 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 36% of white students. California ranks 32<sup>th</sup> out of 41 states with data available on this measure.

## **2. Early Childhood Education**

- 11% of 3-year-olds participate in state-sponsored pre-kindergarten or the federal Head Start program. California ranks 36<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 25% of 4-year-olds participate in such programs. California ranks 27<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **3. The High-School-to-College Pipeline**

- The state's high-school graduation rate is 67%. California ranks 37<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 32% of high-school graduates are academically ready for college. California ranks 32<sup>nd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 48% of high-school graduates enroll in college the fall after they graduate. California ranks 44<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 50% of college freshmen earn a bachelor's degree within 6 years. California ranks 29<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **4. Accessibility of Higher Education**

- 25% of the average family income is required to pay for annual community college expenses after accounting for financial aid. California ranks 36<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 32% of the average family income is required to pay for annual expenses at a 4-year public university, after accounting for financial aid. California ranks 39<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

- 100% of California's grants to college students are need-based. California ranks 1<sup>st</sup> among the 48 states and the District of Columbia, for which data are available on this measure.

## **5. Participation in Afterschool Programs**

- 22% of youth go unsupervised after school. California ranks 15<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 12% participate in after-school programs. California ranks 21<sup>st</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **6. Standards and Student Performance Measurements**

- Among 4<sup>th</sup> graders, 39% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 21% are proficient on the National Assessment of Educational Progress. With an 18-point gap, California ranks 6<sup>th</sup> in the nation on the disparity between state and national performance measures for 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading.
- In math, 45% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 25% who do so on the NAEP. With a 20-point gap, California ranks 11<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- Among 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 30% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 22% achieve proficiency on the NAEP. With an 8-point gap, California ranks 5<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available on this measure.
- In math, 30% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 22% who do so on the NAEP. With an 8-point gap, California ranks 11<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available.

## **7. Teachers' Subject-Matter Qualifications**

- 27% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects are taught by instructors who lack at least a college minor in their subject. California ranks 33<sup>rd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 27% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects in high poverty schools are led by teachers without at least a college minor in their subject. California ranks 9<sup>th</sup> of the 37 states with data available on this measure.

# Colorado: The State We're In

Among the key findings for the state of Colorado are:

## **1. The Achievement Gap**

- 19% of low-income 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 45% of non-poor students. Colorado ranks 38<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 18% of African-American 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 45% of white students. Colorado ranks 27<sup>th</sup> out of 42 states that had data available on this measure.
- 18% of Latino 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 45% of white students. Colorado ranks 32<sup>nd</sup> out of 41 states with data available on this measure.

## **2. Early Childhood Education**

- 10% of 3-year-olds participate in state-sponsored pre-kindergarten or the federal Head Start program. Colorado ranks 39<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 29% of 4-year-olds participate in such programs. Colorado ranks 21<sup>st</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **3. The High-School-to-College Pipeline**

- The state's high-school graduation rate is 72%. Colorado ranks 28<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 34% of high-school graduates are academically ready for college. Colorado ranks 20<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 53% of high-school graduates enroll in college the fall after they graduate. Colorado ranks 34<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 52% of college freshmen earn a bachelor's degree within 6 years. Colorado ranks 27<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **4. Accessibility of Higher Education**

- 21% of the average family income is required to pay for annual community college expenses after accounting for financial aid. Colorado ranks 14<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 24% of the average family income is required to pay for annual expenses at a 4-year public university, after accounting for financial aid. Colorado ranks 12<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

- 80.4% of Colorado's grants to college students are need-based. Colorado ranks 29<sup>th</sup> among the 48 states and the District of Columbia for which data are available on this measure.

## **5. Participation in Afterschool Programs**

- 33% of youth go unsupervised after school. Colorado ranks 48<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 11% participate in after-school programs. Colorado ranks 25<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **6. Standards and Student Performance Measurements**

- Among 4<sup>th</sup> graders, 87% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 37% are proficient on the National Assessment of Educational Progress. With a 50-point gap, Colorado ranks 42<sup>nd</sup> in the nation on the disparity between state and national performance measures for 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading.
- In math, 86% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 34% who do so on the NAEP. With a 52-point gap, Colorado ranks 46<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- Among 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 86% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 36% achieve proficiency on the NAEP. With a 50-point gap, Colorado ranks 41<sup>st</sup> out of 47 states with data available on this measure.
- In math, 68% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 34% who do so on the NAEP. With a 34-point gap, Colorado ranks 30<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available.

## **7. Teachers' Subject-Matter Qualifications**

- 20% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects are taught by instructors who lack at least a college minor in their subject. Colorado ranks 16<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 35% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects in high-poverty schools are led by teachers without at least a college minor in their subject. Colorado ranks 16<sup>th</sup> of the 37 states with data available on this measure.

# Connecticut: The State We're In

Among the key findings for the state of Connecticut are:

## **1. The Achievement Gap**

- 18% of low-income 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 53% of non-poor students. Connecticut ranks 51<sup>st</sup> among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, for which data are available on this measure.
- 12% of African-American 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 54% of white students. Connecticut ranks 41<sup>st</sup> out of 42 states that had data available on this measure.
- 18% of Latino 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 54% of white students. Connecticut ranks 40<sup>th</sup> out of 41 states with data available on this measure.

## **2. Early Childhood Education**

- 13% of 3-year-olds participate in state-sponsored pre-kindergarten or the federal Head Start program. Connecticut ranks 27<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 24% of 4-year-olds participate in such programs. Connecticut ranks 30<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **3. The High-School-to-College Pipeline**

- The state's high-school graduation rate is 79%. Connecticut ranks 8<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 40% of high-school graduates are academically ready for college. Connecticut ranks 4<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 62% of high-school graduates enroll in college the fall after they graduate. Connecticut ranks 13<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 62% of college freshmen earn a bachelor's degree within 6 years. Connecticut ranks 8<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **4. Accessibility of Higher Education**

- 22% of the average family income is required to pay for annual community college expenses after accounting for financial aid. Connecticut ranks 23<sup>rd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 29% of the average family income is required to pay for annual expenses at a 4-year public university, after accounting for financial aid. Connecticut ranks 29<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

- 99.1% of Connecticut's grants to college students are need-based. Connecticut ranks 18<sup>th</sup> among the 48 states and the District of Columbia for which data are available on this measure.

## **5. Participation in Afterschool Programs**

- 26% of youth go unsupervised after school. Connecticut ranks 31<sup>st</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 14% participate in after-school programs. Connecticut ranks 15<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **6. Standards and Student Performance Measurements**

- Among 4<sup>th</sup> graders, 69% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 43% are proficient on the National Assessment of Educational Progress. With a 26-point gap, Connecticut ranks 9<sup>th</sup> in the nation on the disparity between state and national performance measures for 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading.
- In math, 80% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 41% who do so on the NAEP. With a 39-point gap, Connecticut ranks 28<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- Among 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 77% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 37% achieve proficiency on the NAEP. With a 40-point gap, Connecticut ranks 35<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available on this measure.
- In math, 77% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 35% who do so on the NAEP. With a 42-point gap, Connecticut ranks 40<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available.

## **7. Teachers' Subject-Matter Qualifications**

- 27% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects are taught by instructors who lack at least a college minor in their subject. Connecticut ranks 33<sup>rd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 37% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects in high-poverty schools are led by teachers without at least a college minor in their subject. Connecticut ranks 20<sup>th</sup> of the 37 states with data available on this measure.

A full report on Connecticut, as well as recommendations on each of these issue areas, can be found at: [www.americanprogress.org/schools](http://www.americanprogress.org/schools) or [www.ourfuture.org/task\\_force.cfm](http://www.ourfuture.org/task_force.cfm)

# Delaware: The State We're In

Among the key findings for the state of Delaware are:

## **1. The Achievement Gap**

- 18% of low-income 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 41% of non-poor students. Delaware ranks 22<sup>nd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 16% of African-American 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 44% of white students. Delaware ranks 28<sup>th</sup> out of 42 states that had data available on this measure.
- 20% of Latino 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 44% of white students. Delaware ranks 27<sup>th</sup> out of 41 states with data available on this measure.

## **2. Early Childhood Education**

- 10% of 3-year-olds participate in state-sponsored pre-kindergarten or the federal Head Start program. Delaware ranks 39<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 25% of 4-year-olds participate in such programs. Delaware ranks 27<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **3. The High-School-to-College Pipeline**

- The state's high-school graduation rate is 63%. Delaware ranks 41<sup>st</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 32% of high-school graduates are academically ready for college. Delaware ranks 32<sup>nd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 60% of high-school graduates enroll in college the fall after they graduate. Delaware ranks 16<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 62% of college freshmen earn a bachelor's degree within 6 years. Delaware ranks 8<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **4. Accessibility of Higher Education**

- 21% of the average family income is required to pay for annual community college expenses after accounting for financial aid. Delaware ranks 14<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 30% of the average family income is required to pay for annual expenses at a 4-year public university, after accounting for financial aid. Delaware ranks 33<sup>rd</sup> in the nation on this measure.

- 90.8% of Delaware's grants to college students are need-based. Delaware ranks 26<sup>th</sup> among the 48 states and the District of Columbia for which data are available on this measure.

## **5. Participation in Afterschool Programs**

- 20% of youth go unsupervised after school. Delaware ranks 8<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 16% participate in after-school programs. Delaware ranks 8<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **6. Standards and Student Performance Measurements**

- Among 4<sup>th</sup> graders, 79% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 33% are proficient on the National Assessment of Educational Progress. With a 46-point gap, Delaware ranks 35<sup>th</sup> in the nation on the disparity between state and national performance measures for 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading.
- In math, 74% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 31% who do so on the NAEP. With a 43-point gap, Delaware ranks 35<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- Among 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 70% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 31% achieve proficiency on the NAEP. With a 39-point gap, Delaware ranks 33<sup>rd</sup> out of 47 states with data available on this measure.
- In math, 47% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 26% who do so on the NAEP. With a 21-point gap, Delaware ranks 18<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available.

## **7. Teachers' Subject-Matter Qualifications**

- 37% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects are taught by instructors who lack at least a college minor in their subject. Delaware ranks 50<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

# Florida: The State We're In

Among the key findings for the state of Florida are:

## **1. The Achievement Gap**

- 18% of low-income 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 45% of non-poor students. Florida ranks 40<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 13% of African-American 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 42% of white students. Florida ranks 30<sup>th</sup> out of 42 states that had data available on this measure.
- 24% of Latino 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 42% of white students. Florida ranks 10<sup>th</sup> out of 41 states with data available on this measure.

## **2. Early Childhood Education**

- 9% of 3-year-olds participate in state-sponsored pre-kindergarten or the federal Head Start program. Florida ranks 45<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 16% of 4-year-olds participate in such programs. Florida ranks 47<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **3. The High-School-to-College Pipeline**

- The state's high-school graduation rate is 59%. Florida ranks 45<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 33% of high-school graduates are academically ready for college. Florida ranks 25<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 58% of high-school graduates enroll in college the fall after they graduate. Florida ranks 27<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 50% of college freshmen earn a bachelor's degree within 6 years. Florida ranks 29<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **4. Accessibility of Higher Education**

- 25% of the average family income is required to pay for annual community college expenses after accounting for financial aid. Florida ranks 36<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 25% of the average family income is required to pay for annual expenses at a 4-year public university, after accounting for financial aid. Florida ranks 16<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

- 27.8% of Florida's grants to college students are need-based. Florida ranks 44<sup>th</sup> among the 48 states and the District of Columbia for which data are available on this measure.

## **5. Participation in Afterschool Programs**

- 27% of youth go unsupervised after school. Florida ranks 35<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 17% participate in after-school programs. Florida ranks 6<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **6. Standards and Student Performance Measurements**

- Among 4<sup>th</sup> graders, 60% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 32% are proficient on the National Assessment of Educational Progress. With a 28-point gap, Florida ranks 12<sup>th</sup> in the nation on the disparity between state and national performance measures for 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading.
- In math, 54% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 31% who do so on the NAEP. With a 23-point gap, Florida ranks 13<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- Among 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 49% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 27% achieve proficiency on the NAEP. With a 22-point gap, Florida ranks 12<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available on this measure.
- In math, 56% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 23% who do so on the NAEP. With a 33-point gap, Florida ranks 29<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available.

## **7. Teachers' Subject-Matter Qualifications**

- 28% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects are taught by instructors who lack at least a college minor in their subject. Florida ranks 35<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 47% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects in high-poverty schools are led by teachers without at least a college minor in their subject. Florida ranks 32<sup>nd</sup> of the 37 states with data available on this measure.

A full report on Florida, as well as recommendations on each of these issue areas, can be found at: [www.americanprogress.org/schools](http://www.americanprogress.org/schools) or [www.ourfuture.org/task\\_force.cfm](http://www.ourfuture.org/task_force.cfm)

# Georgia: The State We're In

Among the key findings for the state of Georgia are:

## **1. The Achievement Gap**

- 13% of low-income 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 39% of non-poor students. Georgia ranks 38<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 12% of African-American 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 38% of white students. Georgia ranks 25<sup>th</sup> out of 42 states that had data available on this measure.
- 17% of Latino 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 38% of white students. Georgia ranks 18<sup>th</sup> out of 41 states with data available on this measure.

## **2. Early Childhood Education**

- 12% of 3-year-olds participate in state-sponsored pre-kindergarten or the federal Head Start program. Georgia ranks 30<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 68% of 4-year-olds participate in such programs. Georgia ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **3. The High-School-to-College Pipeline**

- The state's high-school graduation rate is 56%. Georgia ranks 49<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 31% of high-school graduates are academically ready for college. Georgia ranks 38<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 60% of high-school graduates enroll in college the fall after they graduate. Georgia ranks 16<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 44% of college freshmen earn a bachelor's degree within 6 years. Georgia ranks 39<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **4. Accessibility of Higher Education**

- 21% of the average family income is required to pay for annual community college expenses after accounting for financial aid. Georgia ranks 14<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 24% of the average family income is required to pay for annual expenses at a 4-year public university, after accounting for financial aid. Georgia ranks 12<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

- 0.3% of Georgia's grants to college students are need-based. Georgia ranks 49<sup>th</sup> among the 48 states and the District of Columbia for which data are available on this measure.

## **5. Participation in Afterschool Programs**

- 21% of youth go unsupervised after school. Georgia ranks 11<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 16% participate in after-school programs. Georgia ranks 8<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **6. Standards and Student Performance Measurements**

- Among 4<sup>th</sup> graders, 80% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 27% are proficient on the National Assessment of Educational Progress. With a 53-point gap, Georgia ranks 45<sup>th</sup> in the nation on the disparity between state and national performance measures for 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading.
- In math, 74% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 27% who do so on the NAEP. With a 47-point gap, Georgia ranks 42<sup>nd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- Among 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 81% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 26% achieve proficiency on the NAEP. With a 55-point gap, Georgia ranks 44<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available on this measure.
- In math, 67% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 22% who do so on the NAEP. With a 45-point gap, Georgia ranks 42<sup>nd</sup> out of 47 states with data available.

## **7. Teachers' Subject-Matter Qualifications**

- 31% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects are taught by instructors who lack at least a college minor in their subject. Georgia ranks 44<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 43% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects in high-poverty schools are led by teachers without at least a college minor in their subject. Georgia ranks 29<sup>th</sup> of the 37 states with data available on this measure.

# Hawaii: The State We're In

Among the key findings for the state of Hawaii are:

## 1. The Achievement Gap

- 13% of low-income 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 29% of non-poor students. Hawaii ranks 1<sup>st</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 18% of African-American 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 35% of white students. Hawaii ranks 5<sup>th</sup> out of 42 states with data available on this measure.
- 17% of Latino 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 35% of white students. Hawaii ranks 10<sup>th</sup> out of 41 states with data available on this measure.

## 2. Early Childhood Education

- 11% of 3-year-olds participate in state-sponsored pre-kindergarten or the federal Head Start program. Hawaii ranks 36<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 21% of 4-year-olds participate in such programs. Hawaii ranks 40<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## 3. The High-School-to-College Pipeline

- The state's high-school graduation rate is 63%. Hawaii ranks 41<sup>st</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 30% of high-school graduates are academically ready for college. Hawaii ranks 43<sup>rd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 60% of high-school graduates enroll in college the fall after they graduate. Hawaii ranks 16<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 44% of college freshmen earn a bachelor's degree within 6 years. Hawaii ranks 39<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## 4. Accessibility of Higher Education

- 18% of the average family income is required to pay for annual community college expenses after accounting for financial aid. Hawaii ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 23% of the average family income is required to pay for annual expenses at a 4-year public university, after accounting for financial aid. Hawaii ranks 6<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

- 100% of Hawaii's grants to college students are need-based. Hawaii ranks 1<sup>st</sup> among the 48 states and the District of Columbia for which data are available on this measure.

## 5. Participation in Afterschool Programs

- 15% of youth go unsupervised after school. Hawaii ranks 1<sup>st</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 35% participate in after-school programs. Hawaii ranks 1<sup>st</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## 6. Standards and Student Performance Measurements

- Among 4<sup>th</sup> graders, 42% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 21% are proficient on the National Assessment of Educational Progress. With a 21-point gap, Hawaii ranks 7<sup>th</sup> in the nation on the disparity between state and national performance measures for 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading.
- In math, 24% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 23% who do so on the NAEP. With a 1-point gap, Hawaii ranks 5<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- Among 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 39% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 22% achieve proficiency on the NAEP. With a 17-point gap, Hawaii ranks 11<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available on this measure.
- In math, 17% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 17% who do so on the NAEP. With a 0-point gap, Hawaii ranks 5<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available. (Hawaii is outranked by 4 states where more students are proficient on the NAEP than on the state test.)

## 7. Teachers' Subject-Matter Qualifications

- 33% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects are taught by instructors who lack at least a college minor in their subject. Hawaii ranks 46<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 39% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects in high-poverty schools are led by teachers without at least a college minor in their subject. Hawaii ranks 24<sup>th</sup> of the 37 states with data available on this measure.

A full report on Hawaii, as well as recommendations on each of these issue areas, can be found at: [www.americanprogress.org/schools](http://www.americanprogress.org/schools) or [www.ourfuture.org/task\\_force.cfm](http://www.ourfuture.org/task_force.cfm)

# Idaho: The State We're In

Among the key findings for the state of Idaho are:

## **1. The Achievement Gap**

- 20% of low-income 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 38% of non-poor students. Idaho ranks 4<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 12% of Latino 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 33% of white students. Idaho ranks 18<sup>th</sup> out of 41 states with data available on this measure.

## **2. Early Childhood Education**

- 8% of 3-year-olds participate in state-sponsored pre-kindergarten or the federal Head Start program. Idaho ranks 47<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 19% of 4-year-olds participate in such programs. Idaho ranks 44<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **3. The High-School-to-College Pipeline**

- The state's high-school graduation rate is 75%. Idaho ranks 21<sup>st</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 35% of high-school graduates are academically ready for college. Idaho ranks 18<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 45% of high-school graduates enroll in college the fall after they graduate. Idaho ranks 45<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 43% of college freshmen earn a bachelor's degree within 6 years. Idaho ranks 44<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **4. Accessibility of Higher Education**

- 18% of the average family income is required to pay for annual community college expenses after accounting for financial aid. Idaho ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 22% of the average family income is required to pay for annual expenses at a 4-year public university, after accounting for financial aid. Idaho ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 19% of Idaho's grants to college students are need-based. Idaho ranks 46<sup>th</sup> among the 48 states and the District of Columbia for which data are available on this measure.

## **5. Participation in Afterschool Programs**

- 23% of youth go unsupervised after school. Idaho ranks 17<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 9% participate in after-school programs. Idaho ranks 37<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **6. Standards and Student Performance Measurements**

- Among 4<sup>th</sup> graders, 75% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 30% are proficient on the National Assessment of Educational Progress. With a 45-point gap, Idaho ranks 34<sup>th</sup> in the nation on the disparity between state and national performance measures for 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading.
- In math, 77% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 31% who do so on the NAEP. With a 46-point gap, Idaho ranks 41<sup>st</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- Among 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 73% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 32% achieve proficiency on the NAEP. With a 41-point gap, Idaho ranks 36<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available on this measure.
- In math, 52% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 28% who do so on the NAEP. With a 24-point gap, Idaho ranks 21<sup>st</sup> out of 47 states with data available.

## **7. Teachers' Subject-Matter Qualifications**

- 26% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects are taught by instructors who lack at least a college minor in their subject. Idaho ranks 29<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 46% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects in high-poverty schools are led by teachers without at least a college minor in their subject. Idaho ranks 31<sup>st</sup> of the 37 states with data available on this measure.

# Illinois: The State We're In

Among the key findings for the state of Illinois are:

## **1. The Achievement Gap**

- 14% of low-income 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 45% of non-poor students. Illinois ranks 47<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 10% of African-American 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 42% of white students. Illinois ranks 35<sup>th</sup> out of 42 states that had data available on this measure.
- 15% of Latino 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 42% of white students. Illinois ranks 32<sup>nd</sup> out of 41 states with data available on this measure.

## **2. Early Childhood Education**

- 20% of 3-year-olds participate in state-sponsored pre-kindergarten or the federal Head Start program. Illinois ranks 7<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 41% of 4-year-olds participate in such programs. Illinois ranks 12<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **3. The High-School-to-College Pipeline**

- The state's high-school graduation rate is 74%. Illinois ranks 24<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 29% of high-school graduates are academically ready for college. Illinois ranks 47<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 60% of high-school graduates enroll in college the fall after they graduate. Illinois ranks 16<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 58% of college freshmen earn a bachelor's degree within 6 years. Illinois ranks 13<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **4. Accessibility of Higher Education**

- 21% of the average family income is required to pay for annual community college expenses after accounting for financial aid. Illinois ranks 14<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 30% of the average family income is required to pay for annual expenses at a 4-year public university, after accounting for financial aid. Illinois ranks 33<sup>rd</sup> in the nation on this measure.

- 91.3% of Illinois's grants to college students are need-based. Illinois ranks 25<sup>th</sup> among the 48 states and the District of Columbia for which data are available on this measure.

## **5. Participation in Afterschool Programs**

- 26% of youth go unsupervised after school. Illinois ranks 31<sup>st</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 10% participate in after-school programs. Illinois ranks 28<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **6. Standards and Student Performance Measurements**

- Among 4<sup>th</sup> graders, 62% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 31% are proficient on the National Assessment of Educational Progress. With a 31-point gap, Illinois ranks 15<sup>th</sup> in the nation on the disparity between state and national performance measures for 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading.
- In math, 76% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 32% who do so on the NAEP. With a 44-point gap, Illinois ranks 36<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- Among 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 64% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 35% achieve proficiency on the NAEP. With a 29-point gap, Illinois ranks 16<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available on this measure.
- In math, 53% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 29% who do so on the NAEP. With a 24-point gap, Illinois ranks 21<sup>st</sup> out of 47 states with data available.

## **7. Teachers' Subject-Matter Qualifications**

- 22% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects are taught by instructors who lack at least a college minor in their subject. Illinois ranks 21<sup>st</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 47% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects in high-poverty schools are led by teachers without at least a college minor in their subject. Illinois ranks 32<sup>nd</sup> of the 37 states with data available on this measure.

A full report on Illinois, as well as recommendations on each of these issue areas, can be found at: [www.americanprogress.org/schools](http://www.americanprogress.org/schools) or [www.ourfuture.org/task\\_force.cfm](http://www.ourfuture.org/task_force.cfm)

# Indiana: The State We're In

Among the key findings for the state of Indiana are:

## **1. The Achievement Gap**

- 18% of low-income 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 40% of non-poor students. Indiana ranks 20<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 11% of African-American 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 36% of white students. Indiana ranks 20<sup>th</sup> out of 42 states that had data available on this measure.
- 26% of Latino 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 36% of white students. Indiana ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 41 states with data available on this measure.

## **2. Early Childhood Education**

- 10% of 3-year-olds participate in state-sponsored pre-kindergarten or the federal Head Start program. Indiana ranks 39<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 15% of 4-year-olds participate in such programs. Indiana ranks 48<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **3. The High-School-to-College Pipeline**

- The state's high-school graduation rate is 72%. Indiana ranks 28<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 28% of high-school graduates are academically ready for college. Indiana ranks 49<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 60% of high-school graduates enroll in college the fall after they graduate. Indiana ranks 16<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 56% of college freshmen earn a bachelor's degree within 6 years. Indiana ranks 19<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **4. Accessibility of Higher Education**

- 24% of the average family income is required to pay for annual community college expenses after accounting for financial aid. Indiana ranks 32<sup>nd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 29% of the average family income is required to pay for annual expenses at a 4-year public university, after accounting for financial aid. Indiana ranks 29<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

- 61.3% of Indiana's grants to college students are need-based. Indiana ranks 38<sup>th</sup> among the 48 states and the District of Columbia for which data are available on this measure.

## **5. Participation in Afterschool Programs**

- 24% of youth go unsupervised after school. Indiana ranks 23<sup>rd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 10% participate in after-school programs. Indiana ranks 28<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **6. Standards and Student Performance Measurements**

- Among 4<sup>th</sup> graders, 72% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 33% are proficient on the National Assessment of Educational Progress. With a 39-point gap, Indiana ranks 25<sup>th</sup> in the nation on the disparity between state and national performance measures for 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading.
- In math, 67% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 35% who do so on the NAEP. With a 32-point gap, Indiana ranks 19<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- Among 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 64% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 33% achieve proficiency on the NAEP. With a 31-point gap, Indiana ranks 20<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available on this measure.
- In math, 66% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 31% who do so on the NAEP. With a 35-point gap, Indiana ranks 34<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available.

## **7. Teachers' Subject-Matter Qualifications**

- 13% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects are taught by instructors who lack at least a college minor in their subject. Indiana ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> in the nation on this measure.

# Iowa: The State We're In

Among the key findings for the state of Iowa are:

## **1. The Achievement Gap**

- 19% of low-income 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 42% of non-poor students. Iowa ranks 22<sup>nd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 8% of African-American 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 37% of white students. Iowa ranks 30<sup>th</sup> out of 42 states that had data available on this measure.
- 17% of Latino 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 37% of white students. Iowa ranks 16<sup>th</sup> out of 41 states with data available on this measure.

## **2. Early Childhood Education**

- 12% of 3-year-olds participate in state-sponsored pre-kindergarten or the federal Head Start program. Iowa ranks 30<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 21% of 4-year-olds participate in such programs. Iowa ranks 40<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **3. The High-School-to-College Pipeline**

- The state's high-school graduation rate is 85%. Iowa ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 34% of high-school graduates are academically ready for college. Iowa ranks 20<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 65% of high-school graduates enroll in college the fall after they graduate. Iowa ranks 6<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 63% of college freshmen earn a bachelor's degree within 6 years. Iowa ranks 4<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **4. Accessibility of Higher Education**

- 24% of the average family income is required to pay for annual community college expenses after accounting for financial aid. Iowa ranks 32<sup>nd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 28% of the average family income is required to pay for annual expenses at a 4-year public university, after accounting for financial aid. Iowa ranks 28<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

- 99.1% of Iowa's grants to college students are need-based. Iowa ranks 17<sup>th</sup> among the 48 states and the District of Columbia for which data are available on this measure.

## **5. Participation in Afterschool Programs**

- 29% of youth go unsupervised after school. Iowa ranks 41<sup>st</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 11% participate in after-school programs. Iowa ranks 25<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **6. Standards and Student Performance Measurements**

- Among 4<sup>th</sup> graders, 76% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 35% are proficient on the National Assessment of Educational Progress. With a 41-point gap, Iowa ranks 28<sup>th</sup> in the nation on the disparity between state and national performance measures for 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading.
- In math, 75% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 36% who do so on the NAEP. With a 39-point gap, Iowa ranks 28<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- Among 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 69% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 36% achieve proficiency on the NAEP. With a 33-point gap, Iowa ranks 25<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available on this measure.
- In math, 72% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 33% who do so on the NAEP. With a 39-point gap, Iowa ranks 36<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available.

## **7. Teachers' Subject-Matter Qualifications**

- 16% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects are taught by instructors who lack at least a college minor in their subject. Iowa ranks 5<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

A full report on Iowa, as well as recommendations on each of these issue areas, can be found at: [www.americanprogress.org/schools](http://www.americanprogress.org/schools) or [www.ourfuture.org/task\\_force.cfm](http://www.ourfuture.org/task_force.cfm)

# Kansas: The State We're In

Among the key findings for the state of Kansas are:

## **1. The Achievement Gap**

- 18% of low-income 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 42% of non-poor students. Kansas ranks 26<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 14% of African-American 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 37% of white students. Kansas ranks 14<sup>th</sup> out of 42 states that had data available on this measure.
- 19% of Latino 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 37% of white students. Kansas ranks 10<sup>th</sup> out of 41 states with data available on this measure.

## **2. Early Childhood Education**

- 13% of 3-year-olds participate in state-sponsored pre-kindergarten or the federal Head Start program. Kansas ranks 27<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 33% of 4-year-olds participate in such programs. Kansas ranks 18<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **3. The High-School-to-College Pipeline**

- The state's high-school graduation rate is 78%. Kansas ranks 10<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 31% of high-school graduates are academically ready for college. Kansas ranks 38<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 68% of high-school graduates enroll in college the fall after they graduate. Kansas ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 50% of college freshmen earn a bachelor's degree within 6 years. Kansas ranks 29<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **4. Accessibility of Higher Education**

- 19% of the average family income is required to pay for annual community college expenses after accounting for financial aid. Kansas ranks 7<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 23% of the average family income is required to pay for annual expenses at a 4-year public university, after accounting for financial aid. Kansas ranks 6<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

- 100% of Kansas's grants to college students are need-based. Kansas ranks 1<sup>st</sup> among the 48 states and the District of Columbia for which data are available on this measure.

## **5. Participation in Afterschool Programs**

- 35% of youth go unsupervised after school. Kansas ranks 49<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 9% participate in after-school programs. Kansas ranks 37<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **6. Standards and Student Performance Measurements**

- Among 4<sup>th</sup> graders, 69% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 33% are proficient on the National Assessment of Educational Progress. With a 36-point gap, Kansas ranks 22<sup>nd</sup> in the nation on the disparity between state and national performance measures for 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading.
- In math, 74% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 41% who do so on the NAEP. With a 33-point gap, Kansas ranks 20<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- Among 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 71% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 35% achieve proficiency on the NAEP. With a 36-point gap, Kansas ranks 28<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available on this measure.
- In math, 60% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 34% who do so on the NAEP. With a 26-point gap, Kansas ranks 25<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available.

## **7. Teachers' Subject-Matter Qualifications**

- 20% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects are taught by instructors who lack at least a college minor in their subject. Kansas ranks 16<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 21% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects in high-poverty schools are led by teachers without at least a college minor in their subject. Kansas ranks 5<sup>th</sup> of the 37 states with data available on this measure.

# Kentucky: The State We're In

Among the key findings for the state of Kentucky are:

## **1. The Achievement Gap**

- 21% of low-income 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 41% of non-poor students. Kentucky ranks 14<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 16% of African-American 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 33% of white students. Kentucky ranks 5<sup>th</sup> out of 42 states that had data available on this measure.

## **2. Early Childhood Education**

- 30% of 3-year-olds participate in state-sponsored pre-kindergarten or the federal Head Start program. Kentucky ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 61% of 4-year-olds participate in such programs. Kentucky ranks 4<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **3. The High-School-to-College Pipeline**

- The state's high-school graduation rate is 68%. Kentucky ranks 34<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 37% of high-school graduates are academically ready for college. Kentucky ranks 12<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 59% of high-school graduates enroll in college the fall after they graduate. Kentucky ranks 21<sup>st</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 44% of college freshmen earn a bachelor's degree within 6 years. Kentucky ranks 39<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **4. Accessibility of Higher Education**

- 21% of the average family income is required to pay for annual community college expenses after accounting for financial aid. Kentucky ranks 14<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 22% of the average family income is required to pay for annual expenses at a 4-year public university, after accounting for financial aid. Kentucky ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 47.5% of Kentucky's grants to college students are need-based. Kentucky ranks 41<sup>st</sup> among the 48 states and the District of Columbia for which data are available on this measure.

## **5. Participation in Afterschool Programs**

- 19% of youth go unsupervised after school. Kentucky ranks 6<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 7% participate in after-school programs. Kentucky ranks 46<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **6. Standards and Student Performance Measurements**

- Among 4<sup>th</sup> graders, 62% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 31% are proficient on the National Assessment of Educational Progress. With a 31-point gap, Kentucky ranks 15<sup>th</sup> in the nation on the disparity between state and national performance measures for 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading.
- In math, 38% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 22% who do so on the NAEP. With a 16-point gap, Kentucky ranks 9<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- Among 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 57% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 34% achieve proficiency on the NAEP. With a 23-point gap, Kentucky ranks 14<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available on this measure.
- In math, 31% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 24% who do so on the NAEP. With a 7-point gap, Kentucky ranks 10<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available.

## **7. Teachers' Subject-Matter Qualifications**

- 32% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects are taught by instructors who lack at least a college minor in their subject. Kentucky ranks 45<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 51% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects in high-poverty schools are led by teachers without at least a college minor in their subject. Kentucky ranks last on this measure (tied for 36<sup>th</sup> out of the 37 states with data available).

A full report on Kentucky, as well as recommendations on each of these issue areas, can be found at: [www.americanprogress.org/schools](http://www.americanprogress.org/schools) or [www.ourfuture.org/task\\_force.cfm](http://www.ourfuture.org/task_force.cfm)

# Louisiana: The State We're In

Among the key findings for the state of Louisiana are:

## **1. The Achievement Gap**

- 12% of low-income 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 36% of non-poor students. Louisiana ranks 26<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 8% of African-American 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 34% of white students. Louisiana ranks 25<sup>th</sup> out of 42 states that had data available on this measure.

## **2. Early Childhood Education**

- 17% of 3-year-olds participate in state-sponsored pre-kindergarten or the federal Head Start program. Louisiana ranks 15<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 44% of 4-year-olds participate in such programs. Louisiana ranks 9<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **3. The High-School-to-College Pipeline**

- The state's high-school graduation rate is 63%. Louisiana ranks 41<sup>st</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 35% of high-school graduates are academically ready for college. Louisiana ranks 18<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 59% of high-school graduates enroll in college the fall after they graduate. Louisiana ranks 21<sup>st</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 37% of college freshmen earn a bachelor's degree within 6 years. Louisiana ranks 49<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **4. Accessibility of Higher Education**

- 18% of the average family income is required to pay for annual community college expenses after accounting for financial aid. Louisiana ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 23% of the average family income is required to pay for annual expenses at a 4-year public university, after accounting for financial aid. Louisiana ranks 6<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 1.3% of Louisiana's grants to college students are need-based. Louisiana ranks 48<sup>th</sup> among the 48 states and the District of Columbia for which data are available on this measure.

## **5. Participation in Afterschool Programs**

- 21% of youth go unsupervised after school. Louisiana ranks 11<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 15% participate in after-school programs. Louisiana ranks 12<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **6. Standards and Student Performance Measurements**

- Among 4<sup>th</sup> graders, 61% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 20% are proficient on the National Assessment of Educational Progress. With a 41-point gap, Louisiana ranks 28<sup>th</sup> in the nation on the disparity between state and national performance measures for 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading.
- In math, 59% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 21% who do so on the NAEP. With a 38-point gap, Louisiana ranks 27<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- Among 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 53% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 22% achieve proficiency on the NAEP. With a 31-point gap, Louisiana ranks 20<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available on this measure.
- In math, 51% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 17% who do so on the NAEP. With a 34-point gap, Louisiana ranks 30<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available.

## **7. Teachers' Subject-Matter Qualifications**

- 40% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects are taught by instructors who lack at least a college minor in their subject. Louisiana ranks 51<sup>st</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 51% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects in high-poverty schools are led by teachers without at least a college minor in their subject. Louisiana ranks last on this measure (tied for 36<sup>th</sup> out of the 37 states with data available).

# Maine: The State We're In

Among the key findings for the state of Maine are:

## 1. The Achievement Gap

- 24% of low-income 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 42% of non-poor students. Maine ranks 4<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## 2. Early Childhood Education

- 18% of 3-year-olds participate in state-sponsored pre-kindergarten or the federal Head Start program. Maine ranks 13<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 39% of 4-year-olds participate in such programs. Maine ranks 14<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## 3. The High-School-to-College Pipeline

- The state's high-school graduation rate is 75%. Maine ranks 21<sup>st</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 38% of high-school graduates are academically ready for college. Maine ranks 10<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 54% of high-school graduates enroll in college the fall after they graduate. Maine ranks 32<sup>nd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 58% of college freshmen earn a bachelor's degree within 6 years. Maine ranks 13<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## 4. Accessibility of Higher Education

- 29% of the average family income is required to pay for annual community college expenses after accounting for financial aid. Maine ranks 47<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 34% of the average family income is required to pay for annual expenses at a 4-year public university, after accounting for financial aid. Maine ranks 44<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 100% of Maine's grants to college students are need-based. Maine ranks 1<sup>st</sup> among the 48 states and the District of Columbia for which data are available on this measure.

## 5. Participation in Afterschool Programs

- 23% of youth go unsupervised after school. Maine ranks 17<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 15% participate in after-school programs. Maine ranks 12<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## 6. Standards and Student Performance Measurements

- Among 4<sup>th</sup> graders, 49% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 36% are proficient on the National Assessment of Educational Progress. With a 13-point gap, Maine ranks 4<sup>th</sup> in the nation on the disparity between state and national performance measures for 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading.
- In math, 28% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 34% who do so on the NAEP. With proficiency rates on the NAEP exceeding those on the state test by 6 points, Maine ranks 1<sup>st</sup> in the nation on this measure and is one of 4 states where more students are proficient on the NAEP than on the state test.
- Among 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 45% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 37% achieve proficiency on the NAEP. With an 8-point gap, Maine ranks 5<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available on this measure.
- In math, 17% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 29% who do so on the NAEP. With proficiency rates on the NAEP exceeding those on the state test by 12 points, Maine ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> out of 47 states with data available and is one of 4 states where more students are proficient on the NAEP than on the state test.

## 7. Teachers' Subject-Matter Qualifications

- 29% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects are taught by instructors who lack at least a college minor in their subject. Maine ranks 37<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

A full report on Maine, as well as recommendations on each of these issue areas, can be found at: [www.americanprogress.org/schools](http://www.americanprogress.org/schools) or [www.ourfuture.org/task\\_force.cfm](http://www.ourfuture.org/task_force.cfm)

# Maryland: The State We're In

Among the key findings for the state of Maryland are:

## **1. The Achievement Gap**

- 13% of low-income 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 43% of non-poor students. Maryland ranks 45<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 14% of African-American 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 44% of white students. Maryland ranks 33<sup>rd</sup> out of 42 states that had data available on this measure.
- 23% of Latino 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 44% of white students. Maryland ranks 18<sup>th</sup> out of 41 states with data available on this measure.

## **2. Early Childhood Education**

- 12% of 3-year-olds participate in state-sponsored pre-kindergarten or the federal Head Start program. Maryland ranks 30<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 40% of 4-year-olds participate in such programs. Maryland ranks 13<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **3. The High-School-to-College Pipeline**

- The state's high-school graduation rate is 77%. Maryland ranks 17<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 39% of high-school graduates are academically ready for college. Maryland ranks 8<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 55% of high-school graduates enroll in college the fall after they graduate. Maryland ranks 31<sup>st</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 64% of college freshmen earn a bachelor's degree within 6 years. Maryland ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **4. Accessibility of Higher Education**

- 22% of the average family income is required to pay for annual community college expenses after accounting for financial aid. Maryland ranks 23<sup>rd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 29% of the average family income is required to pay for annual expenses at a 4-year public university, after accounting for financial aid. Maryland ranks 29<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

- 99.7% of Maryland's grants to college students are need-based. Maryland ranks 16<sup>th</sup> among the 48 states and the District of Columbia for which data are available on this measure.

## **5. Participation in Afterschool Programs**

- 25% of youth go unsupervised after school. Maryland ranks 28<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 10% participate in after-school programs. Maryland ranks 28<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **6. Standards and Student Performance Measurements**

- Among 4<sup>th</sup> graders, 58% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 32% are proficient on the National Assessment of Educational Progress. With a 26-point gap, Maryland ranks 9<sup>th</sup> in the nation on the disparity between state and national performance measures for 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading.
- In math, 65% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 31% who do so on the NAEP. With a 34-point gap, Maryland ranks 22<sup>nd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- Among 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 60% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 31% achieve proficiency on the NAEP. With a 29-point gap, Maryland ranks 16<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available on this measure.
- In math, 40% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 30% who do so on the NAEP. With a 10-point gap, Maryland ranks 14<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available.

## **7. Teachers' Subject-Matter Qualifications**

- 22% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects are taught by instructors who lack at least a college minor in their subject. Maryland ranks 21<sup>st</sup> in the nation on this measure.

# Massachusetts: The State We're In

Among the key findings for the state of Massachusetts are:

## **1. The Achievement Gap**

- 20% of low-income 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 51% of non-poor students. Massachusetts ranks 47<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 15% of African-American 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 48% of white students. Massachusetts ranks 38<sup>th</sup> out of 42 states that had data available on this measure.
- 15% of Latino 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 48% of white students. Massachusetts ranks 39<sup>th</sup> out of 41 states with data available on this measure.

## **2. Early Childhood Education**

- 21% of 3-year-olds participate in state-sponsored pre-kindergarten or the federal Head Start program. Massachusetts ranks 6<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 25% of 4-year-olds participate in such programs. Massachusetts ranks 27<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **3. The High-School-to-College Pipeline**

- The state's high-school graduation rate is 75%. Massachusetts ranks 21<sup>st</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 38% of high-school graduates are academically ready for college. Massachusetts ranks 10<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 69% of high-school graduates enroll in college the fall after they graduate. Massachusetts ranks 1<sup>st</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 66% of college freshmen earn a bachelor's degree within 6 years. Massachusetts ranks 1<sup>st</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **4. Accessibility of Higher Education**

- 22% of the average family income is required to pay for annual community college expenses after accounting for financial aid. Massachusetts ranks 23<sup>rd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 31% of the average family income is required to pay for annual expenses at a 4-year public university, after accounting for financial aid. Massachusetts ranks 36<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

- 99.97% of Massachusetts's grants to college students are need-based. Massachusetts ranks 12<sup>th</sup> among the 48 states and the District of Columbia for which data are available on this measure

## **5. Participation in Afterschool Programs**

- 21% of youth go unsupervised after school. Massachusetts ranks 11<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 11% participate in after-school programs. Massachusetts ranks 25<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **6. Standards and Student Performance Measurements**

- Among 4<sup>th</sup> graders, 56% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 40% are proficient on the National Assessment of Educational Progress. With a 16-point gap, Massachusetts ranks 5<sup>th</sup> in the nation on the disparity between state and national performance measures for 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading.
- In math, 40% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 41% who do so on the NAEP. With proficiency rates on the NAEP exceeding those on the state test by 1 point, Massachusetts ranks 4<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure and is one of 4 states where more students are proficient on the NAEP than on the state test.
- Among 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 65% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 43% achieve proficiency on the NAEP. With a 22-point gap, Massachusetts ranks 12<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available on this measure.
- In math, 37% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 38% who do so on the NAEP. With proficiency rates on the NAEP exceeding those on the state test by 1 point, Massachusetts ranks 4<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available and is one of 4 states where more students are proficient on the NAEP than on the state test.

## **7. Teachers' Subject-Matter Qualifications**

- 19% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects are taught by instructors who lack at least a college minor in their subject. Massachusetts ranks 12<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

A full report on Massachusetts, as well as recommendations on each of these issue areas, can be found at: [www.americanprogress.org/schools](http://www.americanprogress.org/schools) or [www.ourfuture.org/task\\_force.cfm](http://www.ourfuture.org/task_force.cfm)

# Michigan: The State We're In

Among the key findings for the state of Michigan are:

## **1. The Achievement Gap**

- 16% of low-income 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 41% of non-poor students. Michigan ranks 31<sup>st</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 8% of African-American 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 40% of white students. Michigan ranks 35<sup>th</sup> out of 42 states that had data available on this measure.
- 16% of Latino 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 40% of white students. Michigan ranks 27<sup>th</sup> out of 41 states with data available on this measure.

## **2. Early Childhood Education**

- 14% of 3-year-olds participate in state-sponsored pre-kindergarten or the federal Head Start program. Michigan ranks 23<sup>rd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 39% of 4-year-olds participate in such programs. Michigan ranks 14<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **3. The High-School-to-College Pipeline**

- The state's high-school graduation rate is 78%. Michigan ranks 10<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 31% of high-school graduates are academically ready for college. Michigan ranks 38<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 59% of high-school graduates enroll in college the fall after they graduate. Michigan ranks 21<sup>st</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 55% of college freshmen earn a bachelor's degree within 6 years. Michigan ranks 22<sup>nd</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **4. Accessibility of Higher Education**

- 22% of the average family income is required to pay for annual community college expenses after accounting for financial aid. Michigan ranks 23<sup>rd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 32% of the average family income is required to pay for annual expenses at a 4-year public university, after accounting for financial aid. Michigan ranks 39<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

- 58% of Michigan's grants to college students are need-based. Michigan ranks 40<sup>th</sup> among the 48 states and the District of Columbia for which data are available on this measure.

## **5. Participation in Afterschool Programs**

- 27% of youth go unsupervised after school. Michigan ranks 35<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 8% participate in after-school programs. Michigan ranks 42<sup>nd</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **6. Standards and Student Performance Measurements**

- Among 4<sup>th</sup> graders, 75% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 32% are proficient on the National Assessment of Educational Progress. With a 43-point gap, Michigan ranks 32<sup>nd</sup> in the nation on the disparity between state and national performance measures for 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading.
- In math, 65% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 34% who do so on the NAEP. With a 31-point gap, Michigan ranks 18<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- Among 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 61% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 32% achieve proficiency on the NAEP. With a 29-point gap, Michigan ranks 16<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available on this measure.
- In math, 52% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 28% who do so on the NAEP. With a 24-point gap, Michigan ranks 21<sup>st</sup> out of 47 states with data available.

## **7. Teachers' Subject-Matter Qualifications**

- 20% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects are taught by instructors who lack at least a college minor in their subject. Michigan ranks 16<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 25% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects in high-poverty schools are led by teachers without at least a college minor in their subject. Michigan ranks 7<sup>th</sup> of the 37 states with data available on this measure.

# Minnesota: The State We're In

Among the key findings for the state of Minnesota are:

## **1. The Achievement Gap**

- 19% of low-income 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 44% of non-poor students. Minnesota ranks 31<sup>st</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 14% of African-American 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 43% of white students. Minnesota ranks 30<sup>th</sup> out of 42 states that had data available on this measure.
- 16% of Latino 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 43% of white students. Minnesota ranks 32<sup>nd</sup> out of 41 states with data available on this measure.

## **2. Early Childhood Education**

- 12% of 3-year-olds participate in state-sponsored pre-kindergarten or the federal Head Start program. Minnesota ranks 30<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 18% of 4-year-olds participate in such programs. Minnesota ranks 46<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **3. The High-School-to-College Pipeline**

- The state's high-school graduation rate is 84%. Minnesota ranks 5<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 33% of high-school graduates are academically ready for college. Minnesota ranks 25<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 64% of high-school graduates enroll in college the fall after they graduate. Minnesota ranks 8<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 58% of college freshmen earn a bachelor's degree within 6 years. Minnesota ranks 13<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **4. Accessibility of Higher Education**

- 19% of the average family income is required to pay for annual community college expenses after accounting for financial aid. Minnesota ranks 7<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 23% of the average family income is required to pay for annual expenses at a 4-year public university, after accounting for financial aid. Minnesota ranks 6<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

- 99.95% of Minnesota's grants to college students are need-based. Minnesota ranks 14<sup>th</sup> among the 48 states and the District of Columbia for which data are available on this measure.

## **5. Participation in Afterschool Programs**

- 35% of youth go unsupervised after school. Minnesota ranks 49<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 8% participate in after-school programs. Minnesota ranks 42<sup>nd</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **6. Standards and Student Performance Measurements**

- Among 4<sup>th</sup> graders, 76% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 37% are proficient on the National Assessment of Educational Progress. With a 39-point gap, Minnesota ranks 25<sup>th</sup> in the nation on the disparity between state and national performance measures for 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading.
- In math, 75% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 42% who do so on the NAEP. With a 33-point gap, Minnesota ranks 20<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **7. Teachers' Subject-Matter Qualifications**

- 7% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects are taught by instructors who lack at least a college minor in their subject. Minnesota ranks 1<sup>st</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 10% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects in high-poverty schools are led by teachers without at least a college minor in their subject. Minnesota ranks 1<sup>st</sup> of the 37 states with data available on this measure.

A full report on Minnesota, as well as recommendations on each of these issue areas, can be found at: [www.americanprogress.org/schools](http://www.americanprogress.org/schools) or [www.ourfuture.org/task\\_force.cfm](http://www.ourfuture.org/task_force.cfm)

# Mississippi: The State We're In

Among the key findings for the state of Mississippi are:

## **1. The Achievement Gap**

- 11% of low-income 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 36% of non-poor students. Mississippi ranks 31<sup>st</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 8% of African-American 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 30% of white students. Mississippi ranks 12<sup>th</sup> out of 42 states that had data available on this measure.

## **2. Early Childhood Education**

- 29% of 3-year-olds participate in state-sponsored pre-kindergarten or the federal Head Start program. Mississippi ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 43% of 4-year-olds participate in such programs. Mississippi ranks 10<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **3. The High-School-to-College Pipeline**

- The state's high-school graduation rate is 60%. Mississippi ranks 44<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 33% of high-school graduates are academically ready for college. Mississippi ranks 25<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 63% of high-school graduates enroll in college the fall after they graduate. Mississippi ranks 12<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 51% of college freshmen earn a bachelor's degree within 6 years. Mississippi ranks 28<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **4. Accessibility of Higher Education**

- 22% of the average family income is required to pay for annual community college expenses after accounting for financial aid. Mississippi ranks 23<sup>rd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 26% of the average family income is required to pay for annual expenses at a 4-year public university, after accounting for financial aid. Mississippi ranks 19<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 80.5% of Mississippi's grants to college students are need-based. Mississippi ranks 28<sup>th</sup> among the 48 states and the District of Columbia for which data are available on this measure.

## **5. Participation in Afterschool Programs**

- 16% of youth go unsupervised after school. Mississippi ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 13% participate in after-school programs. Mississippi ranks 18<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **6. Standards and Student Performance Measurements**

- Among 4<sup>th</sup> graders, 87% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 18% are proficient on the National Assessment of Educational Progress. With a 69-point gap, Mississippi ranks 50<sup>th</sup> in the nation on the disparity between state and national performance measures for 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading.
- In math, 74% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 17% who do so on the NAEP. With a 57-point gap, Mississippi ranks 50<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- Among 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 57% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 21% achieve proficiency on the NAEP. With a 36-point gap, Mississippi ranks 28<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available on this measure.
- In math, 48% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 12% who do so on the NAEP. With a 36-point gap, Mississippi ranks 35<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available.

## **7. Teachers' Subject-Matter Qualifications**

- 30% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects are taught by instructors who lack at least a college minor in their subject. Mississippi ranks 39<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 32% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects in high-poverty schools are led by teachers without at least a college minor in their subject. Mississippi ranks 13<sup>th</sup> of the 37 states with data available on this measure.

# Missouri: The State We're In

Among the key findings for the state of Missouri are:

## **1. The Achievement Gap**

- 19% of low-income 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 44% of non-poor students. Missouri ranks 31<sup>st</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 14% of African-American 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 39% of white students. Missouri ranks 20<sup>th</sup> out of 42 states that had data available on this measure.
- 30% of Latino 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 39% of white students. Missouri ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> out of 41 states with data available on this measure.

## **2. Early Childhood Education**

- 16% of 3-year-olds participate in state-sponsored pre-kindergarten or the federal Head Start program. Missouri ranks 18<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 22% of 4-year-olds participate in such programs. Missouri ranks 35<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **3. The High-School-to-College Pipeline**

- The state's high-school graduation rate is 76%. Missouri ranks 18<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 30% of high-school graduates are academically ready for college. Missouri ranks 43<sup>rd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 53% of high-school graduates enroll in college the fall after they graduate. Missouri ranks 34<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 55% of college freshmen earn a bachelor's degree within 6 years. Missouri ranks 22<sup>nd</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **4. Accessibility of Higher Education**

- 19% of the average family income is required to pay for annual community college expenses after accounting for financial aid. Missouri ranks 7<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 27% of the average family income is required to pay for annual expenses at a 4-year public university, after accounting for financial aid. Missouri ranks 23<sup>rd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 60.9% of Missouri's grants to college students are need-based. Missouri ranks 39<sup>th</sup> among the 48 states and the District of Columbia for which data are available on this measure.

## **5. Participation in Afterschool Programs**

- 32% of youth go unsupervised after school. Missouri ranks 47<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 12% participate in after-school programs. Missouri ranks 21<sup>st</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **6. Standards and Student Performance Measurements**

- Among 4<sup>th</sup> graders, 34% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 34% are proficient on the National Assessment of Educational Progress. With a 0-point gap, Missouri ranks 1<sup>st</sup> in the nation on the disparity between state and national performance measures for 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading.
- In math, 37% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 30% who do so on the NAEP. With a 7-point gap, Missouri ranks 7<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- Among 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 32% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 34% achieve proficiency on the NAEP. With proficiency rates on the NAEP exceeding those on the state test by 2 points, Missouri ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> in the nation on this measure and is one of 3 states where more students are proficient on the NAEP than on the state test.
- In math, 14% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 28% who do so on the NAEP. With proficiency rates on the NAEP exceeding those on the state test by 14 points, Missouri ranks 1<sup>st</sup> out of 47 states with data available and is one of 4 states where more students are proficient on the NAEP than on the state test.

## **7. Teachers' Subject-Matter Qualifications**

- 24% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects are taught by instructors who lack at least a college minor in their subject. Missouri ranks 28<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 37% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects in high-poverty schools are led by teachers without at least a college minor in their subject. Missouri ranks 20<sup>th</sup> of the 37 states with data available on this measure.

# Montana: The State We're In

Among the key findings for the state of Montana are:

## **1. The Achievement Gap**

- 20% of low-income 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 44% of non-poor students. Montana ranks 26<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **2. Early Childhood Education**

- 17% of 3-year-olds participate in state-sponsored pre-kindergarten or the federal Head Start program. Montana ranks 15<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 27% of 4-year-olds participate in such programs. Montana ranks 23<sup>rd</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **3. The High-School-to-College Pipeline**

- The state's high-school graduation rate is 78%. Montana ranks 10<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 36% of high-school graduates are academically ready for college. Montana ranks 17<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 54% of high-school graduates enroll in college the fall after they graduate. Montana ranks 32<sup>nd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 44% of college freshmen earn a bachelor's degree within 6 years. Montana ranks 39<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **4. Accessibility of Higher Education**

- 28% of the average family income is required to pay for annual community college expenses after accounting for financial aid. Montana ranks 45<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 31% of the average family income is required to pay for annual expenses at a 4-year public university, after accounting for financial aid. Montana ranks 36<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 100% of Montana's grants to college students are need-based. Montana ranks 1<sup>st</sup> among the 48 states and the District of Columbia for which data are available on this measure.

## **5. Participation in Afterschool Programs**

- 24% of youth go unsupervised after school. Montana ranks 23<sup>rd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 14% participate in after-school programs. Montana ranks 15<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **6. Standards and Student Performance Measurements**

- Among 4<sup>th</sup> graders, 76% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 35% are proficient on the National Assessment of Educational Progress. With a 41-point gap, Montana ranks 28<sup>th</sup> in the nation on the disparity between state and national performance measures for 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading.
- In math, 73% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 31% who do so on the NAEP. With a 42-point gap, Montana ranks 33<sup>rd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- Among 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 70% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 37% achieve proficiency on the NAEP. With a 33-point gap, Montana ranks 25<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available on this measure.
- In math, 69% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 35% who do so on the NAEP. With a 34-point gap, Montana ranks 30<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available.

## **7. Teachers' Subject-Matter Qualifications**

- 20% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects are taught by instructors who lack at least a college minor in their subject. Montana ranks 16<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 30% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects in high-poverty schools are led by teachers without at least a college minor in their subject. Montana ranks 12<sup>th</sup> of the 37 states with data available on this measure.

# Nebraska: The State We're In

Among the key findings for the state of Nebraska are:

## **1. The Achievement Gap**

- 19% of low-income 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 40% of non-poor students. Nebraska ranks 16<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 17% of African-American 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 36% of white students. Nebraska ranks 7<sup>th</sup> out of 42 states that had data available on this measure.
- 14% of Latino 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 36% of white students. Nebraska ranks 22<sup>nd</sup> out of 41 states with data available on this measure.

## **2. Early Childhood Education**

- 14% of 3-year-olds participate in state-sponsored pre-kindergarten or the federal Head Start program. Nebraska ranks 23<sup>rd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 20% of 4-year-olds participate in such programs. Nebraska ranks 42<sup>nd</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **3. The High-School-to-College Pipeline**

- The state's high-school graduation rate is 83%. Nebraska ranks 6<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 33% of high-school graduates are academically ready for college. Nebraska ranks 25<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 59% of high-school graduates enroll in college the fall after they graduate. Nebraska ranks 21<sup>st</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 53% of college freshmen earn a bachelor's degree within 6 years. Nebraska ranks 26<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **4. Accessibility of Higher Education**

- 18% of the average family income is required to pay for annual community college expenses after accounting for financial aid. Nebraska ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 24% of the average family income is required to pay for annual expenses at a 4-year public university, after accounting for financial aid. Nebraska ranks 12<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

- 100% of Nebraska's grants to college students are need-based. Nebraska ranks 1<sup>st</sup> among the 48 states and the District of Columbia for which data are available on this measure.

## **5. Participation in Afterschool Programs**

- 31% of youth go unsupervised after school. Nebraska ranks 44<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 9% participate in after-school programs. Nebraska ranks 37<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **6. Standards and Student Performance Measurements**

- Among 4<sup>th</sup> graders, 79% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 32% are proficient on the National Assessment of Educational Progress. With a 47-point gap, Nebraska ranks 38<sup>th</sup> in the nation on the disparity between state and national performance measures for 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading.
- In math, 78% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 34% who do so on the NAEP. With a 44-point gap, Nebraska ranks 36<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- Among 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 77% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 35% achieve proficiency on the NAEP. With a 42-point gap, Nebraska ranks 38<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available on this measure.
- In math, 72% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 32% who do so on the NAEP. With a 40-point gap, Nebraska ranks 37<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available.

## **7. Teachers' Subject-Matter Qualifications**

- 15% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects are taught by instructors who lack at least a college minor in their subject. Nebraska ranks 4<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 17% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects in high-poverty schools are led by teachers without at least a college minor in their subject. Nebraska ranks 4<sup>th</sup> of the 37 states with data available on this measure.

A full report on Nebraska, as well as recommendations on each of these issue areas, can be found at: [www.americanprogress.org/schools](http://www.americanprogress.org/schools) or [www.ourfuture.org/task\\_force.cfm](http://www.ourfuture.org/task_force.cfm)

# Nevada: The State We're In

Among the key findings for the state of Nevada are:

## **1. The Achievement Gap**

- 10% of low-income 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 28% of non-poor students. Nevada ranks 4<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 9% of African-American 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 28% of white students. Nevada ranks 7<sup>th</sup> out of 42 states that had data available on this measure.
- 11% of Latino 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 28% of white students. Nevada ranks 8<sup>th</sup> out of 41 states with data available on this measure.

## **2. Early Childhood Education**

- 6% of 3-year-olds participate in state-sponsored pre-kindergarten or the federal Head Start program. Nevada ranks 51<sup>st</sup> among the 50 states and the District of Columbia on this measure.
- 11% of 4-year-olds participate in such programs. Nevada ranks last in the nation on this measure. (Nevada is tied for 50<sup>th</sup> out of the 50 states and the District of Columbia.)

## **3. The High-School-to-College Pipeline**

- The state's high-school graduation rate is 68%. Nevada ranks 34<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 32% of high-school graduates are academically ready for college. Nevada ranks 32<sup>nd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 40% of high-school graduates enroll in college the fall after they graduate. Nevada ranks 49<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 40% of college freshmen earn a bachelor's degree within 6 years. Nevada ranks 46<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **4. Accessibility of Higher Education**

- 25% of the average family income is required to pay for annual community college expenses after accounting for financial aid. Nevada ranks 36<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

- 27% of the average family income is required to pay for annual expenses at a 4-year public university, after accounting for financial aid. Nevada ranks 23<sup>rd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 21.8% of Nevada's grants to college students are need-based. Nevada ranks 45<sup>th</sup> among the 48 states and the District of Columbia for which data are available on this measure.

## **5. Participation in Afterschool Programs**

- 25% of youth go unsupervised after school. Nevada ranks 28<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 13% participate in after-school programs. Nevada ranks 18<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **6. Standards and Student Performance Measurements**

- Among 4<sup>th</sup> graders, 49% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 20% are proficient on the National Assessment of Educational Progress. With a 29-point gap, Nevada ranks 13<sup>th</sup> in the nation on the disparity between state and national performance measures for 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading.
- In math, 50% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 23% who do so on the NAEP. With a 27-point gap, Nevada ranks 16<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **7. Teachers' Subject-Matter Qualifications**

- 30% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects are taught by instructors who lack at least a college minor in their subject. Nevada ranks 39<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

# New Hampshire: The State We're In

Among the key findings for the state of New Hampshire are:

## **1. The Achievement Gap**

- 18% of low-income 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 45% of non-poor students. New Hampshire ranks 40<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 19% of Latino 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 41% of white students. New Hampshire ranks 22<sup>nd</sup> out of 41 states with data available on this measure.

## **2. Early Childhood Education**

- 8% of 3-year-olds participate in state-sponsored pre-kindergarten or the federal Head Start program. New Hampshire ranks 47<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 11% of 4-year-olds participate in such programs. New Hampshire ranks last in the nation on this measure. (New Hampshire is tied for 50<sup>th</sup> out of the 50 states and the District of Columbia.)

## **3. The High-School-to-College Pipeline**

- The state's high-school graduation rate is 78%. New Hampshire ranks 10<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 40% of high-school graduates are academically ready for college. New Hampshire ranks 4<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 59% of high-school graduates enroll in college the fall after they graduate. New Hampshire ranks 21<sup>st</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 62% of college freshmen earn a bachelor's degree within 6 years. New Hampshire ranks 8<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **4. Accessibility of Higher Education**

- 27% of the average family income is required to pay for annual community college expenses after accounting for financial aid. New Hampshire ranks 41<sup>st</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 32% of the average family income is required to pay for annual expenses at a 4-year public university, after accounting for financial aid. New Hampshire ranks 39<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

- 99.8% of New Hampshire's grants to college students are need-based. New Hampshire ranks 15<sup>th</sup> among the 48 states and the District of Columbia for which data are available on this measure.

## **5. Participation in Afterschool Programs**

- 23% of youth go unsupervised after school. New Hampshire ranks 17<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 18% participate in after-school programs. New Hampshire ranks 4<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **6. Standards and Student Performance Measurements**

- Among 4<sup>th</sup> graders, 76% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 40% are proficient on the National Assessment of Educational Progress. With a 36-point gap, New Hampshire ranks 22<sup>nd</sup> in the nation on the disparity between state and national performance measures for 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading.
- In math, 79% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 43% who do so on the NAEP. With a 36-point gap, New Hampshire ranks 24<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **7. Teachers' Subject-Matter Qualifications**

- 21% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects are taught by instructors who lack at least a college minor in their subject. New Hampshire ranks 20<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

A full report on New Hampshire, as well as recommendations on each of these issue areas, can be found at: [www.americanprogress.org/schools](http://www.americanprogress.org/schools) or [www.ourfuture.org/task\\_force.cfm](http://www.ourfuture.org/task_force.cfm)

# New Jersey: The State We're In

Among the key findings for the state of New Jersey are:

## **1. The Achievement Gap**

- 15% of low-income 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 48% of non-poor students. New Jersey ranks 49<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 14% of African-American 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 49% of white students. New Jersey ranks 40<sup>th</sup> out of 42 states that had data available on this measure.
- 21% of Latino 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 49% of white students. New Jersey ranks 36<sup>th</sup> out of 41 states with data available on this measure.

## **2. Early Childhood Education**

- 23% of 3-year-olds participate in state-sponsored pre-kindergarten or the federal Head Start program. New Jersey ranks 5<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 36% of 4-year-olds participate in such programs. New Jersey ranks 16<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **3. The High-School-to-College Pipeline**

- The state's high-school graduation rate is 89%. New Jersey ranks 1<sup>st</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 45% of high-school graduates are academically ready for college. New Jersey ranks 1<sup>st</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 64% of high-school graduates enroll in college the fall after they graduate. New Jersey ranks 8<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 61% of college freshmen earn a bachelor's degree within 6 years. New Jersey ranks 12<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **4. Accessibility of Higher Education**

- 24% of the average family income is required to pay for annual community college expenses after accounting for financial aid. New Jersey ranks 32<sup>nd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 34% of the average family income is required to pay for annual expenses at a 4-year public university, after accounting for financial aid. New Jersey ranks 44<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

- 87.9% of New Jersey's grants to college students are need-based. New Jersey ranks 27<sup>th</sup> among the 48 states and the District of Columbia for which data are available on this measure.

## **5. Participation in Afterschool Programs**

- 23% of youth go unsupervised after school. New Jersey ranks 17<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 12% participate in after-school programs. New Jersey ranks 21<sup>st</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **6. Standards and Student Performance Measurements**

- Among 4<sup>th</sup> graders, 78% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 39% are proficient on the National Assessment of Educational Progress. With a 39-point gap, New Jersey ranks 25<sup>th</sup> in the nation on the disparity between state and national performance measures for 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading.
- In math, 68% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 39% who do so on the NAEP. With a 29-point gap, New Jersey ranks 17<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- Among 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 74% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 37% achieve proficiency on the NAEP. With a 37-point gap, New Jersey ranks 32<sup>nd</sup> out of 47 states with data available on this measure.
- In math, 57% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 33% who do so on the NAEP. With a 24-point gap, New Jersey ranks 21<sup>st</sup> out of 47 states with data available.

## **7. Teachers' Subject-Matter Qualifications**

- 17% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects are taught by instructors who lack at least a college minor in their subject. New Jersey ranks 7<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

# New Mexico: The State We're In

Among the key findings for the state of New Mexico are:

## **1. The Achievement Gap**

- 13% of low-income 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 32% of non-poor students. New Mexico ranks 9<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 18% of African-American 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 34% of white students. New Mexico ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 42 states that had data available on this measure.
- 13% of Latino 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 34% of white students. New Mexico ranks 18<sup>th</sup> out of 41 states with data available on this measure.

## **2. Early Childhood Education**

- 14% of 3-year-olds participate in state-sponsored pre-kindergarten or the federal Head Start program. New Mexico ranks 23<sup>rd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 28% of 4-year-olds participate in such programs. New Mexico ranks 22<sup>nd</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **3. The High-School-to-College Pipeline**

- The state's high-school graduation rate is 65%. New Mexico ranks 39<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 30% of high-school graduates are academically ready for college. New Mexico ranks 43<sup>rd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 59% of high-school graduates enroll in college the fall after they graduate. New Mexico ranks 21<sup>st</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 39% of college freshmen earn a bachelor's degree within 6 years. New Mexico ranks 47<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **4. Accessibility of Higher Education**

- 22% of the average family income is required to pay for annual community college expenses after accounting for financial aid. New Mexico ranks 23<sup>rd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 27% of the average family income is required to pay for annual expenses at a 4-year public university, after accounting for financial aid. New Mexico ranks 23<sup>rd</sup> in the nation on this measure.

- 31.6% of New Mexico's grants to college students are need-based. New Mexico ranks 43<sup>rd</sup> among the 48 states and the District of Columbia for which data are available on this measure.

## **5. Participation in Afterschool Programs**

- 19% of youth go unsupervised after school. New Mexico ranks 6<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 19% participate in after-school programs. New Mexico ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **6. Standards and Student Performance Measurements**

- Among 4<sup>th</sup> graders, 45% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 19% are proficient on the National Assessment of Educational Progress. With a 26-point gap, New Mexico ranks 9<sup>th</sup> in the nation on the disparity between state and national performance measures for 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading.
- In math, 53% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 17% who do so on the NAEP. With a 36-point gap, New Mexico ranks 24<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- Among 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 51% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 20% achieve proficiency on the NAEP. With a 31-point gap, New Mexico ranks 20<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available on this measure.
- In math, 46% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 15% who do so on the NAEP. With a 31-point gap, New Mexico ranks 28<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available.

## **7. Teachers' Subject-Matter Qualifications**

- 35% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects are taught by instructors who lack at least a college minor in their subject. New Mexico ranks 47<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 37% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects in high-poverty schools are led by teachers without at least a college minor in their subject. New Mexico ranks 20<sup>th</sup> of the 37 states with data available on this measure.

A full report on New Mexico, as well as recommendations on each of these issue areas, can be found at: [www.americanprogress.org/schools](http://www.americanprogress.org/schools) or [www.ourfuture.org/task\\_force.cfm](http://www.ourfuture.org/task_force.cfm)

# New York: The State We're In

Among the key findings for the state of New York are:

## **1. The Achievement Gap**

- 18% of low-income 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 51% of non-poor students. New York ranks 49<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 14% of African-American 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 48% of white students. New York ranks 39<sup>th</sup> out of 42 states that had data available on this measure.
- 18% of Latino 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 48% of white students. New York ranks 37<sup>th</sup> out of 41 states with data available on this measure.

## **2. Early Childhood Education**

- 14% of 3-year-olds participate in state-sponsored pre-kindergarten or the federal Head Start program. New York ranks 23<sup>rd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 56% of 4-year-olds participate in such programs. New York ranks 7<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **3. The High-School-to-College Pipeline**

- The state's high-school graduation rate is 64%. New York ranks 40<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 32% of high-school graduates are academically ready for college. New York ranks 32<sup>nd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 64% of high-school graduates enroll in college the fall after they graduate. New York ranks 8<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 56% of college freshmen earn a bachelor's degree within 6 years. New York ranks 19<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **4. Accessibility of Higher Education**

- 30% of the average family income is required to pay for annual community college expenses after accounting for financial aid. New York ranks 49<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 32% of the average family income is required to pay for annual expenses at a 4-year public university, after accounting for financial aid. New York ranks 39<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

- 97.6% of New York's grants to college students are need-based. New York ranks 22<sup>nd</sup> among the 48 states and the District of Columbia for which data are available on this measure.

## **5. Participation in Afterschool Programs**

- 27% of youth go unsupervised after school. New York ranks 35<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 15% participate in after-school programs. New York ranks 12<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **6. Standards and Student Performance Measurements**

- Among 4<sup>th</sup> graders, 64% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 34% are proficient on the National Assessment of Educational Progress. With a 30-point gap, New York ranks 14<sup>th</sup> in the nation on the disparity between state and national performance measures for 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading.
- In math, 78% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 33% who do so on the NAEP. With a 45-point gap, New York ranks 38<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- Among 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 45% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 35% achieve proficiency on the NAEP. With a 10-point gap, New York ranks 7<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available on this measure.
- In math, 51% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 32% who do so on the NAEP. With a 19-point gap, New York ranks 17<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available.

## **7. Teachers' Subject-Matter Qualifications**

- 18% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects are taught by instructors who lack at least a college minor in their subject. New York ranks 8<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 15% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects in high-poverty schools are led by teachers without at least a college minor in their subject. New York ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> of the 37 states with data available on this measure.

# North Carolina: The State We're In

Among the key findings for the state of North Carolina are:

## **1. The Achievement Gap**

- 16% of low-income 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 45% of non-poor students. North Carolina ranks 44<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 12% of African-American 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 44% of white students. North Carolina ranks 35<sup>th</sup> out of 42 states that had data available on this measure.
- 24% of Latino 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 44% of white students. North Carolina ranks 16<sup>th</sup> out of 41 states with data available on this measure.

## **2. Early Childhood Education**

- 9% of 3-year-olds participate in state-sponsored pre-kindergarten or the federal Head Start program. North Carolina ranks 45<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 22% of 4-year-olds participate in such programs. North Carolina ranks 35<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **3. The High-School-to-College Pipeline**

- The state's high-school graduation rate is 67%. North Carolina ranks 37<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 37% of high-school graduates are academically ready for college. North Carolina ranks 12<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 65% of high-school graduates enroll in college the fall after they graduate. North Carolina ranks 6<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 58% of college freshmen earn a bachelor's degree within 6 years. North Carolina ranks 13<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **4. Accessibility of Higher Education**

- 21% of the average family income is required to pay for annual community college expenses after accounting for financial aid. North Carolina ranks 14<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 25% of the average family income is required to pay for annual expenses at a 4-year public university, after accounting for financial aid. North Carolina ranks 16<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

- 68.8% of North Carolina's grants to college students are need-based. North Carolina ranks 35<sup>th</sup> among the 48 states and the District of Columbia for which data are available on this measure.

## **5. Participation in Afterschool Programs**

- 22% of youth go unsupervised after school. North Carolina ranks 15<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 10% participate in after-school programs. North Carolina ranks 28<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **6. Standards and Student Performance Measurements**

- Among 4<sup>th</sup> graders, 81% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 33% are proficient on the National Assessment of Educational Progress. With a 48-point gap, North Carolina ranks 39<sup>th</sup> in the nation on the disparity between state and national performance measures for 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading.
- In math, 92% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 41% who do so on the NAEP. With a 51-point gap, North Carolina ranks 45<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- Among 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 86% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 29% achieve proficiency on the NAEP. With a 57-point gap, North Carolina ranks 46<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available on this measure.
- In math, 82% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 32% who do so on the NAEP. With a 50-point gap, North Carolina ranks 45<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available.

## **7. Teachers' Subject-Matter Qualifications**

- 19% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects are taught by instructors who lack at least a college minor in their subject. North Carolina ranks 12<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 34% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects in high-poverty schools are led by teachers without at least a college minor in their subject. North Carolina ranks 14<sup>th</sup> of the 37 states with data available on this measure.

A full report on North Carolina, as well as recommendations on each of these issue areas, can be found at: [www.americanprogress.org/schools](http://www.americanprogress.org/schools) or [www.ourfuture.org/task\\_force.cfm](http://www.ourfuture.org/task_force.cfm)

# North Dakota: The State We're In

Among the key findings for the state of North Dakota are:

## **1. The Achievement Gap**

- 19% of low-income 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 38% of non-poor students. North Dakota ranks 9<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **2. Early Childhood Education**

- 18% of 3-year-olds participate in state-sponsored pre-kindergarten or the federal Head Start program. North Dakota ranks 13<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 31% of 4-year-olds participate in such programs. North Dakota ranks 19<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **3. The High-School-to-College Pipeline**

- The state's high-school graduation rate is 85%. North Dakota ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 33% of high-school graduates are academically ready for college. North Dakota ranks 25<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 69% of high-school graduates enroll in college the fall after they graduate. North Dakota ranks 1<sup>st</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 48% of college freshmen earn a bachelor's degree within 6 years. North Dakota ranks 37<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **4. Accessibility of Higher Education**

- 22% of the average family income is required to pay for annual community college expenses after accounting for financial aid. North Dakota ranks 23<sup>rd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 25% of the average family income is required to pay for annual expenses at a 4-year public university, after accounting for financial aid. North Dakota ranks 16<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 76.7% of North Dakota's grants to college students are need-based. North Dakota ranks 31<sup>st</sup> among the 48 states and the District of Columbia for which data are available on this measure.

## **5. Participation in Afterschool Programs**

- 24% of youth go unsupervised after school. North Dakota ranks 23<sup>rd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 14% participate in after-school programs. North Dakota ranks 15<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **6. Standards and Student Performance Measurements**

- Among 4<sup>th</sup> graders, 74% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 32% are proficient on the National Assessment of Educational Progress. With a 42-point gap, North Dakota ranks 31<sup>st</sup> in the nation on the disparity between state and national performance measures for 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading.
- In math, 58% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 34% who do so on the NAEP. With a 24-point gap, North Dakota ranks 15<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- Among 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 69% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 38% achieve proficiency on the NAEP. With a 31-point gap, North Dakota ranks 20<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available on this measure.
- In math, 44% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 36% who do so on the NAEP. With an 8-point gap, North Dakota ranks 11<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available.

## **7. Teachers' Subject-Matter Qualifications**

- 16% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects are taught by instructors who lack at least a college minor in their subject. North Dakota ranks 5<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 29% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects in high-poverty schools are led by teachers without at least a college minor in their subject. North Dakota ranks 11<sup>th</sup> of the 37 states with data available on this measure.

# Ohio: The State We're In

Among the key findings for the state of Ohio are:

## **1. The Achievement Gap**

- 19% of low-income 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 43% of non-poor students. Ohio ranks 26<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 16% of African-American 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 39% of white students. Ohio ranks 14<sup>th</sup> out of 42 states that had data available on this measure.
- 23% of Latino 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 39% of white students. Ohio ranks 5<sup>th</sup> out of 41 states with data available on this measure.

## **2. Early Childhood Education**

- 19% of 3-year-olds participate in state-sponsored pre-kindergarten or the federal Head Start program. Ohio ranks 12<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 27% of 4-year-olds participate in such programs. Ohio ranks 23<sup>rd</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **3. The High-School-to-College Pipeline**

- The state's high-school graduation rate is 78%. Ohio ranks 10<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 31% of high-school graduates are academically ready for college. Ohio ranks 38<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 56% of high-school graduates enroll in college the fall after they graduate. Ohio ranks 30<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 56% of college freshmen earn a bachelor's degree within 6 years. Ohio ranks 19<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **4. Accessibility of Higher Education**

- 27% of the average family income is required to pay for annual community college expenses after accounting for financial aid. Ohio ranks 41<sup>st</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 36% of the average family income is required to pay for annual expenses at a 4-year public university, after accounting for financial aid. Ohio ranks 49<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

- 72% of Ohio's grants to college students are need-based. Ohio ranks 33<sup>rd</sup> among the 48 states and the District of Columbia for which data are available on this measure.

## **5. Participation in Afterschool Programs**

- 28% of youth go unsupervised after school. Ohio ranks 39<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 7% participate in after-school programs. Ohio ranks 46<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **6. Standards and Student Performance Measurements**

- Among 4<sup>th</sup> graders, 66% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 34% are proficient on the National Assessment of Educational Progress. With a 32-point gap, Ohio ranks 17<sup>th</sup> in the nation on the disparity between state and national performance measures for 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading.
- In math, 59% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 36% who do so on the NAEP. With a 23-point gap, Ohio ranks 13<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- Among 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 87% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 34% achieve proficiency on the NAEP. With a 53-point gap, Ohio ranks 42<sup>nd</sup> out of 47 states with data available on this measure.
- In math, 71% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 30% who do so on the NAEP. With a 41-point gap, Ohio ranks 38<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available.

## **7. Teachers' Subject-Matter Qualifications**

- 30% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects are taught by instructors who lack at least a college minor in their subject. Ohio ranks 39<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 42% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects in high-poverty schools are led by teachers without at least a college minor in their subject. Ohio ranks 28<sup>th</sup> of the 37 states with data available on this measure.

A full report on Ohio, as well as recommendations on each of these issue areas, can be found at: [www.americanprogress.org/schools](http://www.americanprogress.org/schools) or [www.ourfuture.org/task\\_force.cfm](http://www.ourfuture.org/task_force.cfm)

# Oklahoma: The State We're In

Among the key findings for the state of Oklahoma are:

## **1. The Achievement Gap**

- 17% of low-income 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 38% of non-poor students. Oklahoma ranks 16<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 13% of African-American 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 32% of white students. Oklahoma ranks 7<sup>th</sup> out of 42 states that had data available on this measure.
- 14% of Latino 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 32% of white students. Oklahoma ranks 10<sup>th</sup> out of 41 states with data available on this measure.

## **2. Early Childhood Education**

- 16% of 3-year-olds participate in state-sponsored pre-kindergarten or the federal Head Start program. Oklahoma ranks 18<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 82% of 4-year-olds participate in such programs. Oklahoma ranks 1<sup>st</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **3. The High-School-to-College Pipeline**

- The state's high-school graduation rate is 79%. Oklahoma ranks 8<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 37% of high-school graduates are academically ready for college. Oklahoma ranks 12<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 50% of high-school graduates enroll in college the fall after they graduate. Oklahoma ranks 42<sup>nd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 42% of college freshmen earn a bachelor's degree within 6 years. Oklahoma ranks 45<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **4. Accessibility of Higher Education**

- 20% of the average family income is required to pay for annual community college expenses after accounting for financial aid. Oklahoma ranks 11<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 23% of the average family income is required to pay for annual expenses at a 4-year public university, after accounting for financial aid. Oklahoma ranks 6<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

- 71.6% of Oklahoma's grants to college students are need-based. Oklahoma ranks 34<sup>th</sup> among the 48 states and the District of Columbia for which data are available on this measure.

## **5. Participation in Afterschool Programs**

- 25% of youth go unsupervised after school. Oklahoma ranks 28<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 6% participate in after-school programs. Oklahoma ranks 48<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **6. Standards and Student Performance Measurements**

- Among 4<sup>th</sup> graders, 74% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 26% are proficient on the National Assessment of Educational Progress. With a 48-point gap, Oklahoma ranks 39<sup>th</sup> in the nation on the disparity between state and national performance measures for 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading.
- In math, 72% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 23% who do so on the NAEP. With a 49-point gap, Oklahoma ranks 44<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- Among 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 79% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 30% achieve proficiency on the NAEP. With a 49-point gap, Oklahoma ranks 40<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available on this measure.
- In math, 73% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 20% who do so on the NAEP. With a 53-point gap, Oklahoma ranks 46<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available.

## **7. Teachers' Subject-Matter Qualifications**

- 26% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects are taught by instructors who lack at least a college minor in their subject. Oklahoma ranks 29<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 28% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects in high-poverty schools are led by teachers without at least a college minor in their subject. Oklahoma ranks 10<sup>th</sup> of the 37 states with data available on this measure.

# Oregon: The State We're In

Among the key findings for the state of Oregon are:

## **1. The Achievement Gap**

- 18% of low-income 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 37% of non-poor students. Oregon ranks 9<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 19% of African-American 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 34% of white students. Oregon ranks 1<sup>st</sup> out of 42 states that had data available on this measure.
- 15% of Latino 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 34% of white students. Oregon ranks 14<sup>th</sup> out of 41 states with data available on this measure.

## **2. Early Childhood Education**

- 13% of 3-year-olds participate in state-sponsored pre-kindergarten or the federal Head Start program. Oregon ranks 27<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 23% of 4-year-olds participate in such programs. Oregon ranks 33<sup>rd</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **3. The High-School-to-College Pipeline**

- The state's high-school graduation rate is 71%. Oregon ranks 32<sup>nd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 33% of high-school graduates are academically ready for college. Oregon ranks 25<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 51% of high-school graduates enroll in college the fall after they graduate. Oregon ranks 41<sup>st</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 54% of college freshmen earn a bachelor's degree within 6 years. Oregon ranks 24<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **4. Accessibility of Higher Education**

- 29% of the average family income is required to pay for annual community college expenses after accounting for financial aid. Oregon ranks 47<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 34% of the average family income is required to pay for annual expenses at a 4-year public university, after accounting for financial aid. Oregon ranks 44<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

- 100% of Oregon's grants to college students are need-based. Oregon ranks 1<sup>st</sup> among the 48 states and the District of Columbia which for which data are available on this measure.

## **5. Participation in Afterschool Programs**

- 30% of youth go unsupervised after school. Oregon ranks 42<sup>nd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 10% participate in after-school programs. Oregon ranks 28<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **6. Standards and Student Performance Measurements**

- Among 4<sup>th</sup> graders, 83% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 31% are proficient on the National Assessment of Educational Progress. With a 52-point gap, Oregon ranks 43<sup>rd</sup> in the nation on the disparity between state and national performance measures for 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading.
- In math, 78% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 33% who do so on the NAEP. With a 45-point gap, Oregon ranks 38<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- Among 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 60% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 33% achieve proficiency on the NAEP. With a 27-point gap, Oregon ranks 15<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available on this measure.
- In math, 59% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 32% who do so on the NAEP. With a 27-point gap, Oregon ranks 26<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available.

## **7. Teachers' Subject-Matter Qualifications**

- 26% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects are taught by instructors who lack at least a college minor in their subject. Oregon ranks 29<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 49% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects in high-poverty schools are led by teachers without at least a college minor in their subject. Oregon ranks 34<sup>th</sup> of the 37 states with data available on this measure.

A full report on Oregon, as well as recommendations on each of these issue areas, can be found at: [www.americanprogress.org/schools](http://www.americanprogress.org/schools) or [www.ourfuture.org/task\\_force.cfm](http://www.ourfuture.org/task_force.cfm)

# Pennsylvania: The State We're In

Among the key findings for the state of Pennsylvania are:

## **1. The Achievement Gap**

- 14% of low-income 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 44% of non-poor students. Pennsylvania ranks 45<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 9% of African-American 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 40% of white students. Pennsylvania ranks 34<sup>th</sup> out of 42 states that had data available on this measure.
- 10% of Latino 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 40% of white students. Pennsylvania ranks 37<sup>th</sup> out of 41 states with data available on this measure.

## **2. Early Childhood Education**

- 12% of 3-year-olds participate in state-sponsored pre-kindergarten or the federal Head Start program. Pennsylvania ranks 30<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 19% of 4-year-olds participate in such programs. Pennsylvania ranks 44<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **3. The High-School-to-College Pipeline**

- The state's high-school graduation rate is 80%. Pennsylvania ranks 7<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 41% of high-school graduates are academically ready for college. Pennsylvania ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 62% of high-school graduates enroll in college the fall after they graduate. Pennsylvania ranks 13<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 63% of college freshmen earn a bachelor's degree within 6 years. Pennsylvania ranks 4<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **4. Accessibility of Higher Education**

- 23% of the average family income is required to pay for annual community college expenses after accounting for financial aid. Pennsylvania ranks 30<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 35% of the average family income is required to pay for annual expenses at a 4-year public university, after accounting for financial aid. Pennsylvania ranks 47<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

- 99.96% of Pennsylvania's grants to college students are need-based. Pennsylvania ranks 13<sup>th</sup> among the 48 states and the District of Columbia for which data are available on this measure.

## **5. Participation in Afterschool Programs**

- 26% of youth go unsupervised after school. Pennsylvania ranks 31<sup>st</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 9% participate in after-school programs. Pennsylvania ranks 37<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **6. Standards and Student Performance Measurements**

- Among 4<sup>th</sup> graders, 58% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 33% are proficient on the National Assessment of Educational Progress. With a 25-point gap, Pennsylvania ranks 8<sup>th</sup> in the nation on the disparity between state and national performance measures for 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading.
- In math, 56% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 36% who do so on the NAEP. With a 20-point gap, Pennsylvania ranks 11<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- Among 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 63% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 32% achieve proficiency on the NAEP. With a 31-point gap, Pennsylvania ranks 20<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available on this measure.
- In math, 51% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 30% who do so on the NAEP. With a 21-point gap, Pennsylvania ranks 18<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available.

## **7. Teachers' Subject-Matter Qualifications**

- 22% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects are taught by instructors who lack at least a college minor in their subject. Pennsylvania ranks 21<sup>st</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 34% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects in high-poverty schools are led by teachers without at least a college minor in their subject. Pennsylvania ranks 14<sup>th</sup> of the 37 states with data available on this measure.

# Rhode Island: The State We're In

Among the key findings for the state of Rhode Island are:

## **1. The Achievement Gap**

- 14% of low-income 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 41% of non-poor students. Rhode Island ranks 40<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 12% of African-American 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 36% of white students. Rhode Island ranks 19<sup>th</sup> out of 42 states that had data available on this measure.
- 12% of Latino 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 36% of white students. Rhode Island ranks 27<sup>th</sup> out of 41 states with data available on this measure.

## **2. Early Childhood Education**

- 11% of 3-year-olds participate in state-sponsored pre-kindergarten or the federal Head Start program. Rhode Island ranks 36<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 23% of 4-year-olds participate in such programs. Rhode Island ranks 33<sup>rd</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **3. The High-School-to-College Pipeline**

- The state's high-school graduation rate is 74%. Rhode Island ranks 24<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 37% of high-school graduates are academically ready for college. Rhode Island ranks 12<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 66% of high-school graduates enroll in college the fall after they graduate. Rhode Island ranks 4<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 64% of college freshmen earn a bachelor's degree within 6 years. Rhode Island ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **4. Accessibility of Higher Education**

- 28% of the average family income is required to pay for annual community college expenses after accounting for financial aid. Rhode Island ranks 45<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 35% of the average family income is required to pay for annual expenses at a 4-year public university, after accounting for financial aid. Rhode Island ranks 47<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

- 100% of Rhode Island's grants to college students are need-based. Rhode Island ranks 1<sup>st</sup> among the 48 states and the District of Columbia for which data are available on this measure.

## **5. Participation in Afterschool Programs**

- 17% of youth go unsupervised after school. Rhode Island ranks 4<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 18% participate in after-school programs. Rhode Island ranks 4<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **6. Standards and Student Performance Measurements**

- Among 4<sup>th</sup> graders, 62% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 29% are proficient on the National Assessment of Educational Progress. With a 33-point gap, Rhode Island ranks 18<sup>th</sup> in the nation on the disparity between state and national performance measures for 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading.
- In math, 42% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 28% who do so on the NAEP. With a 14-point gap, Rhode Island ranks 8<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- Among 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 41% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 30 achieve proficiency on the NAEP. With an 11-point gap, Rhode Island ranks 8<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available on this measure.
- In math, 34% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 24% who do so on the NAEP. With a 10-point gap, Rhode Island ranks 14<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available.

## **7. Teachers' Subject-Matter Qualifications**

- 18% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects are taught by instructors who lack at least a college minor in their subject. Rhode Island ranks 8<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

A full report on Rhode Island, as well as recommendations on each of these issue areas, can be found at: [www.americanprogress.org/schools](http://www.americanprogress.org/schools) or [www.ourfuture.org/task\\_force.cfm](http://www.ourfuture.org/task_force.cfm)

# South Carolina: The State We're In

Among the key findings for the state of South Carolina are:

## **1. The Achievement Gap**

- 14% of low-income 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 39% of non-poor students. South Carolina ranks 31<sup>st</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 11% of African-American 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 36% of white students. South Carolina ranks 20<sup>th</sup> out of 42 states that had data available on this measure.
- 20% of Latino 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 36% of white students. South Carolina ranks 5<sup>th</sup> out of 41 states with data available on this measure.

## **2. Early Childhood Education**

- 16% of 3-year-olds participate in state-sponsored pre-kindergarten or the federal Head Start program. South Carolina ranks 18<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 51% of 4-year-olds participate in such programs. South Carolina ranks 8<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **3. The High-School-to-College Pipeline**

- The state's high-school graduation rate is 53%. South Carolina ranks 50<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 29% of high-school graduates are academically ready for college. South Carolina ranks 47<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 66% of high-school graduates enroll in college the fall after they graduate. South Carolina ranks 4<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 54% of college freshmen earn a bachelor's degree within 6 years. South Carolina ranks 24<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **4. Accessibility of Higher Education**

- 25% of the average family income is required to pay for annual community college expenses after accounting for financial aid. South Carolina ranks 36<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 32% of the average family income is required to pay for annual expenses at a 4-year public university, after accounting for financial aid. South Carolina ranks 39<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 18.1% of South Carolina's grants to college students are need-based. South Carolina ranks 47<sup>th</sup> among the 48 states and the District of Columbia for which data are available on this measure.

## **5. Participation in Afterschool Programs**

- 24% of youth go unsupervised after school. South Carolina ranks 23<sup>rd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 13% participate in after-school programs. South Carolina ranks 18<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **6. Standards and Student Performance Measurements**

- Among 4<sup>th</sup> graders, 31% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 26% are proficient on the National Assessment of Educational Progress. With a 5-point gap, South Carolina ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> in the nation on the disparity between state and national performance measures for 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading.
- In math, 34% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 32% who do so on the NAEP. With a 2-point gap, South Carolina ranks 6<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- Among 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 20% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 24% achieve proficiency on the NAEP. With proficiency rates on the NAEP exceeding those on the state test by 4 points, South Carolina ranks 1<sup>st</sup> out of 47 states with data available on this measure and is one of 3 states where more students are proficient on the NAEP than on the state test.
- In math, 19% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 26% who do so on the NAEP. With proficiency rates on the NAEP exceeding those on the state test by 7 points, South Carolina ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 47 states with data available and is one of 4 states where more students are proficient on the NAEP than on the state test.

## **7. Teachers' Subject-Matter Qualifications**

- 22% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects are taught by instructors who lack at least a college minor in their subject. South Carolina ranks 21<sup>st</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 13% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects in high-poverty schools are led by teachers without at least a college minor in their subject. South Carolina ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> of the 37 states with data available on this measure.

# South Dakota: The State We're In

Among the key findings for the state of South Dakota are:

## **1. The Achievement Gap**

- 21% of low-income 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 41% of non-poor students. South Dakota ranks 14<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **2. Early Childhood Education**

- 20% of 3-year-olds participate in state-sponsored pre-kindergarten or the federal Head Start program. South Dakota ranks 7<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 27% of 4-year-olds participate in such programs. South Dakota ranks 23<sup>rd</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **3. The High-School-to-College Pipeline**

- The state's high-school graduation rate is 76%. South Dakota ranks 18<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 30% of high-school graduates are academically ready for college. South Dakota ranks 43<sup>rd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 64% of high-school graduates enroll in college the fall after they graduate. South Dakota ranks 8<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 46% of college freshmen earn a bachelor's degree within 6 years. South Dakota ranks 38<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **4. Accessibility of Higher Education**

- 20% of the average family income is required to pay for annual community college expenses after accounting for financial aid. South Dakota ranks 11<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 23% of the average family income is required to pay for annual expenses at a 4-year public university, after accounting for financial aid. South Dakota ranks 6<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **5. Participation in Afterschool Programs**

- 28% of youth go unsupervised after school. South Dakota ranks 39<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 16% participate in after-school programs. South Dakota ranks 8<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **6. Standards and Student Performance Measurements**

- Among 4<sup>th</sup> graders, 85% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 33% are proficient on the National Assessment of Educational Progress. With a 52-point gap, South Dakota ranks 43<sup>rd</sup> in the nation on the disparity between state and national performance measures for 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading.
- In math, 73% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 34% who do so on the NAEP. With a 39-point gap, South Dakota ranks 28<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- Among 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 78% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 39% achieve proficiency on the NAEP. With a 39-point gap, South Dakota ranks 33<sup>rd</sup> out of 47 states with data available on this measure.
- In math, 56% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 35% who do so on the NAEP. With a 21-point gap, South Dakota ranks 18<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available.

## **7. Teachers' Subject-Matter Qualifications**

- 22% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects are taught by instructors who lack at least a college minor in their subject. South Dakota ranks 21<sup>st</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 36% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects in high-poverty schools are led by teachers without at least a college minor in their subject. South Dakota ranks 18<sup>th</sup> of the 37 states with data available on this measure.

A full report on South Dakota, as well as recommendations on each of these issue areas, can be found at: [www.americanprogress.org/schools](http://www.americanprogress.org/schools) or [www.ourfuture.org/task\\_force.cfm](http://www.ourfuture.org/task_force.cfm)

# Tennessee: The State We're In

Among the key findings for the state of Tennessee are:

## **1. The Achievement Gap**

- 15% of low-income 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 34% of non-poor students. Tennessee ranks 9<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 9% of African-American 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 32% of white students. Tennessee ranks 14<sup>th</sup> out of 42 states that had data available on this measure.
- 27% of Latino 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 32% of white students. Tennessee ranks 1<sup>st</sup> out of 41 states with data available on this measure.

## **2. Early Childhood Education**

- 10% of 3-year-olds participate in state-sponsored pre-kindergarten or the federal Head Start program. Tennessee ranks 39<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 22% of 4-year-olds participate in such programs. Tennessee ranks 35<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **3. The High-School-to-College Pipeline**

- The state's high-school graduation rate is 57%. Tennessee ranks 48<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 31% of high-school graduates are academically ready for college. Tennessee ranks 38<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 62% of high-school graduates enroll in college the fall after they graduate. Tennessee ranks 13<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 49% of college freshmen earn a bachelor's degree within 6 years. Tennessee ranks 35<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **4. Accessibility of Higher Education**

- 23% of the average family income is required to pay for annual community college expenses after accounting for financial aid. Tennessee ranks 30<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 27% of the average family income is required to pay for annual expenses at a 4-year public university, after accounting for financial aid. Tennessee ranks 23<sup>rd</sup> in the nation on this measure.

- 98.7% of Tennessee's grants to college students are need-based. Tennessee ranks 19<sup>th</sup> among the 48 states and the District of Columbia for which data are available on this measure.

## **5. Participation in Afterschool Programs**

- 23% of youth go unsupervised after school. Tennessee ranks 17<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 10% participate in after-school programs. Tennessee ranks 28<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **6. Standards and Student Performance Measurements**

- Among 4<sup>th</sup> graders, 80% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 26% are proficient on the National Assessment of Educational Progress. With a 54-point gap, Tennessee ranks 46<sup>th</sup> in the nation on the disparity between state and national performance measures for 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading.
- In math, 79% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 24% who do so on the NAEP. With a 55-point gap, Tennessee ranks 49<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- Among 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 80% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 26% achieve proficiency on the NAEP. With a 54-point gap, Tennessee ranks 43<sup>rd</sup> out of 47 states with data available on this measure.
- In math, 79% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 21% who do so on the NAEP. With a 58-point gap, Tennessee ranks 47<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available.

## **7. Teachers' Subject-Matter Qualifications**

- 36% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects are taught by instructors who lack at least a college minor in their subject. Tennessee ranks 49<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 41% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects in high-poverty schools are led by teachers without at least a college minor in their subject. Tennessee ranks 27<sup>th</sup> of the 37 states with data available on this measure.

# Texas: The State We're In

Among the key findings for the state of Texas are:

## **1. The Achievement Gap**

- 16% of low-income 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 39% of non-poor students. Texas ranks 22<sup>nd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 16% of African-American 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 39% of white students. Texas ranks 14<sup>th</sup> out of 42 states that had data available on this measure.
- 17% of Latino 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 39% of white students. Texas ranks 22<sup>nd</sup> out of 41 states with data available on this measure.

## **2. Early Childhood Education**

- 15% of 3-year-olds participate in state-sponsored pre-kindergarten or the federal Head Start program. Texas ranks 21<sup>st</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 58% of 4-year-olds participate in such programs. Texas ranks 5<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **3. The High-School-to-College Pipeline**

- The state's high-school graduation rate is 68%. Texas ranks 34<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 32% of high-school graduates are academically ready for college. Texas ranks 32<sup>nd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 53% of high-school graduates enroll in college the fall after they graduate. Texas ranks 34<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 49% of college freshmen earn a bachelor's degree within 6 years. Texas ranks 35<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **4. Accessibility of Higher Education**

- 21% of the average family income is required to pay for annual community college expenses after accounting for financial aid. Texas ranks 14<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 26% of the average family income is required to pay for annual expenses at a 4-year public university, after accounting for financial aid. Texas ranks 19<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

- 98.6% of Texas's grants to college students are need-based. Texas ranks 20<sup>th</sup> among the 48 states and the District of Columbia for which data are available on this measure.

## **5. Participation in Afterschool Programs**

- 24% of youth go unsupervised after school. Texas ranks 23<sup>rd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 10% participate in after-school programs. Texas ranks 28<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **6. Standards and Student Performance Measurements**

- Among 4<sup>th</sup> graders, 85% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 27% are proficient on the National Assessment of Educational Progress. With a 58-point gap, Texas ranks 49<sup>th</sup> in the nation on the disparity between state and national performance measures for 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading.
- In math, 87% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 33% who do so on the NAEP. With a 54-point gap, Texas ranks 48<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- Among 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 88% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 26% achieve proficiency on the NAEP. With a 62-point gap, Texas ranks 47<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available on this measure.
- In math, 72% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 25% who do so on the NAEP. With a 47-point gap, Texas ranks 43<sup>rd</sup> out of 47 states with data available.

## **7. Teachers' Subject-Matter Qualifications**

- 30% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects are taught by instructors who lack at least a college minor in their subject. Texas ranks 39<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 36% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects in high-poverty schools are led by teachers without at least a college minor in their subject. Texas ranks 18<sup>th</sup> of the 37 states with data available on this measure.

A full report on Texas, as well as recommendations on each of these issue areas, can be found at: [www.americanprogress.org/schools](http://www.americanprogress.org/schools) or [www.ourfuture.org/task\\_force.cfm](http://www.ourfuture.org/task_force.cfm)

# Utah: The State We're In

Among the key findings for the state of Utah are:

## **1. The Achievement Gap**

- 20% of low-income 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 38% of non-poor students. Utah ranks 4<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 11% of Latino 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 35% of white students. Utah ranks 27<sup>th</sup> out of 41 states with data available on this measure.

## **2. Early Childhood Education**

- 7% of 3-year-olds participate in state-sponsored pre-kindergarten or the federal Head Start program. Utah ranks 50<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 15% of 4-year-olds participate in such programs. Utah ranks 48<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **3. The High-School-to-College Pipeline**

- The state's high-school graduation rate is 78%. Utah ranks 10<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 37% of high-school graduates are academically ready for college. Utah ranks 12<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 38% of high-school graduates enroll in college the fall after they graduate. Utah ranks 50<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 50% of college freshmen earn a bachelor's degree within 6 years. Utah ranks 29<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **4. Accessibility of Higher Education**

- 17% of the average family income is required to pay for annual community college expenses after accounting for financial aid. Utah ranks 1<sup>st</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 18% of the average family income is required to pay for annual expenses at a 4-year public university, after accounting for financial aid. Utah ranks 1<sup>st</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 80.2% of Utah's grants to college students are need-based. Utah ranks 30<sup>th</sup> among the 48 states and the District of Columbia for which data are available on this measure.

## **5. Participation in Afterschool Programs**

- 23% of youth go unsupervised after school. Utah ranks 17<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 5% participate in after-school programs. Utah ranks 50<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **6. Standards and Student Performance Measurements**

- Among 4<sup>th</sup> graders, 78% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 32% are proficient on the National Assessment of Educational Progress. With a 46-point gap, Utah ranks 35<sup>th</sup> in the nation on the disparity between state and national performance measures for 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading.
- In math, 72% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 31% who do so on the NAEP. With a 41-point gap, Utah ranks 31<sup>st</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- Among 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 68% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 32% achieve proficiency on the NAEP. With a 36-point gap, Utah ranks 28<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available on this measure.
- In math, 61% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 31% who do so on the NAEP. With a 30-point gap, Utah ranks 27<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available.

## **7. Teachers' Subject-Matter Qualifications**

- 19% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects are taught by instructors who lack at least a college minor in their subject. Utah ranks 12<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 50% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects in high-poverty schools are led by teachers without at least a college minor in their subject. Utah ranks 35<sup>th</sup> of the 37 states with data available on this measure.

# Vermont: The State We're In

Among the key findings for the state of Vermont are:

## **1. The Achievement Gap**

- 22% of low-income 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 43% of non-poor students. Vermont ranks 16<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **2. Early Childhood Education**

- 20% of 3-year-olds participate in state-sponsored pre-kindergarten or the federal Head Start program. Vermont ranks 7<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 27% of 4-year-olds participate in such programs. Vermont ranks 23<sup>rd</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **3. The High-School-to-College Pipeline**

- The state's high-school graduation rate is 78%. Vermont ranks 10<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 39% of high-school graduates are academically ready for college. Vermont ranks 8<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 45% of high-school graduates enroll in college the fall after they graduate. Vermont ranks 45<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 63% of college freshmen earn a bachelor's degree within 6 years. Vermont ranks 4<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **4. Accessibility of Higher Education**

- 30% of the average family income is required to pay for annual community college expenses after accounting for financial aid. Vermont ranks 49<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 41% of the average family income is required to pay for annual expenses at a 4-year public university, after accounting for financial aid. Vermont ranks 50<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 98.4% of Vermont's grants to college students are need-based. Vermont ranks 21<sup>st</sup> among the 48 states and the District of Columbia for which data are available on this measure.

## **5. Participation in Afterschool Programs**

- 26% of youth go unsupervised after school. Vermont ranks 31<sup>st</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 17% participate in after-school programs. Vermont ranks 6<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **6. Standards and Student Performance Measurements**

- Among 4<sup>th</sup> graders, 70% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 37% are proficient on the National Assessment of Educational Progress. With a 33-point gap, Vermont ranks 18<sup>th</sup> in the nation on the disparity between state and national performance measures for 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading.
- In math, 40% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 42% who do so on the NAEP. With proficiency rates on the NAEP exceeding those on the state test by 2 points, Vermont ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> in the nation on this measure and is one of 4 states where more students are proficient on the NAEP than on the state test.
- Among 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 36% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 39% achieve proficiency on the NAEP. With proficiency rates on the NAEP exceeding those on the state test by 3 points, Vermont ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> out of 47 states with data available on this measure and is one of 3 states where more students are proficient on the NAEP than on the state test.
- In math, 48% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 35% who do so on the NAEP. With a 13-point gap, Vermont ranks 16<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available.

## **7. Teachers' Subject-Matter Qualifications**

- 23% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects are taught by instructors who lack at least a college minor in their subject. Vermont ranks 26<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

A full report on Vermont, as well as recommendations on each of these issue areas, can be found at: [www.americanprogress.org/schools](http://www.americanprogress.org/schools) or [www.ourfuture.org/task\\_force.cfm](http://www.ourfuture.org/task_force.cfm)

# Virginia: The State We're In

Among the key findings for the state of Virginia are:

## **1. The Achievement Gap**

- 16% of low-income 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 44% of non-poor students. Virginia ranks 43<sup>rd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 16% of African-American 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 44% of white students. Virginia ranks 28<sup>th</sup> out of 42 states that had data available on this measure.
- 20% of Latino 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 44% of white students. Virginia ranks 27<sup>th</sup> out of 41 states with data available on this measure.

## **2. Early Childhood Education**

- 8% of 3-year-olds participate in state-sponsored pre-kindergarten or the federal Head Start program. Virginia ranks 47<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 20% of 4-year-olds participate in such programs. Virginia ranks 42<sup>nd</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **3. The High-School-to-College Pipeline**

- The state's high-school graduation rate is 74%. Virginia ranks 24<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 40% of high-school graduates are academically ready for college. Virginia ranks 4<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 53% of high-school graduates enroll in college the fall after they graduate. Virginia ranks 34<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 62% of college freshmen earn a bachelor's degree within 6 years. Virginia ranks 8<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **4. Accessibility of Higher Education**

- 19% of the average family income is required to pay for annual community college expenses after accounting for financial aid. Virginia ranks 7<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 26% of the average family income is required to pay for annual expenses at a 4-year public university, after accounting for financial aid. Virginia ranks 19<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

- 74.1% of Virginia's grants to college students are need-based. Virginia ranks 32<sup>nd</sup> among the 48 states and the District of Columbia for which data are available on this measure.

## **5. Participation in Afterschool Programs**

- 27% of youth go unsupervised after school. Virginia ranks 35<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 9% participate in after-school programs. Virginia ranks 37<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **6. Standards and Student Performance Measurements**

- Among 4<sup>th</sup> graders, 73% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 35% are proficient on the National Assessment of Educational Progress. With a 38-point gap, Virginia ranks 24<sup>th</sup> in the nation on the disparity between state and national performance measures for 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading.
- In math, 83% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 36% who do so on the NAEP. With a 47-point gap, Virginia ranks 42<sup>nd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- Among 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 70% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 36% achieve proficiency on the NAEP. With a 34-point gap, Virginia ranks 27<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available on this measure.
- In math, 75% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 31% who do so on the NAEP. With a 44-point gap, Virginia ranks 41<sup>st</sup> out of 47 states with data available.

## **7. Teachers' Subject-Matter Qualifications**

- 28% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects are taught by instructors who lack at least a college minor in their subject. Virginia ranks 35<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 38% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects in high-poverty schools are led by teachers without at least a college minor in their subject. Virginia ranks 23<sup>rd</sup> of the 37 states with data available on this measure.

# Washington: The State We're In

Among the key findings for the state of Washington are:

## **1. The Achievement Gap**

- 20% of low-income 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 42% of non-poor students. Washington ranks 20<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 23% of African-American 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 38% of white students. Washington ranks 1<sup>st</sup> out of 42 states that had data available on this measure.
- 16% of Latino 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 38% of white students. Washington ranks 22<sup>nd</sup> out of 41 states with data available on this measure.

## **2. Early Childhood Education**

- 10% of 3-year-olds participate in state-sponsored pre-kindergarten or the federal Head Start program. Washington ranks 39<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 22% of 4-year-olds participate in such programs. Washington ranks 35<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **3. The High-School-to-College Pipeline**

- The state's high-school graduation rate is 72%. Washington ranks 28<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 34% of high-school graduates are academically ready for college. Washington ranks 20<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 45% of high-school graduates enroll in college the fall after they graduate. Washington ranks 45<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 63% of college freshmen earn a bachelor's degree within 6 years. Washington ranks 4<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **4. Accessibility of Higher Education**

- 27% of the average family income is required to pay for annual community college expenses after accounting for financial aid. Washington ranks 41<sup>st</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 31% of the average family income is required to pay for annual expenses at a 4-year public university, after accounting for financial aid. Washington ranks 36<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

- 93.9% of Washington's grants to college students are need-based. Washington ranks 24<sup>th</sup> among the 48 states and the District of Columbia for which data are available on this measure.

## **5. Participation in Afterschool Programs**

- 31% of youth go unsupervised after school. Washington ranks 44<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 8% participate in after-school programs. Washington ranks 42<sup>nd</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **6. Standards and Student Performance Measurements**

- Among 4<sup>th</sup> graders, 67% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 33% are proficient on the National Assessment of Educational Progress. With a 34-point gap, Washington ranks 20<sup>th</sup> in the nation on the disparity between state and national performance measures for 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading.
- In math, 55% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 36% who do so on the NAEP. With a 19-point gap, Washington ranks 10<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- Among 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 48% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 33% achieve proficiency on the NAEP. With a 15-point gap, Washington ranks 9<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available on this measure.
- In math, 37% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 32% who do so on the NAEP. With a 5-point gap, Washington ranks 9<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available.

## **7. Teachers' Subject-Matter Qualifications**

- 26% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects are taught by instructors who lack at least a college minor in their subject. Washington ranks 29<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 35% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects in high-poverty schools are led by teachers without at least a college minor in their subject. Washington ranks 16<sup>th</sup> of the 37 states with data available on this measure.

A full report on Washington, as well as recommendations on each of these issue areas, can be found at: [www.americanprogress.org/schools](http://www.americanprogress.org/schools) or [www.ourfuture.org/task\\_force.cfm](http://www.ourfuture.org/task_force.cfm)

# West Virginia: The State We're In

Among the key findings for the state of West Virginia are:

## **1. The Achievement Gap**

- 21% of low-income 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 38% of non-poor students. West Virginia ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 13% of African-American 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 29% of white students. West Virginia ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 42 states that had data available on this measure.

## **2. Early Childhood Education**

- 27% of 3-year-olds participate in state-sponsored pre-kindergarten or the federal Head Start program. West Virginia ranks 4<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 58% of 4-year-olds participate in such programs. West Virginia ranks 5<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **3. The High-School-to-College Pipeline**

- The state's high-school graduation rate is 76%. West Virginia ranks 18<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 41% of high-school graduates are academically ready for college. West Virginia ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 52% of high-school graduates enroll in college the fall after they graduate. West Virginia ranks 39<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 44% of college freshmen earn a bachelor's degree within 6 years. West Virginia ranks 39<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **4. Accessibility of Higher Education**

- 27% of the average family income is required to pay for annual community college expenses after accounting for financial aid. West Virginia ranks 41<sup>st</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 29% of the average family income is required to pay for annual expenses at a 4-year public university, after accounting for financial aid. West Virginia ranks 29<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

- 42.6% of West Virginia's grants to college students are need-based. West Virginia ranks 42<sup>nd</sup> among the 48 states and the District of Columbia for which data are available on this measure.

## **5. Participation in Afterschool Programs**

- 16% of youth go unsupervised after school. West Virginia ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 6% participate in after-school programs. West Virginia ranks 48<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **6. Standards and Student Performance Measurements**

- Among 4<sup>th</sup> graders, 73% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 29% are proficient on the National Assessment of Educational Progress. With a 44-point gap, West Virginia ranks 33<sup>rd</sup> in the nation on the disparity between state and national performance measures for 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading.
- In math, 69% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 24% who do so on the NAEP. With a 45-point gap, West Virginia ranks 38<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- Among 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 80% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 25% achieve proficiency on the NAEP. With a 55-point gap, West Virginia ranks 44<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available on this measure.
- In math, 69% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 20% who do so on the NAEP. With a 49-point gap, West Virginia ranks 44<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available.

## **7. Teachers' Subject-Matter Qualifications**

- 30% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects are taught by instructors who lack at least a college minor in their subject. West Virginia ranks 39<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 39% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects in high-poverty schools are led by teachers without at least a college minor in their subject. West Virginia ranks 24<sup>th</sup> of the 37 states with data available on this measure.

# Wisconsin: The State We're In

Among the key findings for the state of Wisconsin are:

## **1. The Achievement Gap**

- 18% of low-income 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 39% of non-poor students. Wisconsin ranks 16<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 13% of African-American 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 36% of white students. Wisconsin ranks 14<sup>th</sup> out of 42 states that had data available on this measure.
- 20% of Latino 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 36% of white students. Wisconsin ranks 5<sup>th</sup> out of 41 states with data available on this measure.

## **2. Early Childhood Education**

- 15% of 3-year-olds participate in state-sponsored pre-kindergarten or the federal Head Start program. Wisconsin ranks 21<sup>st</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 43% of 4-year-olds participate in such programs. Wisconsin ranks 10<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **3. The High-School-to-College Pipeline**

- The state's high-school graduation rate is 85%. Wisconsin ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 34% of high-school graduates are academically ready for college. Wisconsin ranks 20<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 57% of high-school graduates enroll in college the fall after they graduate. Wisconsin ranks 29<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 58% of college freshmen earn a bachelor's degree within 6 years. Wisconsin ranks 13<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **4. Accessibility of Higher Education**

- 18% of the average family income is required to pay for annual community college expenses after accounting for financial aid. Wisconsin ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 22% of the average family income is required to pay for annual expenses at a 4-year public university, after accounting for financial aid. Wisconsin ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> in the nation on this measure.

- 95.9% of Wisconsin's grants to college students are need-based. Wisconsin ranks 23<sup>rd</sup> among the 48 states and the District of Columbia for which data are available on this measure.

## **5. Participation in Afterschool Programs**

- 31% of youth go unsupervised after school. Wisconsin ranks 44<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 10% participate in after-school programs. Wisconsin ranks 28<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **6. Standards and Student Performance Measurements**

- Among 4<sup>th</sup> graders, 82% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 33% are proficient on the National Assessment of Educational Progress. With a 49-point gap, Wisconsin ranks 41<sup>st</sup> in the nation on the disparity between state and national performance measures for 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading.
- In math, 72% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 35% who do so on the NAEP. With a 37-point gap, Wisconsin ranks 26<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- Among 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 84% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 37% achieve proficiency on the NAEP. With a 47-point gap, Wisconsin ranks 39<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available on this measure.
- In math, 76% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 35% who do so on the NAEP. With a 41-point gap, Wisconsin ranks 38<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available.

## **7. Teachers' Subject-Matter Qualifications**

- 14% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects are taught by instructors who lack at least a college minor in their subject. Wisconsin ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> in the nation on this measure.

A full report on Wisconsin, as well as recommendations on each of these issue areas, can be found at: [www.americanprogress.org/schools](http://www.americanprogress.org/schools) or [www.ourfuture.org/task\\_force.cfm](http://www.ourfuture.org/task_force.cfm)

# Wyoming: The State We're In

Among the key findings for the state of Wyoming are:

## **1. The Achievement Gap**

- 23% of low-income 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 40% of non-poor other students. Wyoming ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 23% of Latino 4<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in reading, compared to 36% of white students. Wyoming ranks 4<sup>th</sup> out of 41 states with data available on this measure.

## **2. Early Childhood Education**

- 20% of 3-year-olds participate in state-sponsored pre-kindergarten or the federal Head Start program. Wyoming ranks 7<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 30% of 4-year-olds participate in such programs. Wyoming ranks 20<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **3. The High-School-to-College Pipeline**

- The state's high-school graduation rate is 73%. Wyoming ranks 27<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 34% of high-school graduates are academically ready for college. Wyoming ranks 20<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 52% of high-school graduates enroll in college the fall after they graduate. Wyoming ranks 39<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 57% of college freshmen earn a bachelor's degree within 6 years. Wyoming ranks 18<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **4. Accessibility of Higher Education**

- 21% of the average family income is required to pay for annual community college expenses after accounting for financial aid. Wyoming ranks 14<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 24% of the average family income is required to pay for annual expenses at a 4-year public university, after accounting for financial aid. Wyoming ranks 12<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 100% of Wyoming's grants to college students are need-based. Wyoming ranks 1<sup>st</sup> among the 48 states and the District of Columbia for which data are available on this measure.

## **5. Participation in Afterschool Programs**

- 21% of youth go unsupervised after school. Wyoming ranks 11<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.
- 16% participate in after-school programs. Wyoming ranks 8<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

## **6. Standards and Student Performance Measurements**

- Among 4<sup>th</sup> graders, 44% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 34% are proficient on the National Assessment of Educational Progress. With a 10-point gap, Wyoming ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> in the nation on the disparity between state and national performance measures for 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading.
- In math, 37% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 39% who do so on the NAEP. With proficiency rates on the NAEP exceeding those on the state test by 2 points, Wyoming ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> in the nation on this measure and is one of 4 states where more students are proficient on the NAEP than on the state test.
- Among 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 39% of students are proficient on the state reading test, while 34% achieve proficiency on the NAEP. With a 5-point gap, Wyoming ranks 4<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available on this measure.
- In math, 35% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders achieve proficiency on the state math test, compared to 32% who do so on the NAEP. With a 3-point gap, Wyoming ranks 7<sup>th</sup> out of 47 states with data available.

## **7. Teachers' Subject-Matter Qualifications**

- 19% of middle- and high-school classes in core academic subjects are taught by instructors who lack at least a college minor in their subject. Wyoming ranks 12<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure.

# Measures and Sources

*Education: The State We're In* brings together publicly available data for the 50 states across seven issue areas. Within each issue area, states are ranked from first to last (1=best, 50=worst) across a number of measures. The specific measures and sources for each are described below.

## 1. The Achievement Gap

- % of low-income 4<sup>th</sup> graders achieving proficiency in reading on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2003
- % of non-poor 4<sup>th</sup> graders achieving proficiency in reading on the NAEP, 2003
- % of white 4<sup>th</sup> graders achieving proficiency in reading on the NAEP, 2003
- % of African-American 4<sup>th</sup> graders achieving proficiency in reading on the NAEP, 2003
- % of Latino 4<sup>th</sup> graders achieving proficiency in reading on the NAEP, 2003

**Source:** Daane, M. and P. Donahue and W. Grigg, *The Nation's Report Card: Reading Highlights 2003* (Washington, DC: National Center for Education Statistics, Nov. 2003).

## 2. Early Childhood Education

- % of 3-year-olds participating in state-sponsored pre-kindergarten programs, Head Start or special education, 2002-03

**Source:** Barnett, Steve and Jason T. Hustedt, *The State of Preschool: 2004 State Preschool Yearbook* (New Jersey: Rutgers University, 2004).

- % of 4-year-olds participating in state-sponsored pre-kindergarten programs, Head Start or special education, 2002-03

**Source:** Barnett, Steve and Jason T. Hustedt, *The State of Preschool: 2004 State Preschool Yearbook* (New Jersey: Rutgers University, 2004).

- States in which all districts are required to offer full-day kindergarten, 2005

**Source:** Education Commission of the States, "State Statutes Regarding Kindergarten," *State Notes* (Denver, CO: Education Commission of the States, Updated April 2005).

- Kindergarten attendance requirements

**Source:** Education Commission of the States, "State Statutes Regarding Kindergarten," *State Notes* (Denver, CO: Education Commission of the States, Updated April 2005).

## 3. The High-School-to-College Pipeline

- High-school graduation rates, 2002 (% of entering high-school freshman who graduate with a regular diploma – not a GED – in four years, after accounting for moves and transfers)

**Source:** Greene, Jay P. and Marcus Winters. *Public High School Graduation and College-Readiness Rates: 1991-2002*, (New York, NY: The Manhattan Institute, Feb. 2005).

- College readiness rates, 2002 (% of students in the class of 2002 who were "college ready," which is defined as having attained a regular high-school diploma, having completed a minimum set of course requirements, and being able to read at a basic level)

**Source:** Greene, Jay P. and Marcus Winters. *Public High School Graduation and College-Readiness Rates: 1991-2002*, (New York, NY: The Manhattan Institute, Feb. 2005).

- College enrollment rates, 2002 (% of high-school graduates who enroll in college the fall following graduation)

**Source:** Committee for Economic Development. *Cracks in the Education Pipeline: A Business Leader's Guide to Higher Education Reform* (Washington, DC: May 2005).

- College graduation rates, 2003 (% of entering college freshmen who graduate after six years)

**Source:** Committee for Economic Development. *Cracks in the Education Pipeline: A Business Leader's Guide to Higher Education Reform* (Washington, DC: May 2005).

#### **4. Accessibility of Higher Education**

- % of average family income required to pay for annual community college expenses minus federal, state and institutional financial aid, 2003-04

**Source:** National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, *Measuring Up 2004*, Available at: <http://measuringup.highereducation.org/downloads.cfm>

- % of average family income required to pay for annual four-year public university expenses minus federal, state, and institutional aid, 2003-04

**Source:** National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, *Measuring Up 2004*, Available at: <http://measuringup.highereducation.org/downloads.cfm>

- Need-based grants to college students as a % of total state-sponsored financial aid grants to college students, 2003-04

**Source:** National Association of State Student Grant Aid Programs, *35<sup>th</sup> Annual Survey Report on State Sponsored Student Financial Aid* (Washington, DC: NASSGAP, 2004).

#### **5. Participation in Afterschool Programs**

- % of youth in grades K-12 who go unsupervised during the after-school hours, 2003
- % of youth in grades K-12 who participate in after-school programs, 2003

**Source:** Afterschool Alliance, *America After 3 p.m.: A Household Survey on Afterschool in America* (Washington, DC: Afterschool Alliance, 2004).

#### **6. Standards and Student Performance Measurements**

- % of 4<sup>th</sup>-grade students achieving proficiency on state reading and math tests, 2003
- % of 4<sup>th</sup>-grade students achieving proficiency in reading and math on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2003

- % of 8<sup>th</sup>-grade students achieving proficiency on state reading and math tests, 2003
- % of 8<sup>th</sup>-grade students achieving proficiency in reading and math on the NAEP, 2003

**Source:** Skinner, Ronald A., "State of the States," *Education Week*, Jan. 6, 2005.

#### **7. Teachers' Subject-Matter Qualifications**

- % of all middle- and high-school core academic classes led by a teacher without at least a college minor in the subject, 1999-2000

**Source:** Jerald, Craig D. and Richard M. Ingersoll, *All Talk, No Action: Putting an End to Out-of-Field Teaching*, (Washington, DC: The Education Trust, Aug. 2002).

- % of middle- and high-school core academic classes in high-poverty schools led by a teacher without at least a college minor in the subject, 1999-2000 (High-poverty schools are defined here as those where 50% or more of the students qualify for the federal free- and reduced-price lunch program.)

**Source:** Jerald, Craig D. and Richard M. Ingersoll, *All Talk, No Action: Putting an End to Out-of-Field Teaching*, (Washington, DC: The Education Trust, Aug. 2002).

- States with financial incentives to attract teachers to hard-to-staff schools and critical shortage subject areas

**Source:** Johnson, Jeremiah, "State Financial Incentive Policies for Recruiting and Retaining Effective New Teachers in Hard-to-Staff Schools" (Denver, CO: Education Commission of the States, May 2005).

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