

MAYORS AND CITY LEADERS TOOLKIT: STATE OF OUR CITIES

Being fluent in each issue facing your city, including education, can be a challenge for any mayor or city leader. In education alone, complex issues ranging from early childhood education to high school graduation rates demand attention. Reliable information isn't always readily available. How can you find the data you need about student performance in your city if you don't know where to look?

State of Our Cities, an innovative resource from the George W. Bush Institute, puts the best available education data right at your fingertips. This toolkit is designed to help you get maximum benefits from all that *State of Our Cities* offers, including how to understand the data it features and how to use customizable communication tools that can be adapted to a wide variety of needs. The toolkit also provides a set of action-oriented recommendations that can help you to advance education policy implementation in your city.

Toolkit Features

- One-Pager: How to Use the Data
- One-Pager: A Guide to the City Reports
- One-Pager: A Guide to the Explore Page
- One-Pager: A Guide to the TUDA Chart
- Talking Points
- Engagement Ideas
- Presentation Tip Sheet

Reliable Education Data to Drive Decision-Making

As a mayor or city leader, you have a crucial role to play when it comes to improving our nation's schools. Increased local control has expanded mayors' involvement in education policy-making and implementation. Now, more than ever, mayors need reliable data on education in their cities.

Although large amounts of data are collected and disseminated at the state and national levels, city-level education data is less prevalent and, when it is available, it can be difficult to access. In response to this need and with the partnership of the Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings, the Bush Institute built *State of Our Cities* to organize and visualize the best available city-level education data in a single, easy-to-use platform.

Equipped with a range of features that analyze and compare data across key topics and performance indicators, *State of Our Cities* helps mayors and city leaders identify areas in which their cities are succeeding, where they need to improve, and how their city compares to other cities throughout the country.