



A quality K-12 education system plays an important role in a city’s economic success, but it can be challenging for local policymakers to access the data they need to make informed decisions about education issues. *State of Our Cities* aggregates this data in a single platform where users can view and compare profiles of the public education system in each of the 114 cities featured in the tool.

Each city profile provides information on these key topics:

- Academic outcomes
- District trends
- School finance
- College and career pathways
- School characteristics and environment
- Early childhood education
- Demographic information

Explore the data on these topics to gain a picture of how a city’s education system is performing for students from pre-kindergarten through high school graduation, and beyond into college and career.

Learn about the indicators within each data category:

Academic Outcomes

Data Indicators	What the Data Shows	How You Can Use the Data
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trial Urban District Assessments (TUDA) • State assessments • Middle school algebra • Global Report Card 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic achievement and the estimated percentages of students eligible for free and reduced-price lunch by student subgroup in math and reading for grades 4 and 8, shown over time • Student proficiency on state assessments in math and reading over time • Percentage of students who passed Algebra in 7th or 8th grade by subgroup for the two most recent years available • Percentile rank of the district in math and reading indicating the level of average student achievement as compared to achievement of international peers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data trends show changes over time • Comparison data can identify how similar cities stack up • Consider several data indicators to get a more complete understanding of how students are doing academically



District Trends

Data Indicators	What the Data Shows	How You Can Use the Data
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total enrollment • Charter school enrollment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total enrollment trends over time • Enrollment by subgroup in the city (including charter schools, if applicable) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enrollment subgroup data can provide a helpful baseline for making meaning of other data indicators that are reported by subgroup

School Finance

Data Indicators	What the Data Shows	How You Can Use the Data
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education revenue and spending • Average teacher salary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revenue and spending trends indicate how the amounts and sources of funding for a district have changed over time • Average teacher salary reported as actual and adjusted for cost of living • Cities with compensation models that include pay for performance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education revenue and spending data can benchmark your city's investment per student and overall in education • Teacher salaries of similar cities can shed light on competitiveness for attracting educators to your city • Revenue and spending trends indicate how the amounts and sources of funding for a district have changed over time

College and Career Pathways

Data Indicators	What the Data Shows	How You Can Use the Data
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AP course participation • SAT and ACT performance • High school graduation rate • FAFSA completion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AP course participation broken down by subgroup for the two most recent years available • College admission test scores overall and by subject broken out by subgroup, over time • High school graduation rate over time and by subgroup • Percentage of Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) completed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data metrics reported by subgroup can show the impact of programs targeting at-risk students • FAFSA completion rates are a strong predictor of a student's likelihood to pursue higher education



School Characteristics and Environment

Data Indicators	What the Data Shows	How You Can Use the Data
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teacher absenteeism • Number of new teachers • Number of suspensions • Rates of chronic absenteeism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of teachers who were absent for more than 10 days during the two most recent years of available data • Percentage of teachers who were in their first or second year of teaching during the two most recent years of available data • Rates of suspension by race and gender for the most recent year available • The percentage of students who missed 15 days of school or more for the most recent year of data available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistently high rates of teacher absenteeism or new teachers each year can indicate challenges within the system • High rates of suspensions or chronic absenteeism can be predictive of low graduation rates

Early Childhood

Data Indicators	What the Data Shows	How You Can Use the Data
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early childhood program enrollment • Availability of programs for eligible students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of students that receive early childhood services by subgroup and over time • Types of pre-K programs available to students (full day, half day) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early childhood data sheds light on the efficacy of programs and policies that can support success for students throughout their educational careers • Enrollment numbers can point to the availability of and access to publicly funded pre-kindergarten programs in your city