
Now more than ever before, local policymakers have an even greater role to play in improving the schools in their cities.

While education data is often shared at the state level, it is rarely collected and aggregated for display and comparison at the city level.

State of Our Cities provides access to credible and comparable education data profiles so that you can better understand your city's education landscape and more effectively engage in education policy conversations.

The Data

- All data in *State of Our Cities* is from publicly available sources and does not include any personally identifiable information about individual students. The majority of the data comes from the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), the US Department of Education Office of Civil Rights' (OCR) Civil Rights Data Collection, and Ed Facts.
- *State of Our Cities* will be routinely updated with newly available data and with new Spotlight sections that further explore key education issues.

The Tool

- *State of Our Cities* is a valuable resource to better understand what's going well in your city, identify challenges, and to see what's working in other cities similar to your own.
- The tool is also a guide for understanding a broad range of education data for over 114 cities across the United States.
- City profiles show comparable performance on several indicators, including student assessments; supported pathways to college and career; early childhood education; and effective educators and principals.
- Armed with information from *State of Our Cities*, you can work with fellow policymakers and stakeholders in your community to address education-related needs and accelerate school improvement.
- The 114 cities in the tool are represented by their largest or most centrally located district.
- The Bush Institute will add all comparable, valid and reliable data to the tool as it becomes available.

The Genesis

- *State of Our Cities* is an interactive and expanded version of the Mayors' Report Card on Education, which was released at the request of Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings in January 2015 at the U.S. Conference of Mayors Winter Meeting.
- *State of Our Cities* is part of the George W. Bush Institute's Education Reform initiative to help ensure all students are on a path to success.