

The Condition of Education 2021 At a Glance

More information is available at nces.ed.gov/programs/coe.

Family Characteristics

Characteristics of Children's Families	2018	2019	Change between years
Highest level of education attained by parents of children under age 18			
Percentage who lived in households in which no parent had completed high school	9.4%	9.0%	▼
Percentage whose highest level of education attained by either parent was a bachelor's or higher degree	41.8%	42.6%	▲
Percentage of children under age 18 living in mother-only households	26.4%	26.2%	
Percentage of children under age 18 in families living in poverty	17.5%	16.3%	▼

Preprimary, Elementary, and Secondary Education

Enrollment Rates of Young Children	2018	2019	Change between years
Percentage of 3- to 5-year-olds enrolled in school			
3- to 4-year-olds	48%	49%	▲
5-year-olds	86%	86%	
Public School Enrollment	Fall 2017	Fall 2018	
Number of students enrolled in public schools	50.686 million	50.694 million	▲
Prekindergarten through grade 8	35.496 million	35.498 million	▲
Grades 9 through 12	15.190 million	15.196 million	▲
Public Charter School Enrollment	Fall 2017	Fall 2018	
Number of students enrolled in public charter schools	3.1 million	3.3 million	▲
Percentage of public school students enrolled in charter schools	6%	7%	▲
Number of public charter schools	7,200	7,400	▲
Percentage of public schools that are charter schools	7%	8%	▲
English Language Learners in Public Schools	Fall 2017	Fall 2018	
Percentage of public school students who were English language learners	10.1%	10.2%	▲
Racial/Ethnic Enrollment in Public Schools	Fall 2017	Fall 2018	
Percentage of public school students			
White	47.596%	47.037%	▼
Black	15.210%	15.128%	▼
Hispanic	26.775%	27.172%	▲
Asian	5.208%	5.276%	▲
Pacific Islander	0.365%	0.366%	▲
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.982%	0.967%	▼
Two or more races	3.864%	4.053%	▲
Private School Enrollment	Fall 2015	Fall 2017	
Number of students enrolled in private schools	5.8 million	5.7 million	
Percentage of all students enrolled in private schools	10.2%	10.1%	▼
Students With Disabilities	2018–19	2019–20	
Number of students ages 3-21 receiving special education services	7.1 million	7.3 million	▲
Percentage of public school students ages 3-21 receiving special education services	14.1%	14.4%	▲
Children's Internet Access at Home	2018	2019	
Percentage of 3- to 18-year-olds who had home internet access	93.9%	94.6%	▲
Percentage of 3- to 18-year-olds who had home internet access only through smartphone	6.0%	6.5%	▲

See notes at end of table.

LEGEND: ▲ = Higher, ▼ = Lower, Blank = Not measurably different

At a Glance

	1999–2000	2017–18	Change between years
Characteristics of Public School Teachers			
Total number of public school teachers	3.0 million	3.5 million	▲
In elementary schools	1.6 million	1.8 million	▲
In secondary schools	1.4 million	1.8 million	▲
Percentage of public school teachers			
Who are female	75%	76%	▲
Who are male	25%	24%	▼
Who held a postbaccalaureate degree	47%	58%	▲
Who held a regular teaching certificate	87%	90%	▲
Annual base salary of public school teachers ¹	2011–12 \$59,100	2017–18 \$59,100	
Reading Performance			
Percentage of students who scored at or above <i>NAEP Proficient</i> ²	2017	2019	
4th-grade students	37%	35%	▼
8th-grade students	36%	34%	▼
12th-grade students	2013 38%	2015 37%	
Mathematics Performance			
Percentage of students who scored at or above <i>NAEP Proficient</i> ²	2017	2019	
4th-grade students	40%	41%	
8th-grade students	34%	34%	
12th-grade students	2013 26%	2015 25%	
Status Dropout Rates			
Percentage of 16- to 24-year-olds not enrolled in school who have not completed high school	2018	2019	
Male	5.3%	5.1%	▼
Female	6.2%	6.0%	▼
White	4.4%	4.2%	▼
Black	4.2%	4.1%	
Hispanic	6.4%	5.6%	▼
Asian	8.0%	7.7%	
Pacific Islander	1.9%	1.8%	
American Indian/Alaska Native	8.1%	8.0%	
Two or more races	9.5%	9.6%	
Two or more races	5.2%	5.1%	
Public High School Graduation Rates			
Adjusted cohort graduation rate (ACGR) ³	2017–18 85%	2018–19 86%	▲
Public School Revenue Sources¹			
Total	2016–17 \$747 billion	2017–18 \$761 billion	▲
Federal	\$61 billion	\$59 billion	▼
State	\$351 billion	\$357 billion	▲
Local	\$335 billion	\$345 billion	▲
Public School Expenditures¹			
Total expenditures	2016–17 \$749 billion	2017–18 \$762 billion	▲
Total expenditures per pupil (in fall enrollment)	\$14,664	\$14,891	▲

See notes at end of table.

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Postsecondary Education

			Change between years
Immediate College Enrollment Rate	2018	2019	
Immediate college enrollment rate of high school completers	69%	66%	
2-year institutions	26%	22%	
4-year institutions	44%	44%	
White (3-year moving average)	69%	69%	
Black (3-year moving average)	58%	57%	
Hispanic (3-year moving average)	63%	64%	
Asian (3-year moving average)	82%	82%	
Undergraduate Enrollment	Fall 2018	Fall 2019	
Total enrollment	16.616 million	16.565 million	▼
Full-time enrollment	10.266 million	10.220 million	▼
Part-time enrollment	6.350 million	6.345 million	▼
Percentage enrolled in any distance education course	34%	36%	▲
Percentage enrolled exclusively in distance education	14%	15%	▲
Postbaccalaureate Enrollment	Fall 2018	Fall 2019	
Total enrollment	3.04 million	3.07 million	▲
Full-time enrollment	1.72 million	1.75 million	▲
Part-time enrollment	1.31 million	1.33 million	▲
Percentage enrolled in any distance education course	40%	42%	▲
Percentage enrolled exclusively in distance education	31%	33%	▲
Characteristics of Degree-Granting Postsecondary Institutions	2017–18	2018–19	
Total number of degree-granting institutions with first-year undergraduates	3,900	3,700	▼
Number of 4-year institutions with first-year undergraduates	2,400	2,300	▼
Number of 2-year institutions with first-year undergraduates	1,500	1,300	▼
Characteristics of Postsecondary Faculty	Fall 2017	Fall 2018	
Number of full-time instructional faculty ⁴	822,500	832,100	▲
Number of part-time instructional faculty	723,100	710,500	▼
Postsecondary Certificates and Degrees Conferred	2017–18	2018–19	
Number of degrees/certificates conferred by postsecondary institutions			
Certificates	955,500	1,000,000	▲
Associate's degrees	1,011,700	1,036,700	▲
Bachelor's degrees	1,980,700	2,012,900	▲
Master's degrees	820,200	833,700	▲
Doctor's degrees	183,700	187,600	▲
Undergraduate Degree Fields	2017–18	2018–19	
Number of bachelor's degrees conferred (top three bachelor's programs)			
Business	386,200	390,600	▲
Health professions and related programs	244,900	251,400	▲
Social sciences and history	160,000	160,600	▲
Graduate Degree Fields	2017–18	2018–19	
Number of master's degrees conferred (top three master's programs)			
Business	192,190	197,090	▲
Education	146,370	146,430	▲
Health professions and related programs	125,230	131,570	▲

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At a Glance

	2017–18	2018–19	Change between years
Undergraduate Retention and Graduation Rates			
4-year institutions			
Retention rate of first-time undergraduates	81.0%	81.3%	▲
Graduation rate (within 6 years of starting program) of first-time, full-time undergraduates	62.4%	63.4%	▲
2-year institutions			
Retention rate of first-time undergraduates	62.3%	63.0%	▲
Graduation rate (within 150% of normal time for degree completion) of first-time, full-time undergraduates	32.3%	33.5%	▲
Price of Attending an Undergraduate Institution¹			
Average net price at 4-year institutions for first-time, full-time undergraduate students			
Public, in-state or in-district ⁵	\$13,850	\$13,890	▲
Private nonprofit	\$27,410	\$27,240	▼
Private for-profit	\$22,690	\$23,830	▲
Sources of Financial Aid			
Percentage of students receiving any financial aid at 4-year institutions	85.691%	85.689%	▼
Percentage of students receiving any financial aid at 2-year institutions	78.151%	79.014%	▲
Postsecondary Institution Revenues¹			
Revenue from tuition and fees per full-time-equivalent (FTE) student			
Public institutions	\$7,980	\$7,990	▲
Private nonprofit institutions	\$22,710	\$22,690	▼
Private for-profit institutions	\$17,080	\$17,420	▲
Postsecondary Institution Expenses¹			
Instruction expenses per full-time-equivalent (FTE) student			
Public institutions	\$11,000	\$11,010	▲
Private nonprofit institutions	\$18,990	\$19,150	▲
Private for-profit institutions	\$4,560	\$4,730	▲
Population Characteristics and Economic Outcomes			
Educational Attainment of Young Adults			
Percentage of 25- to 29-year-olds with selected levels of educational attainment			
Who had completed at least high school	94%	95%	▲
Who attained an associate's or higher degree	49%	50%	
Who attained a bachelor's or higher degree	39%	39%	
Who attained a master's or higher degree	9%	9%	
Employment and Unemployment Rates by Educational Attainment			
Employment rates of 25- to 34-year-olds			
Total	79%	78%	▼
Who had not completed high school	57%	57%	
Who completed high school as highest level	74%	69%	▼
Who attained a bachelor's or higher degree	87%	86%	
Unemployment rates of 25- to 34-year-olds			
Total	4%	5%	▲
Who had not completed high school	10%	9%	
Who completed high school as highest level	6%	9%	▲
Who attained a bachelor's or higher degree	2%	3%	▲

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Annual Earnings by Educational Attainment	2018	2019	Change between years
Median annual earnings for 25- to 34-year-olds ¹			
Total	\$45,700	\$46,700	
Who completed less than high school	\$28,400	\$29,300	
Who completed high school as highest level	\$35,500	\$35,000	▼
Who completed some college, but did not attain a degree	\$37,000	\$39,700	
Who attained an associate's degree	\$40,700	\$40,000	
Who attained a bachelor's or higher degree	\$59,000	\$59,700	
Who attained a bachelor's degree	\$55,700	\$55,700	
Who attained a master's or higher degree	\$66,200	\$70,000	▲

International Comparisons

International Comparisons: Mathematics and Science Achievement at Grades 4 and 8 (2019)	U.S. average score	TIMSS scale centerpoint	U.S. average score in comparison with TIMSS scale centerpoint
Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS)			
Mathematics scores of 4th-grade students	535	500	▲
Mathematics scores of 8th-grade students	515	500	▲
Science scores of 4th-grade students	539	500	▲
Science scores of 8th-grade students	522	500	▲

International Educational Attainment	2018	2019	Change between years
Percentage of the population 25 to 34 years old who completed high school			
United States	92.4%	92.8%	
Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries	84.9%	85.5%	▲
Percentage of the population 25 to 34 years old who attained a postsecondary degree			
United States	49.4%	50.4%	▲
OECD countries	44.6%	45.3%	▲

¹ Data are reported in constant 2019-20 dollars, based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

² *NAEP Proficient* demonstrates solid academic performance and competency over challenging subject matter.

³ The adjusted cohort graduation rate (ACGR) is the number of students who graduate in 4 years with a regular high school diploma divided by the number of students who form the adjusted cohort for the graduating class. From the beginning of 9th grade (or the earliest high school grade), students who enter that grade for the first time form a cohort that is “adjusted” by adding any students who subsequently transfer into the cohort and subtracting any students who subsequently transfer out, emigrate to another country, or die.

⁴ Data are for full-time instructional faculty on 9-month contracts at degree-granting postsecondary institutions.

⁵ The average net price at public 4-year institutions uses the lower of in-district or in-state average net price.

NOTE: Includes only indicators that appear in the *Report on the Condition of Education*. All calculations within the At a Glance are based on unrounded numbers. Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic ethnicity.

SOURCE: *The Condition of Education 2021*.

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