

# Chance-for-Success Index

**Using the American Community Survey to Analyze States Ability to Provide Educational and Job Opportunities**

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# Chance-for-Success Index

- EdWeek Research Center developed the current version of Chance-for-Success (CFS) index in 2008 for Quality Counts, Education Week's marquee annual report
- CFS grades all 50 states on 13 indicators in early childhood, school years, and adulthood
- The nation's leading state on each indicator earns 100 points with all other states receiving points based on their distance from the best state
- Each state's point totals across all the indicators are averaged and converted into A-F letter grades on a 100-point scale

# CFS Data Sources

- U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey 1-year estimate (Housing and Population files) 2017, 2018, and 2019
  - ✓ There is a 2-year lag between the CFS publication year and the data year
- National Assessment of Educational Progress, National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education, 2019
- The four-year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate (ACGR) reported by the U.S. Department of Education, 2018

# Early Foundations

## Family Income

- Percent of dependent children (under 18 years of age) living in above-low-income families (200% of the poverty level)

## Parent Education

- Percent of dependent children with at least one parent who holds a two- or four-year postsecondary degree



# Early Foundations

## Parental Employment

- Percent of children with at least one steadily employed parent ( $\geq 35$  hours/week &  $\geq 50$  weeks/year)
  - ✓ Individuals not in the labor force are excluded
  - ✓ Active-duty military service is considered participation in the labor force

## Linguistic Integration

- Percent of children whose parents are fluent speakers of English
  - ✓ Fluency is defined as being a native speaker or speaking the language “very well.”
  - ✓ All parents must be fluent in English for a family to be linguistically integrated

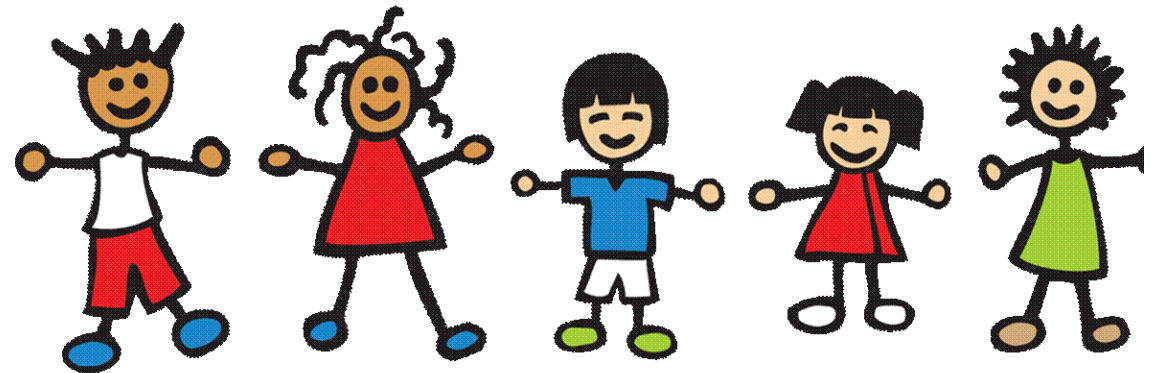
# School Years

## Preschool Enrollment

- Percent of 3- and 4-year-olds (Average of three years) who are attending preschool (ACS 2017,18, and 19)

## Kindergarten Enrollment

- Percent of 5- and 6-year-old children (Average of three years) attending kindergarten (ACS 2017,18, and 19)



# School Years

## Elementary Reading Achievement

- Percent of 4th graders in public schools at or above the “proficient” level in reading (NAEP 2019)

## Middle School Mathematics Achievement

- Percent of 8th graders in public schools at or above the “proficient” level in mathematics (NAEP 2019)

# School Years

## High School Graduation Rate

- Percent of public high school students graduated on time (ACGR 2018)

## Young-Adult Education

- Percent of young adults (ages 18 to 24) currently enrolled in a postsecondary education program or have already earned a postsecondary credential
  - ✓ Those still enrolled in high school programs are excluded

# Adult Outcomes

## Adult Educational Attainment

- Percent of adults (ages 25 to 64) who have earned a postsecondary degree (Associate, bachelor's, graduate, or professional degree)

## Annual Income

- Percent of adults (ages 25 to 64) whose annual income is at or above the national median (\$45,457 in 2019 dollars)
  - ✓ Those not in the labor force are excluded

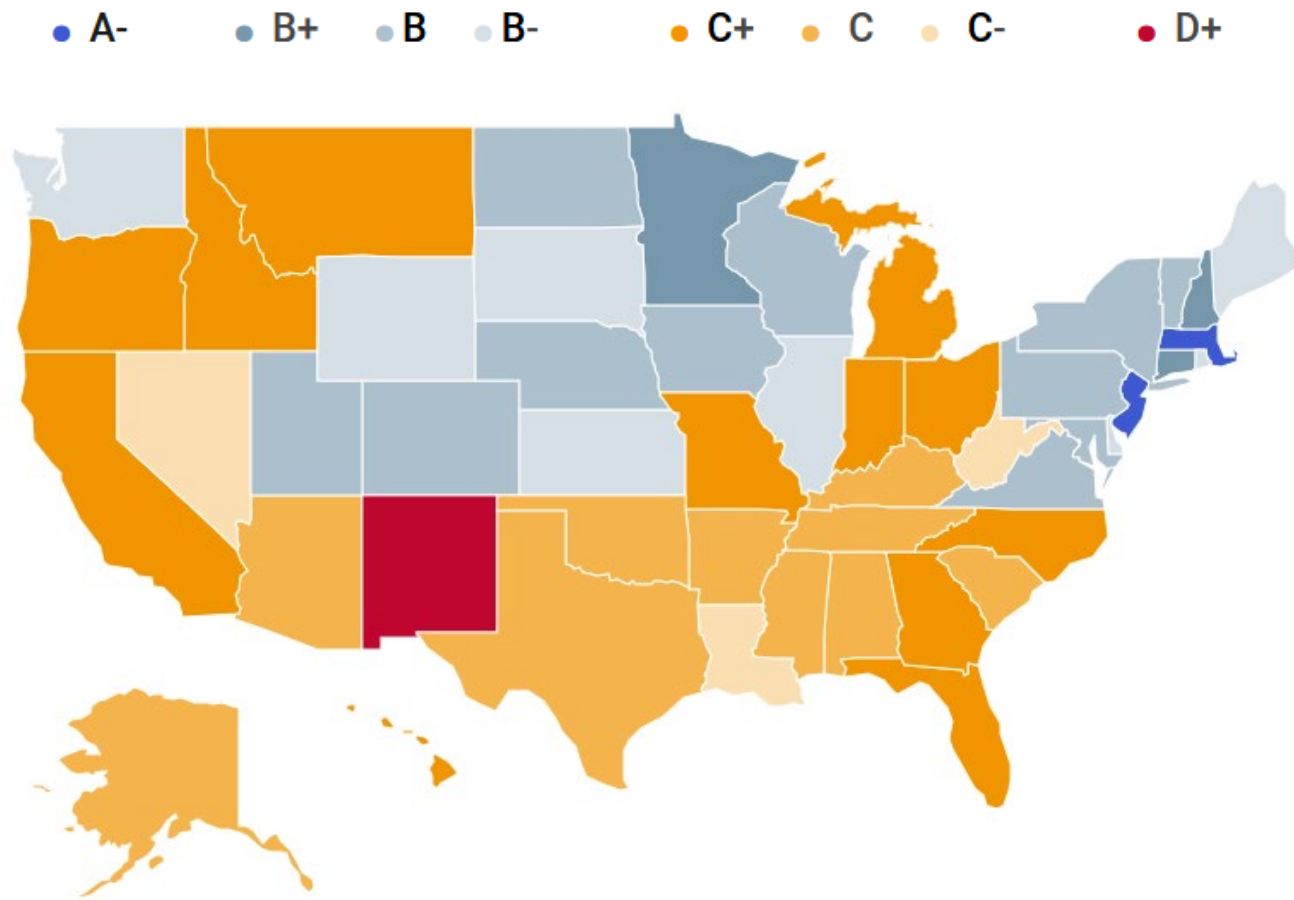
# Adult Outcomes

## Steady Employment

- Percent of adults (ages 25 to 64) steadily employed ( $\geq 35$  hours/week and  $\geq 50$  weeks/year)
  - ✓ Those not in the labor force are excluded
  - ✓ Active-duty military service is considered participation in the labor force



# National Score is B- (79.5)



**A = 93 to 100**

**A-minus = 90 to 92**

**B-plus = 87 to 89**

**B = 83 to 86**

**B-minus = 80 to 82**

**C-plus = 77 to 79**

**C = 73 to 76**

**C-minus = 70 to 72**

**D-plus = 67 to 69**

**D = 63 to 66**

**D-minus = 60 to 62**

**F = Below 60**

# First and Last States

Total Score	Massachusetts (A-, 91.6) New Mexico (D+, 69.0)
Early Foundations	New Hampshire (97.7, A) New Mexico (75.6, C)
School Years	Massachusetts (93.5, A) New Mexico (64.8, D)
Adult Outcomes	District of Columbia (99.7, A) Mississippi (66.2, D)

# Progress and Struggles Over Time

These three categories show small min-max gaps in 2021 (<20)

## Parental Employment

North Dakota (71.7 → 85.7)  
Vermont (75.5 → 76.2)

## Kindergarten Enrollment

Connecticut (74.0 → 80.0)  
Maine (81.6 → 73.7)

## Steady Employment

Alaska (59.0 → 70.0)  
Connecticut (68.2 → 72.1)

# Progress and Struggles Over Time

These three categories show large min-max gaps in 2021 (>50)

## Preschool Enrollment

District of Columbia (61.4 → 80.6)  
Wyoming (45.2 → 39.3)

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Mathematics

District of Columbia (8.0 → 23.0)  
Kansas (40.2 → 32.9)

## Adult Educational Attainment

District of Columbia (53.7 → 66.6)  
North Dakota (44.4 → 47.2)

An overhead, blue-tinted photograph of a classroom. Several students are seated at long wooden tables, focused on their work. Some are writing in notebooks, while others are looking at papers. The desks are cluttered with school supplies like pens, pencils, and erasers. The perspective is from directly above, looking down on the students.

# Quality Counts 2021: Chance for Success

Full report is available at

<https://www.edweek.org/policy-politics/state-grades-on-chance-for-success-2021-map-and-rankings/2021/01#interactive-map-1>

**Have any questions? Contact me at**  
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