New Jersey

WHOLE CHILD SNAPSHOT

To be prepared for well-paying jobs and lifelong learning, New Jersey’s children need personalized support, safe environments, good health, and challenging learning opportunities. The following data highlight how well the comprehensive needs of New Jersey’s children are being met and show how the state compares with all other states. The action steps present initial ideas for how New Jersey citizens can make targeted and innovative improvements that equip the state’s students with the knowledge and skills they need to become productive, tax-paying adults who help New Jersey create a robust economy.

HEALTHY

15% of high school students are overweight.\(^2\)
U.S. Average: 15%

11% of high school students are obese.\(^1\)
U.S. Average: 13%

76% of children had both medical and dental preventive care visits in the past year.\(^3\)
U.S. Average: 68%

SAFE

High school students who were bullied at school in the past year.\(^2\)
U.S. Average: 20%

20% of children live in a neighborhood with sidewalks, a library, a recreation center, and a park.\(^3\)
U.S. Average: 54%

ENGAGED

54% of 18- to 24-year-old citizens were registered to vote in the November 2012 elections.\(^4\)
U.S. Average: 54%

39% of 18- to 24-year-old citizens voted in those elections.\(^4\)
U.S. Average: 41%

15% of children are in poverty.\(^1\)
U.S. Average: 23%

CHILDREN IN POVERTY BY RACE

- Black: 31%
  U.S. Average: 40%
- Hispanic: 27%
  U.S. Average: 34%
- Multi-racial: 19%
  U.S. Average: 24%
- White: 7%
  U.S. Average: 14%
- Asian: 6%
  U.S. Average: 15%

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SEE ALL 50 STATE SNAPSHOTS AT WWW.ASCD.ORG/WHOLECHILDSNAPSHOTS.
**What You Can Do**

**HEALTHY**
- Establish school health advisory councils with students, family, community, and business members.
- Connect free and low-cost physical and mental health services with the students and families who need them.

**SAFE**
- Regularly assess and report on school climate—including staff, family, and student perceptions—and use the data to establish positive learning environments.
- Support social-emotional learning and character development.

**ENGAGED**
- Offer students an array of extracurricular activities and extended-day learning opportunities, and provide students with academic credit for experiential learning, such as internships, service learning, and apprenticeships with local businesses.
- Measure and report student and family engagement activities and outcomes (e.g., volunteer rates, community-based learning participation, and parent involvement data).

**SUPPORTED**
- Support parent education and family literacy programs in addition to individualized, ongoing, and job-embedded professional development for educators.
- Develop individualized learning plans for all students that connect to their academic and career goals and interests.

**CHALLENGED**
- Provide relevant and challenging coursework through multiple pathways (e.g., Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, dual-enrollment programs) to all interested students.
- Use accountability systems with multiple metrics that take into account student performance and growth across all core academic subjects, efforts to increase student engagement, and access to varied learning opportunities; publicly report this information.

**Visit** www.wholechildeducation.org.

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**Percentage of children by head of household’s education attainment level**

- **Graduate Degree**
  - U.S. Average: 11%
  - **New Jersey**
    - Percentage: 10%
  - **U.S. Average:** 11%

- **Bachelor’s Degree**
  - U.S. Average: 18%
  - **New Jersey**
    - Percentage: 15%
  - **U.S. Average:** 18%

- **Associate’s Degree**
  - U.S. Average: 9%
  - **New Jersey**
    - Percentage: 24%
  - **U.S. Average:** 9%

- **High School Diploma/GED**
  - U.S. Average: 47%
  - **New Jersey**
    - Percentage: 43%
  - **U.S. Average:** 47%

- **Not a high school graduate**
  - U.S. Average: 15%
  - **New Jersey**
    - Percentage: 7%
  - **U.S. Average:** 15%

**Student-to-counselor ratio**

- **New Jersey**: 359:1
- **Ranks 13 among the 50 states**
- The American School Counselor Association recommends a ratio no greater than 250 to 1.

**Percentage of children scoring proficient or higher on the 2013 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)**

- **New Jersey**
  - 4th Grade Reading: 42%
  - 8th Grade Math: 49%
- **United States**
  - 4th Grade Reading: 34%
  - 8th Grade Math: 34%

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**Sources**