To be prepared for well-paying jobs and lifelong learning, Ohio’s children need personalized support, safe environments, good health, and challenging learning opportunities. The following data highlight how well the comprehensive needs of Ohio’s children are being met and show how the state compares with all other states. The action steps present initial ideas for how Ohio 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 Ohio create a robust economy.

Ohio State Snapshot

Healthy

15% of high school students are overweight. U.S. Average: 15%
15% of high school students are obese. U.S. Average: 13%

71% of children had both medical and dental preventive care visits in the past year. U.S. Average: 68%

Safe

15% of high school students who were bullied at school in the past year. U.S. Average: 20%
15% of children live in a neighborhood with sidewalks, a library, a recreation center, and a park. U.S. Average: 54%

Engaged

57% of 18- to 24-year-old citizens were registered to vote in the November 2012 elections. U.S. Average: 54%
46% of 18- to 24-year-old citizens voted in those elections. U.S. Average: 41%
Meeting students’ comprehensive needs requires sustained collaboration and coordination well beyond the schoolhouse doors. Below are initial recommendations for how Ohio’s educators, parents, community members, and policymakers can support the whole child.

**HEALTHY**
- Provide all children with access to health services that promote their physical, mental, and social well-being and reduce non-academic barriers to learning.
- Ensure that students are ready to learn by providing them with healthy meals and a school schedule that correlates with their biological and developmental needs.

**SAFE**
- Make schools a safe haven for students and the wider community.
- Ensure that schools provide students with safe environments that improve academic performance, teach social and emotional skills, are bully-free, and enhance positive character traits.

**ENGAGED**
- Promote meaningful school and family partnerships.
- Develop partnerships between schools, community groups, and businesses so that students receive real-world learning experiences that match their interests and needs.

**SUPPORTED**
- Collaborate across sectors to provide children with a safety net of coordinated services that enhance their growth and development from birth through young adulthood.
- Simplify ways to connect families with an array of services such as tutoring, child care, health care, family supports, and adult education.

**CHALLENGED**
- Develop students’ critical thinking, problem solving, and collaborative skills so that they have the flexibility to thrive in the dynamic 21st century workforce.
- Prepare students to become “whole adults” and active citizens who demonstrate empathy, give back to their communities, and become lifelong learners.

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**What You Can Do**


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**SOURCES**


