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

**SNAPSHOT**

### CHILDREN IN POVERTY BY RACE

- **Black: 42%**
  - U.S. Average: 40%
- **Hispanic: 37%**
  - U.S. Average: 34%
- **Multi-racial: 29%**
  - U.S. Average: 24%
- **American Indian: 28%**
  - U.S. Average: 37%
- **White: 17%**
  - U.S. Average: 14%
- **Asian: 13%**
  - U.S. Average: 15%

### HEALTHY

- **16%** of high school students are overweight.
  - U.S. Average: 15%
- **17%** of high school students are obese.
  - U.S. Average: 13%
- **62%** of children had both medical and dental preventive care visits in the past year.
  - U.S. Average: 68%

### SAFE

- **39%** of children live in a neighborhood with sidewalks, a library, a recreation center, and a park.
  - U.S. Average: 54%
- **16%** of high school students who were bullied at school in the past year.
  - U.S. Average: 20%
- **17%** of high school students who were victims of cyberbullying.
  - U.S. Average: 16%

### ENGAGED

- **50%** of children always cared about doing well in school and did all required homework during the previous month.
  - U.S. Average: 52%
- **40%** of 18- to 24-year-old citizens were registered to vote in the November 2012 elections.
  - U.S. Average: 54%
- **27%** of 18- to 24-year-old citizens voted in those elections.
  - U.S. Average: 41%

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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.


SOURCES


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