United States

WHOLE CHILD SNAPSHOT

To be prepared for well-paying jobs and lifelong learning, the nation’s children need personalized support, safe environments, good health, and challenging learning opportunities. The following data highlight how well the comprehensive needs of U.S. children are being met. The action steps present initial ideas for how the nation’s families, educators, communities, and policymakers can make targeted and innovative improvements that equip our students with the knowledge and skills they need to become productive, self-sufficient adults who thrive in our increasingly collaborative and competitive global economy.

HEALTHY

17% of high school students are overweight.2
14% of high school students are obese.2

68% of children had both medical and dental preventive care visits in the past year.3

SAFE

High school students who were bullied at school in the past year.2

15%

High school students who were victims of cyberbullying.2

20%

54% of children live in a neighborhood with sidewalks, a library, a recreation center, and a park.1

ENGAGED

54% of 18- to 24-year-old citizens were registered to vote in the November 2012 elections.4

52% of children always cared about doing well in school and did all required homework during the previous month.1

41% of 18- to 24-year-old citizens voted in those elections.4

CHILDREN IN POVERTY BY RACE

- Black: 39%
- American Indian: 37%
- Hispanic: 33%
- Multi-racial: 23%
- Asian: 14%
- White: 14%

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

**HEALTHY**
- Adopt the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) model ([www.ascd.org/wsc](http://www.ascd.org/wsc)) as a framework for improving students’ learning and health.
- 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 build their social and emotional skills, and access to varied learning opportunities.

Visit [www.ascd.org/wholechild](http://www.ascd.org/wholechild).

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**Percentage of children BY HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD’S EDUCATION ATTAINMENT LEVEL**

- **Graduate Degree**
  - U.S. Average: 12%
- **Bachelor’s Degree**
  - U.S. Average: 19%
- **Associate’s Degree**
  - U.S. Average: 9%
- **High School Diploma/GED**
  - U.S. Average: 46%
- **Not a high school graduate**
  - U.S. Average: 14%

**STUDENT-TO-COUNSELOR RATIO**

482:1

The American School Counselor Association recommends a ratio no greater than 250 to 1.

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**CHALLENGED**

**High school graduation rates for the class of 2013**

- All: 81%
- Asian: 89%
- White: 87%
- Hispanic: 75%
- Black: 71%
- American Indian: 70%

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**SOURCES**