

High Achieving States Across 6 Benchmarks

Following is a summary of academic rankings of the top 10 states incorporating 6 benchmarks. The academic benchmarks range from Best States for PreK-12 to NAEP scores. The rankings are from a variety of sources: ALEC (American Legislative Exchange Council), McKinsey/US News - Best States, and EdWeek, Quality Counts.

Included in the lists are the per pupil spending from two sources (U.S. Census and EdWeek, Quality Counts for each of the 10 states.

The first chart lists the top 6 states achieving 4 or more benchmarks. The second chart lists the 4 states achieving 3 benchmarks. The 6 benchmarks and sources are as follows:

Benchmarks (and Data Sources):

- 1) States making progress on all four NAEP exams between 2003-2013 (American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC))
- 2) Best states for PreK-12 (McKinsey / US News - Best States 2018)
- 3) Best states for pre-school enrollment (McKinsey / US News - Best States)
- 4) K-12 Achievement in reading/math performance, high school graduation rates, and AP results (EdWeek Quality Counts)
- 5) States narrowing the Achievement Gap for 4th grade - NAEP Poverty Gap 2003-2013 (EdWeek, Quality Counts)
- 6) States narrowing the Achievement Gap for 8th grade - NAEP Poverty Gap 2003-2013 (EdWeek, Quality Counts)

STATES ACHIEVING 4 OR 5 OF 6 BENCHMARKS			
State	U.S. Census Per Pupil Spending	EdWeek Per Pupil Spending	Benchmarks Achieved
New Jersey	\$17,907	\$16,337	5 of 6 benchmarks
Maryland	\$14,003	\$13,075	4 of 6 benchmarks
Massachusetts	\$15,087	\$14,569	4 of 6 benchmarks
Minnesota	\$11,464	\$12,692	4 of 6 benchmarks
New Hampshire	\$14,335	\$15,719	4 of 6 benchmarks
Pennsylvania	\$13,961	\$15,291	4 of 6 benchmarks

STATES ACHIEVING 3 OF 6 BENCHMARKS			
State	U.S. Census Per Pupil Spending	EdWeek Per Pupil Spending	Benchmarks Achieved
Florida	\$8,755	\$9,737	3 of 6 benchmarks
Maine	\$12,707	\$15,912	3 of 6 benchmarks
Rhode Island	\$14,767	\$15,002	3 of 6 benchmarks
Vermont	\$16,988	\$20,795	3 of 6 benchmarks

*Colorado did not achieve any benchmarks - 0 of 6 benchmarks.
Colorado Per Pupil Spending: U.S. Census \$8,895. EdWeek: \$9,733.*