

# Pre-K - 12



Half the weighting in evaluating education goes to metrics measuring pre-K through 12th grade. Overall, the generation progressing through school now is the most educated ever. According to the U.S. Department of Education, nearly 85% of students graduated from high school in 2016. Along with high school graduation rates, this subcategory measures preschool enrollment, standardized test scores in math and reading among eighth graders. [+ Read More](#)



Rankings: Pre-K-12 x Filters/Sort 0

50 States

## New Jersey

#1 in Pre-K-12  
#19 in Best States Overall  
#1 in Education



The home of native musical legends such as Bruce Springsteen, Jon Bon Jovi, Frank Sinatra and Whitney Houston, New Jersey is known for more than producing popular hit-makers. It has [world-class universities](#), leading to a high rate of college readiness. [READ MORE »](#)

#3 College Readiness  
[SEE MORE ▾](#)

#2 High School Graduation Rate

## Massachusetts

#2 in Pre-K-12  
#9 in Best States Overall  
#2 in Education



Separatists fleeing religious persecution in England arrived aboard the Mayflower at Plymouth Harbor in 1620. A year after the Pilgrims arrived, they celebrated their first successful harvest, now known as Thanksgiving. [READ MORE »](#)

#4 College Readiness  
[SEE MORE ▾](#)

#16 High School Graduation Rate

## Connecticut

#3 in Pre-K-12  
#20 in Best States Overall  
#6 in Education




One of the original 13 colonies, Connecticut played a prominent role in the development of the U.S. [The Hartford Courant](#), the nation's oldest continuously operating newspaper, was an influential voice for the republic. [READ MORE »](#)

#1 College Readiness  
[SEE MORE ▾](#)

#13 High School Graduation Rate

## New Hampshire

 #4 in Pre-K-12  
#4 in Best States Overall  
#13 in Education



New Hampshire may be one of the smallest states, but it traditionally has played an outsized role in the nation's greatest task: election of the president. The Granite State has jealously guarded its position as first in line for the White House. [READ MORE »](#)

#8 College Readiness  
[SEE MORE ▾](#)

#11 High School Graduation Rate

## Vermont

 #5 in Pre-K-12  
#11 in Best States Overall  
#15 in Education



Vermont's verdant valleys and mountains – bordered by [Canada](#) to the north, [New York](#) to the west, [Massachusetts](#) to the south and [New Hampshire](#) to the east – were settled by both the British and French early in the 17th century. [READ MORE »](#)

#12 College Readiness  
[SEE MORE ▾](#)

#29 High School Graduation Rate

## Illinois

 #6 in Pre-K-12  
#30 in Best States Overall  
#11 in Education



Illinois became the 21st state in 1818, and it's known as the Prairie State or the Land of Lincoln. Abraham Lincoln, the 16th president of the United States and leader who preserved the Union from dissolution in the Civil War, was born in Illinois. [READ MORE »](#)

#2 College Readiness  
[SEE MORE ▾](#)

#24 High School Graduation Rate

## Colorado

 #7 in Pre-K-12  
#16 in Best States Overall  
#5 in Education



Colorado is the eighth-largest state in terms of landmass. While its geographic diversity and natural resources have been an economic boon as well as a draw for tourism, the state's government has made efforts to protect its environment. [READ MORE »](#)

#6 College Readiness  
[SEE MORE ▾](#)

#44 High School Graduation Rate

## Wisconsin

 #8 in Pre-K-12  
#8 in Best States Overall  
#8 in Education




Wisconsin, admitted to the union in 1848 as the [30th state](#), traces its history to French explorers arriving in the early 1600s. Samuel de Champlain, governor of what was then New France and now [Canada](#), dispatched the first European settlers to Wisconsin. [READ MORE »](#)

#32 College Readiness  
[SEE MORE ▾](#)

#8 High School Graduation Rate

## Indiana

 #9 in Pre-K-12  
#32 in Best States Overall  
#22 in Education



Native American tribes inhabited the Midwest for thousands of years before the first white settlers arrived in the 1600s. Within a century of their arrival, tensions between the French and English led to the [French and Indian War](#). [READ MORE »](#)

#13 College Readiness

#14 High School Graduation Rate

SEE MORE ▾

## Virginia

🏆 #10 in Pre-K-12

#7 in Best States Overall

#12 in Education



In 1607, 100 English settlers arrived in what is now Virginia to find a robust realm of Native American tribes. They founded their own fort on the southern shore, later known as [Jamestown](#).

READ MORE »

#22 College Readiness

#17 High School Graduation Rate

SEE MORE ▾

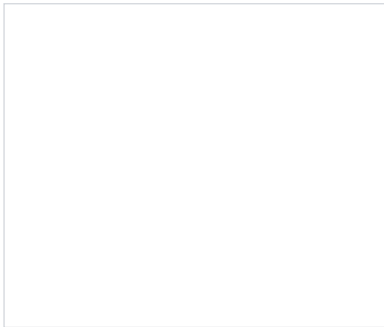
Load More

← Previous: Higher Education

Next: Higher Education →

## Other Education Rankings

Higher Education



## RELATED ARTICLES

BEST STATES

States With the Lowest Taxes



BEST STATES

States Restricting Gender-Affirming Care



BEST STATES

States With the Highest Gas Prices



BEST STATES

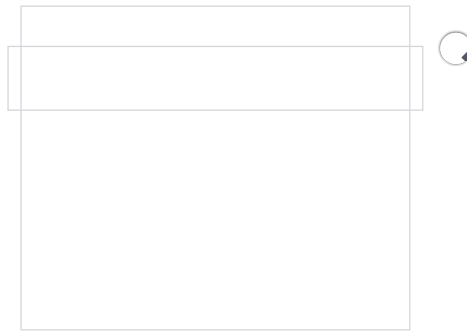
A Guide to Marijuana Legalization



BEST STATES

States With Biggest Gender Wage Gaps





## BEST STATES

Best States is an interactive platform developed by U.S. News for ranking the 50 U.S. states, alongside news analysis and daily reporting. The platform is designed to engage citizens and government leaders in a discussion about what needs improvement across the country.

[BEST COUNTRIES](#)

[BEST STATES](#)

[HEALTHIEST COMMUNITIES](#)

[NEWS](#)

[THE REPORT](#)

[PHOTOS](#)

[ELECTIONS](#)

[EVENTS](#)



[About](#) [Editorial Guidelines](#) [Contact](#) [Press](#) [Advertise](#) [Newsletters](#) [Jobs](#) [Site Map](#) [Store](#)