

Did You Know? Facts about America's Public Schools

While the back-to-school season is an important time to draw attention to the education issues most directly impacting your community, it is also a good time to consider the national context. Here are a few facts about the state of public education in 2017.

Basic Numbers:

- ➔ 50.3 million students are enrolled in 91,430 traditional public schools and 6,450 public charter schools
- ➔ 3.13 million teachers work in public schools
- ➔ 9.4% of public school students are English language learners
- ➔ 13% of public school students ages 3–21 receive special education services
- ➔ Per pupil spending is \$11,222

Future Readiness:

- ➔ 83% of students graduated high school—the highest graduation rate in the nation's history
- ➔ 69% of recent high school graduates enrolled in 2-year or 4-year college
- ➔ Over 2.6 million students took over 4.7 million AP exams in 2016
- ➔ Public high school graduates earn an average of 3.6 career/technical education credits

Education Technology:

- ➔ 70% of parents see the development of technology skills as critical to their child's future success
- ➔ 98.5% of high school students report using the internet in school, with 46% using it daily
- ➔ 96.5% of high school students are required to use the internet to complete homework assignments
- ➔ 87% of districts allow students to bring personal devices (such as smartphones and tablets) to school
- ➔ Mobile learning is the top priority of school IT leaders
- ➔ Budget issues are the number one challenge school IT Leaders face in "planning and implementing technology-enabled learning environments"

Nutrition and Health:

- ➔ 30.3 million school lunches are served each day, including 20.1 million free and 2 million reduced price
- ➔ 14.57 million school breakfasts are served each day, including 11.53 million free and 0.86 million reduced price
- ➔ 45.2% of school districts use Medicaid to expand health related services for students (such as immunizations, asthma and diabetes treatment and vision/hearing screenings)
- ➔ School nurses serve an average of 924-1,072 students and 3 school buildings

Additional Information:

- ➔ 67% of parents rate their oldest child's school as an "A" or "B"
- ➔ 63% of 8th graders take music class, and 42% take a visual arts class
- ➔ The student-to-school-counselor ratio is 491:1
- ➔ Approximately 60% of 4-year-olds are enrolled in preschool
- ➔ More than one in four of America's public schools are rural, and nearly one in six students are in rural areas
- ➔ School safety is up—between 2001 and 2015, the percentage of students ages 12-18 who report being victimized at school dropped from 6% to 3% (with violent victimization down from 2% to 1%)

Compiled July 2017. Data reflects latest available from the National Institute of Education Statistics' [The Condition of Education 2017](#), the [College Board](#), [NCES Career and Technical Education Statistics](#), the [Speak Up Research Project](#), the [Family Online Safety Institute](#), the [Consortium for School Networking](#), the [U.S. Department of Agriculture](#), [AASA](#), the [School Superintendents Association](#), the [National Association of School Nurses](#), [2016 PDK/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools](#), [NAEP Arts Assessment 2016](#), the [American School Counselor Association](#) and the [Rural School and Community Trust](#).