



# EXAMPLES OF RAPIDLY- IMPROVING CITIES

PRODUCED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
FOR THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES' 2014  
CONGRESSIONAL CITY CONFERENCE

March 10, 2014

# EARLY LEARNING

**Access** – Cities that saw an increase in the share of 3- and 4-year-olds enrolled in school of at least 2.5 percentage points between 2010 and 2012<sup>1</sup> AND saw a significantly larger proportion of their 3- and 4-year-olds enrolled in school than their state average in 2012

- **San Francisco, CA**
  - 4.3 percentage point increase in the share of 3- and 4-year-olds enrolled in school
  - 66.8% of 3- and 4-year-olds enrolled in school, compared to 49.7% statewide
- **District of Columbia**
  - 3.8 percentage point increase in the share of 3- and 4-year-olds enrolled in school
  - 71.4% of 3- and 4-year-olds enrolled in school, compared to 47.3% nationwide
- **Tulsa, OK**
  - 2.7 percentage point increase in the share of 3- and 4-year-olds enrolled in school
  - 48.8% of 3- and 4-year-olds enrolled in school, compared to 43.1% statewide
- **San Jose, CA**
  - 2.6 percentage point increase in the share of 3- and 4-year-olds enrolled in school
  - 56.5% of 3- and 4-year-olds enrolled in school, compared to 49.7% statewide

<sup>1</sup>Data from the American Community Survey



# K-12 EDUCATION

**Student Achievement** – Cities with significantly larger-than-average scale score gains on the Trial Urban District Assessment (TUDA) exams between 2011 and 2013

## Reading

### **National Public's Average Gain**

- 8<sup>th</sup> grade reading: 2 scale points

### **District of Columbia**

- 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading: 4
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade reading: 8

### **Los Angeles, CA**

- 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading: 4
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade reading: 4

### **Fresno, CA**

- 8<sup>th</sup> grade reading: 4

### **Dallas, TX**

- 8<sup>th</sup> grade reading: 4

## Mathematics

### **National Public's Average Gain**

- 4<sup>th</sup> grade mathematics: 1 scale point
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade mathematics: 1 scale point

### **District of Columbia**

- 4<sup>th</sup> grade mathematics: 7
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade mathematics: 5

### **Los Angeles, CA**

- 4<sup>th</sup> grade mathematics: 5

### **Fresno, CA**

- 8<sup>th</sup> grade mathematics: 7

### **Baltimore, MD**

- 8<sup>th</sup> grade mathematics: 6

### **Atlanta, GA**

- 4<sup>th</sup> grade mathematics: 5

### **Chicago, IL**

- 4<sup>th</sup> grade mathematics: 5

### **Charlotte, NC**

- 8<sup>th</sup> grade mathematics: 4



# K-12 EDUCATION, CONT'D

**Graduation Rates** – 15 large cities with the most-rapidly improving Averaged Freshman Graduation Rates (AFGR)<sup>1</sup> between 2005-06 and 2008-09

	Percentage point increase	Number of diploma recipients
<b>National Average</b>	<b>2.1</b>	
<b>Buffalo, NY<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>85 less</b>
<b>Newark, NJ</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>304 more</b>
<b>Nashville, TN</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>806 more</b>
<b>Chula Vista, CA<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>9</b>	<b>808 more</b>
<b>Milwaukee, WI</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>433 more</b>
<b>Miami, FL</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>2,266 more</b>
<b>District of Columbia<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>190 more</b>
<b>Charlotte, NC<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>1,140 more</b>
<b>Pittsburgh, PA<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>28 less</b>
<b>Boston, MA</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>294 more</b>
<b>Raleigh, NC<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>1,398 more</b>
<b>New York City, NY<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>5,792 more</b>
<b>Virginia Beach, VA</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>350 more</b>
<b>Wichita, KS</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>191 more</b>
<b>Houston, TX</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>742 more</b>

<sup>1</sup>Data from the National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data (CCD)

<sup>2</sup> Positive change in AFGR for Buffalo results from a decrease in the Enrollment Base between 2005-06 and 2008-09

<sup>3</sup> Calculated change values are over 3 reporting years, 2005-06 through 2007-08. No data were available from published tables for 2008-09

<sup>4</sup> Calculated change values are over 3 reporting years, 2008-09 through 2006-07. No data were available from published tables for 2005-06



# EXPANDING ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION

**FAFSA Completion** – Cities with large increases in Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) completion rates for high school seniors

- **Austin, TX**
  - FAFSA completion rates increased from 29% in 2010 to 58% in 2013 -- a three-year gain of 29 percentage points
- **Miami, FL**
  - FAFSA completion rates increased from 46% in 2011 to 59% in 2012 -- a one-year gain of 13 percentage points
- **Riverside, CA**
  - FAFSA completion rates increased from 35% in 2011 to 47% in 2013 -- a two-year gain of 12 percentage points
- **Minneapolis, MN**
  - FAFSA completion rates increased from 40% in 2011 to 51% in 2012 -- a one-year gain of 11 percentage points
- **San Antonio, TX**
  - FAFSA completion rates increased from 42% in 2010 to 51% in 2012 -- a two-year gain of 9 percentage points
- **Charleston, WV**
  - FAFSA completion rates increased from 49% in 2012 to 56% in 2013 -- a one-year gain of 7 percentage points

