



EXAMPLES OF RAPIDLY-IMPROVING STATES IN EARLY LEARNING, K–12, AND HIGHER EDUCATION

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EARLY LEARNING

Funding¹ – State preschool programs with the largest two-year increase

- **Rhode Island** – 244%
- **New Mexico** – 106%
- **Minnesota** – 76%
- **South Carolina** – 73.2%
- **Michigan** – 67.1%

Access and Quality – State preschool programs meeting 8 of the 10 National Institute for Early Education Research quality benchmarks (NIEER, 2012) and serving at least 50 percent of four-year-olds in state preschool programs

- **Oklahoma** – 74.1%
- **West Virginia** – 60.9%
- **Georgia** – 58.7%

¹Data from the Education Commission of the States compares funding from 2011–12 to 2013–14



K-12 EDUCATION

Student Achievement – States with significantly larger-than-average gains on at least two of four National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) exams between 2011 and 2013

- **Average NAEP Gain**
 - 4th grade reading: 0.65
 - 8th grade reading: 2.43
 - 4th grade mathematics: 1.07
 - 8th grade mathematics: 0.89
- **Washington, D.C.**
 - 4th grade reading: 4.99 points
 - 8th grade reading: 5.68 points
 - 4th grade mathematics: 6.76 points
 - 8th grade mathematics: 4.79 points
- **Tennessee**
 - 4th grade reading: 5.10 points
 - 8th grade reading: 6.15 points
 - 4th grade mathematics: 6.87 points
- **Indiana**
 - 4th grade reading: 4.60 points
 - 4th grade mathematics: 4.76 points
- **Minnesota**
 - 4th grade reading: 4.72 points
 - 4th grade mathematics: 4.23 points
- **Hawaii**
 - 4th grade mathematics: 4.49 points
 - 8th grade mathematics: 3.58 points



HIGHER EDUCATION

Degree Attainment¹ – States with the largest three-year gain among 25 to 34 year olds

- National Average – 2.1 percentage points
- Montana – 4.6 percentage points
- Vermont – 4.6 percentage points
- Virginia – 3.3 percentage points
- Illinois – 3.3 percentage points

Controlling Costs² – Largest percent decrease in net price of state's public institutions of higher education (IHEs)

Four-year institutions

- National Average: +4.9%
- Arkansas: -12%
- Nevada: -6.6%
- Texas: -5.4%
- Washington: -4.3%
- Idaho: -3.4%

Two-year institutions

- National Average: +1.3%
- Vermont: -30.5%
- Washington: -19.9%
- Michigan: -15.3%
- North Dakota: -14.8%
- New Mexico: -13.4%

¹Data from the American Community Survey comparing 2006–08 rates with 2009–11 rates.

²Data from Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) compares the change in net price between 2008–09 and 2010–11.

