

Ohio Education by the Numbers 2026

9TH EDITION





The Thomas B. Fordham Institute is the nation's leader in advancing educational excellence for every child through quality research, analysis, and commentary, as well as on-the-ground action and advocacy in Ohio. It is affiliated with the Thomas B. Fordham Foundation, and this publication is a joint project of the Foundation and the Institute. For further information, please visit our website at www.fordhaminstitute.org or write to the Institute at P.O. Box 82291, Columbus, OH 43202. The Institute is neither connected with nor sponsored by Fordham University.



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Introduction

We welcome you to the ninth edition of the Thomas B. Fordham Institute's *Ohio Education by the Numbers*. This guidebook offers policymakers, journalists, and civic and business leaders easy-to-use statistics—sans commentary—about Ohio's K-12 schools and the students they serve. This edition includes the most recent data available through December 2025, which is primarily data from the 2024-25 school year.

The following tables and charts describe education in Ohio at a high level—they are not an evaluation of state policies or school practices. Nevertheless, a basic understanding of trends, as well as the current status of K-12 education, can help us make more informed decisions about ways to improve education for Ohio students.

We wish to thank our Fordham colleagues who contributed their time and talents to this endeavor, including Jeff Murray and Jessica Poiner. Special thanks to Stephanie Henry who designed the publication.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or feedback. If you are using a hard copy version, online data sources (displayed in blue font) can be accessed via our companion website www.ohiobythenumbers.com. The website also includes downloadable versions of this year's report as well as prior editions. For display purposes, some historical data no longer appear in this year's report but are available in older editions and on an archived webpage at www.ohiobythenumbers.com/archives.

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Abbreviations

CCWMR: College, Career, Workforce, and Military Readiness. Refers to a component of Ohio's school report card and contains district- and school-level data about students' post-secondary readiness.

DEW: Ohio Department of Education and Workforce. Refers to the state education agency, which was recently renamed and was previously known as the Ohio Department of Education (ODE).

NAEP: National Assessment of Educational Progress. A national standardized assessment administered to a representative sample of students in each state. The assessment is given every two years in math and reading in grades four and eight.

Student Enrollment



Ohio Public School Students

Ohio has nearly 1.6 million public school students of varying backgrounds and characteristics.

	STATEWIDE	
	NUMBER OF STUDENTS	PERCENT OF STUDENTS
TOTAL STUDENTS	1,588,218	100
RACE OR ETHNICITY		
White	1,016,821	64.0
African American	276,461	17.4
Hispanic	135,067	8.5
Multiracial	106,092	6.7
Asian or Pacific Islander	49,794	3.1
American Indian or Alaskan Native	2,257	<1.0
GENDER		
Female	772,817	48.7
Male	815,402	51.3
OTHER CHARACTERISTICS		
Students with Disabilities	270,786	17.0
English Learner	84,776	5.3
Identified as Gifted	228,776	14.4

Source: Ohio DEW, [Advanced Reports](#) (2024-25). **Note:** Public school enrollments include traditional district, public charter, and independent STEM school students, but do not include students attending joint-vocational districts and educational service centers, pupils attending non-public schools, or home schooled students. More information about those enrollments are found in the “School Options” section.

Public School Enrollment by Grade Level

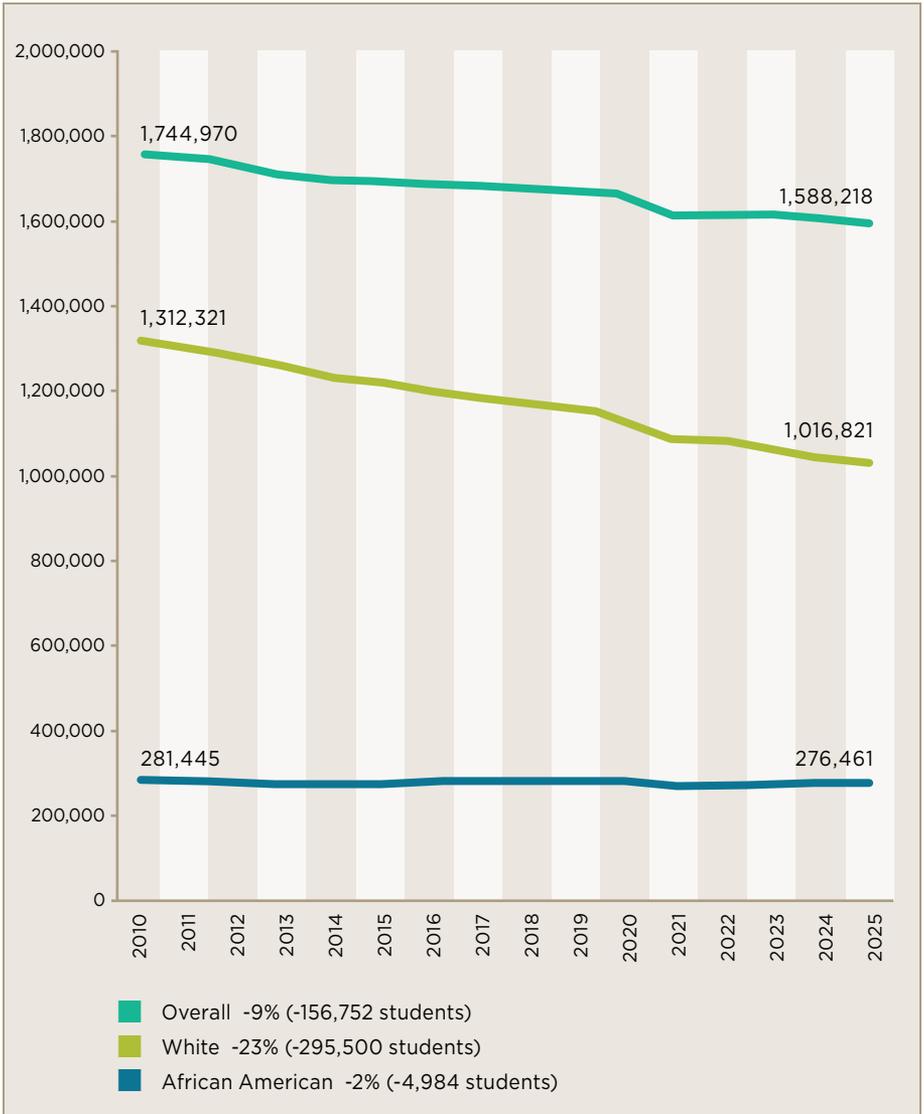
Ohio has approximately 100,000 to 130,000 public school students per grade level.

GRADE LEVEL	NUMBER OF STUDENTS	PERCENT OF STUDENTS
Kindergarten	110,583	7.0
First Grade	117,827	7.4
Second Grade	119,554	7.5
Third Grade	124,914	7.9
Fourth Grade	117,579	7.4
Fifth Grade	121,616	7.7
TOTAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	712,073	
Sixth Grade	122,232	7.7
Seventh Grade	120,821	7.6
Eighth Grade	121,675	7.7
TOTAL MIDDLE SCHOOL	364,728	
Ninth Grade	127,046	8.0
Tenth Grade	124,037	7.8
Eleventh Grade	106,734	6.7
Twelfth Grade	102,111	6.4
TOTAL HIGH SCHOOL	459,928	
Preschool	50,199	3.2
Enrolled after Twelfth Grade	1,292	<1.0

Source: Ohio DEW, [Advanced Reports](#) (2024-25). **Note:** To maintain consistency with historical data used to report trends on the following pages, this table excludes joint vocational districts. If they were included, the numbers of eleventh and twelfth graders would be 128,392 and 122,015, respectively.

Public School Enrollment Trends

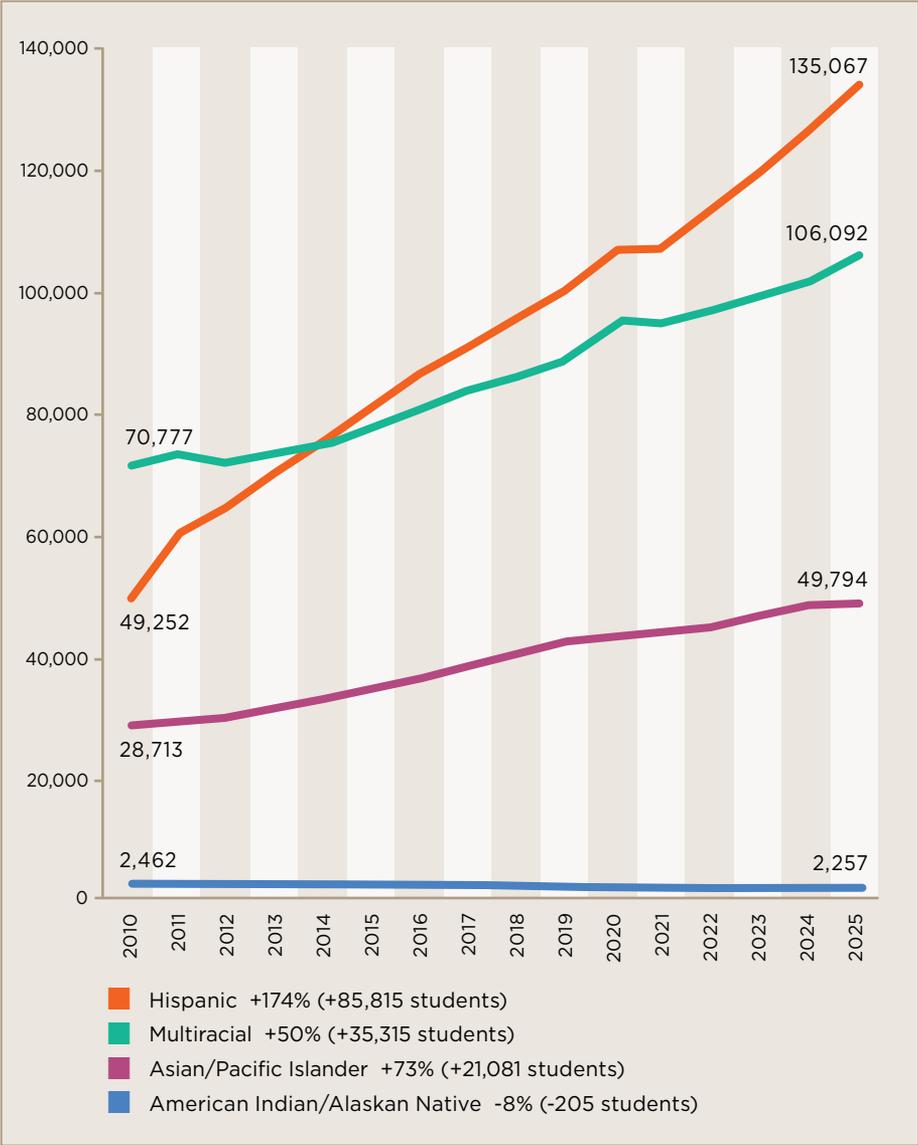
Since 2009-10, overall public school enrollment has declined by 9 percent. White student enrollment has fallen by 23 percent, while African American student enrollment has declined by 2 percent.



Source: Ohio DEW, [Advanced Reports](#) Pre-2020 enrollment data are not presently available in Advanced Reports, but were pulled from the database for prior editions of *Ohio Education by the Numbers*. **Note:** The percentages refer to the percent change from 2010 to 2025. The chart displays the spring part of the school year, a convention often used in this guide.

Public School Enrollment Trends

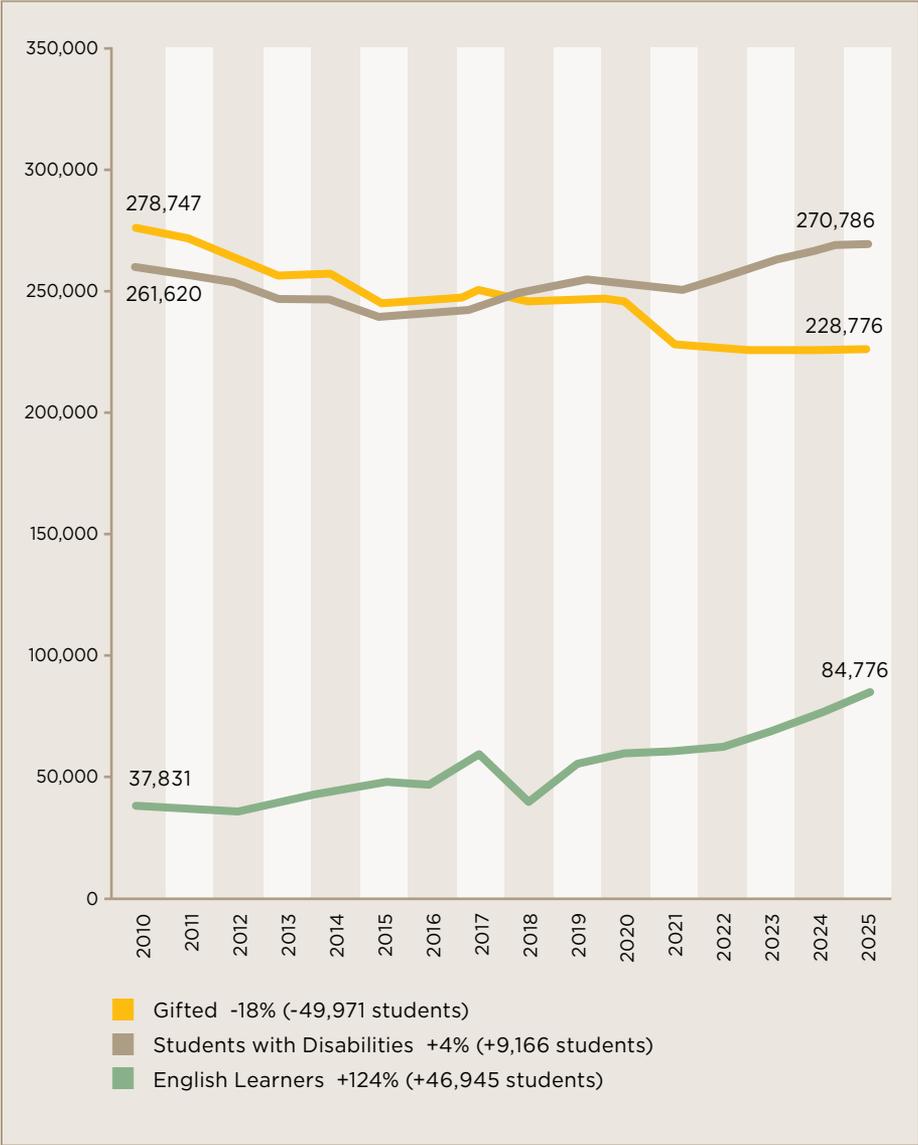
Since 2009-10, Hispanic student enrollment has more than doubled, while multiracial and Asian/Pacific Islander student enrollments have also increased.



Source: Ohio DEW, [Advanced Reports](#) (2009-10 to 2024-25). **Note:** The percentages refer to the percent changes from 2010 to 2025.

Public School Enrollment Trend by Selected Characteristics

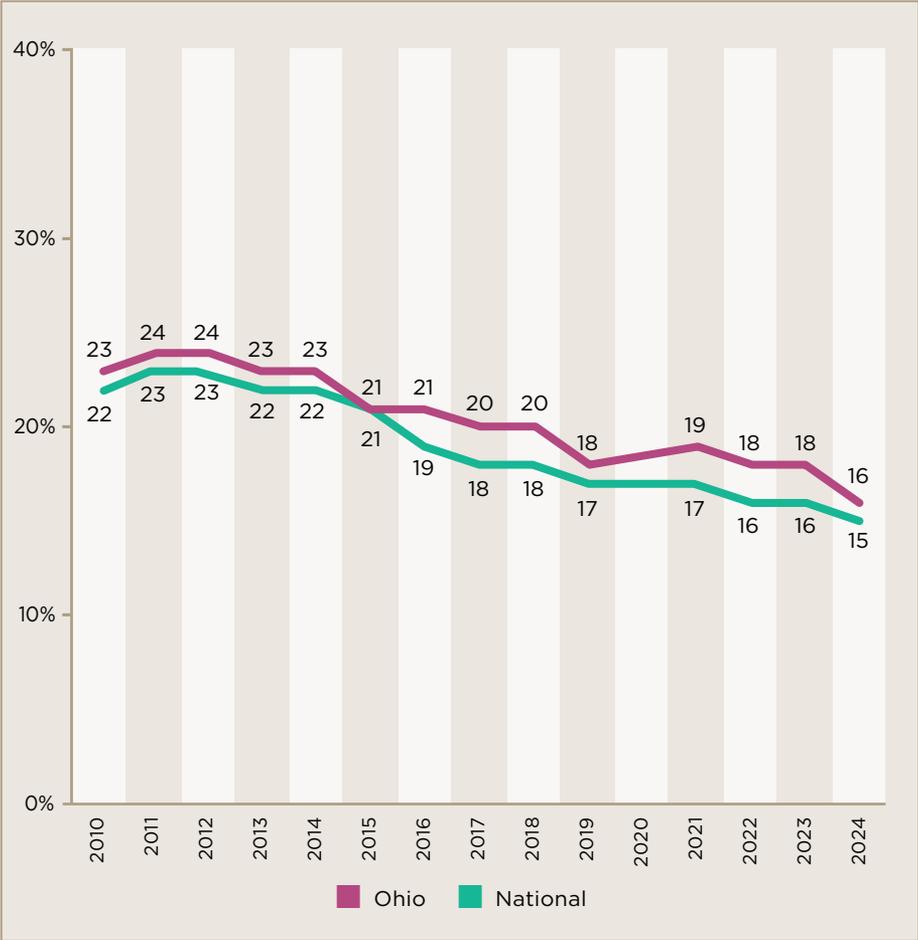
Since 2009-10, English learner enrollment has more than doubled while the number of students with disabilities has slightly increased. The number of students identified as gifted has declined by 18 percent



Source: Ohio DEW, [Advanced Reports](#) (2009-10 to 2024-25). **Note:** The percentages refer to the percent changes from 2010 to 2025.

Children in Poverty

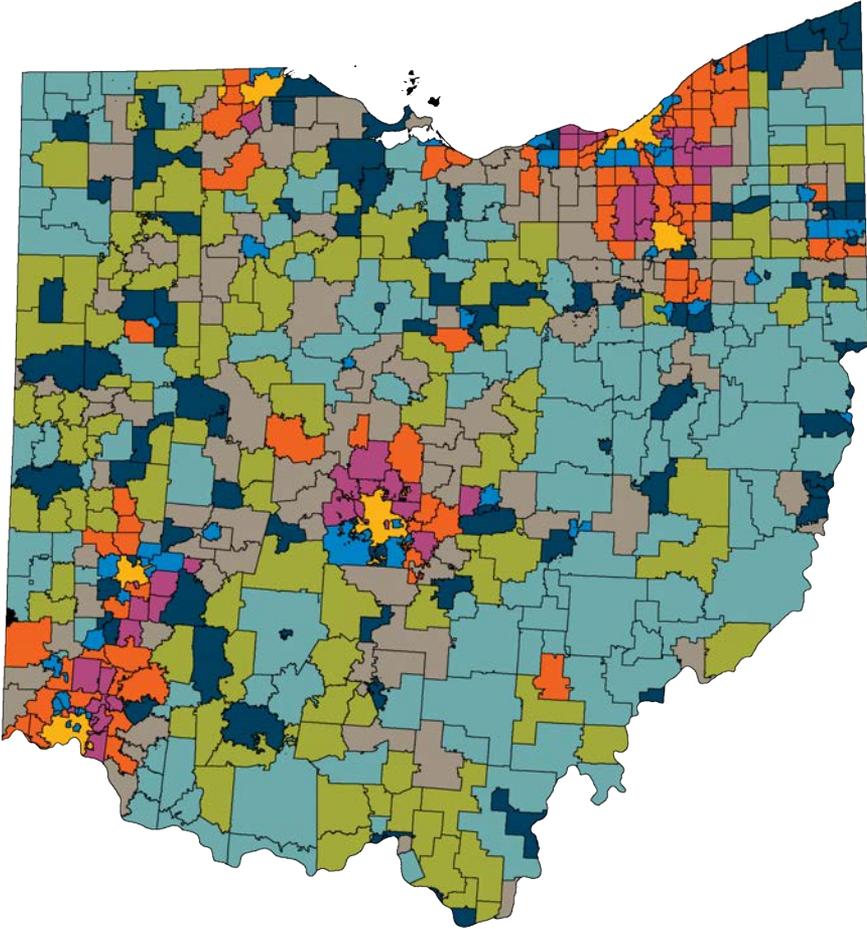
In Ohio, about one in five children under eighteen are from families with incomes at or below the federal poverty level (\$31,812 for a family of four in 2024). The percentage of children in poverty in Ohio is slightly higher than the national rate.



Source: Childhood poverty data are from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, [Kids Count Data Center](#) and based on U.S. Census poverty estimates (data were not reported for 2020). **Notes:** Ohio reports “economically disadvantaged” rates but they are inaccurate due to changes in federal subsidized meals policy, and not presented in this report.

Ohio School Districts and Typologies

For analytic purposes, the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce categorizes districts into eight typologies based on their geographic and socio-economic characteristics. This publication displays various statistics by typology to illustrate patterns of enrollment and achievement across the state.



LEGEND

- Urban: Very High Student Poverty
- Urban: High Student Poverty
- Small Town: High Student Poverty
- Small Town: Low Student Poverty
- Rural: High Student Poverty
- Rural: Average Student Poverty
- Suburban: Low Student Poverty
- Suburban: Very Low Student Poverty

Sources: Ohio DEW, [School District Typology](#). **Note:** This map displays the border of each district and its corresponding typology.

Public School Students by Typology

28 percent of Ohio students reside in urban areas, 35 percent are from suburban communities, 21 percent live in small towns, and 14 percent are from rural areas. Another 2 percent of students attend online charter schools.

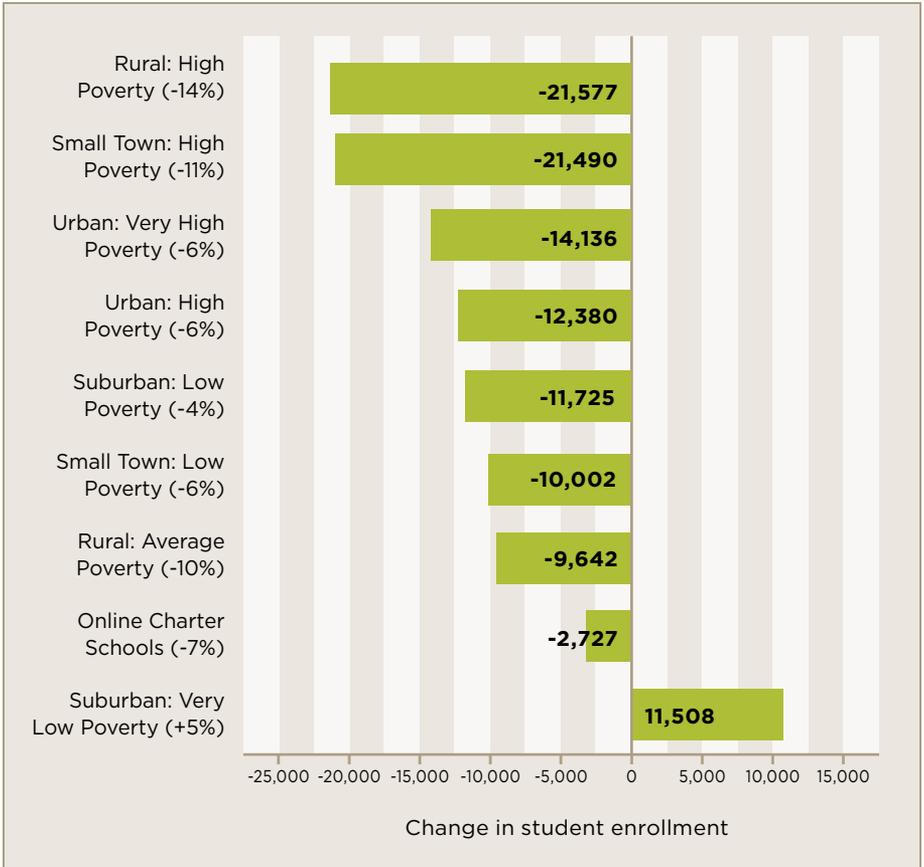
The **Urban: Very High Poverty** typology consists of the Ohio Eight districts—Akron, Canton, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, Toledo, and Youngstown—as well as the charter and STEM schools located in those cities.

TYPOLGY	NUMBER OF DISTRICTS	NUMBER OF CHARTER & STEM SCHOOLS	NUMBER OF STUDENTS	PERCENT OF TOTAL STUDENTS
Urban: Very High Poverty	8	227	241,995	15.2
Urban: High Poverty	47	58	206,099	13.0
Suburban: Very Low Poverty	46	5	253,652	16.0
Suburban: Low Poverty	77	9	297,064	18.7
Small Town: High Poverty	89	16	166,041	10.5
Small Town: Low Poverty	110	3	163,088	10.3
Rural: Average Poverty	106	1	90,772	5.7
Rural: High Poverty	123	9	133,865	8.4
Online Charter Schools	NA	19	35,295	2.2
TOTAL	606	347	1,587,871	100

Source: Calculations based on Ohio DEW [downloadable](#) files titled “District and Building Overview” (2024-25). **Note:** Public charter and STEM schools are assigned to the **typology** of the district in which the school is located. Online charters—also known as e-schools—are not included in a typology, since they can enroll students statewide. The charter and STEM school category consists of 339 charters and 8 STEMs.

Change in Enrollment by District Typology, 2016 to 2025

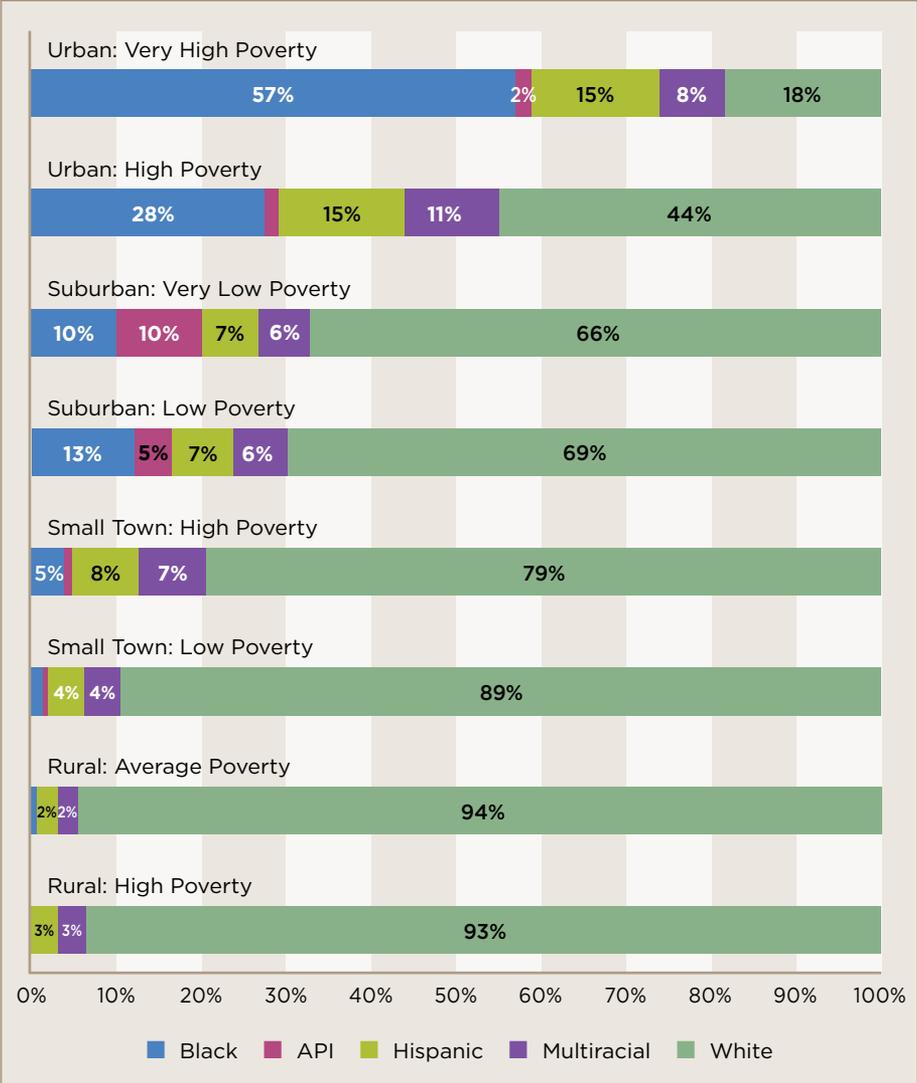
Between 2015-16 and 2024-25, enrollment has declined across all district typologies, except for suburban, very low-poverty districts.



Source: Calculations based on Ohio DEW [downloadable](#) files titled “District and Building Overview” (2024-25) and enrollment calculations from Fordham’s first edition of *Ohio Education by the Numbers* (2016). This chart uses 2015-16 as the baseline year based on data availability. The percentages in parentheses represent the change in enrollment between 2016 and 2025.

Race/Ethnic Composition by District Typology

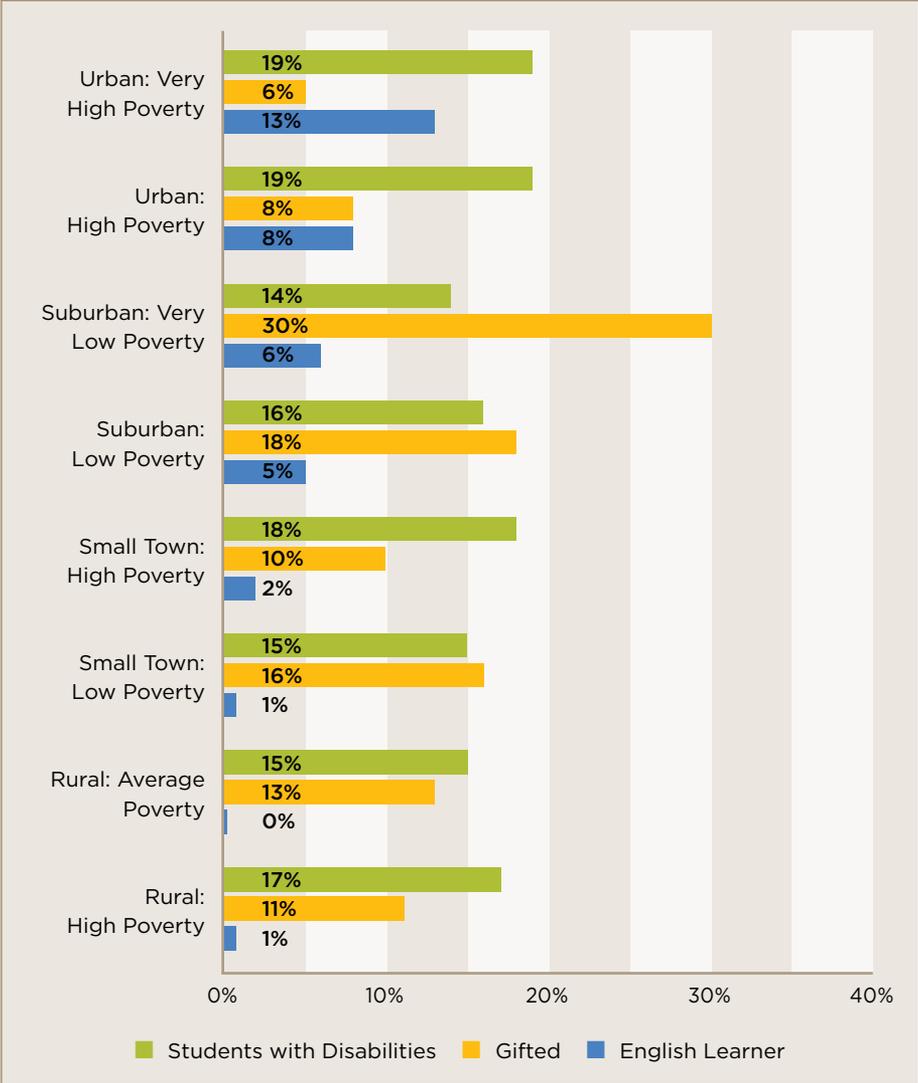
A majority of students attending urban schools are African American or Hispanic, while rural and small town districts are predominately white.



Source: Calculations based on Ohio DEW [downloadable](#) files titled “District and Building Disaggregated Race/Ethnicity” (2024-25). **Note:** For display purposes, the percentages for student groups representing less than 2 percent are omitted. API = Asian/Pacific Islander. Due to small numbers across all typologies, the American Indian/Alaskan Native student group is omitted from this chart.

Selected Student Groups by District Typology

Roughly 15 to 20 percent of students in the various typologies are students with disabilities; gifted students make up a noticeably higher proportion of students in suburban typologies than others; EL students make up a larger fraction of students attending urban schools.



Source: Calculations based on Ohio DEW [downloadable](#) files titled “District and Building Disaggregated Disability/Gifted/English Learner” (2024-25).

Ohio's Twenty-Five Largest Districts by Enrollment (2024-25)

SCHOOL DISTRICT		COUNTY	ENROLLMENT
1	Columbus	Franklin	46,054
2	Cincinnati	Hamilton	34,390
3	Cleveland	Cuyahoga	33,399
4	Olentangy	Delaware	23,232
5	South-Western	Franklin	21,952
6	Toledo	Lucas	21,160
7	Akron	Summit	19,737
8	Lakota	Butler	16,827
9	Dublin	Franklin	16,259
10	Hilliard	Franklin	16,002
11	Ohio Virtual Academy	N/A	14,732
12	Westerville	Franklin	14,255
13	Dayton	Montgomery	12,771
14	Pickerington	Fairfield	11,407
15	Worthington	Franklin	10,612
16	Mason	Warren	9,867
17	Parma	Cuyahoga	8,941
18	Hamilton	Butler	8,683
19	Fairfield	Butler	8,669
20	Gahanna-Jefferson	Franklin	8,197
21	Centerville	Montgomery	7,958
22	Beavercreek	Montgomery	7,822
23	Sylvania	Lucas	7,734
24	Northwest	Hamilton	7,585
25	Kettering	Montgomery	7,565

Note: Ohio Virtual Academy, a statewide e-school, is considered equivalent to a school district. This table does not include charter or STEM students as part of the district's student population.

School Options



Enrollment by Educational Model

Roughly 80 percent of Ohio students attend traditional public school districts, while almost 120,000 students attend charter schools, nearly 180,000 students attend non-public schools, and 60,000 students participate in homeschooling.

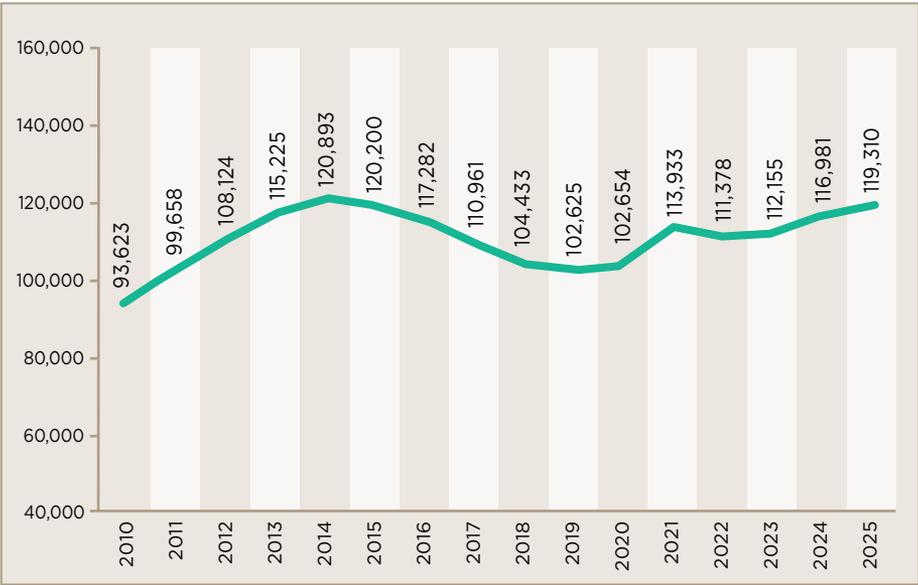
SCHOOL OPTION	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	ENROLLMENT	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
Traditional Public School District	2,971	1,465,041	Public schools that are operated by a school district.
Joint Vocational School District	49	51,070	Public schools that focus on career and technical education.
Charter Public School	339	119,310	Public schools that operate independently of the district and are authorized by a state-approved sponsor.
STEM Public School	8	3,867	Public schools that operate independently of the district and focus on STEM education.
Chartered Non-Public School	722	179,693	Private schools that are chartered by the state. These schools may participate in state-funded scholarship programs.
Non-Chartered, Non-Public School	363	No Data Available	Private schools that, due to truly held religious beliefs, choose not to be chartered by the state.
Home School	Not Applicable	61,009	Parents choose to educate their child at home.

Source: All data are for 2024-25 and drawn from various sources from Ohio DEW.

Public Charter Schools

Ohio has 339 charter schools—also known as community schools—serving almost 120,000 students.

2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	NUMBER OF STUDENTS	PERCENT OF CHARTER STUDENTS
GENERAL EDUCATION			
Brick-and-Mortar	251	68,809	57.7
Online	7	28,249	23.7
DROPOUT RECOVERY			
Brick-and-Mortar	69	14,798	12.4
Online	12	7,046	5.9
TOTALS	339	119,310	100



Sources: Ohio DEW [downloadable](#) file titled “Building Overview” was used to calculate enrollments for 2024-25 and the [community school directory](#) was used to identify the type of charter school. Historical enrollment data were drawn from DEW, [Community School Annual Report: 2023-2024](#).

Characteristics of Charter School Students

Reflecting the location of charter schools in predominately urban areas, Ohio charter school students are disproportionately Black and Hispanic.

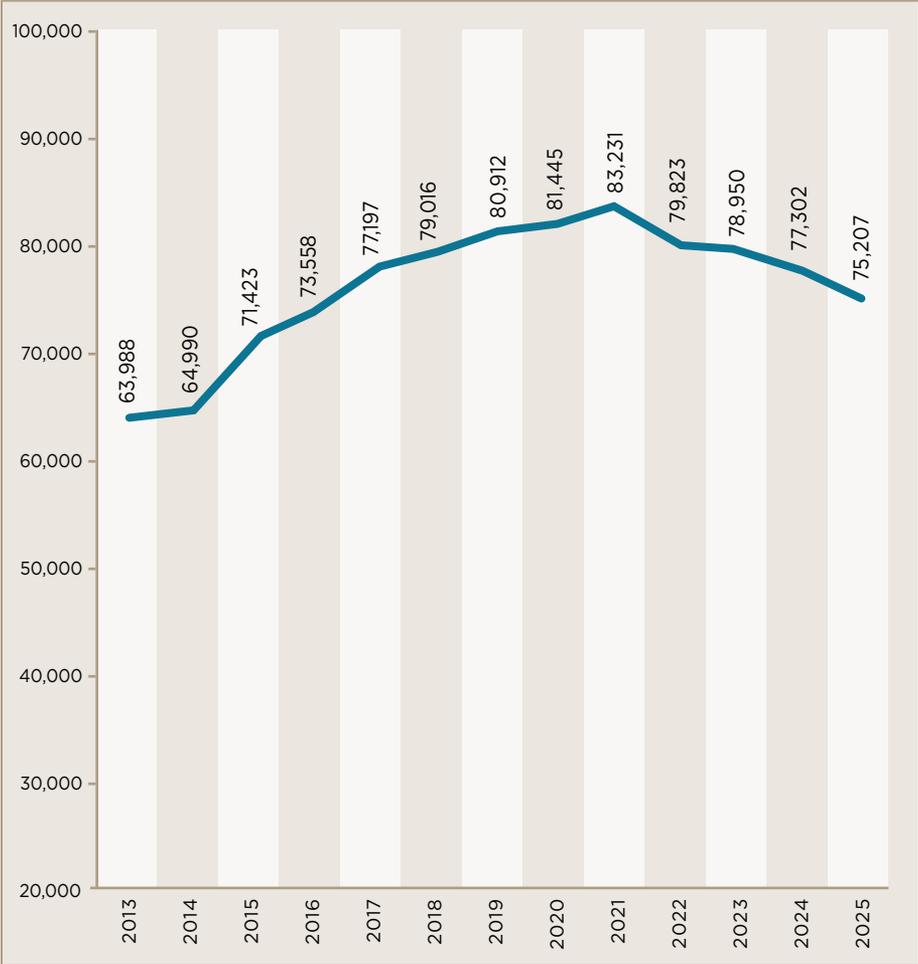
	NUMBER OF STUDENTS	PERCENT OF STUDENTS
RACE OR ETHNICITY		
White	40,705	34.1
Black	54,696	45.8
Hispanic	13,110	11.0
Multiracial	9,172	7.7
Asian or Pacific Islander	1,281	1.1
American Indian or Alaskan Native	345	<1.0
OTHER CHARACTERISTICS		
Students with Disabilities	21,778	18.3
English Learner	8,164	6.8
Identified as Gifted	1,561	1.3
TYOLOGY		
Brick-and-Mortar Charters		
Urban	78,960	66.2
Suburban	1,345	1.1
Small Town	2,105	1.8
Rural	1,197	1.0
Online Charters	35,295	29.6

Source: Ohio DEW, [Advanced Reports](#) (2024-25), for demographic data. The Ohio DEW [downloadable](#) file titled “Building Overview” was used to calculate enrollments by typology.

Note: Except for the typology section, statistics in this table include online charter schools.

Interdistrict Open Enrollment

Four in five Ohio districts participate in interdistrict open enrollment. Roughly 75,000 students open enroll, with participation—until very recently—increasing over time.

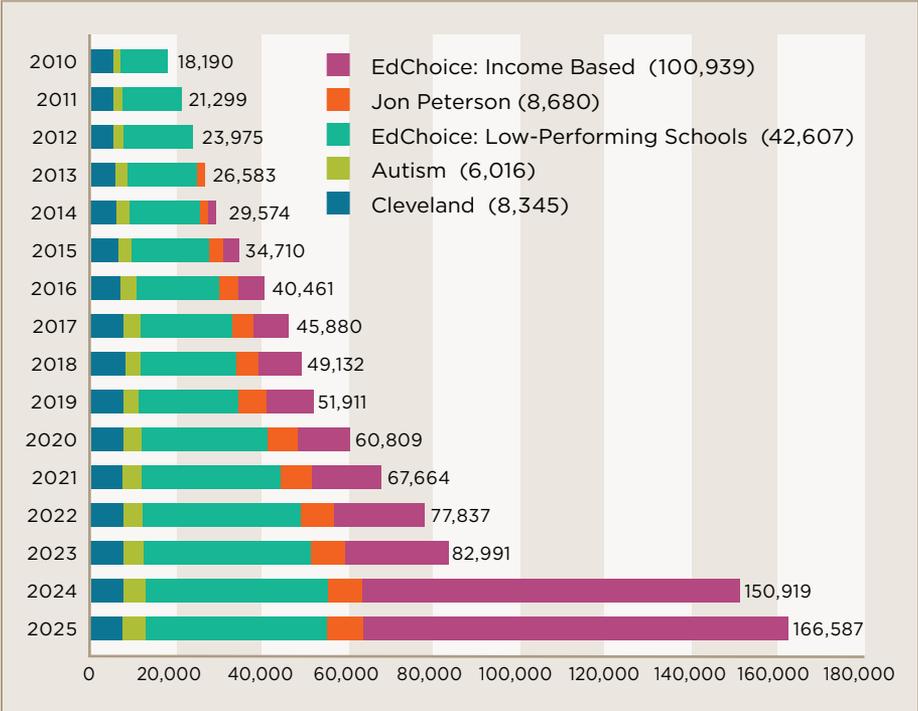


Sources: Enrollments are calculated based on school districts’ funding reports; see Ohio DEW, [Traditional School Districts Funding](#).

Private School Scholarships

More than 165,000 students use state-funded scholarships (often referred to as vouchers) to attend private schools. The large increase in participation starting in 2023-24 reflects expanded eligibility, as all students now qualify for some level of support under the income-based EdChoice scholarship.

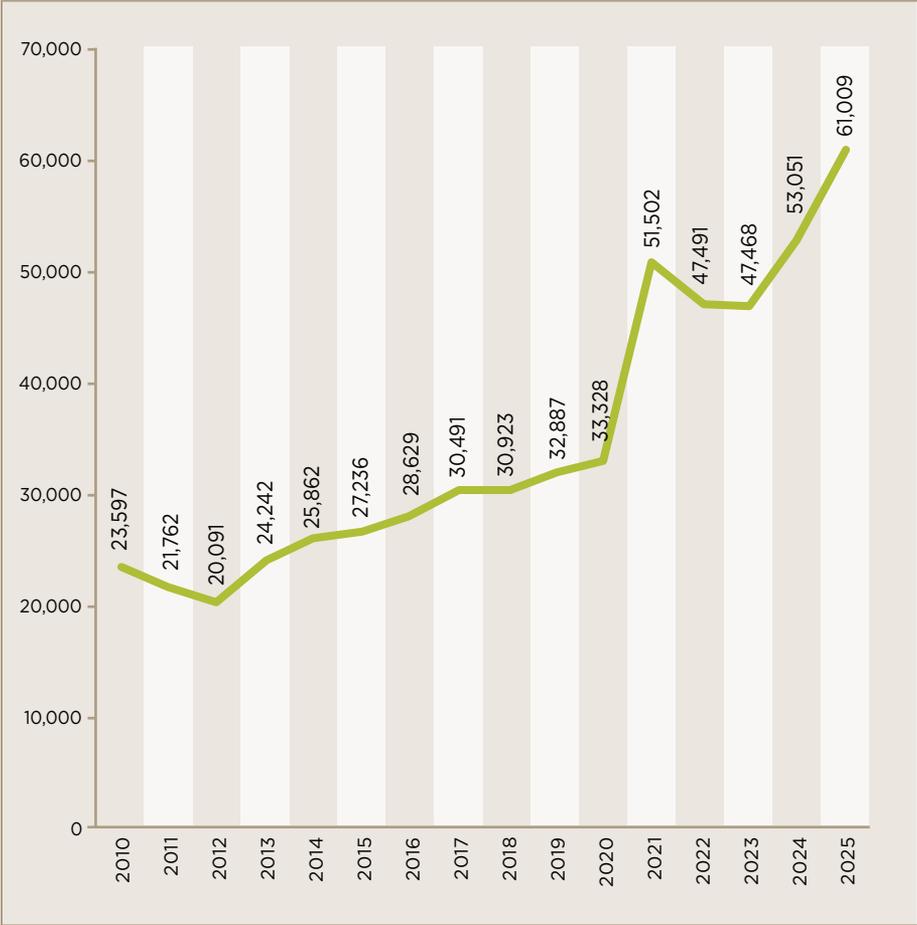
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM	PARTICIPATION IN 2024-25
EdChoice: Income Based	100,939
EdChoice: Low-Performing Schools	42,607
Jon Peterson Special Needs	8,680
Cleveland Scholarship	8,345
Autism Scholarship	6,016
TOTAL	166,587



Source: Data through 2020-21 are from American Federation for Children, [School Choice Yearbook \(2021\)](#). Ohio DEW began reporting more detailed data in 2021-22, and numbers since then are from [Advanced Reports](#). **Note:** The chart displays the total number of students in the various scholarship programs. For more information on each program, see Ohio DEW’s webpage, [Scholarships](#).

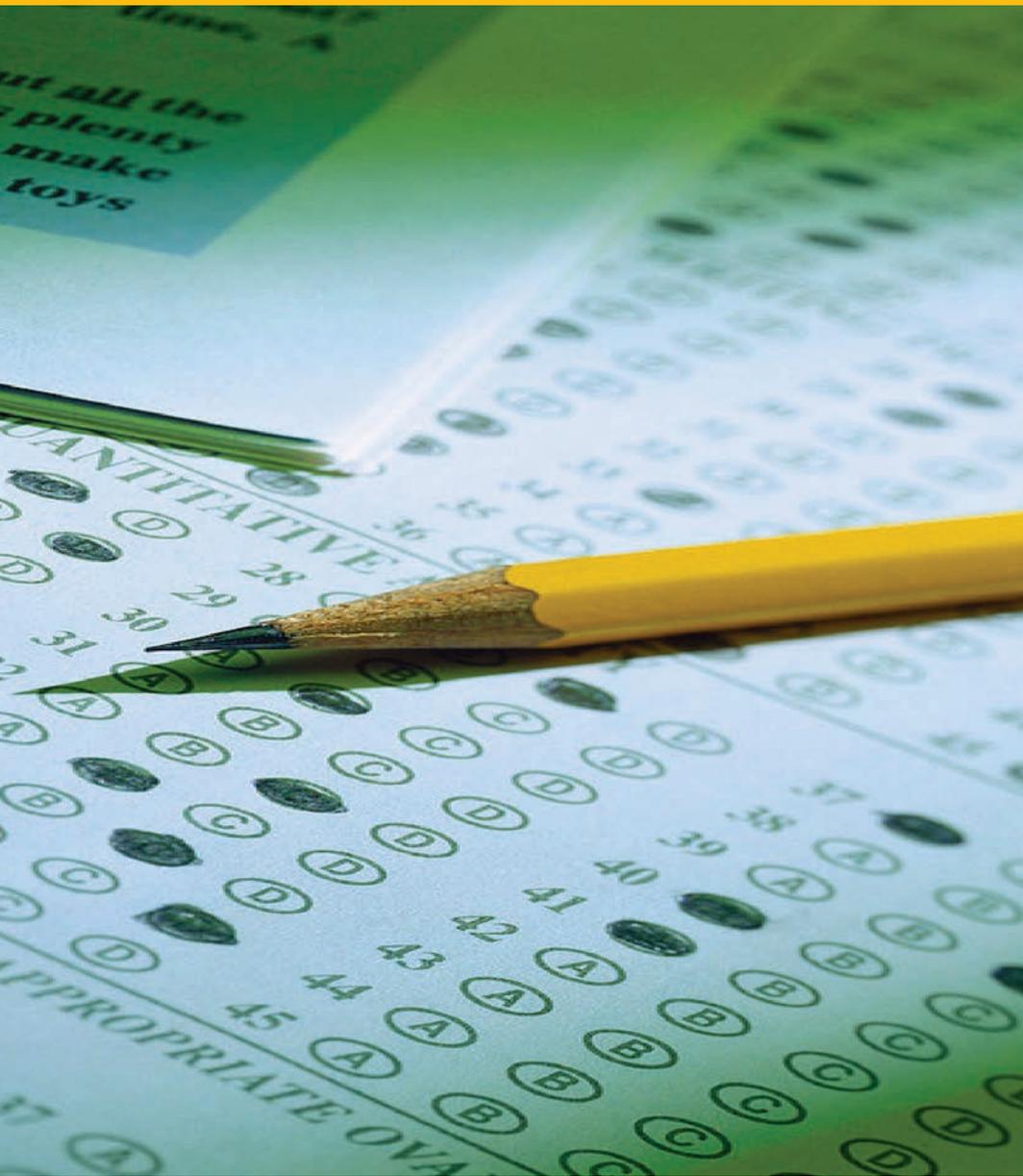
Homeschooling

Just over 60,000 students participate in homeschooling; the number of homeschoolers significantly increased starting in 2020-21.



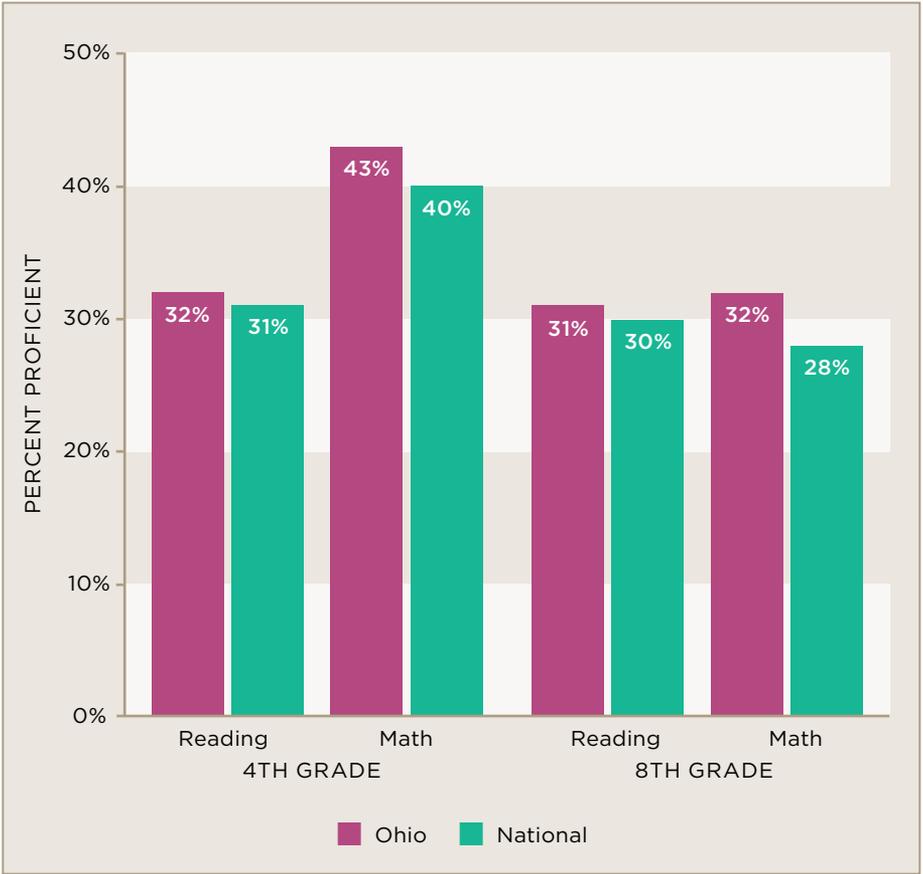
Source: Ohio DEW, [Advanced Reports](#). **Note:** Students attending online charter schools are not considered homeschool students.

Student Achievement: National Exams



National Exams: NAEP 2024

Approximately 30 to 45 percent of Ohio students reach the national standard for proficiency, just above the national average.



Source: National Assessment of Educational Progress, [Data Explorer](#) (2024). **Note:** The figure displays proficiency rates—the percentage of students achieving NAEP’s rigorous proficiency benchmark. The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), considered the “Nation’s Report Card,” is administered to a representative sample of fourth and eighth grade students in each state every two years in reading and math.

Ohio Compared to Other States

Nationally, Ohio ranks between 12th and 15th in fourth and eighth grade math and reading. Ohio's national position has typically been between 10th and 20th for the past two decades.

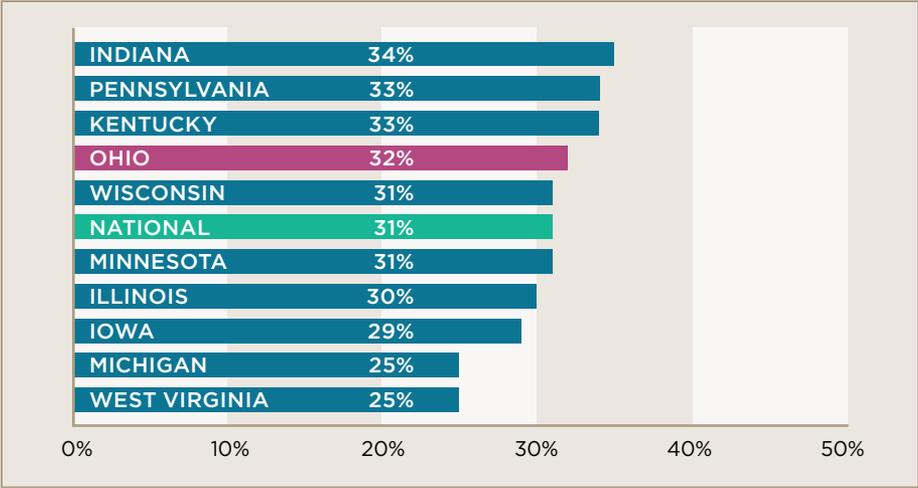
NATIONAL RANK											
	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2022	2024
4th Grade Reading	18	18	11	15	16	20	18	11	16	14	15
4th Grade Math	14	10	9	13	15	15	14	20	21	17	14
8th Grade Reading	17	17	11	12	16	19	29	18	10	11	13
8th Grade Math	18	16	22	24	15	11	18	12	14	20	12

Source: National Assessment of Educational Progress, [Data Explorer](#). **Note:** The table displays Ohio's rank on NAEP scores among all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense schools (52 jurisdictions in all).

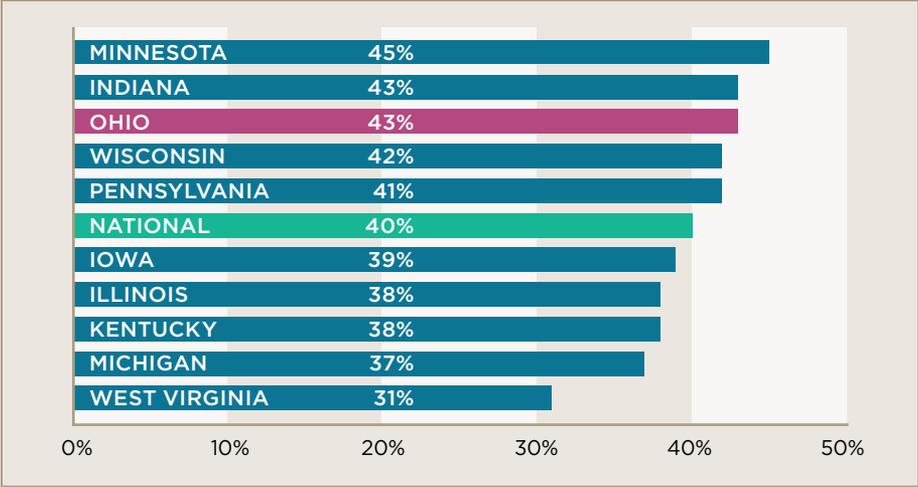
National Exams: How Ohio Compares to Nearby States

In fourth grade, Ohio ranks just below Indiana and Pennsylvania in reading and below Minnesota in math. However, it ranks above other nearby states such as Illinois and Michigan in both subjects.

FOURTH GRADE READING



FOURTH GRADE MATH

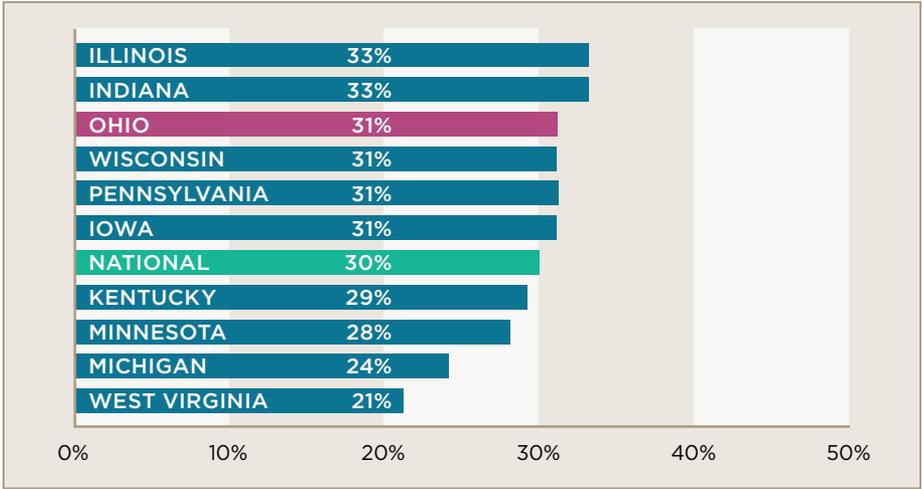


Source: National Assessment of Educational Progress, [Data Explorer](#) (2024). **Note:** The figure displays proficiency rates—the percentage of students achieving NAEP's rigorous proficiency benchmark.

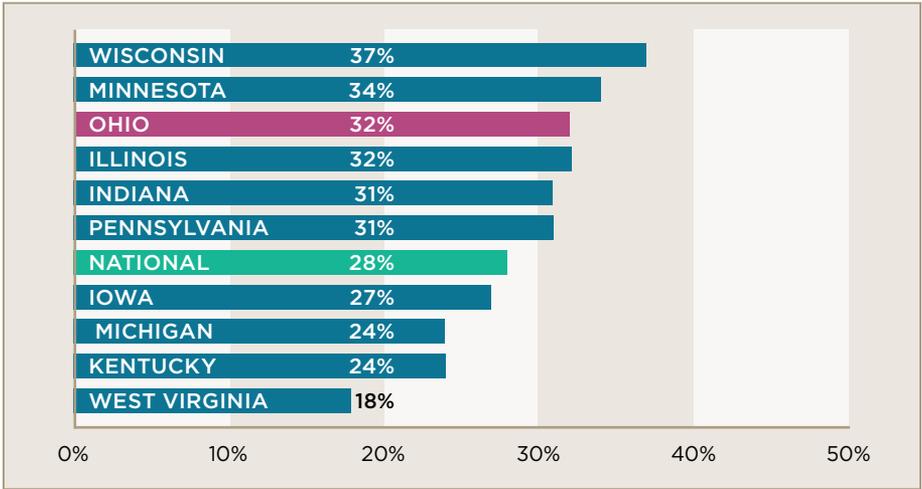
National Exams: How Ohio Compares to Nearby States

In eighth grade, Ohio ranks just below Illinois and Indiana in reading and below Wisconsin and Minnesota in math. However, it ranks above other nearby states such as Kentucky and Michigan in both subjects.

EIGHTH GRADE READING



EIGHTH GRADE MATH

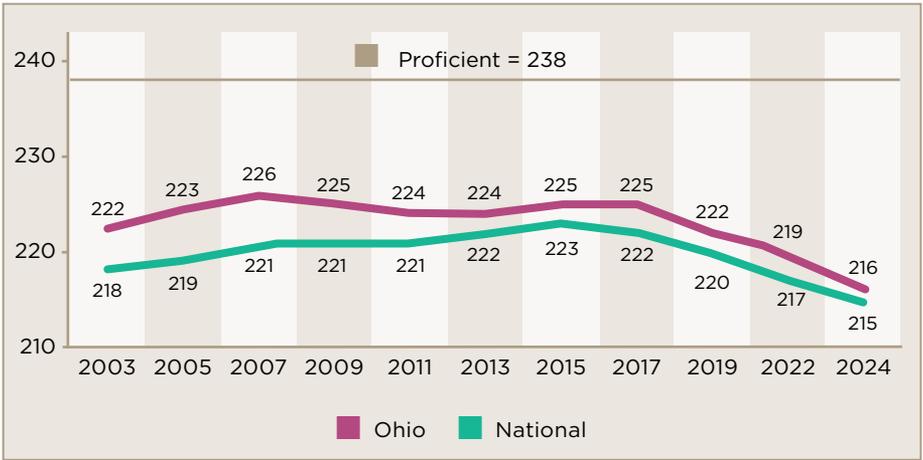


Source: National Assessment of Educational Progress, [Data Explorer](#) (2024). **Note:** The figure displays proficiency rates—the percentage of students achieving NAEP’s rigorous proficiency benchmark.

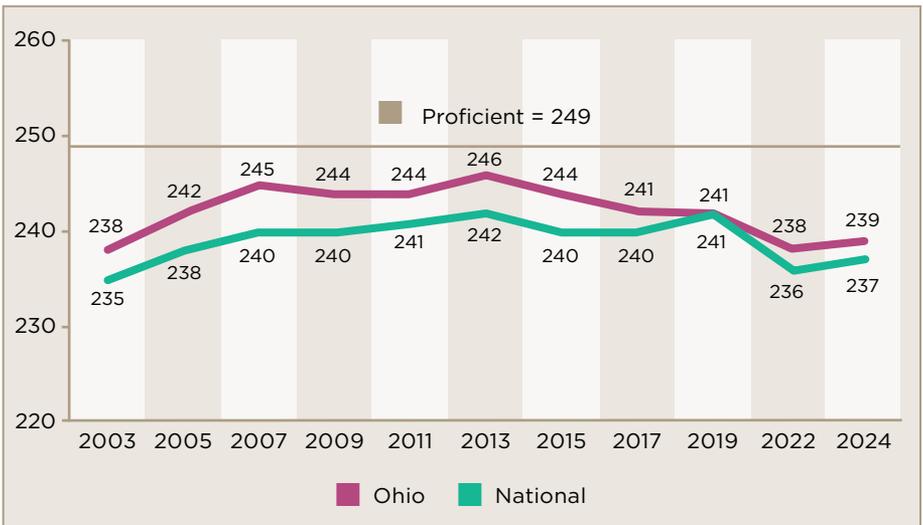
Ohio's NAEP Scores over Time: Fourth Grade

Ohio's fourth grade reading scores have been largely flat until recent declines that follow national trends. Fourth grade math scores increased from 2003 to 2013 but have declined in more recent years.

FOURTH GRADE READING



FOURTH GRADE MATH

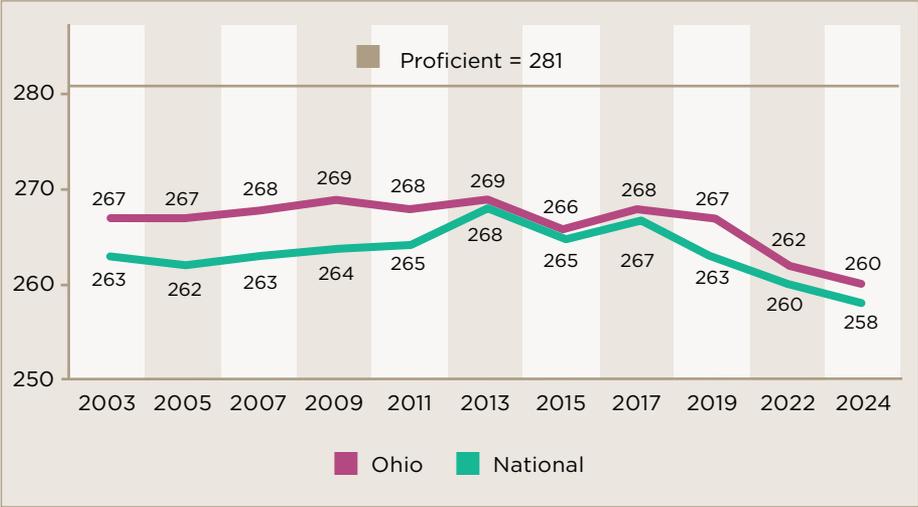


Source: National Assessment of Educational Progress, [Data Explorer](#). **Note:** The NAEP trend charts display scaled scores. Scores are reported on a scale of 0 and 500, with the score needed to reach proficient displayed for reference.

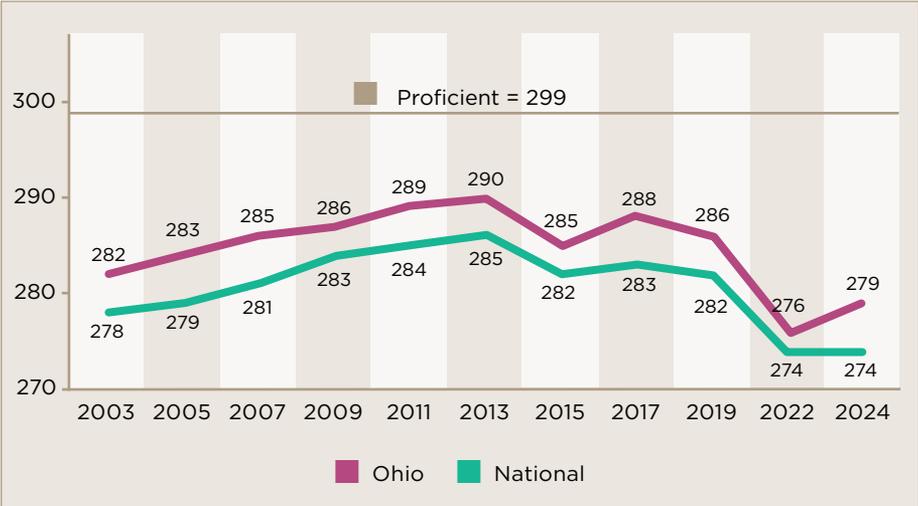
Ohio's NAEP Scores over Time: Eighth Grade

Ohio's eighth grade reading scores were largely flat until the significant decline in 2022 and 2024. Eighth grade math scores fell sharply in 2022 and recovered slightly in 2024.

EIGHTH GRADE READING



EIGHTH GRADE MATH

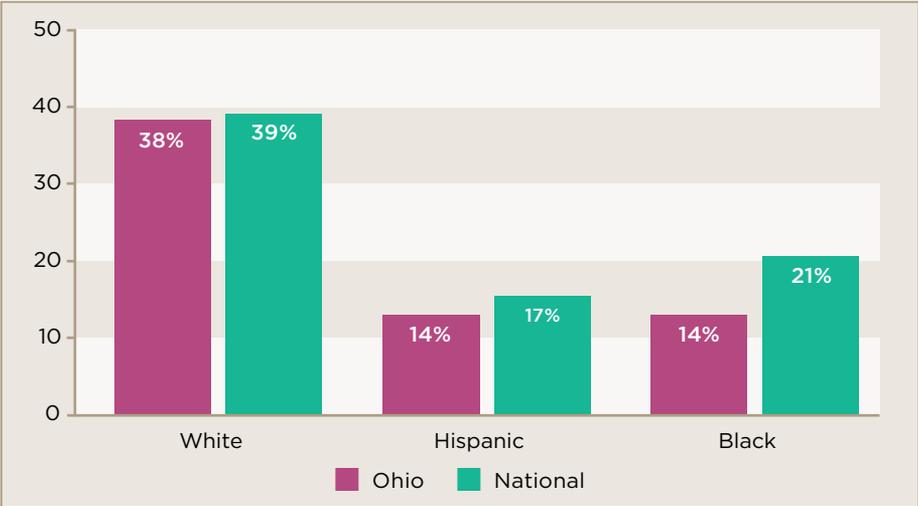


Source: National Assessment of Educational Progress, [Data Explorer](#). **Note:** The NAEP trend charts display scaled scores. Scores are reported on a scale of 0 and 500, with the score needed to reach proficient displayed for reference.

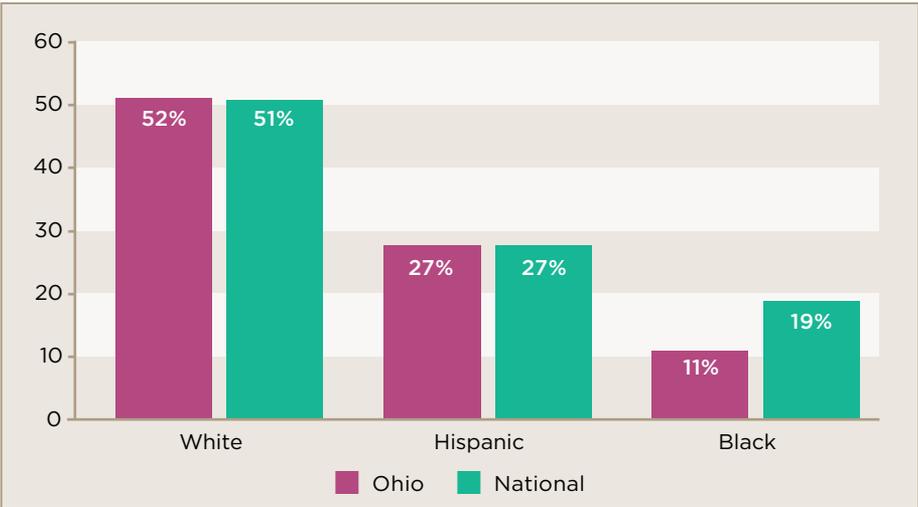
National Exams: Achievement by Race/Ethnicity

Approximately 40 to 50 percent of Ohio's white fourth grade students achieve proficiency on NAEP, but less than 15 percent of Ohio's Black students do so.

FOURTH GRADE READING



FOURTH GRADE MATH

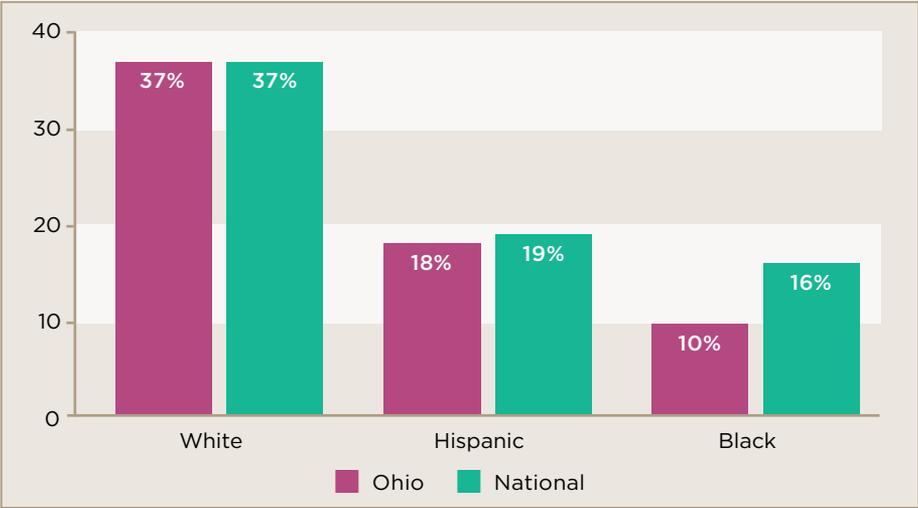


Source: National Assessment of Educational Progress, [Data Explorer](#) (2024). **Note:** The figure displays proficiency rates—the percentage of students achieving NAEP's rigorous proficiency benchmark. Smaller race/ethnic subgroups are omitted for display purposes.

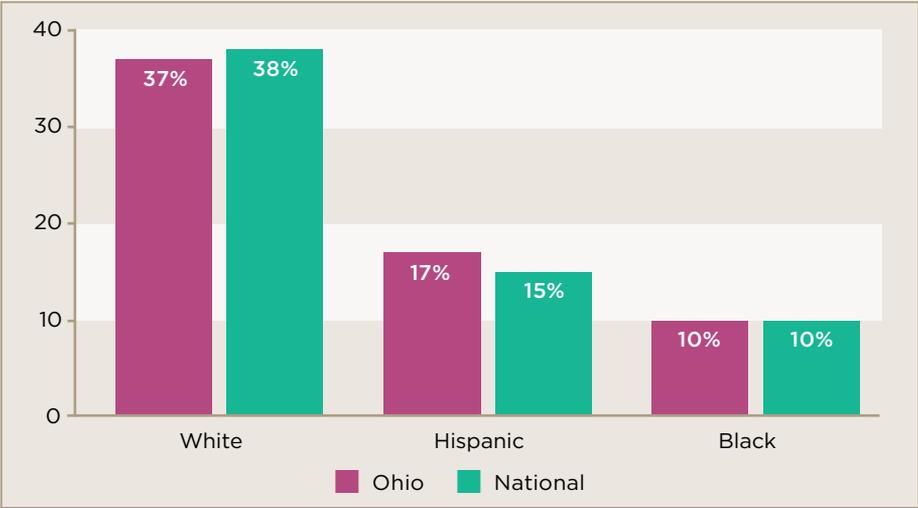
National Exams: Achievement by Race/Ethnicity

Between 35 and 40 percent of Ohio’s white eighth grade students achieve proficiency on NAEP, but just 10 percent of Black students in Ohio do so.

EIGHTH GRADE READING

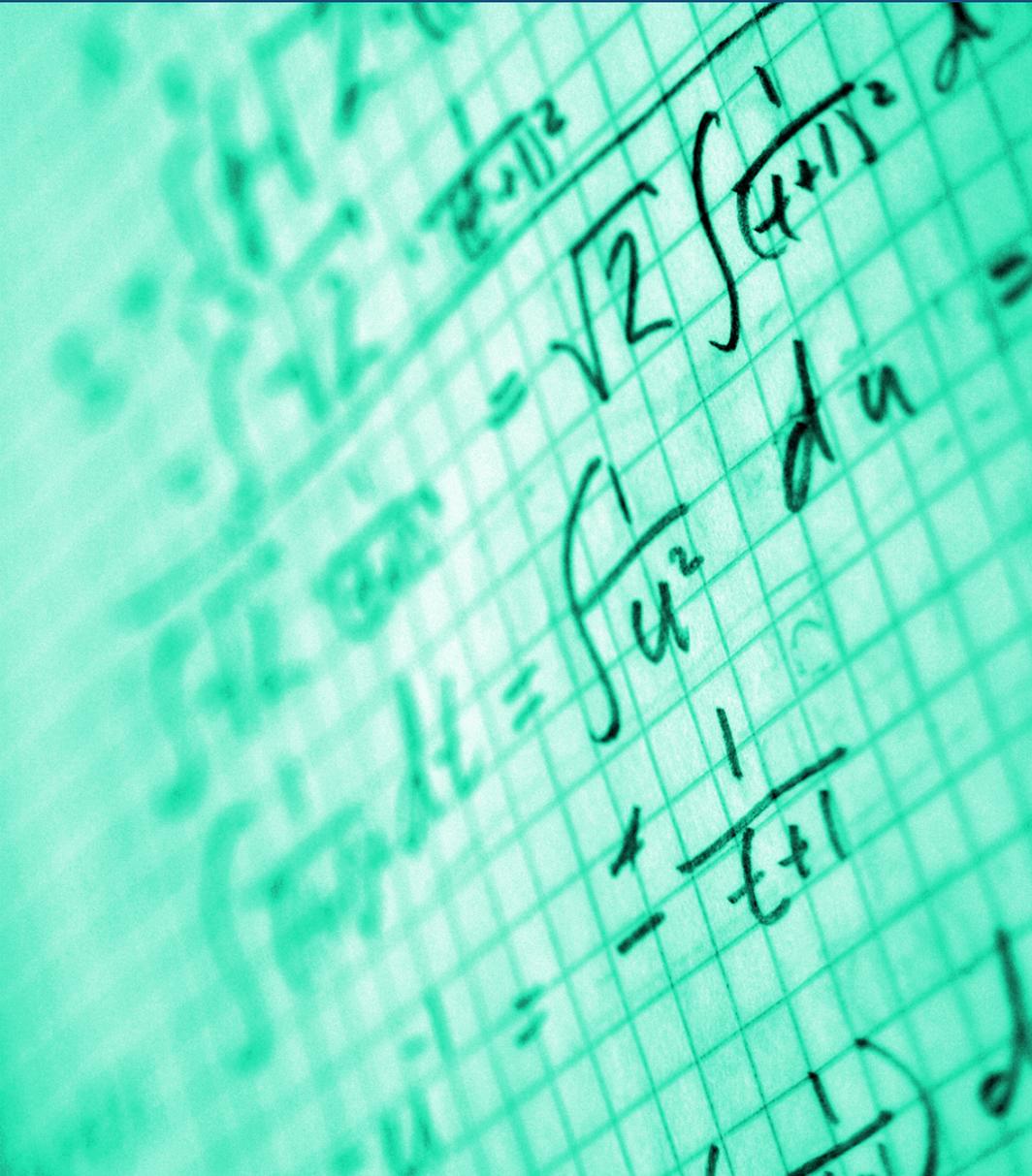


EIGHTH GRADE MATH



Source: : National Assessment of Educational Progress, [Data Explorer](#) (2024). **Note:** The figure displays proficiency rates—the percentage of students achieving NAEP’s rigorous proficiency benchmark. Smaller race/ethnic subgroups are omitted for display purposes.

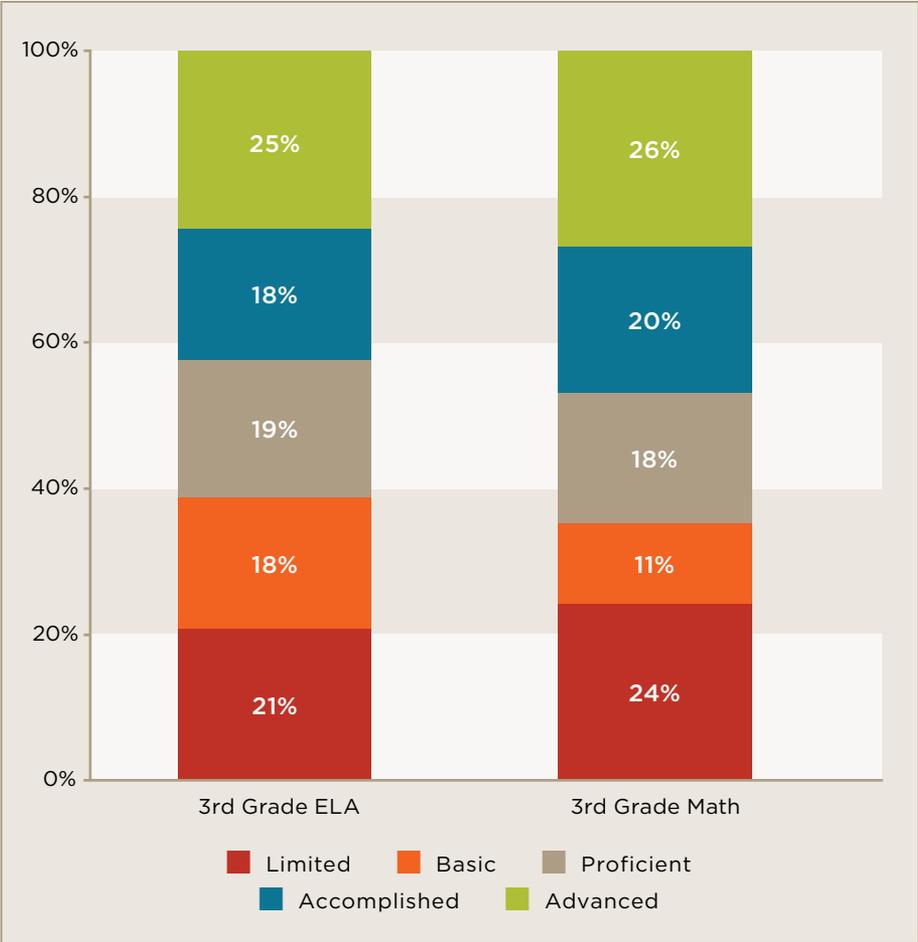
Student Achievement: State Exams



Statewide Achievement in Selected Grades and Subjects

In **third grade ELA**, 43 percent of students scored in the top achievement levels (accomplished or advanced), 19 percent scored proficient, and 39 percent fell short of proficiency.

In **third grade math**, 46 percent of students scored in the top achievement levels, 18 percent scored proficient, and 35 percent fell short of proficiency.

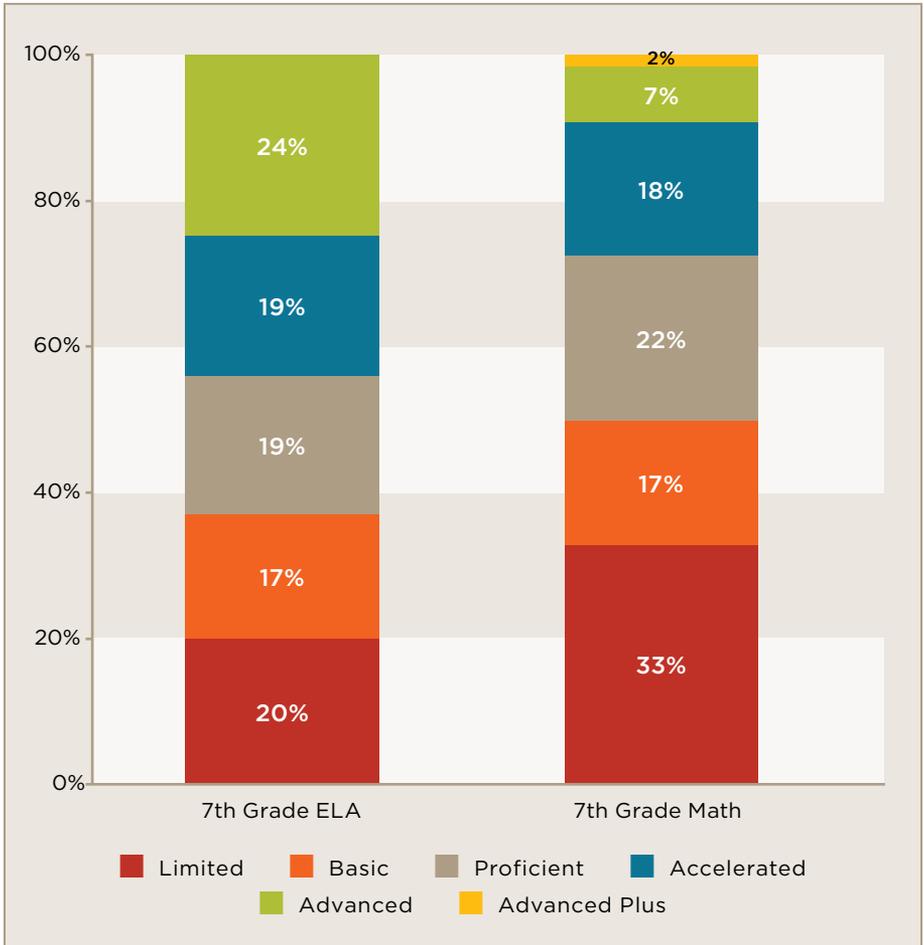


Source: Ohio DEW, [Advanced Reports](#) (2024-25). **Note:** Percentages may not add to 100 percent due to rounding and the exclusion of a small percentage of untested students. Not displayed is the “advanced plus” level, a category used when students score “advanced” on an above-grade-level assessment. In third grade, 0.1 percent of students scored advanced plus in ELA and math.

Statewide Achievement in Selected Grades and Subjects

In **seventh grade ELA**, 43 percent of students scored in the top achievement levels (accomplished or advanced), 19 percent scored proficient, and 37 percent fell short of proficiency.

In **seventh grade math**, 27 percent of students scored in the top achievement levels, 22 percent scored proficient, and 50 percent fell short of proficiency.

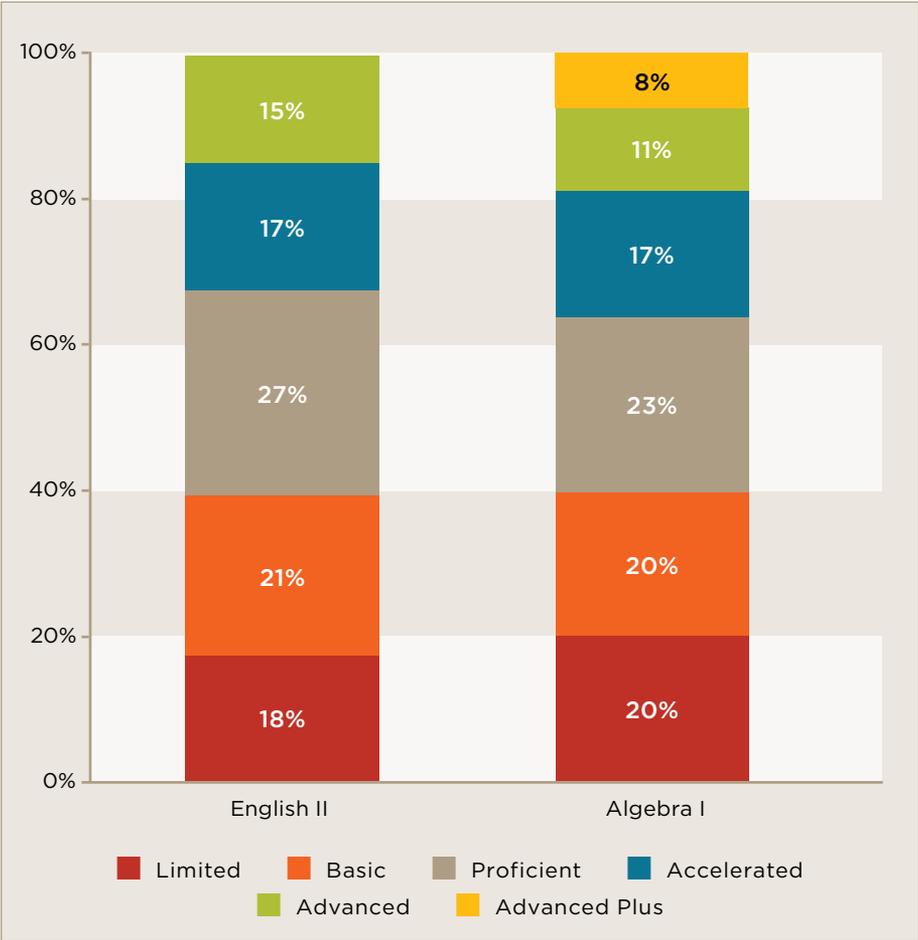


Source: Ohio DEW, [Advanced Report](#) (2024-25). **Note:** Percentages may not add to 100 percent due to rounding and the exclusion of a small percentage of untested students. In ELA, 0.4 percent of seventh grade students scored advanced plus.

Statewide Achievement in Selected Grades and Subjects

In **high school English II**, 32 percent of students scored in the top achievement levels (accomplished or advanced), 27 percent scored proficient, and 39 percent fell short of proficiency.

In **Algebra I**, 36 percent of students scored in the top achievement levels, 23 percent scored proficient, and 40 percent fell short of proficiency.

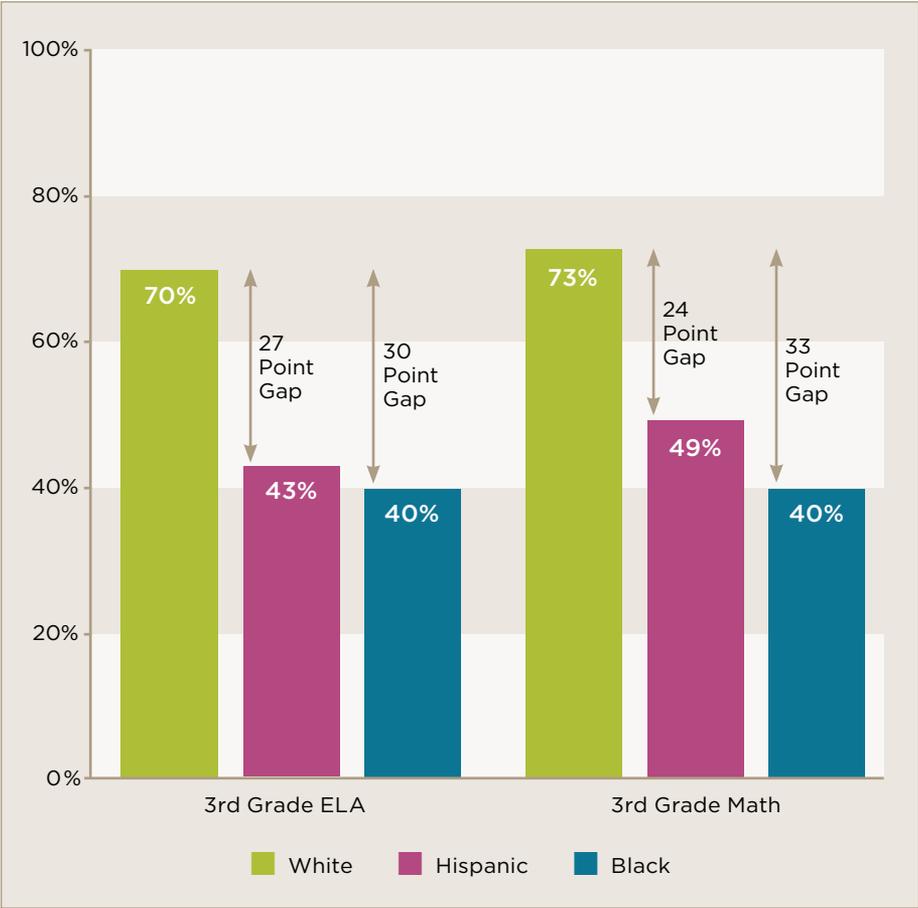


Source: Ohio DEW, [Advanced Reports](#) (2024-25). **Note:** Percentages may not add to 100 percent due to rounding and the exclusion of a small percentage of untested students. In English, 0.5 percent of students scored advanced plus.

Proficiency Rates by Race/Ethnicity

On average, Black and Hispanic students perform at lower levels than white students on third grade state exams.

THIRD GRADE: PERCENT PROFICIENT OR ABOVE

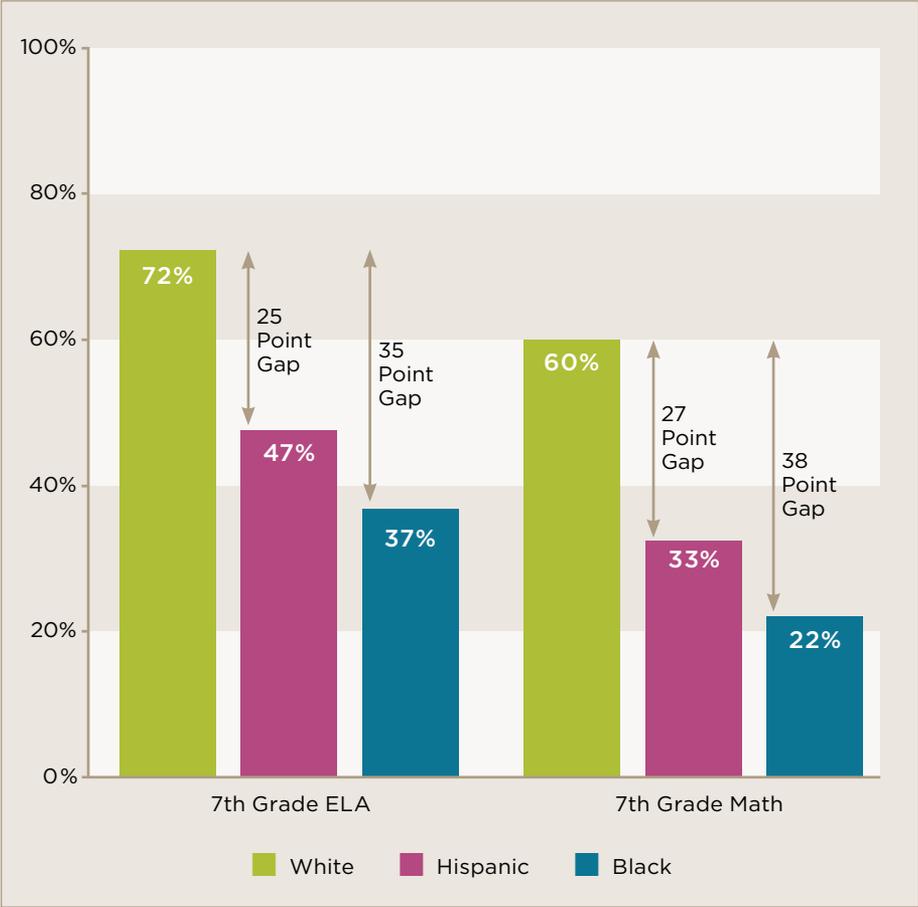


Source: Ohio DEW, [Advanced Reports](#) (2024-25). **Note:** Other race/ethnic subgroups are not shown for display purposes. Asian/Pacific Islander students generally achieve, on average, at higher levels than white students; multiracial students achieve at levels between white and Hispanic students.

Proficiency Rates by Race/Ethnicity

On average, Black and Hispanic students perform at lower levels than white students on seventh grade state exams.

SEVENTH GRADE: PERCENT PROFICIENT OR ABOVE

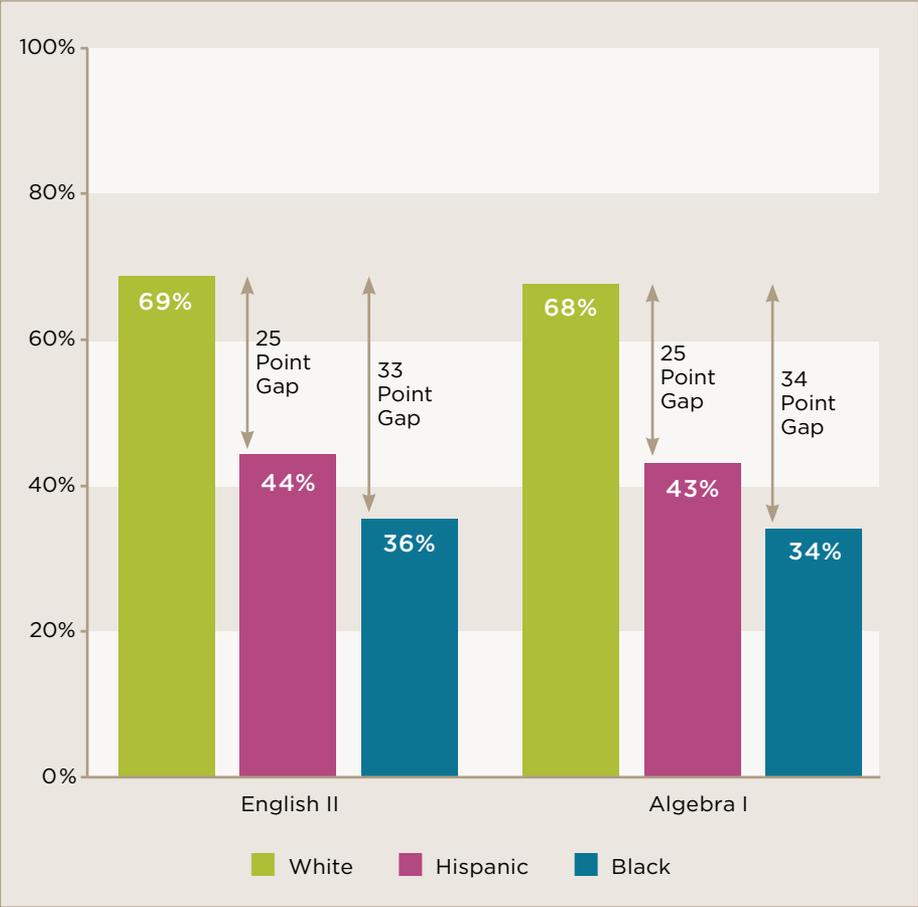


Source: Ohio DEW, [Advanced Reports](#) (2024-25). **Note:** Other race/ethnic subgroups are not shown for display purposes. Asian/Pacific Islander students generally achieve, on average, at higher levels than white students; multiracial students achieve at levels between white and Hispanic students.

Proficiency Rates by Race/Ethnicity

On average, Black and Hispanic students perform at lower levels than white students on high school state exams.

HIGH SCHOOL: PERCENT PROFICIENT OR ABOVE

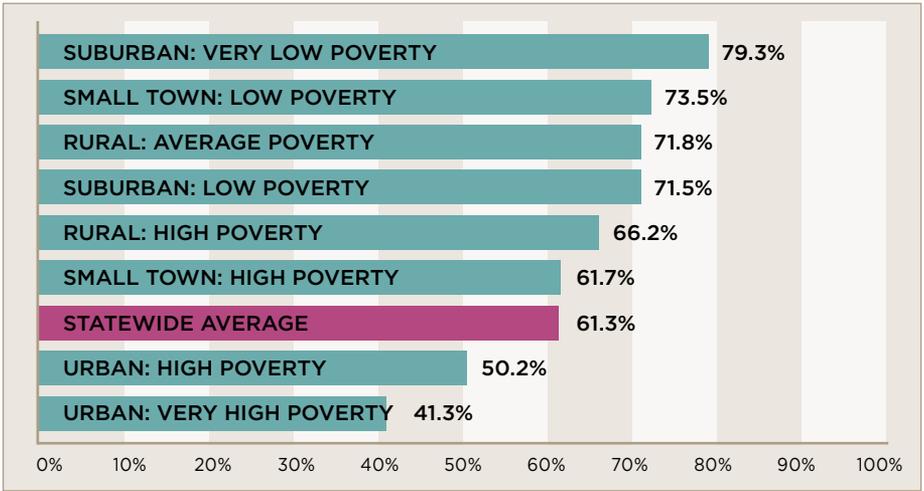


Source: Ohio DEW, [Advanced Reports](#) (2024-25). **Note:** Other race/ethnic subgroups are omitted for display purposes. Asian/Pacific Islander students generally achieve, on average, at higher levels than white students; multiracial students achieve at levels between white and Hispanic students.

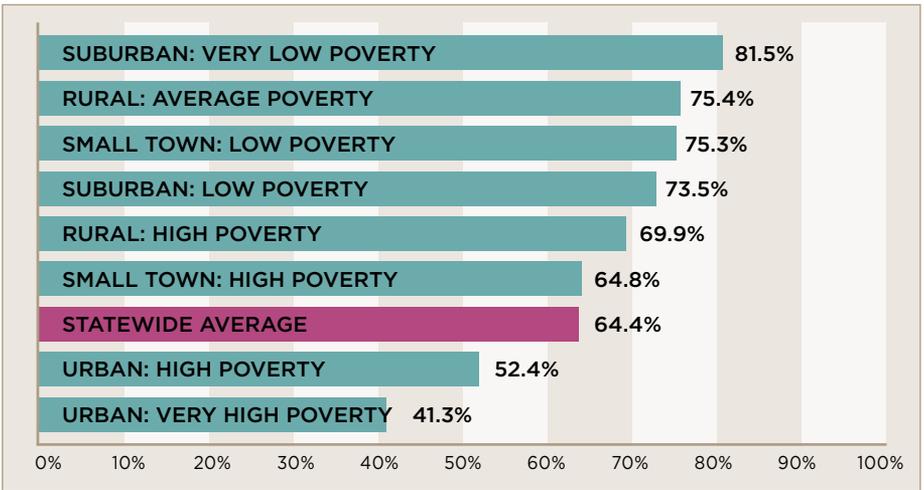
Proficiency Rates by District Typology

Third grade proficiency rates are higher in low-poverty districts, and lower in high-poverty urban districts.

THIRD GRADE ELA



THIRD GRADE MATH

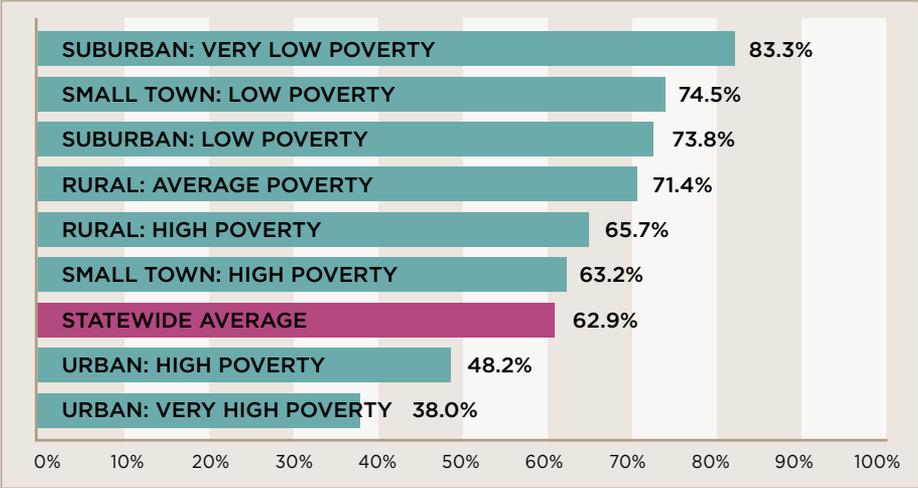


Source: Calculations based on Ohio DEW [downloadable](#) files titled “District and Building Achievement Data” (2024-25). **Note:** The typology averages are weighted by the number of third graders in each district, charter, or STEM school.

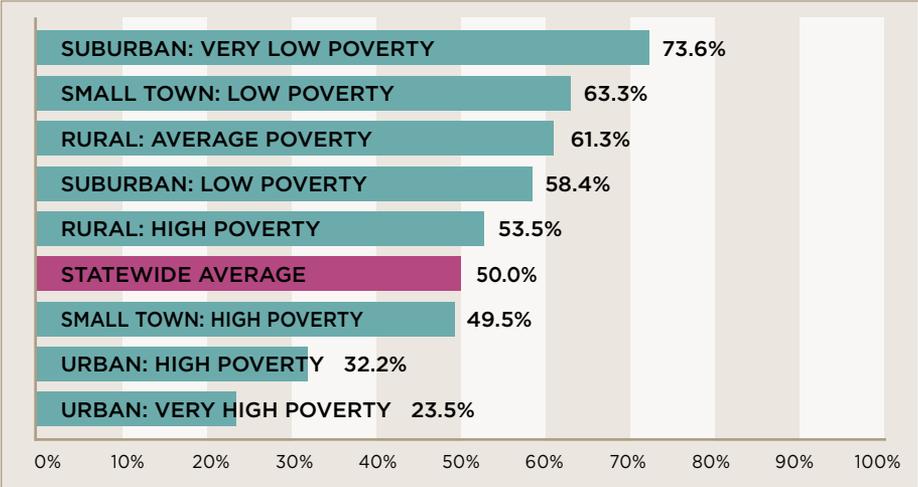
Proficiency Rates by District Typology

Seventh grade proficiency rates are higher in low-poverty districts, and lower in high-poverty urban districts.

SEVENTH GRADE ELA



SEVENTH GRADE MATH

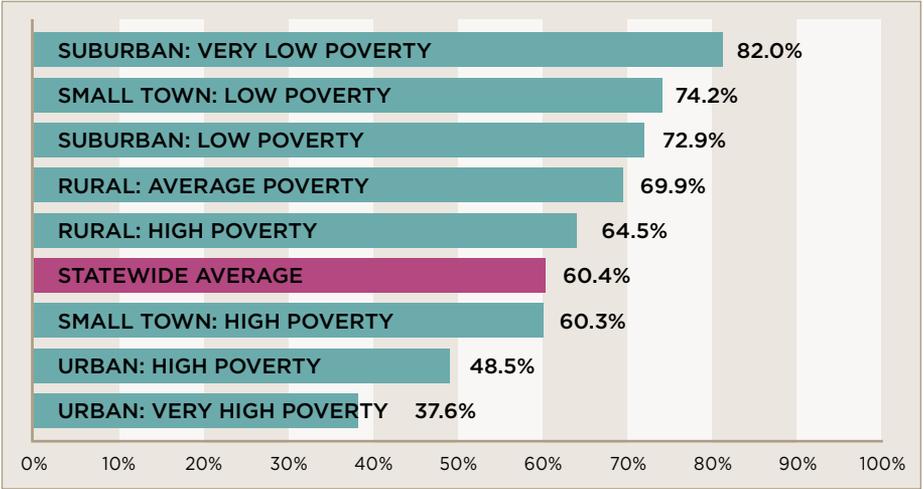


Source: Calculations based on Ohio DEW [downloadable](#) files titled “District and Building Achievement Data” (2024-25). **Note:** The typology averages are weighted by the number of seventh graders in each district, charter, or STEM school.

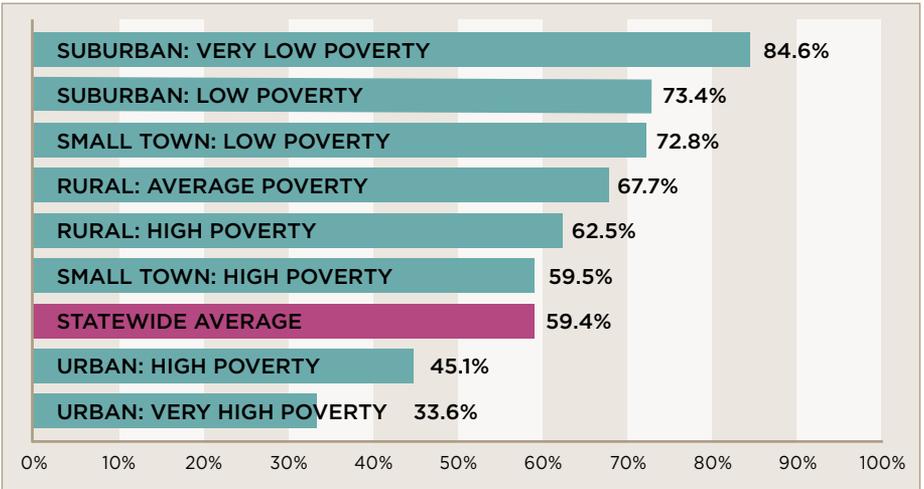
Proficiency Rates by District Typology

High school proficiency rates are higher in low-poverty districts, and lower in high-poverty urban districts.

ENGLISH II



ALGEBRA I

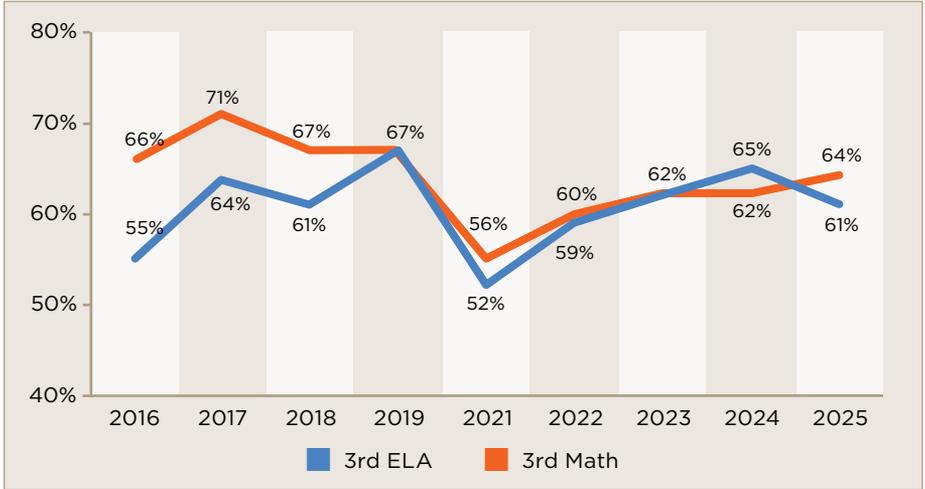


Source: Calculations based on Ohio DEW [downloadable](#) files titled “District and Building Achievement Data” (2024-25). **Note:** The typology averages are weighted by the number of ninth graders in each district, charter, or STEM school.

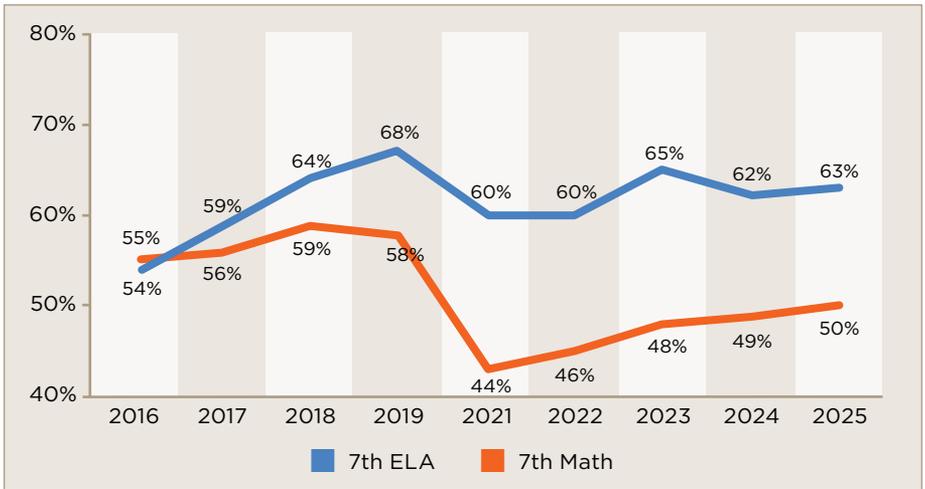
Proficiency Trends in Selected Grades

In third and seventh grades, proficiency rates fell significantly during the pandemic. Rates have increased since then but still remain below 2018-19 marks.

THIRD GRADE



SEVENTH GRADE

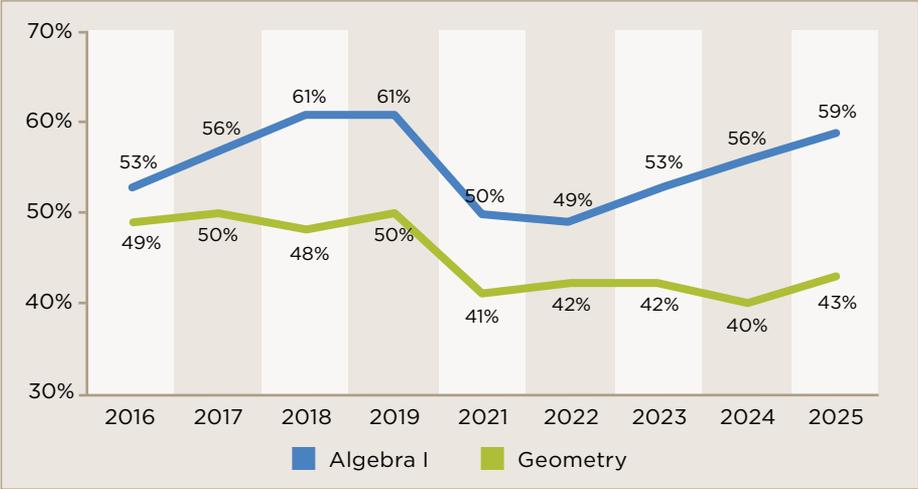


Source: Ohio DEW, [Advanced Reports](#). **Note:** No data are displayed for 2019-20 due to the cancellation of state tests that year.

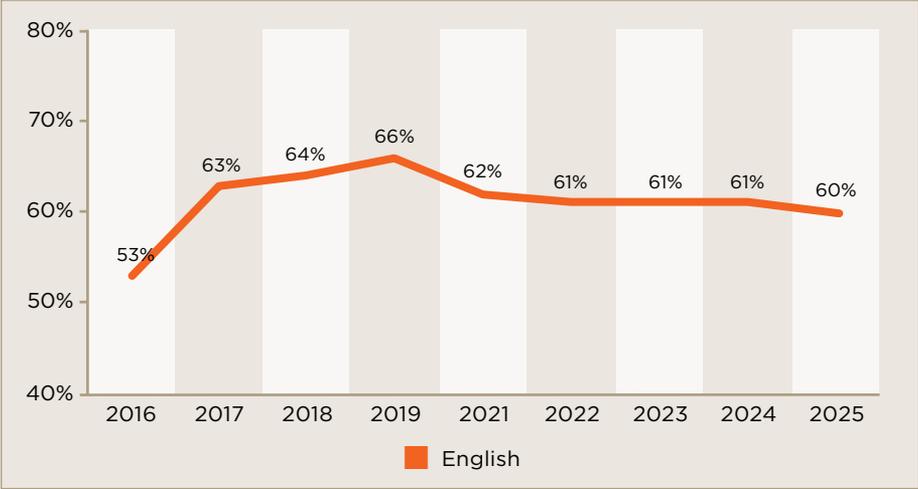
Proficiency Trends on Selected High School Exams

Proficiency rates on state end-of-course (EOC) exams declined during the pandemic, and have rebounded in Algebra I but not in Geometry or English II.

MATH EOCs



ENGLISH EOC



Source: Ohio DEW, [Advanced Reports](#). Note: No data are displayed for 2019-20 due to the cancellation of state tests that year.

Proficiency Rates on All State Exams

The percentage of Ohio students reaching proficiency or above on the various state exams ranges from roughly 40 to 70 percent.

	2019	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
GRADE 3-8 EXAMS						
3rd ELA	66.7	51.9	59.8	62.3	64.5	61.3
3rd Math	67.1	55.7	58.7	62.2	62.1	64.4
4th ELA	63.3	56.0	62.5	58.9	64.1	61.9
4th Math	74.3	59.4	63.6	66.8	67.2	69.1
5th ELA	69.8	64.8	64.4	67.4	70.6	67.7
5th Math	62.5	48.0	53.5	56.6	57.4	56.7
5th Science	65.0	57.9	62.9	63.9	64.0	63.4
6th ELA	56.1	51.9	55.8	55.0	55.2	54.5
6th Math	60.1	45.9	49.6	50.0	50.1	51.9
7th ELA	67.7	59.6	60.3	64.8	61.7	62.9
7th Math	57.5	44.3	45.6	47.6	49.0	50.0
8th ELA	58.3	52.7	52.7	57.5	49.4	54.4
8th Math	57.3	42.6	43.0	46.4	46.3	47.6
8th Science	68.2	59.4	63.0	64.0	62.1	63.0
HIGH SCHOOL END-OF-COURSE (EOC) EXAMS						
English II	66.2	62.0	61.3	60.8	61.4	60.4
Algebra I	61.1	49.4	49.1	53.0	55.9	59.4
Geometry	50.1	40.9	41.6	41.8	39.8	42.8
Biology	73.7	64.7	64.7	63.7	62.9	65.4
U.S. Gov.	77.7	73.0	73.9	72.0	69.1	72.6
U.S. History	78.1	68.3	68.2	69.7	68.5	71.2

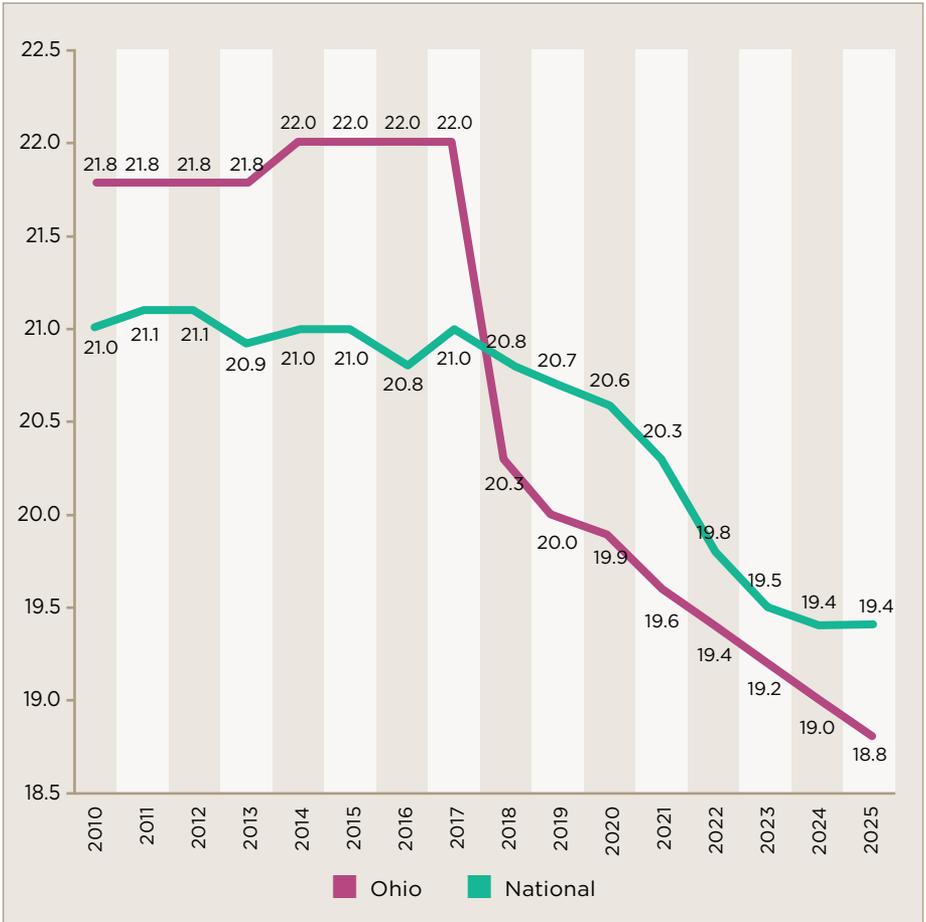
Source: Ohio DEW, [Advanced Reports](#). **Note:** Data for 2019-20 are not displayed due to the cancellation of state tests that year.

Post-Secondary Readiness and Outcomes



ACT Scores Over Time

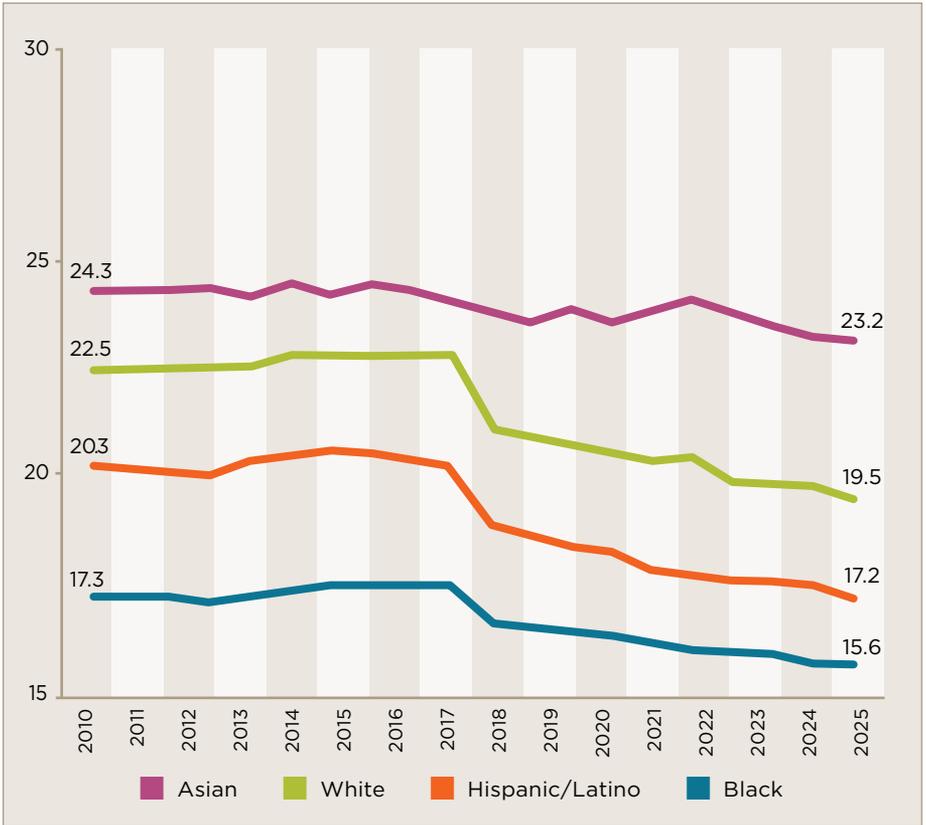
Ohio's average ACT composite score fell significantly beginning with the class of 2018, when all Ohio juniors began taking a college admissions exam. Ohio's ACT scores have declined further since 2018.



Source: ACT, [Average ACT Scores by State: Graduating Class of 2025](#); for historical data, see, e.g., ACT, [Graduation Class of 2014—Ohio](#). **Note:** This chart displays the average ACT composite score on all four tested subjects (English, math, reading, and science). About three in four Ohio students took the ACT exams in the classes of 2005-17, while practically all students in the classes of 2018-20 did so. Participation was somewhat lower for the classes of 2021-25 (roughly 70-85 percent). Composite scores are reported on a scale of 0 to 36.

Average ACT Scores by Race/Ethnicity

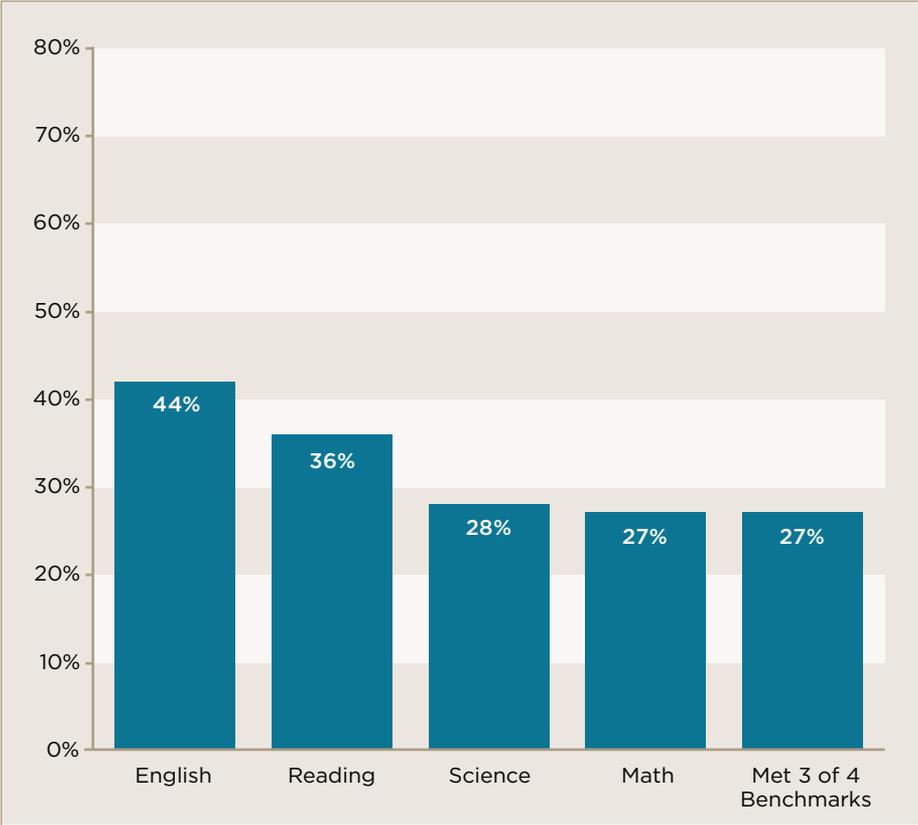
Large gaps in average ACT scores exist between racial/ethnic groups; disparities have not narrowed significantly over the past decade.



Source: ACT, [U.S. High School Graduating Class Trends](#); for historical data, see, e.g., ACT, [Graduation Class of 2014—Ohio](#). **Note:** ACT reports data for several smaller racial/ethnic student groups that are not displayed on this figure.

ACT Exam: College Readiness of the Class of 2025

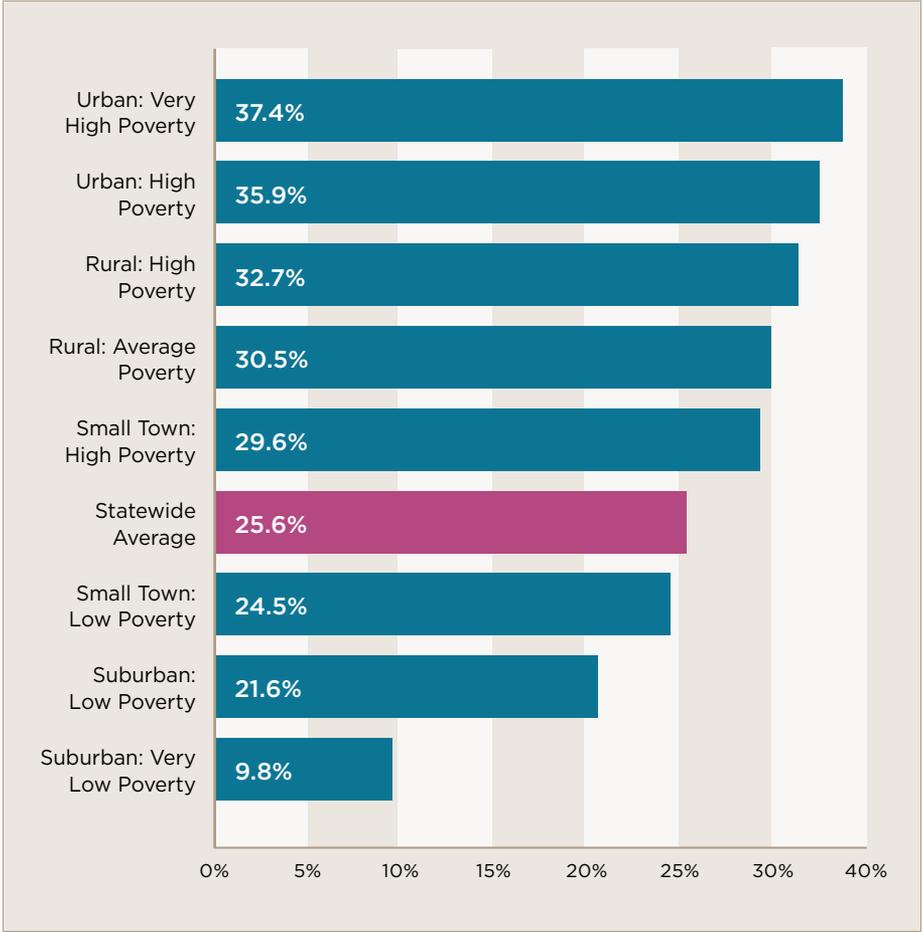
College readiness varies by ACT content area—from 27 percent in math and science to 44 percent in English. Just one in four Ohio students reach college-ready benchmarks in at least three sections of the test.



Source: ACT, [Average ACT Scores by State: Graduating Class of 2025](#). **Note:** ACT establishes minimum test scores in each subject that indicate readiness for college coursework in that area; see, [What are the ACT College Readiness Benchmarks?](#) These benchmarks are used by the [Ohio Department of Higher Education](#) to determine incoming college students' remediation-free status.

Industry Credentials

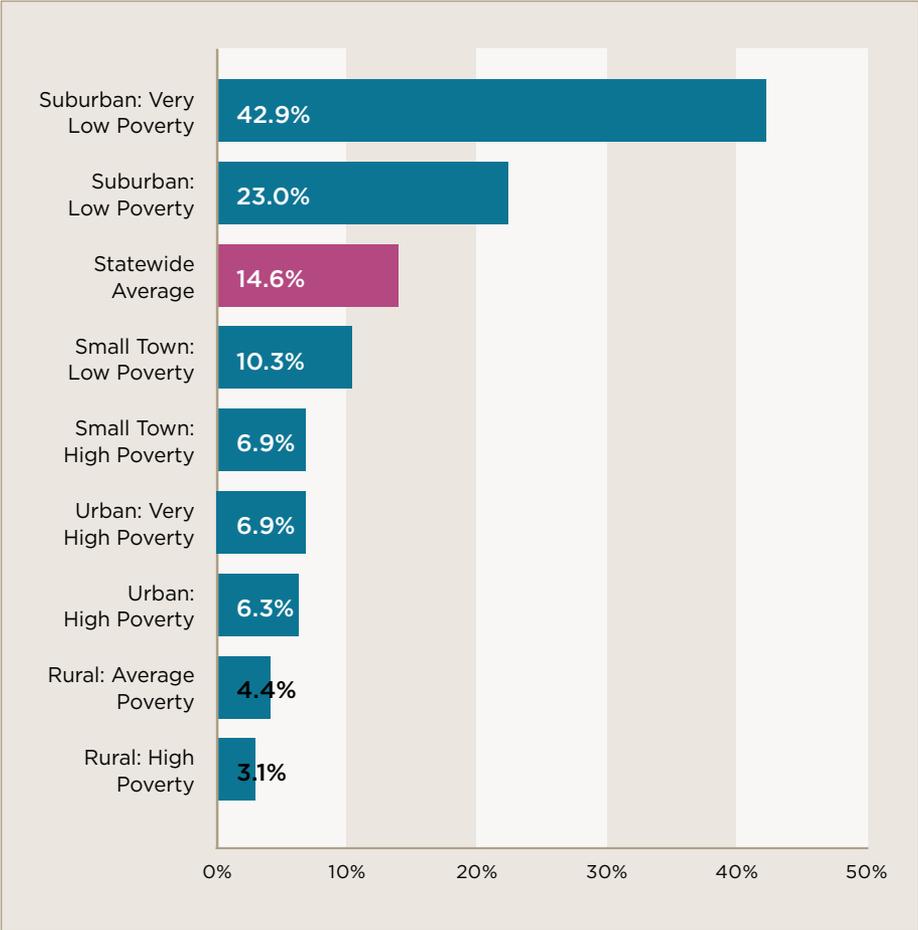
One in four students earn twelve or more points in Ohio’s industry credentialing system before graduating. Rates are higher in high-poverty areas of Ohio.



Source: Calculations based on Ohio DEW [downloadable](#) files titled “District and Building CCWMR Data” (2024-25). **Note:** The rates show the percentage of students earning 12 or more points in Ohio’s [industry credentialing system](#). Data are from the class of 2024, including non-graduates. The typology averages are weighted by the number of students in this class in each district, charter, or STEM school.

Advanced Placement (AP) Scores

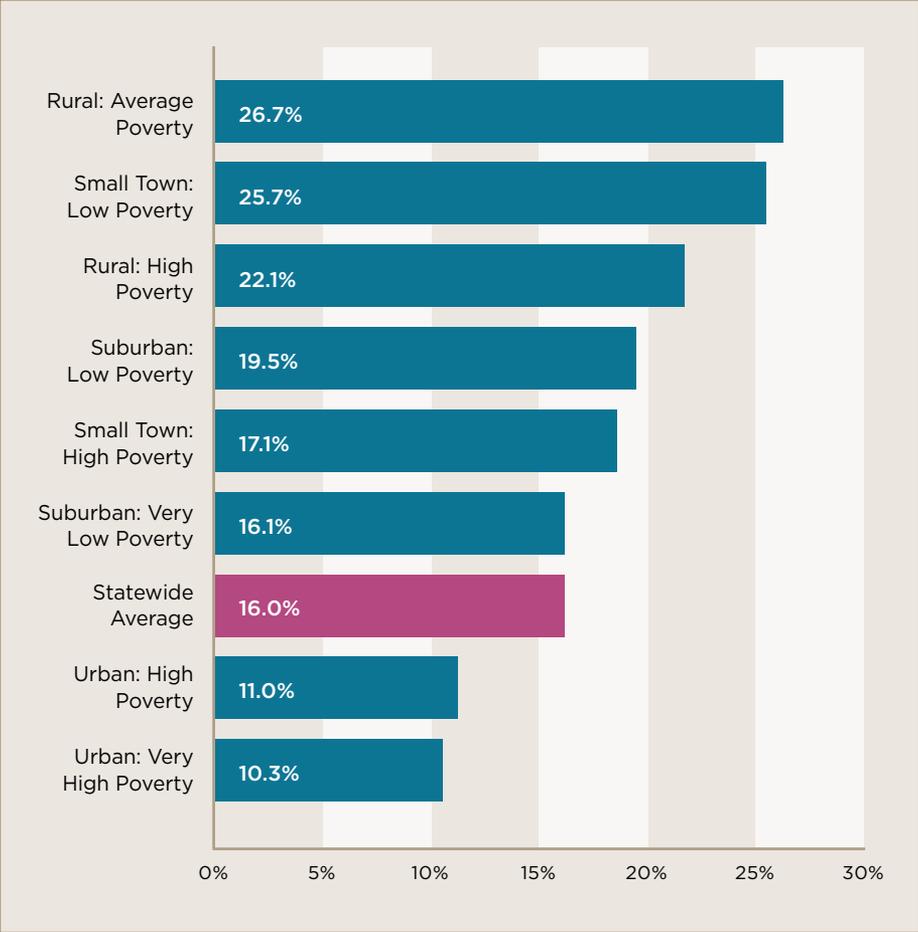
15 percent of Ohio students pass at least one AP exam. Just over 40 percent of students from very low poverty suburban schools earn a passing score, while less than 5 percent of rural students do so.



Source: Calculations based on Ohio DEW [downloadable](#) files titled "District and Building CCWMR Data" (2024-25). **Note:** The rates indicate the percentage of students earning a score of at least 3 out of 5 possible points on one or more AP exams. Students who do not take an AP exam are included in the denominator. Data are from the class of 2024, including non-graduates. The typology averages are weighted by the number of students in this class in each district, charter, or STEM school.

Dual Enrollment Credits

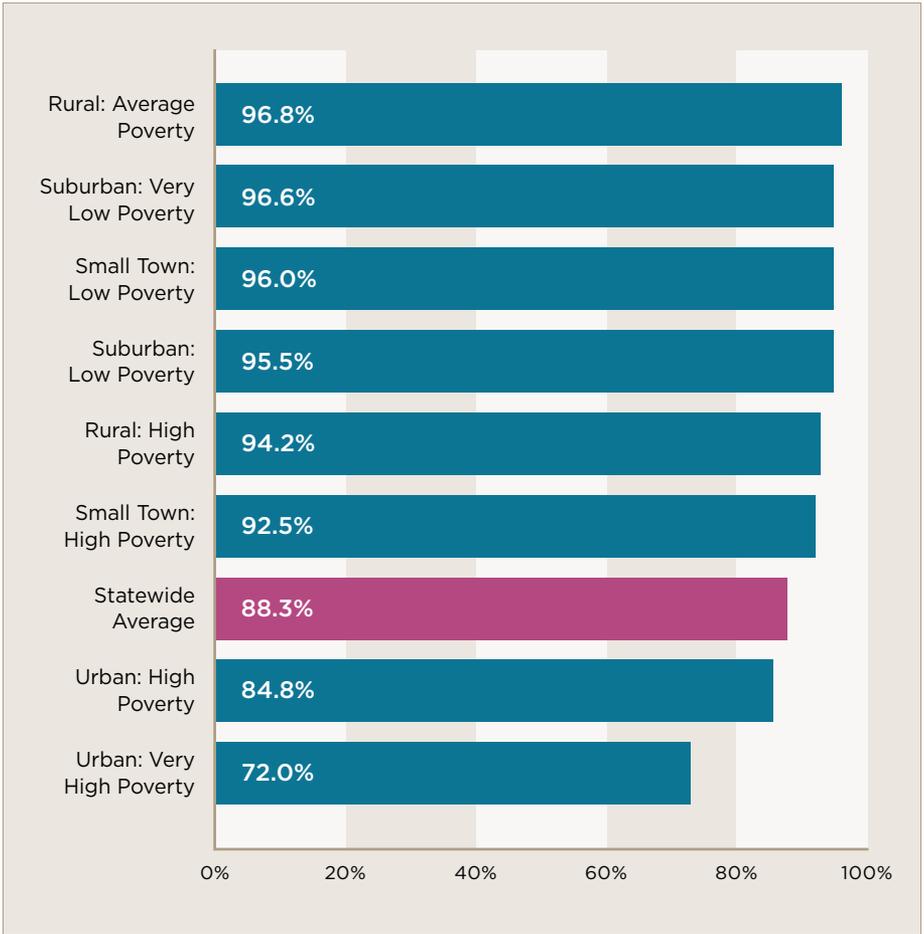
16 percent of Ohio students earn twelve or more college credits through dual enrollment programs. Approximately one in five students from small town and rural schools earn twelve or more credits, while roughly one in ten urban students do so.



Source: Calculations based on Ohio DEW [downloadable](#) files titled “District and Building CCWMR Data” (2024-25). **Note:** The rates indicate the percentage of students earning 12 or more college credits through a dual high school/college enrollment program (a.k.a. College Credit Plus). Data are from the class of 2024, including non-graduates. The typology averages are weighted by the number of students in this class in each district, charter, or STEM school.

Four-Year High School Graduation Rates

88 percent of Ohio students graduate high school in four years. Graduation rates exceed 90 percent in much of the state, with lower rates in urban communities.

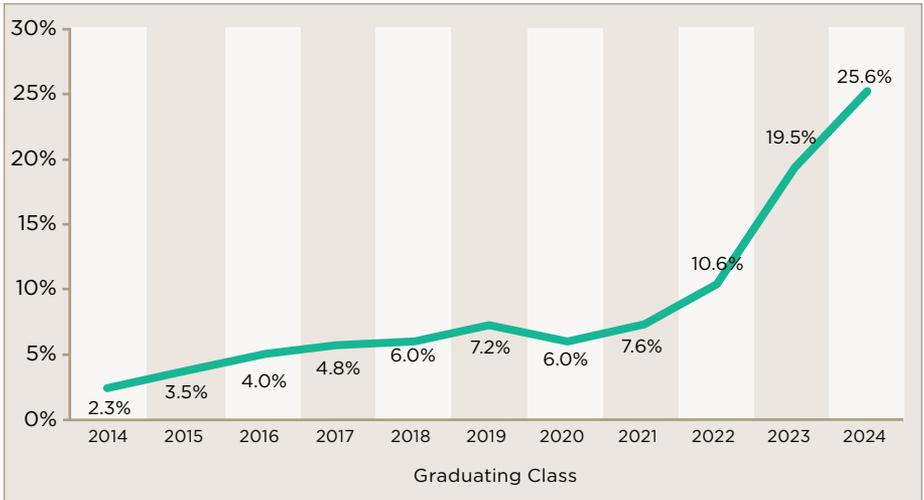


Source: Calculations based on Ohio DEW [downloadable](#) files titled "District and Building Graduation Rates" (2024-25). **Note:** Graduation rates indicate the percentage of students in the class of 2024 who earned a high school diploma within four years of entering ninth grade. The typology averages are weighted by the number of students in this class in each district, charter, or STEM school.

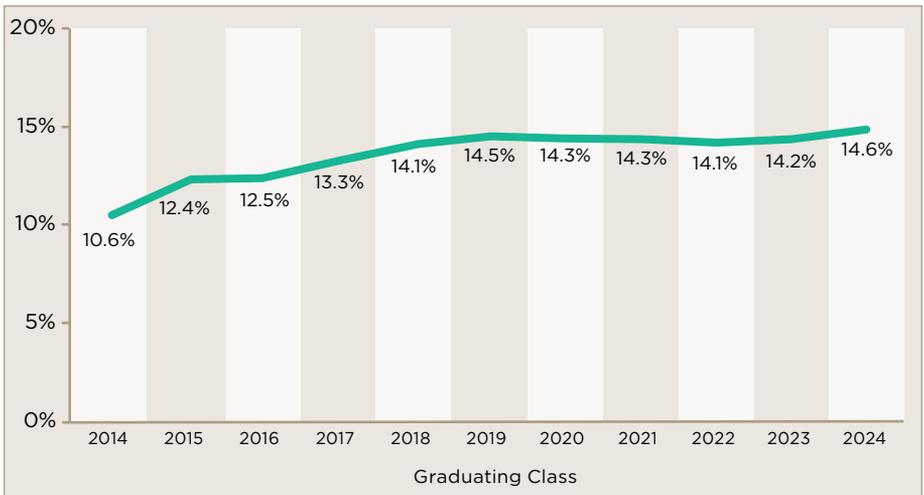
Industry Credentials and AP Exam Trends

Attainment of industry credentials rose significantly starting with the class of 2022, while the percentage of students passing an AP exam has remained largely flat.

PERCENT EARNING INDUSTRY CREDENTIALS



PERCENT PASSING AT LEAST ONE AP EXAM

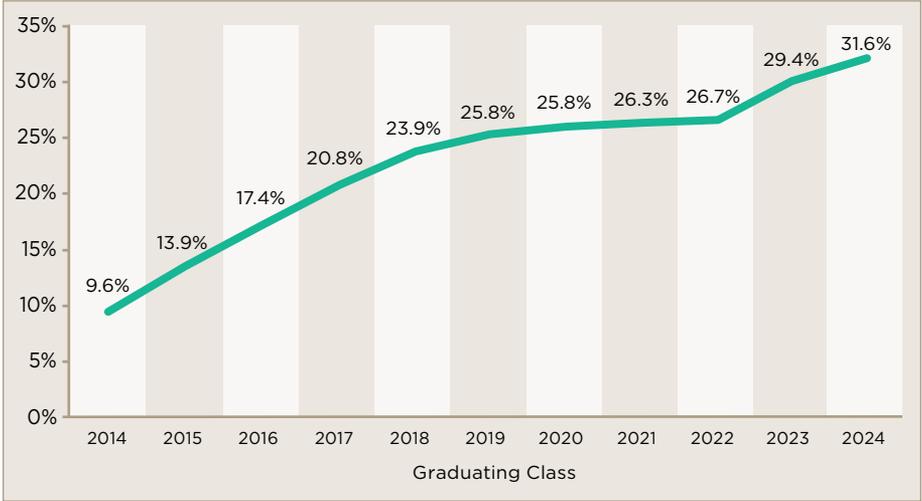


Source: Ohio DEW [downloadable files](#) titled (depending on year) "State CCWMR Data" and "State Prepared for Success."

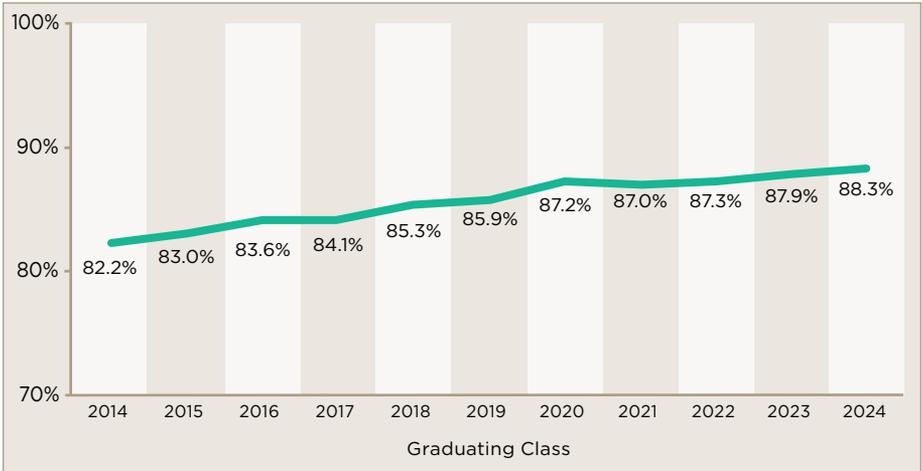
Dual Enrollment and Graduation Trend

The percentage of students earning dual enrollment credits and the high school graduation rate have risen over the past decade.

PERCENT EARNING AT LEAST THREE DUAL ENROLLMENT CREDITS



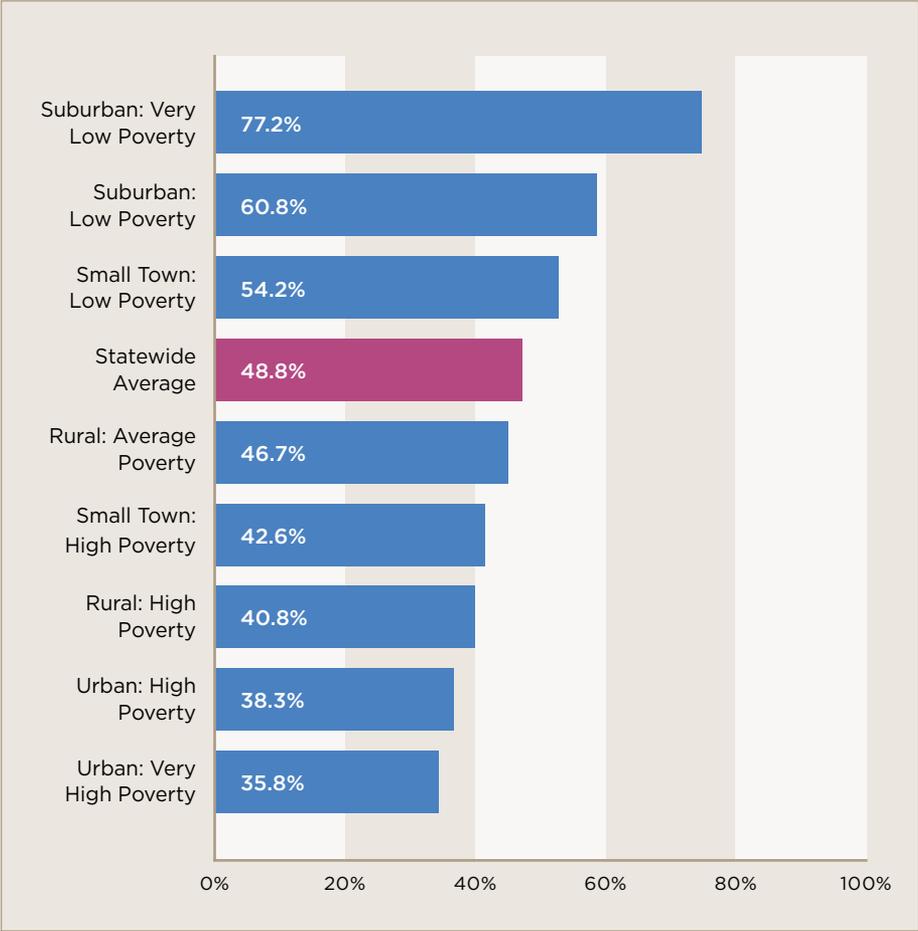
FOUR-YEAR GRADUATION RATES



Source: Ohio DEW [downloadable files](#) titled (depending on year) “State CCWMR Data” and “State Prepared for Success,” as well as [Advanced Reports](#) for dual enrollment (three or more credits for the classes of 2022 to 2024). **Note:** To maintain consistency with historically reported dual enrollment rates, this page displays the percentage of students earning 3 or more dual enrollment credits (page 52 presents the number of students earning 12 or more credits).

College Enrollment Rates

Nearly half of Ohio students enroll in two or four year colleges after high school. Enrollment is highest among students from suburban districts and lower among students from other locales.

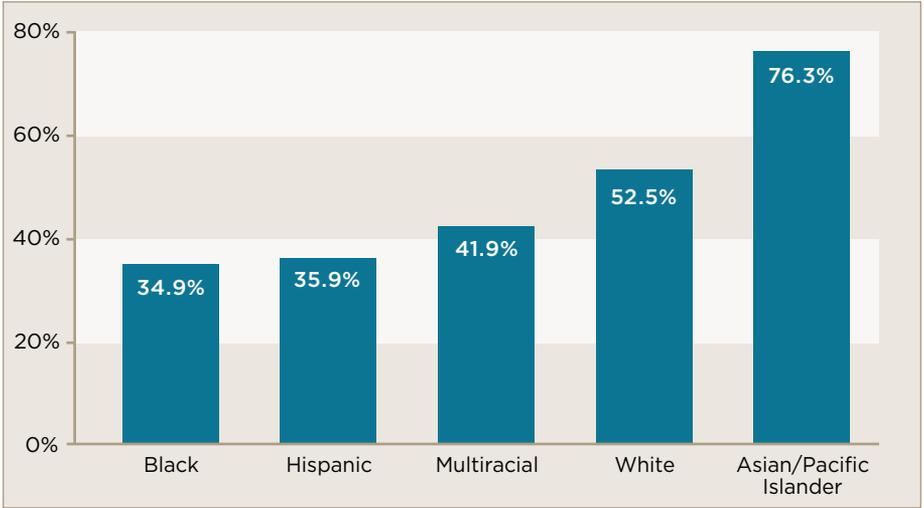


Source: Calculations based on Ohio DEW [downloadable](#) files titled “District and Building College Readiness” (2024-25). **Note:** The chart displays the percentage of the high school class of 2022 (including non-graduates) that enrolled in a two- or four-year college (Ohio or non-Ohio) within two years of high school. The typology averages are weighted by the number of students in this class in each district, charter, or STEM school.

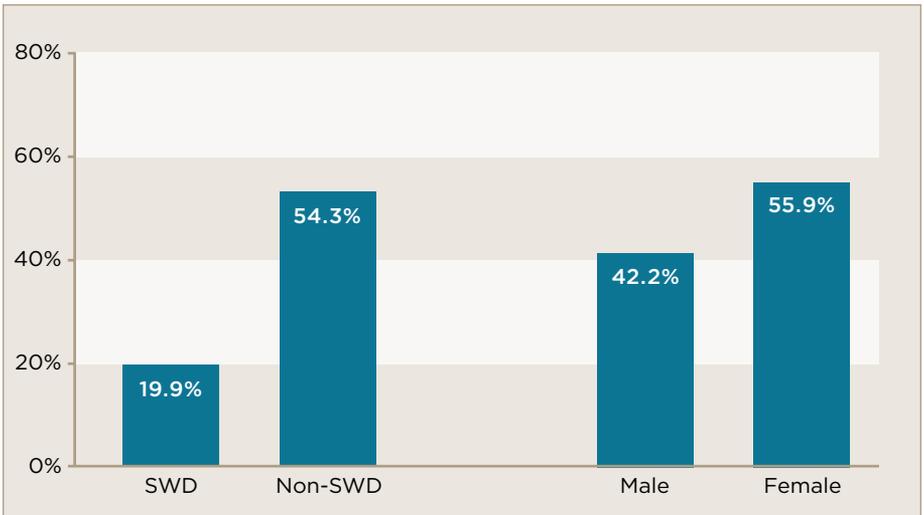
College Enrollment by Student Background

College enrollment rates are highest among Asian/Pacific Islander and white students; they are also higher for females and non-disabled students.

BY RACE/ETHNICITY



BY DISABILITY STATUS AND GENDER

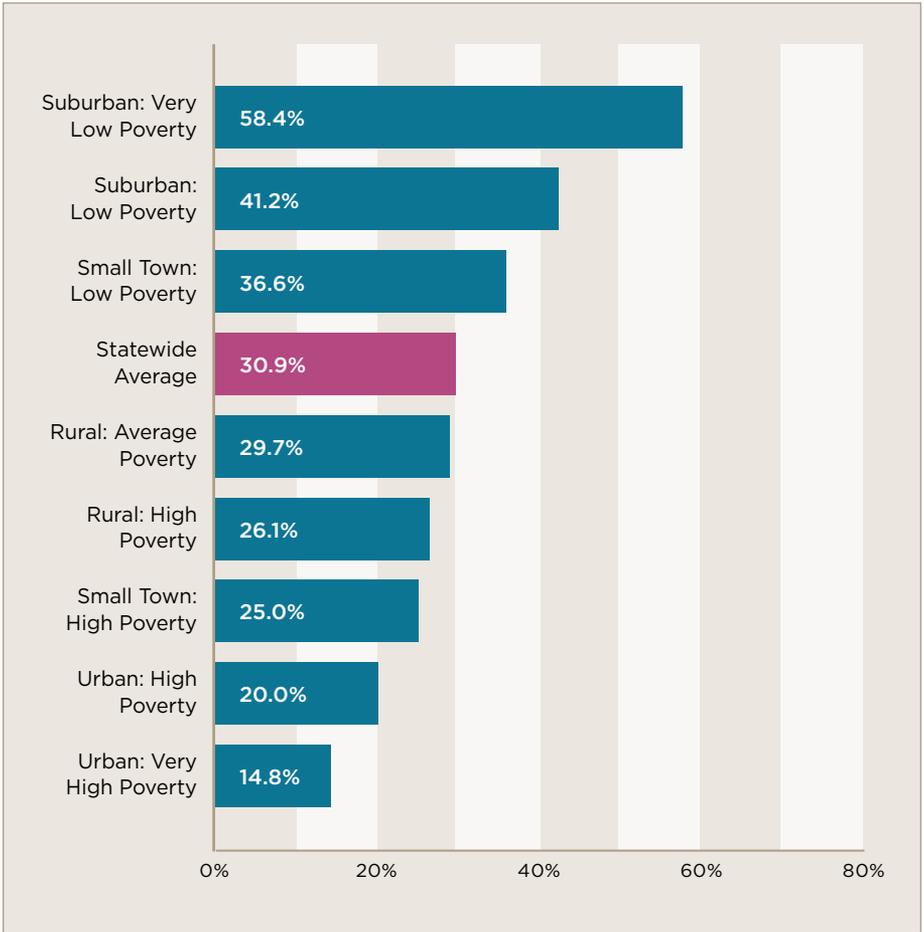


Source: Ohio DEW [downloadable](#) file title “State College Readiness Data” (2024-25).

Note: SWD = Students with disabilities.

College Completion Rates

31 percent of Ohio students attain at least an associate degree within six years of leaving high school. College completion rates are highest among students who attended high school in suburban areas and lower among students from urban areas.

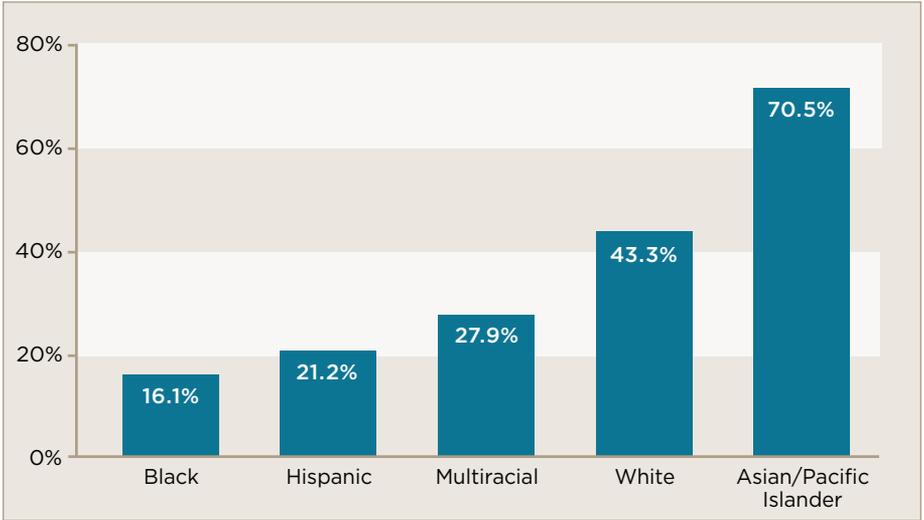


Source: Calculations based on Ohio DEW [downloadable](#) files titled “District and Building College Readiness” (2024-25). **Note:** The chart displays the percent of the high school class of 2018 (including non-graduates) who earned at least an associate degree within six years of high school at an Ohio or non-Ohio college or university. The typology averages are weighted by the number of students in this class in each district, charter, or STEM school.

College Completion by Student Background

College completion rates are highest among Asian/Pacific Islander and white students; they are also higher for females and non-disabled students.

BY RACE/ETHNICITY



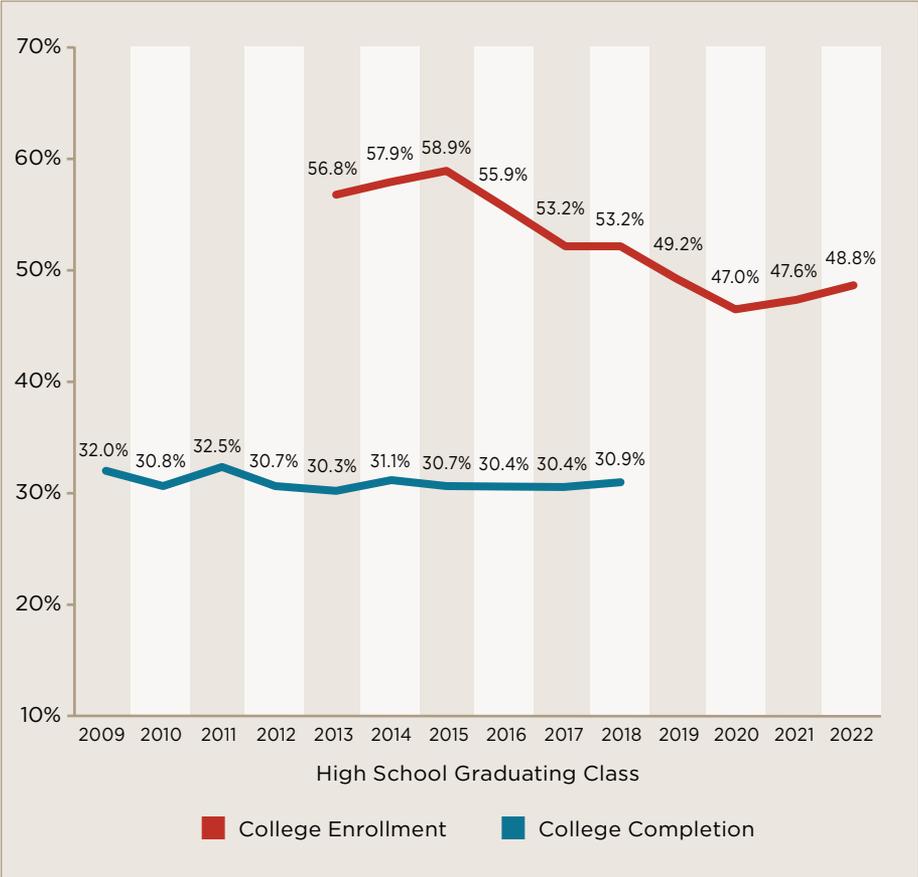
BY DISABILITY STATUS AND GENDER



Source: Ohio DEW [downloadable](#) file title "State College Readiness Data" (2024-25). **Note:** SWD = Students with disabilities.

Trends in College Enrollment and Completion

College enrollment has generally declined in recent years, while degree completion rates have remained nearly flat.



Source: Ohio DEW [downloadable files](#) titled (depending on year) “State College Readiness Data” and “State Prepared for Success.” **Note:** DEW has not yet reported college enrollment data for the classes of 2023 and beyond, nor completion data for the classes of 2019 and beyond.

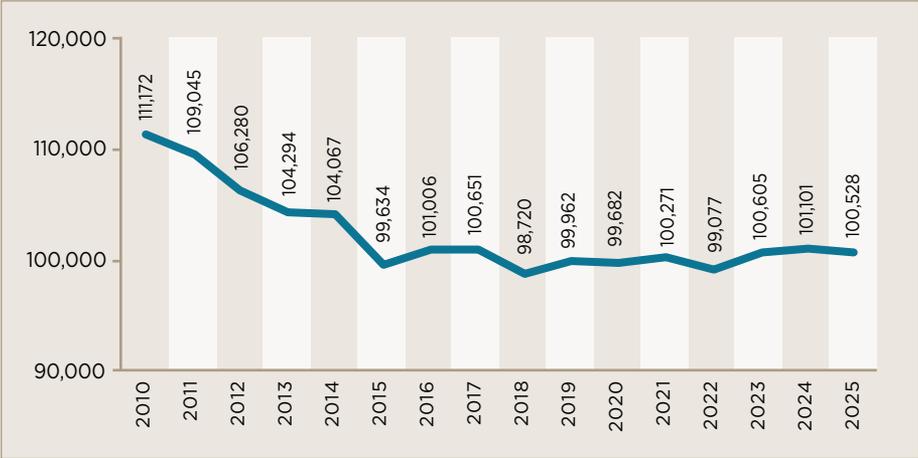
Ohio's Educators



Public School Teachers

Ohio public schools employ roughly 100,000 teachers, or 16 students per teacher.

NUMBER OF TEACHERS



STUDENTS PER TEACHER



Source: DataOhio, [Education Employee Positions and Demographics—Public](#) (Position Title: “Teacher Assignment”). **Note:** The number of students per teacher is calculated based on student enrollment counts reported on page 7.

Characteristics of Ohio Teachers

90 percent of teachers are white and nearly three in four are female. Three in five teachers have a master’s degree.

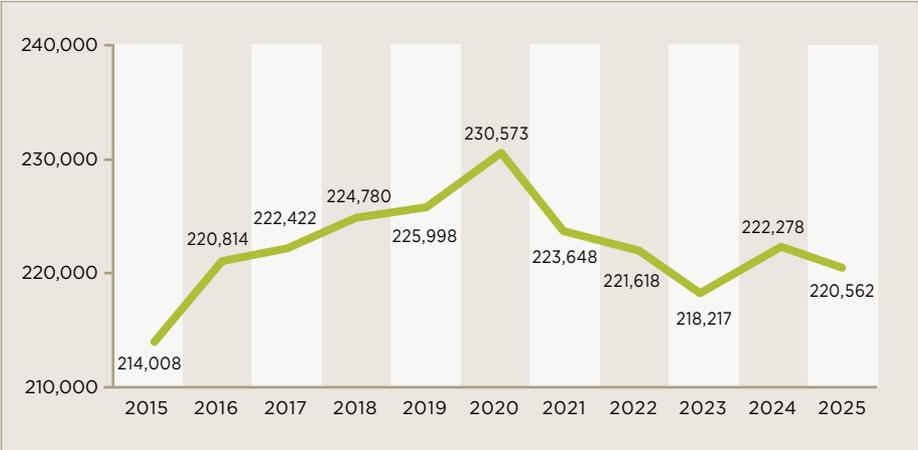
	STATEWIDE	
	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
TOTAL TEACHERS	100,605	100
RACE OR ETHNICITY		
White	90,851	90.3
African American	4,625	4.6
Hispanic	961	1.0
Multiracial	312	0.3
Asian or Pacific Islander	576	0.5
American Indian or Alaskan Native	70	0.1
Not Specified	3,210	3.2
GENDER		
Female	74,249	73.9
Male	26,278	26.1
HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT		
Doctorate	462	0.5
Master’s	62,296	62.0
Bachelor’s	35,348	35.2
Other Degree or Certificate	2,421	2.4

Source: DataOhio, [Education Employee Positions and Demographics—Public](#) (2024-25).

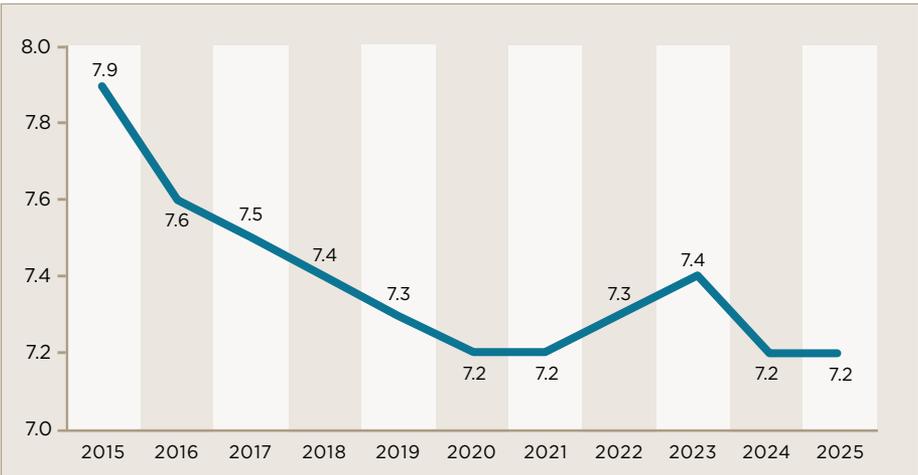
Non-Teaching Staff

Ohio public schools have approximately 220,000 non-teaching staff positions, or about 7 students per non-teaching position.

NUMBER OF NON-TEACHING STAFF POSITIONS



STUDENTS PER NON-TEACHING STAFF POSITIONS



Source: DataOhio, [Education Employee Positions and Demographics—Public](#). **Note:** The number of students per non-teaching staff positions is calculated based on the student enrollment counts reported on page 7. These numbers account for part-time employees, as the state reports staffing positions on a full-time equivalent basis (e.g., two half-time employees are reported as 1 FTE). Non-teaching staff likely represent the majority of part-time school employees.

Staffing in Ohio Schools

Classroom teachers represent about one-third of the total staff positions in public schools

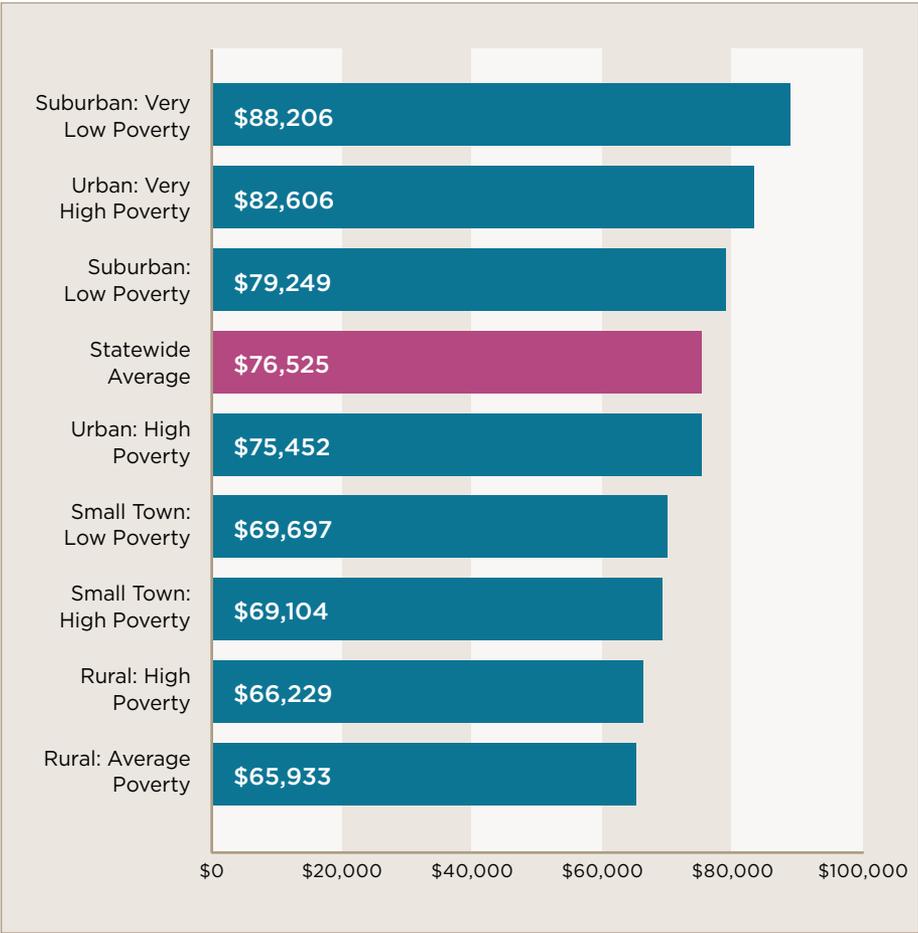
POSITION DESCRIPTION	NUMBER OF STAFF POSITIONS	PERCENT OF ALL STAFF POSITIONS
Classroom Teacher	100,528	31.3
Athletics Coach	35,372	11.0
Extracurricular Advisor	21,514	6.7
Instructional Paraprofessional	14,059	4.4
Teaching Aide	13,110	4.1
Custodian	12,247	3.8
Other Extracurricular	12,215	3.8
Special Education	11,801	3.7
Bus Driver	10,332	3.2
Clerical	10,176	3.2
Food Service	9,454	2.9
Other Education Professional	6,253	1.9
Counseling	4,347	1.4
Monitoring/Traffic Guards	3,751	1.2
Small Group/Tutor (Non-Special Ed)	3,665	1.1
Principal	3,348	1.0
Remedial Specialist	2,821	0.9
Speech/Language Therapist	2,753	0.9
Assistant Principal	2,436	0.8
Supervisor/Manager	2,335	0.7
All Other Positions	38,557	12.0
Total	321,089	100

Source: DataOhio, [Education Employee Positions and Demographics—Public](#) (2024-25).

Note: Descriptions of staff positions are available at Ohio DEW, [EMIS Manual, Section 3.9: Position Codes](#). These numbers account for part-time employees, as the state reports staffing positions on a full-time equivalent (FTE) basis (e.g., two half-time employees are reported as 1 FTE).

Teacher Salaries by District Typology

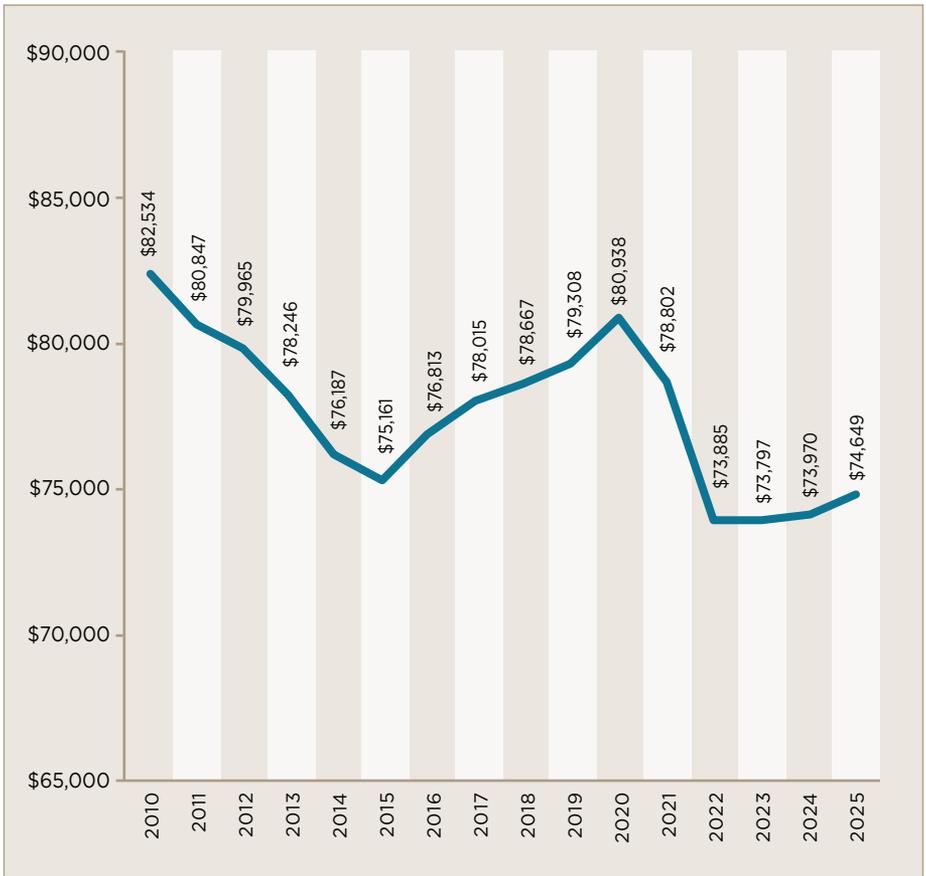
The average teacher in Ohio earns just over \$76,000. Suburban and urban districts' teacher salaries are higher than small town and rural district salaries.



Source: Calculations based on Ohio DEW, [downloadable](#) file titled “District Teacher Information” (2024-25). **Note:** This chart includes teacher salaries from traditional school districts—charter and STEM schools are not included as their salaries are not reported in an accessible file. The typology averages are weighted by the number of students in each district.

Trends in Teacher Salaries

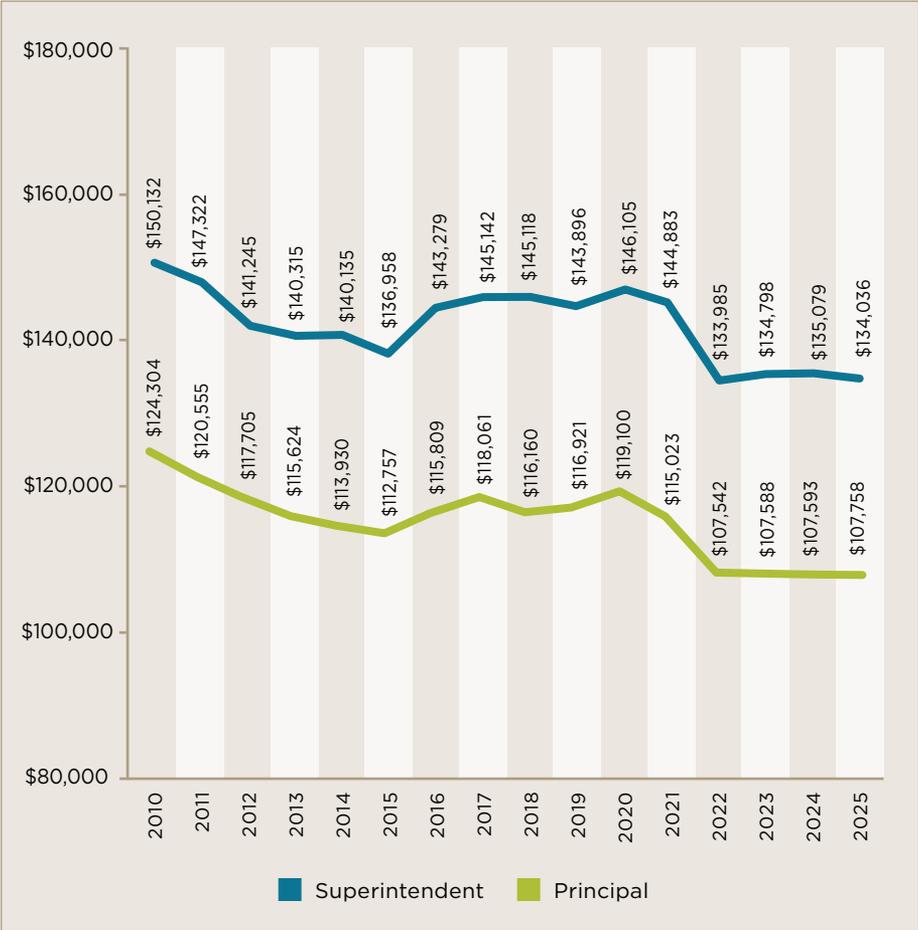
Adjusted for inflation, average teacher salaries have ranged from approximately \$70,000 to \$80,000 per year since 2010.



Source: DataOhio, [Education Employee Positions and Demographics—Public](#). **Note:** The FY10 to FY24 salary data were adjusted to 2025 price levels using the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' [Consumer Price Index](#).

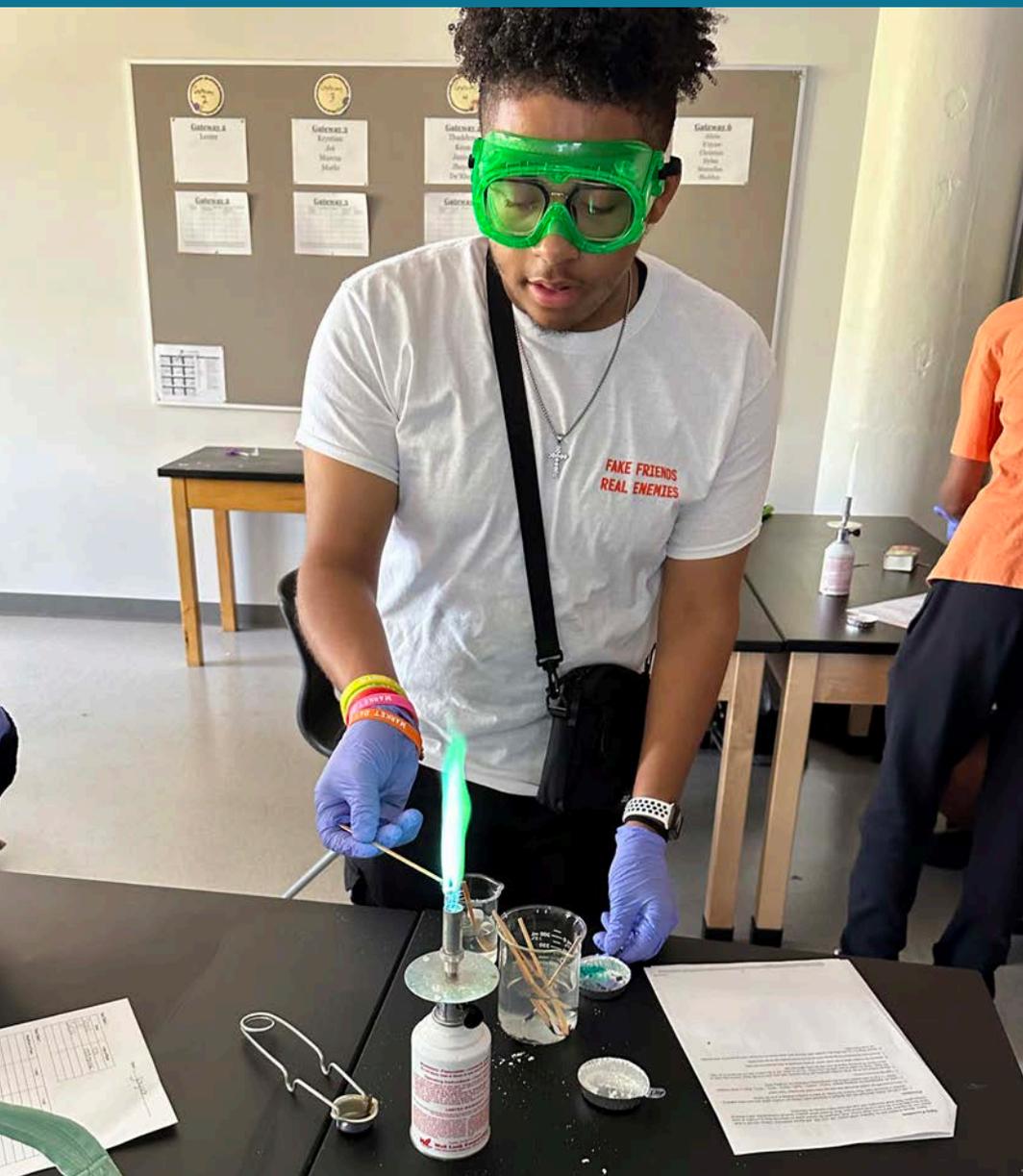
Trends in Superintendent and Principal Salaries

Adjusted for inflation, average superintendent salaries have ranged from \$130,000 to \$150,000 per year since 2010, while principal salaries have ranged from \$100,000 to \$125,000 per year.



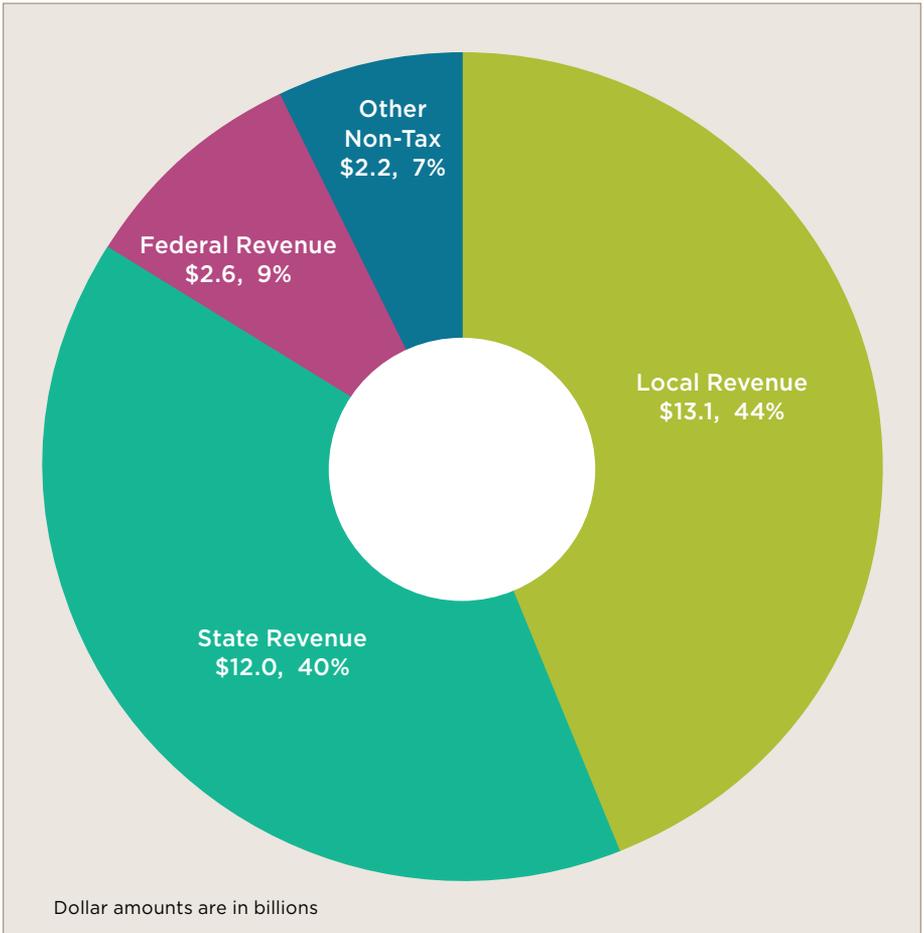
Source: DataOhio, [Education Employee Positions and Demographics—Public](#). **Note:** The FY10 to FY24 salary data were adjusted to 2025 price levels using the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' [Consumer Price Index](#).

School Funding



How Ohio Funds Public Schools

Ohio public schools receive just over \$30 billion per year. In FY25, state funds provided, on average, 40 percent of total revenues for public schools, while local taxes contributed 44 percent. Federal and non-tax sources provided the rest of the funding.



Source: Ohio DEW [downloadable file](#) titled “Expenditure Rankings” (2024-25). **Note:** Data include all public schools, including traditional district, joint-vocational, and charter and STEM schools. Other non-tax revenue includes sales of assets, fees, and investment income.

Sources of Funding by Sector

School districts are funded based on a mix of state and local revenues (the local portion includes a state-required 2 percent minimum property tax).

Public charter and STEM schools receive most of their funding through the state and virtually nothing through local taxes. Their higher state shares offset their lack of local tax revenues.

SOURCES OF FUNDING

	LOCAL	STATE	FEDERAL	NON-TAX	TOTAL REVENUE
Traditional School District	\$12.6 Billion	\$9.9 Billion	\$2.3 Billion	\$2.1 Billion	\$26.9 Billion
Joint-Vocational School District	\$496 Million	\$674 Million	\$37 Million	\$93 Million	\$1.3 Billion
Public Charter and STEM School	\$7 Million	\$1.5 Billion	\$265 Million	\$72 Million	\$1.8 Billion

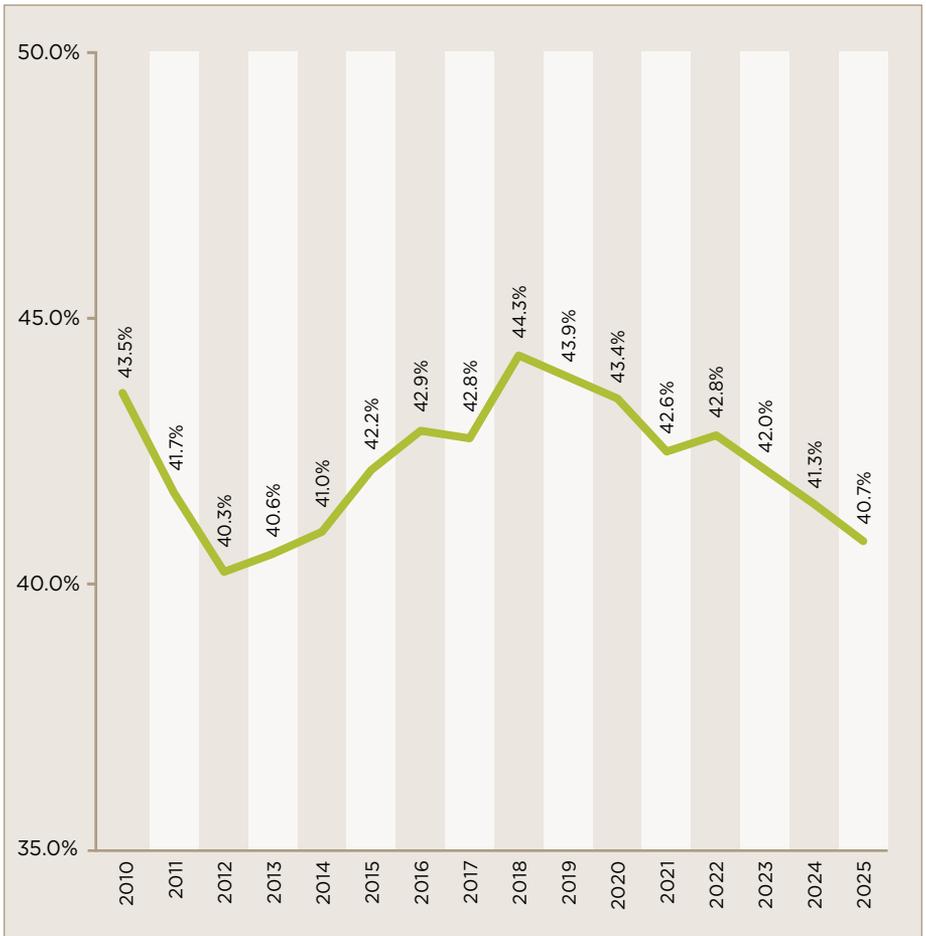
SOURCES OF FUNDING—AS SHARE OF TOTAL REVENUES

	LOCAL	STATE	FEDERAL	NON-TAX	TOTAL REVENUE
Traditional School District	46.7%	36.8%	8.7%	7.7%	100%
Joint-Vocational School District	38.2%	51.8%	2.8%	7.1%	100%
Public Charter and STEM School	0.4%	80.9%	14.7%	4.0%	100%

Source: Ohio DEW [downloadable file](#) titled “Expenditure Rankings” (2024-25).

Education in the State Budget

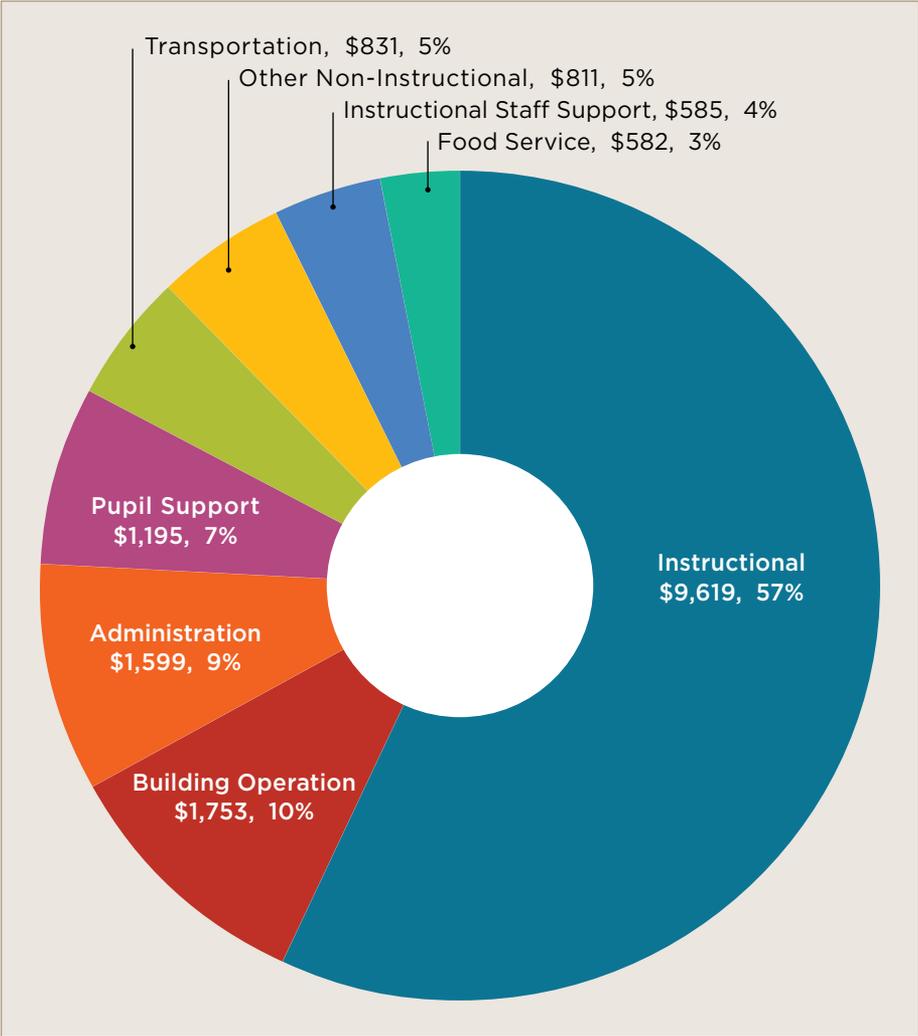
Just over 40 percent of Ohio's total state budget is spent on K-12 education.



Source: Ohio Legislative Service Commission, [Historical Revenues and Expenditures](#), Table 2.
Note: This chart shows K-12 education spending as a percentage of the state's general revenue fund, lottery profits education fund, and local government fund. It excludes federal dollars that are included in the overall state budget (including federal funds for K-12 education).

How Funds Are Spent

Nearly 60 percent of education funding is spent on classroom instruction. The remainder supports administration, building operations, and other support activities.



Source: Ohio DEW, downloadable file titled “[Expanded List](#)” (2024-25). **Note:** The chart shows the fraction of total operational expenditures per pupil by various spending categories reported by DEW, as well as the per-pupil amount spent in each category. The data shown in this chart do not include capital outlay (e.g., construction or interest on debt); see page 77 for those expenditures.

Expenditure Per Pupil

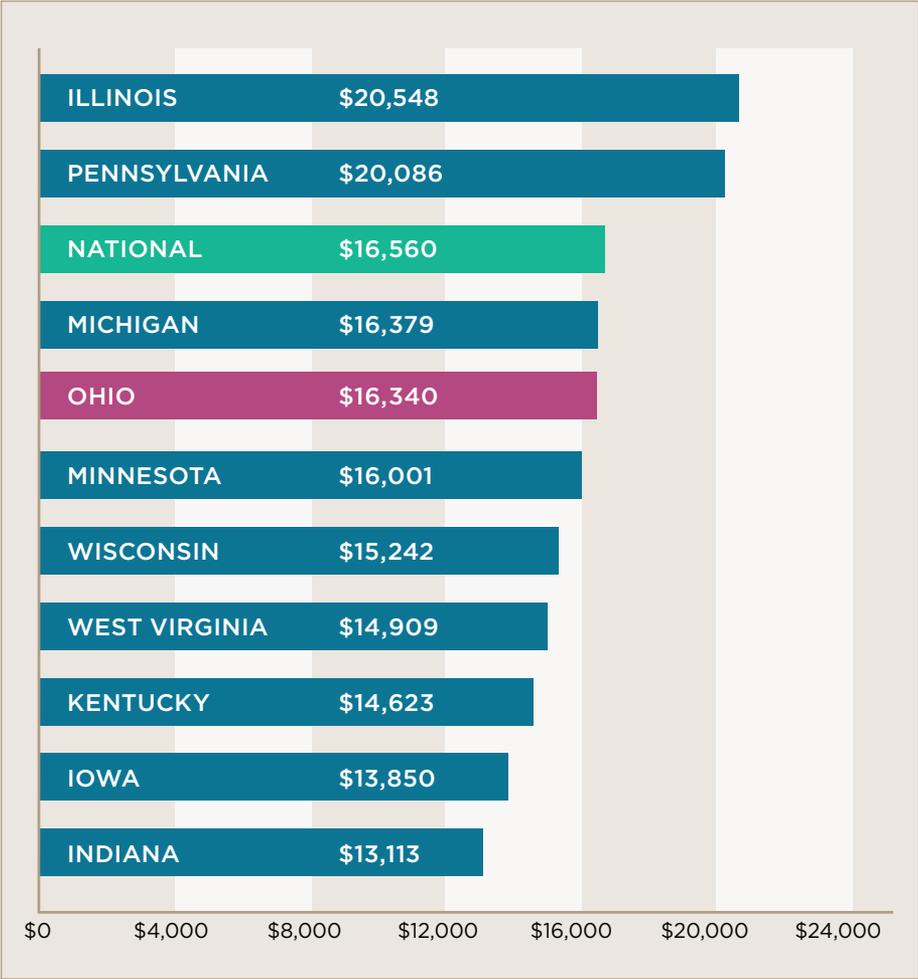
On average, Ohio spent nearly \$17,000 per pupil in operational expenditures in FY25. Urban schools had the highest per pupil expenditures—just over \$21,000 per pupil—while small town districts spent the least.



Source: Calculations based on data from Ohio DEW’s [downloadable file](#) titled “Expanded List” (2024-25). **Note:** The average per-pupil expenditures for each typology is weighted by district and charter/STEM school enrollments. The expenditure data include the spending of dollars from various revenue sources—e.g., state, local, and federal funds—and exclude capital outlay (e.g., construction or interest on debt).

Expenditure Per Pupil Compared to Nearby States

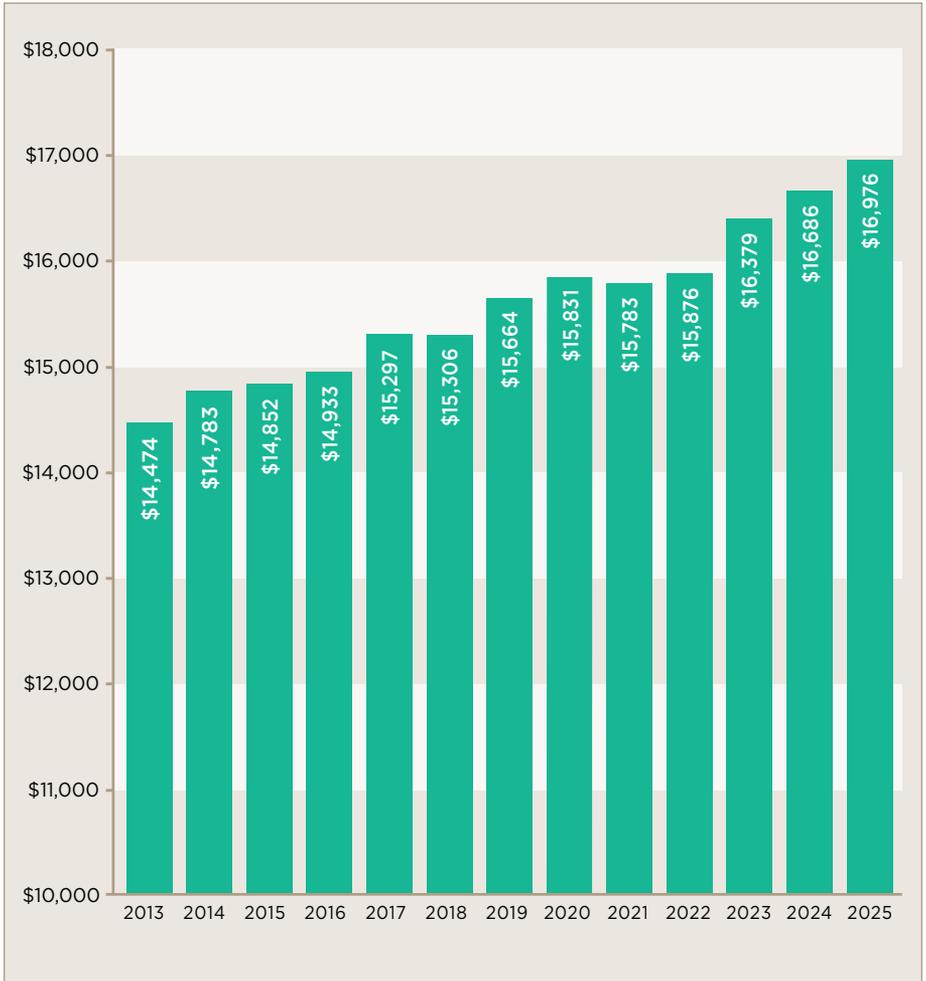
Ohio's spending falls just below the national average, and is more than nearby states such as Indiana and Wisconsin but is less than Illinois and Pennsylvania.



Source: U.S. Department of Education, [Revenues and Expenditures for Public Elementary and Secondary Education: FY23, Table 5](#). **Note:** To allow for comparisons with other states, this chart relies on federally-reported operational expenditures per pupil (excluding capital expenses such as construction and interest on debt). Due to differences in source, the spending data here do not match precisely with state-reported data presented elsewhere.

Public School Expenditures Over Time

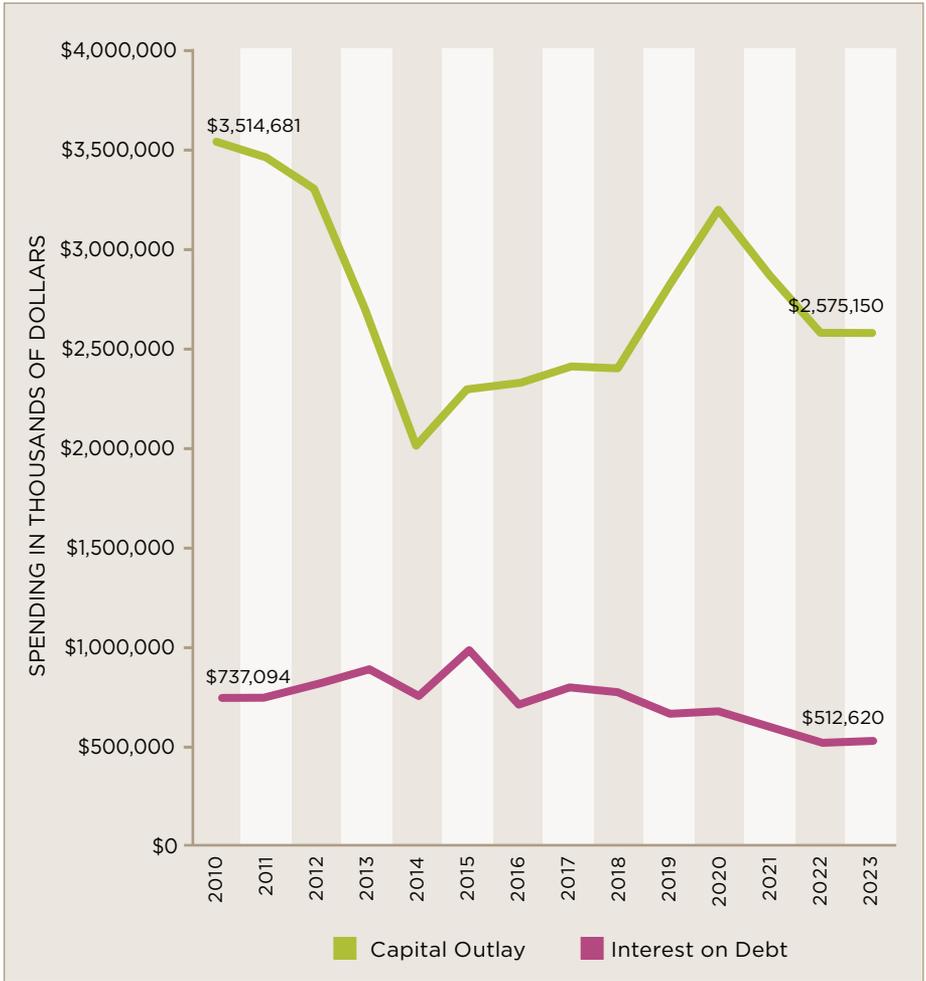
Adjusted for inflation, expenditures per pupil have steadily increased over the past decade.



Source: Ohio DEW, [downloadable file](#) titled "Expanded List." **Note:** Statewide expenditures per pupil for FY13 to FY24 are inflation-adjusted to 2025 dollars, using the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' [Consumer Price Index](#). These data exclude capital outlay and debt service.

Capital Outlay and Debt Service

Ohio public schools spend approximately \$2.0 to \$3.5 billion per year on capital outlay—expenditures on construction, land, and equipment—and roughly \$500 million per year on interest on debt.



Source: U.S. Department of Education (USED), [Revenues and Expenditures for Public Elementary and Secondary Education: FY23, Table 7](#); historical data are from USED, [Digest of Education Statistics](#). **Note:** Capital expenditures for FY10 to FY22 are inflation-adjusted to 2023 dollars, using the Bureau of Labor Statistics' [Consumer Price Index](#).



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