

# The State of **Minnesota** Public Education

A MINNCAN RESEARCH SNAPSHOT, MARCH 2016

From demographics to graduation rates, what is the state of education in Minnesota? Here, we highlight a few key facts from our interactive online report.

**For a deeper dive, visit:**  
[mnstateofed.minncan.org](http://mnstateofed.minncan.org)



## STUDENTS

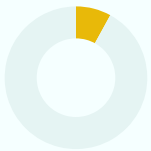
Who we're educating in Minnesota:  
K–12 enrollment, 2015–2016<sup>1</sup>



13.6%  
Special education

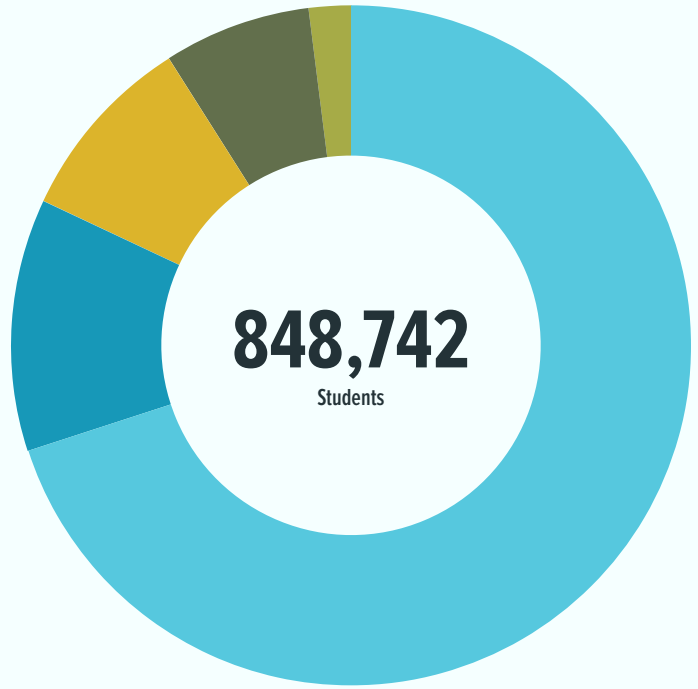


38.1%  
Low-income<sup>2</sup>



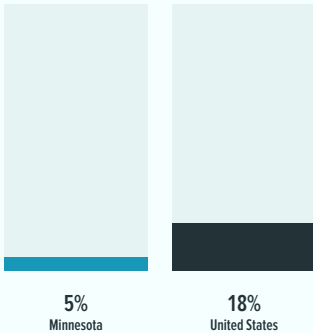
8.4%  
English-language  
learners

69.5% White  
12.0% African American  
8.6% Latino  
7.4% Asian/Pacific Islander  
2.4% Native American



## TEACHERS

Who's teaching in Minnesota vs.  
the nation: Percentage of teachers  
who are people of color, 2011–2012<sup>3</sup>



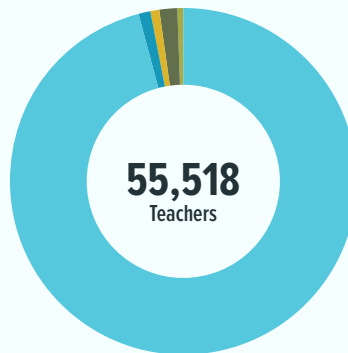
1. "Data Reports and Analytics: Student Data: Student," Minnesota Department of Education, accessed December 9, 2015, <http://w20.education.state.mn.us/MDEAnalytics/Data.jsp>.  
2. Low-income students are those eligible for the National School

Lunch Program. Students with family incomes below 130 percent of the Federal Poverty Level are entitled to free school lunch, and students with family incomes below 185 percent of the Federal Poverty Level are entitled to a reduced-price lunch. The 2015 Federal

Poverty Level for a family of four was \$24,250 in annual income.  
3. Ulrich Boser, "Teacher Diversity Revisited: A New State-by-State Analysis," Center for American Progress (May 2014), pp. 7–8, accessed December 17, 2015, [https://cdn](https://cdn.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/TeacherDiversity.pdf)

[.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/TeacherDiversity.pdf](https://cdn.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/TeacherDiversity.pdf).  
4. "Data Reports and Analytics: Staffing: Staff," Minnesota Department of Education, accessed December 18, 2015, <http://w20.education.state.mn.us/MDEAnalytics/Data.jsp>.

Who's teaching in Minnesota:  
Licensed teachers (FTEs), 2014–2015<sup>4</sup>



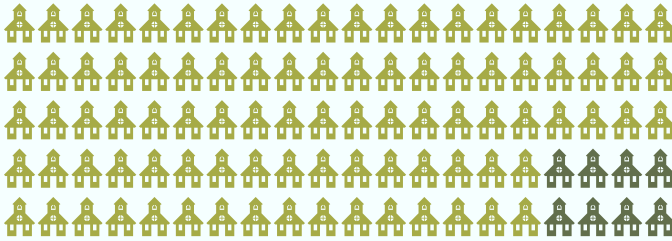
73.5% Female  
26.5% Male

95.8% White  
1.1% African American  
1.0% Latino  
1.6% Asian/Pacific Islander  
0.4% Native American

## SCHOOLS + ENROLLMENT<sup>5</sup>

Number of public schools, 2015–2016

**Traditional public schools: 1,877**  
**Public charter schools: 167**



91.8% Traditional public schools  
 8.2% Public charter schools

K–12 public school enrollment, 2014–2015

**Traditional public schools: 795,185**  
**Public charter schools: 47,747**

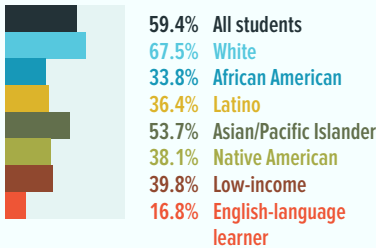


94.3% Traditional public schools  
 5.7% Public charter schools

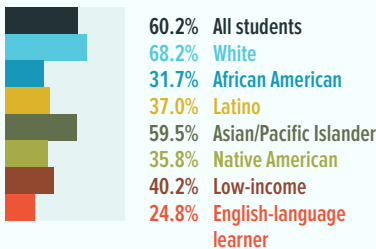
## PROGRESS

Percentage of Minnesota students achieving proficiency, 2015<sup>6</sup>

### Reading



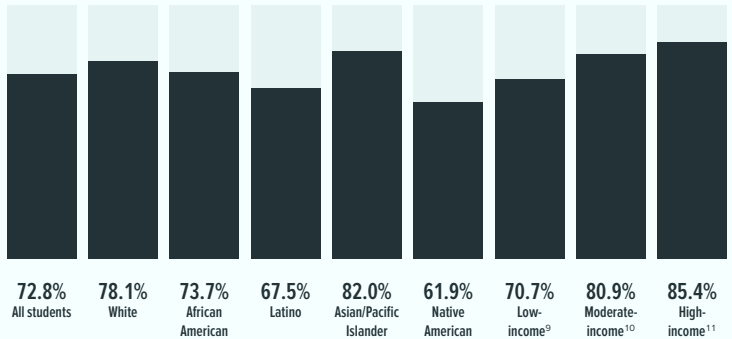
### Math



MCA, all grades.

Percentage of Minnesota students reaching the proficiency standard, 2012<sup>7,8</sup>

### Kindergarten readiness



School Readiness Study.

5. "Schools, Districts and Teachers at a Glance: Minnesota Education Statistics Summary," Minnesota Department of Education, accessed March 9, 2016, <http://w20.education.state.mn.us/MDEAnalytics/Summary.jsp>; and "Data Reports and Analytics: District Information: Schools and Districts: Education Statistics Summary," Minnesota Department of Education, accessed March 9, 2016,

<http://w20.education.state.mn.us/MDEAnalytics/Data.jsp>.  
 6. "Minnesota Report Card," Minnesota Department of Education, accessed December 10, 2015, <http://rc.education.state.mn.us/>.  
 7. "School Readiness/Kindergarten: 2012 School Readiness Study," Minnesota Department of Education (December 11, 2013), p. 17, accessed December 10, 2015, [\[.state.mn.us/MDE/StuSuc/EarlyLearn/SchReadiK/\]\(http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/StuSuc/EarlyLearn/SchReadiK/\).  
 8. Based on a representative sample of students from 10 percent of Minnesota schools.  
 9. Family income below 250% of Federal Poverty Level.  
 10. Family income between 250% and 400% of Federal Poverty Level.  
 11. Family income above 400% of Federal Poverty Level.](http://education</a></p>
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## NATIONAL RANKING

Minnesota's proficiency rate rankings, 2015<sup>12</sup>

### 4th-grade reading

15th out of 51	19th out of 51	27th out of 42	38th out of 48	27th out of 29	9th out of 13	34th out of 51
All students	White	African American	Latino	Asian/Pacific Islander	Native American	Low-income

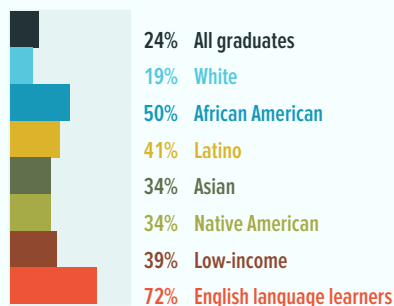
### 8th-grade math

2nd out of 51	3rd out of 51	12th out of 40	18th out of 48	25th out of 30	4th out of 13	2nd out of 51
All students	White	African American	Latino	Asian/Pacific Islander	Native American	Low-income

National Assessment of Educational Progress

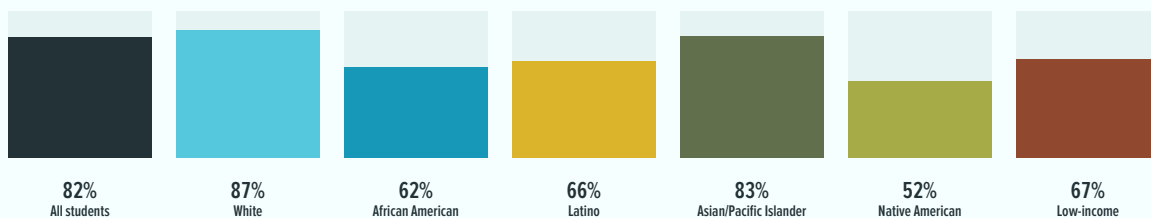
## REMEDIATION

Percentage of Minnesota public high school graduates enrolled in one or more developmental education courses (remediation) during their first two years at a Minnesota higher education institution, 2013<sup>13, 14</sup>



## HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

Minnesota's four-year cohort graduation rates, class of 2015<sup>15,16</sup>



Minnesota's national rankings<sup>17</sup> in graduation rates, class of 2014

32nd	31st	48th	51st	47th	47th	41st
All students	White	African American	Latino	Asian/Pacific Islander	Native American	Low-income

12. "NAEP data explorer," U.S. Department of Education, accessed December 10, 2015, <https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/naepdata/dataset.aspx>. Rankings include DC but are not always out of 51. NAEP does not test every student—it tests a sample of students in each state—and therefore states with small populations of racial/ethnic subgroups do not have large enough samples of those students to report proficiency rates.  
13. "Minnesota Measures 2015: A Report on Higher Education

Performance," Minnesota Department of Education, pp. 34–36, accessed December 11, 2015 <http://www.oh.state.mn.us/pdf/MinnesotaMeasures2015.pdf>.  
14. Preliminary data.  
15. "Minnesota Report Card," Minnesota Department of Education, accessed March 3, 2016, <http://rc.education.state.mn.us/>.  
16. Regulatory adjusted cohort graduation rates (the percentage of students from the original freshman cohort who graduated in four years with a regular high school diploma).

17. "ED Data Express," U.S. Department of Education, accessed March 3, 2016, <http://eddataexpress.ed.gov/state-tables-main.cfm>. Rankings include DC and are out of 51 for all student groups except Asian/Pacific Islander and Native American. Rankings for Asian/Pacific Islander are out of 50 and rankings for Native American are out of 49. This is because of differences in how states report graduation rates to the U.S. Department of Education.

Want even more information on how Minnesota schools and students are doing? Visit [mnstateofed.minncan.org](http://mnstateofed.minncan.org)