

# Ohio Education by the Numbers 2024

7TH 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](http://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 seventh 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 2023.

The following tables and charts describe education in Ohio at a high level—they are not an evaluation of state policies or school practices. Note also that some of these data were impacted by the learning disruptions associated with the pandemic. Nevertheless, a basic understanding of historical 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's 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.

Feel free to contact the report author, Aaron Churchill (achurchill@fordhaminstitute.org), if you have questions about the data or have suggestions about how to improve future editions. If you are using a hard copy version of the report, data sources (displayed in blue font) can be accessed via our companion website [www.ohiobythenumbers.com](http://www.ohiobythenumbers.com). The website also includes downloadable versions of this year's report along with prior editions.

CHAD L. ALDIS *Vice President for Ohio Policy*  
AARON CHURCHILL *Ohio Research Director*



## 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 1.6 million public school students of varying backgrounds and characteristics.

	STATEWIDE	
	NUMBER OF STUDENTS	PERCENT OF STUDENTS
<b>TOTAL STUDENTS</b>	<b>1,611,356</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>RACE OR ETHNICITY</b>		
White	1,063,502	66.0
African American	276,989	17.2
Hispanic	120,598	7.5
Multiracial	100,195	6.2
Asian or Pacific Islander	47,943	3.0
American Indian or Alaskan Native	2,130	<1.0
<b>GENDER</b>		
Female	784,683	48.7
Male	826,673	51.3
<b>OTHER CHARACTERISTICS</b>		
Economically Disadvantaged	811,517	50.4
Students with Disabilities	263,986	16.4
English Learner	68,886	4.3
Identified as Gifted	226,364	14.0

**Source:** Ohio DEW, [Advanced Reports](#) (2022-23). **Note:** Public school enrollment statistics 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 roughly 100,000 to 130,000 public school students per grade level.

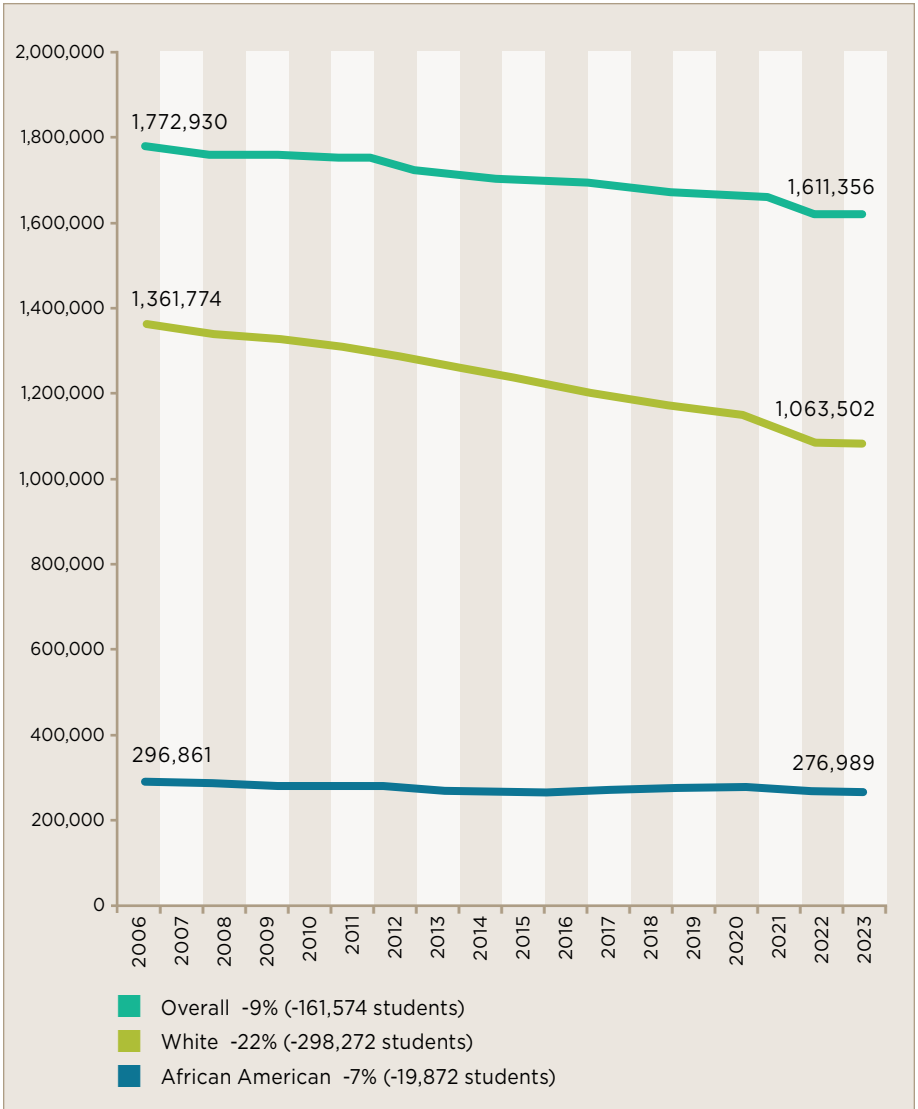
GRADE LEVEL	NUMBER OF STUDENTS	PERCENT OF STUDENTS
Kindergarten	114,251	7.1
First Grade	124,944	7.8
Second Grade	117,006	7.3
Third Grade	121,123	7.5
Fourth Grade	121,583	7.5
Fifth Grade	121,054	7.5
<b>TOTAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL</b>	<b>719,961</b>	
Sixth Grade	122,376	7.6
Seventh Grade	122,562	7.6
Eighth Grade	126,331	7.8
<b>TOTAL MIDDLE SCHOOL</b>	<b>371,269</b>	
Ninth Grade	134,704	8.4
Tenth Grade	128,109	8.0
Eleventh Grade	105,007	6.5
Twelfth Grade	103,184	6.4
<b>TOTAL HIGH SCHOOL</b>	<b>471,004</b>	
Preschool	47,682	3.0
Enrolled after Twelfth Grade	1,439	<1.0

**Source:** Ohio DEW, [Advanced Reports](#) (2022-23).



# Public School Enrollment Trends

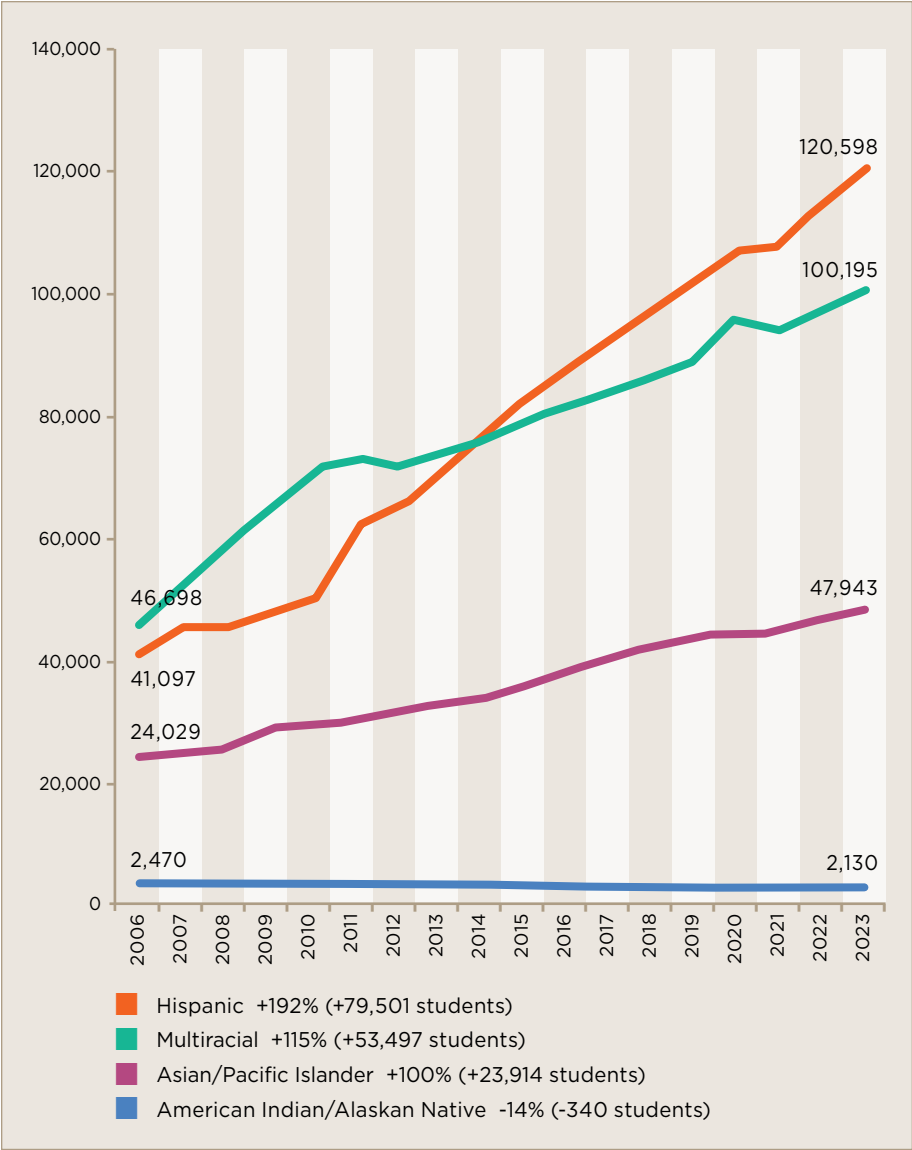
Since 2005-06, overall public school enrollment has declined by nearly 10 percent. Enrollment for Ohio's largest race/ethnic student groups, white and African American students, has also declined.



**Source:** Ohio DEW, [Advanced Reports](#) (2005-06 to 2022-23). **Note:** The percentages refer to the percent change from 2006 to 2023. The chart displays the spring part of the school year, a convention often used in this guide.

# Public School Enrollment Trends

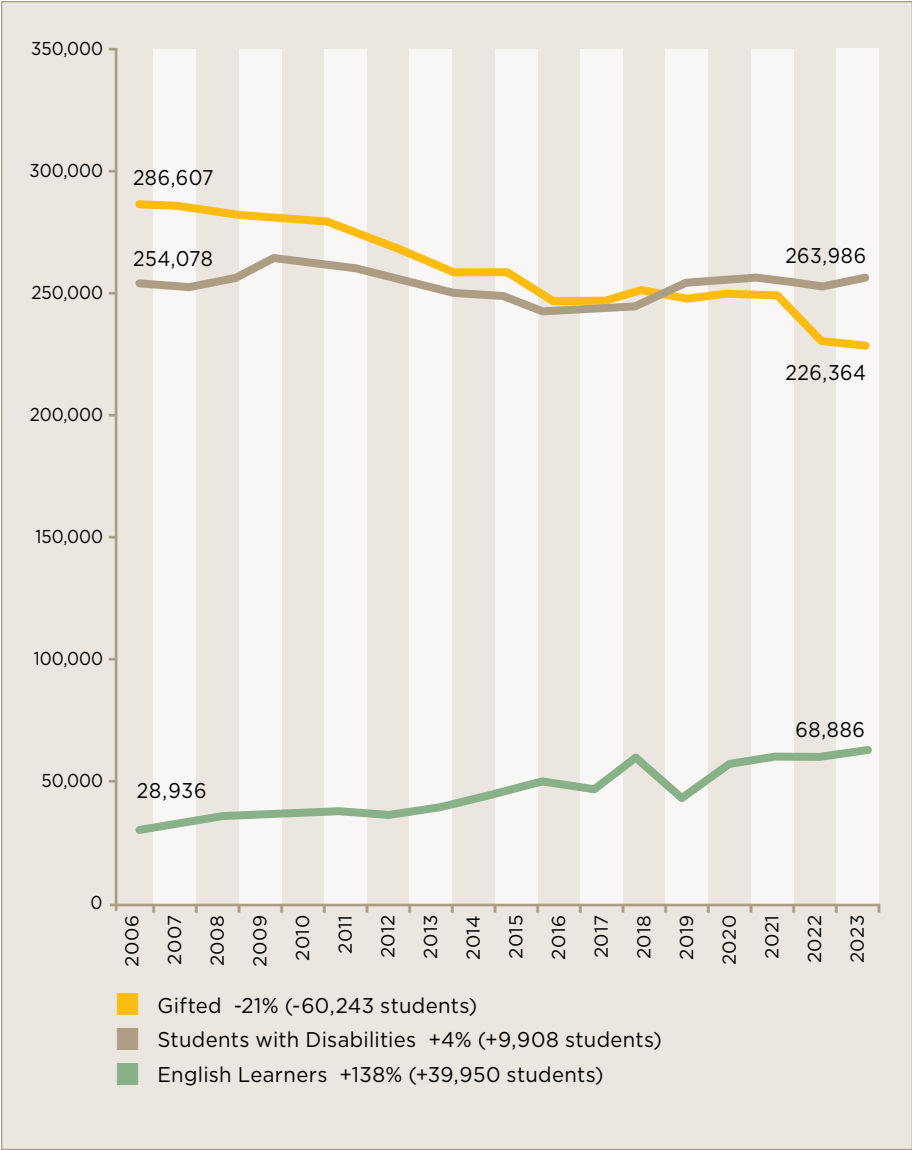
Since 2005-06, public school enrollment has increased significantly among Hispanic, multiracial, and Asian/Pacific Islander students.



**Source:** Ohio DEW, [Advanced Reports](#) (2005-06 to 2022-23). **Note:** The percentages refer to the percent changes from 2006 to 2023.

# Public School Enrollment Trends by Selected Characteristics

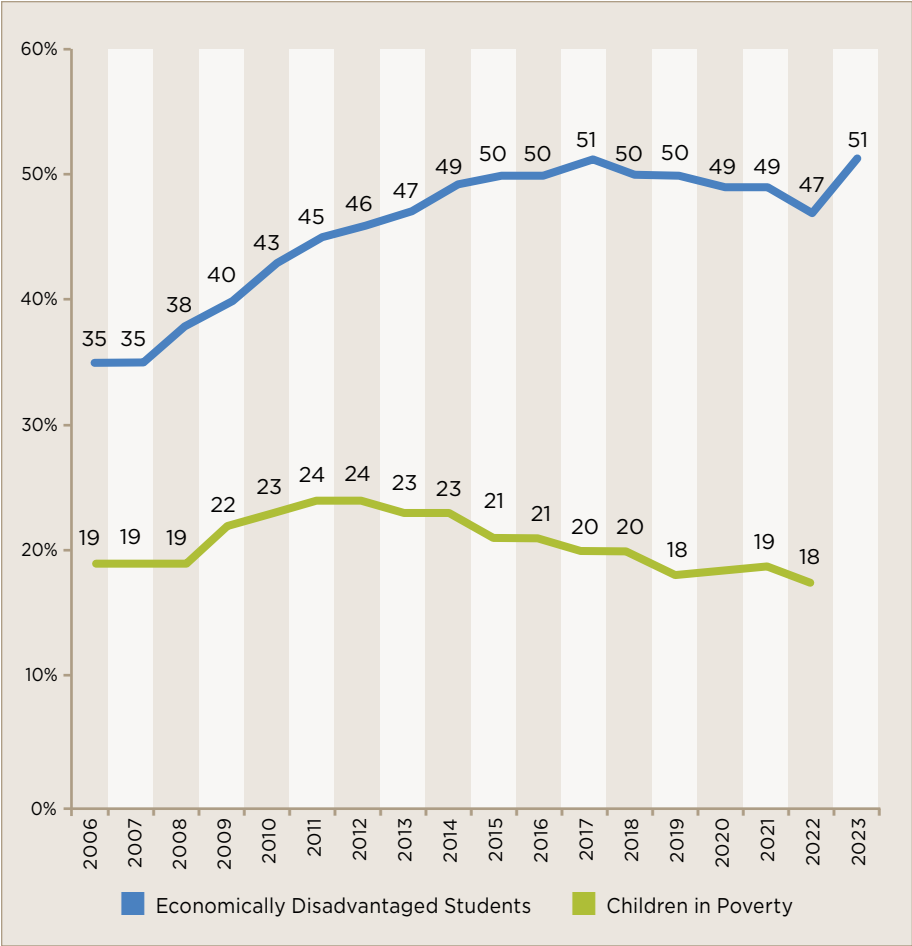
Since 2005-06, English learner enrollment has more than doubled, while the number of students with disabilities has slightly increased. The number of students identified as gifted has declined.



**Source:** Ohio DEW, [Advanced Reports](#) (2005-06 to 2022-23). **Note:** The percentages refer to the percent changes from 2006 to 2023.

# Low Income Students

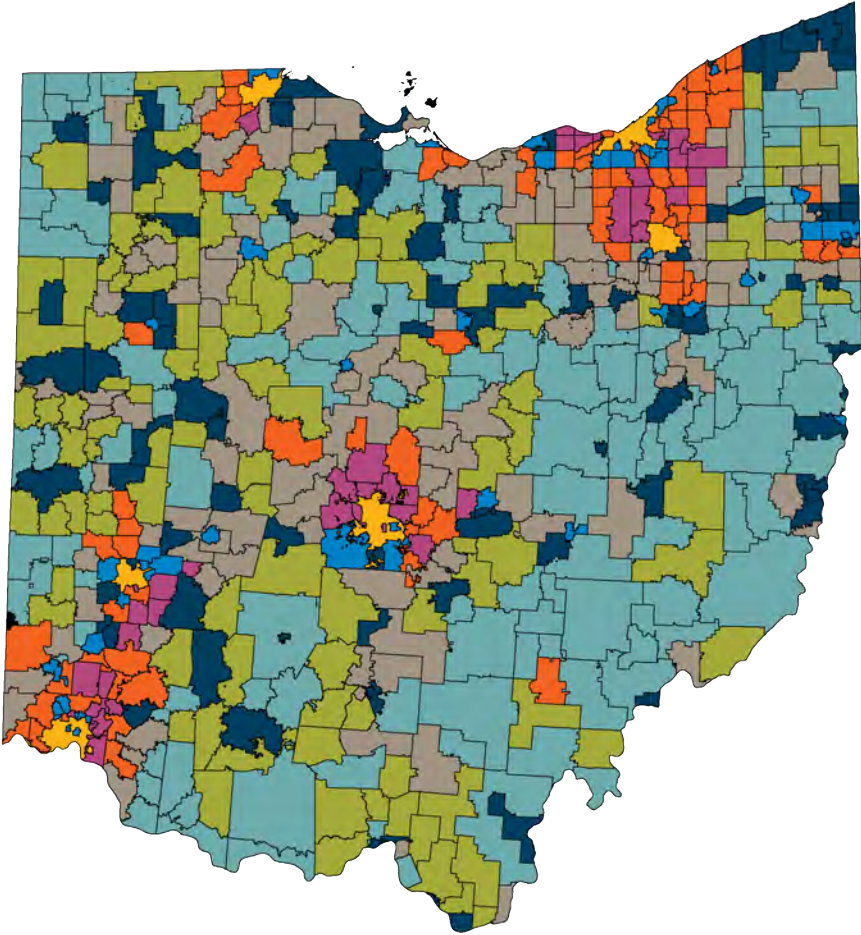
The percentage of students identified as economically disadvantaged has increased since 2005-06. However, the percentage of Ohio children living in poverty has remained mostly static.



**Source:** Economically disadvantaged data are from Ohio DEW, [Advanced Reports](#) (2005-06 to 2022-23); 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 and are not yet available for 2023). **Notes:** Ohio identifies students as “economically disadvantaged” via federal meal programs, open to pupils from households with incomes at or below 185% of federal poverty. However, in 2010, Congress passed the [Community Eligibility Provision](#) which allows certain schools to deem all students as disadvantaged (even if they are higher income) for the purposes of meals eligibility. In contrast, children in poverty are from households at or below 100% federal poverty.

# 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 and 35 percent are from suburban communities; 21 percent live in small towns while 15 percent are from rural areas.

TYOLOGY	NUMBER OF DISTRICTS	NUMBER OF CHARTER & STEM SCHOOLS	NUMBER OF STUDENTS	PERCENT OF TOTAL STUDENTS
<b>Urban:</b> Very High Poverty	8	235	243,452	15.1
<b>Urban:</b> High Poverty	47	56	207,672	12.9
<b>Suburban:</b> Very Low Poverty	46	3	253,173	15.7
<b>Suburban:</b> Low Poverty	77	8	303,823	18.9
<b>Small Town:</b> High Poverty	89	13	171,496	10.6
<b>Small Town:</b> Low Poverty	110	2	167,181	10.4
<b>Rural:</b> Average Poverty	106	1	93,627	5.8
<b>Rural:</b> High Poverty	123	7	139,432	8.7
<b>Online Charter Schools</b>	NA	16	31,572	2.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>606</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>1,611,428</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** Calculations based on Ohio DEW [downloadable](#) files titled “District and Building Overview” (2022-23). **Note:** Public charter and STEM schools are assigned to the **typology** of the district in which the school is located, as reported in DEW’s [community school directory](#). Online charters—also known as e-schools—are not included in a typology, since they can enroll students statewide.

# Public School Students in Urban Areas

Students living in urban areas come from various racial and ethnic backgrounds, and almost nine in ten are identified as economically disadvantaged.

	URBAN	
	NUMBER OF STUDENTS	PERCENT OF STUDENTS
<b>RACE OR ETHNICITY</b>		
White	148,312	32.0
African American	199,586	44.2
Hispanic	58,909	13.1
Multiracial	39,313	8.7
Asian or Pacific Islander	8,307	1.8
Native American or Alaskan Native	930	<1.0
<b>GENDER</b>		
Female	218,906	48.5
Male	232,198	51.5
<b>OTHER CHARACTERISTICS</b>		
Economically Disadvantaged	389,952	86.4
Students with Disabilities	87,538	19.4
English Learner	38,792	8.6
Identified as Gifted	29,487	6.5

**Source:** Calculations based on Ohio DEW [downloadable](#) files titled “District and Building Details” (2022-23). **Note:** This table combines districts and charters in both of the urban typologies (i.e., urban: very high poverty and urban: high poverty).

# Public School Students in Suburban Areas

Students from suburban areas are majority white, with modest racial and ethnic diversity. About one in five suburban students are economically disadvantaged.

	SUBURBAN	
	NUMBER OF STUDENTS	PERCENT OF STUDENTS
<b>RACE OR ETHNICITY</b>		
White	390,738	70.2
African American	60,802	10.9
Hispanic	34,730	6.2
Multiracial	33,818	6.1
Asian or Pacific Islander	36,250	6.5
American Indian or Alaskan Native	642	<1.0
<b>GENDER</b>		
Female	269,979	48.5
Male	287,003	51.5
<b>OTHER CHARACTERISTICS</b>		
Economically Disadvantaged	142,974	25.7
Students with Disabilities	79,947	14.4
English Learner	24,194	4.3
Identified as Gifted	125,770	22.6

**Source:** Calculations based on Ohio DEW [downloadable](#) files titled “District and Building Details” (2022-23). **Note:** This table combines districts and charters in both of the suburban typologies (i.e., suburban: very low poverty and suburban: low poverty).



# Public School Students in Small Town Areas

The large majority of students from small towns are white and more than two in five are economically disadvantaged.

	SMALL TOWN	
	NUMBER OF STUDENTS	PERCENT OF STUDENTS
<b>RACE OR ETHNICITY</b>		
White	288,415	85.2
African American	9,748	2.9
Hispanic	19,000	5.6
Multiracial	18,550	5.5
Asian or Pacific Islander	2,414	<1.0
American Indian or Alaskan Native	626	<1.0
<b>GENDER</b>		
Female	164,850	48.7
Male	173,818	51.3
<b>OTHER CHARACTERISTICS</b>		
Economically Disadvantaged	151,537	44.7
Students with Disabilities	53,072	15.7
English Learner	4,511	1.3
Identified as Gifted	42,301	12.5

**Source:** Calculations based on Ohio DEW [downloadable](#) files titled “District and Building Details” (2022-23). **Note:** This table combines districts and charters in both of the small town typologies (i.e., small town: high poverty and small town: low poverty).

# Public School Students in Rural Areas

Students from rural areas are overwhelmingly white and just under half are identified as economically disadvantaged.

	RURAL	
	NUMBER OF STUDENTS	PERCENT OF STUDENTS
<b>RACE OR ETHNICITY</b>		
White	218,899	93.9
African American	1,818	<1.0
Hispanic	5,665	2.4
Multiracial	6,192	2.7
Asian or Pacific Islander	768	<1.0
American Indian or Alaskan Native	696	<1.0
<b>GENDER</b>		
Female	114,100	49.0
Male	118,956	51.0
<b>OTHER CHARACTERISTICS</b>		
Economically Disadvantaged	109,486	47.0
Students with Disabilities	37,747	16.2
English Learner	1,395	<1.0
Identified as Gifted	27,830	11.9

**Source:** Calculations based on Ohio DEW [downloadable](#) files titled “District and Building Details” (2022-23). **Note:** This table combines districts and charters in both of the rural typologies (i.e., rural: average poverty and rural: high poverty).

# Ohio's Twenty-Five Largest Districts by Enrollment (2022-23)

SCHOOL DISTRICT		COUNTY	2018-19 ENROLLMENT	2022-23 ENROLLMENT	ENROLLMENT CHANGE VS 2019
1	Columbus	Franklin	48,928	44,981	↓
2	Cincinnati	Hamilton	35,977	35,222	↓
3	Cleveland	Cuyahoga	37,701	34,928	↓
4	Olentangy	Delaware	20,819	22,429	↑
5	South-Western	Franklin	22,656	21,742	↓
6	Toledo	Lucas	23,160	21,163	↓
7	Akron	Summit	21,181	20,103	↓
8	Lakota	Butler	15,603	16,962	↑
9	Dublin	Franklin	15,709	15,939	↑
10	Hilliard	Franklin	15,998	15,889	—
11	Westerville	Franklin	14,822	14,231	↓
12	Ohio Virtual Academy	N/A	12,702	13,502	↑
13	Dayton	Montgomery	12,700	12,215	↓
14	Pickerington	Fairfield	10,403	11,014	↑
15	Worthington	Franklin	10,063	10,523	↑
16	Mason	Warren	10,096	9,887	↓
17	Parma	Cuyahoga	9,805	9,192	↓
18	Hamilton	Butler	9,898	8,934	↓
19	Fairfield	Butler	9,215	8,884	↓
20	Northwest	Hamilton	8,597	8,093	↓
21	Gahanna-Jefferson	Franklin	7,699	7,973	↑
22	Centerville	Montgomery	8,012	7,954	—
23	Beavercreek	Greene	7,857	7,804	—
24	Canton	Stark	8,402	7,733	↓
25	Kettering	Montgomery	7,598	7,732	↑

**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. Enrollment changes of less than +/- 1 percent are considered to have had no substantive change (marked as "--").

# School Options



# Enrollment by Educational Model

Roughly 80 percent of Ohio students attend traditional public school districts, while more than 110,000 students attend charter schools and more than 200,000 students attend non-public schools or homeschool.

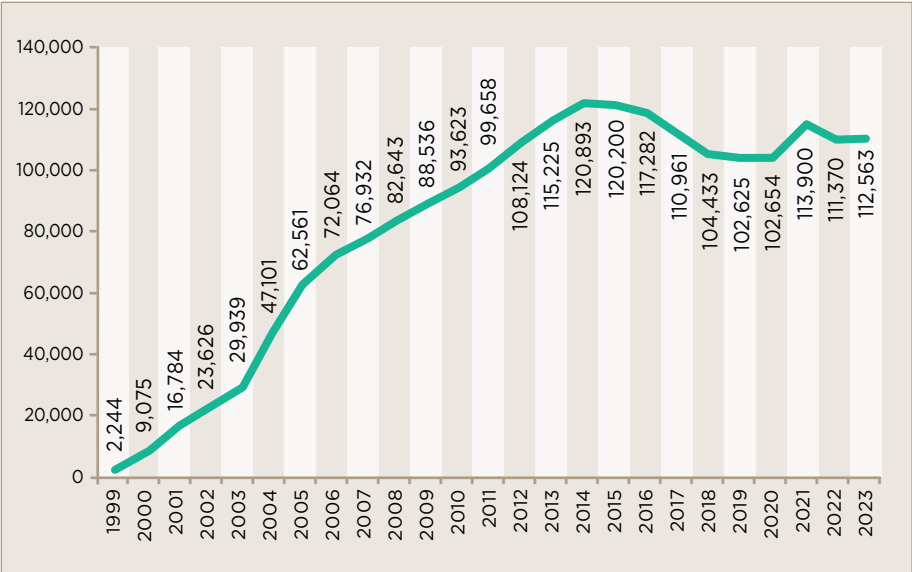
SCHOOL OPTION	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	ENROLLMENT	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
Traditional Public School District	3,031	1,495,209	Public schools that are operated by a school district.
Joint Vocational School District	49	47,235	Public schools that focus on career and technical education.
Charter Public School	334	112,563	Public schools that operate independently of the district and are authorized by a state-approved sponsor.
STEM Public School	7	3,724	Public schools that operate independently of the district and focus on STEM education.
Chartered Non-Public School	715	169,807	Private schools that are chartered by the state. These schools may participate in state-funded scholarship programs.
Non-Chartered, Non-Tax-Supported School	618	No Data Available	Private schools that, due to truly held religious beliefs, choose not to be chartered by the state.
Home School	Not Applicable	47,468	Parents choose to educate their child at home.

**Sources:** All data are for 2022-23 and drawn from various sources from Ohio DEW.

# Public Charter Schools

Ohio has 334 charter schools—also known as community schools—serving more than 110,000 students.

2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	NUMBER OF STUDENTS	PERCENT OF CHARTER STUDENTS
<b>GENERAL EDUCATION</b>			
Brick-and-Mortar	251	67,764	60.2
Online	6	26,192	23.3
<b>DROPOUT RECOVERY</b>			
Brick-and-Mortar	67	13,227	11.8
Online	10	5,380	5.8
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>112,563</b>	<b>100</b>



**Sources:** Ohio DEW [downloadable](#) file titled “Building Overview” was used to calculate enrollments for 2022-23 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: 2021-2022](#).

# Characteristics of Charter School Students

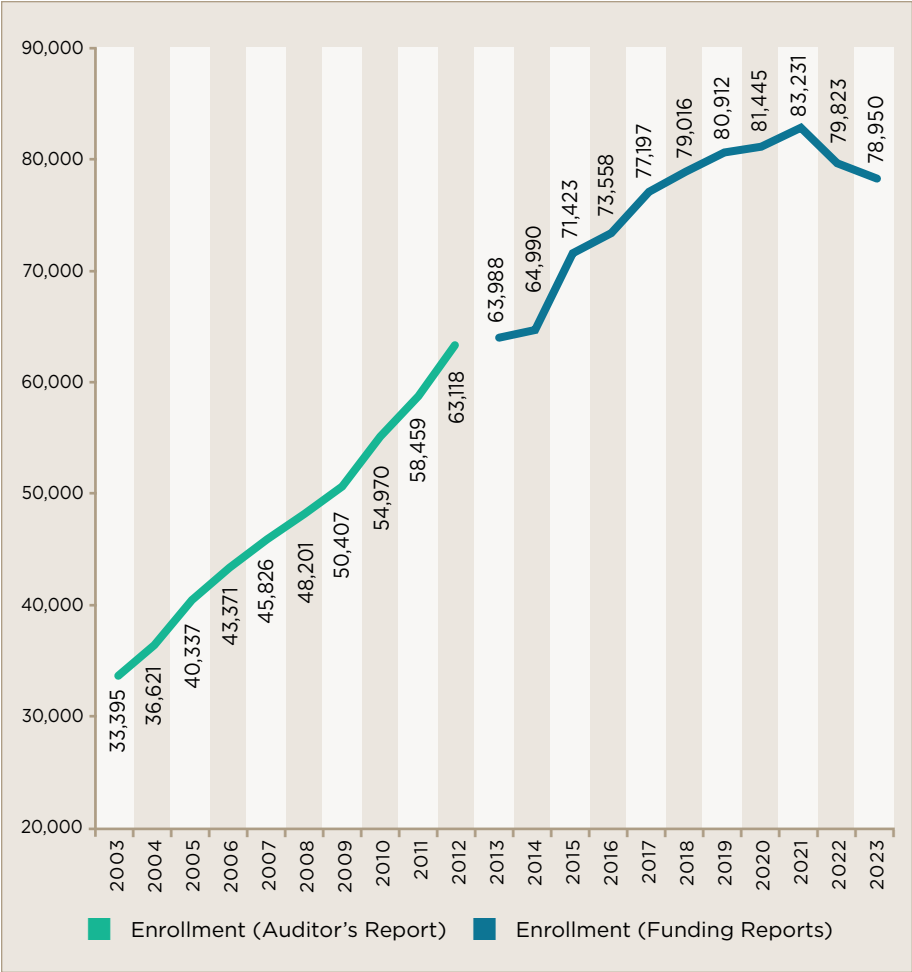
Roughly 80 percent of charter school students are economically disadvantaged, and a majority are Black or Hispanic. Nearly 70 percent of charter school students attend brick-and-mortar charters located in urban communities.

	PUBLIC CHARTER	
	NUMBER OF STUDENTS	PERCENT OF STUDENTS
<b>RACE OR ETHNICITY</b>		
White	37,661	33.5
Black	53,901	47.9
Hispanic	11,121	9.9
Multiracial	8,256	7.3
Asian or Pacific Islander	1,343	1.2
American Indian or Alaskan Native	275	<1.0
<b>GENDER</b>		
Female	57,165	50.8
Male	55,393	49.2
<b>OTHER CHARACTERISTICS</b>		
Economically Disadvantaged	90,912	80.8
Students with Disabilities	20,094	17.9
English Learner	6,747	6.0
Identified as Gifted	1,574	1.4
<b>TYOLOGY</b>		
Urban: Brick-and-Mortar	77,233	68.6
Suburban: Brick-and-Mortar	1,194	1.1
Small Town: Brick-and-Mortar	1,633	1.5
Rural: Brick-and-Mortar	931	0.8
Online Charter School	31,572	28.0

**Source:** Ohio DEW, **Advanced Reports** (2022-23). **Note:** All statistics in this table include online charter schools; they are not assigned to district typologies, however, because they can draw students from all areas of the state.

# Interdistrict Open Enrollment

Four in five Ohio districts participate in interdistrict open enrollment. Approximately 80,000 students open enroll, with participation generally, until recently, increasing over time.



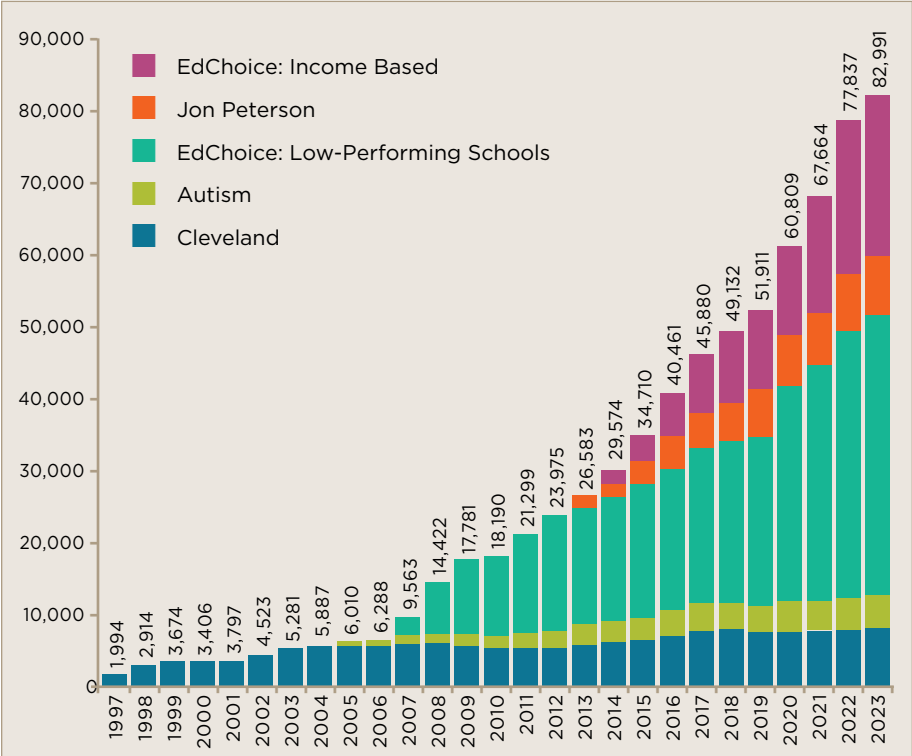
**Sources:** Two sources were used for this chart, based on the availability of data. For 2002-03 to 2011-12, data from the Ohio Auditor of State's 2016 report, *Weighing the Costs and Benefits of Open Enrollment* were used. For 2012-13 to 2022-23, enrollments are calculated based on school districts' funding reports; see Ohio DEW, [Traditional School Districts Funding](#).



# Private School Scholarships

More than 80,000 students used state-funded scholarships (often referred to as vouchers) to attend private schools in 2022-23.

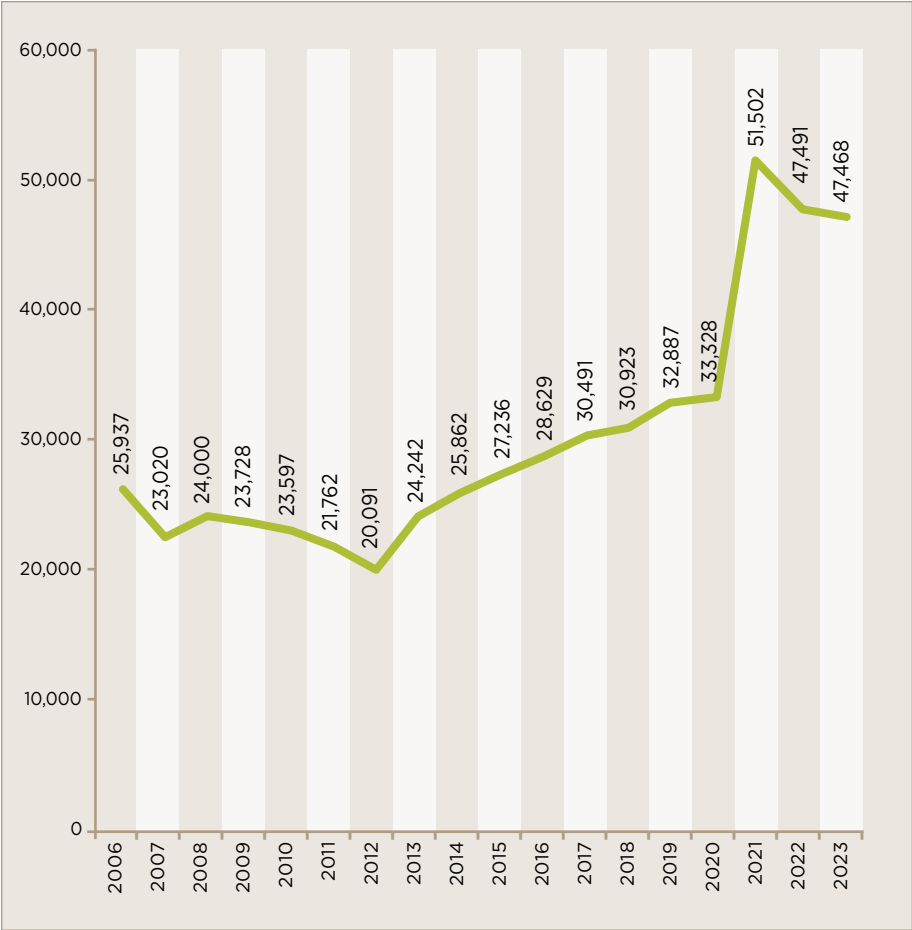
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM	PARTICIPATION IN 2022-23
EdChoice: Low-Performing Schools	39,033
EdChoice: Income Based	23,272
Jon Peterson Special Needs	8,186
Cleveland Scholarship	7,802
Autism Scholarship	4,698
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>82,991</b>



**Source:** Historical data through 2020-21 are from American Federation for Children, [School Choice Yearbook \(2021\)](#). Ohio DEW began recently reporting more detailed voucher data and beginning with 2021-22, numbers 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

Nearly 50,000 students participate in homeschooling; the number of homeschoolers significantly increased in 2020-21 and has decreased slightly since then.



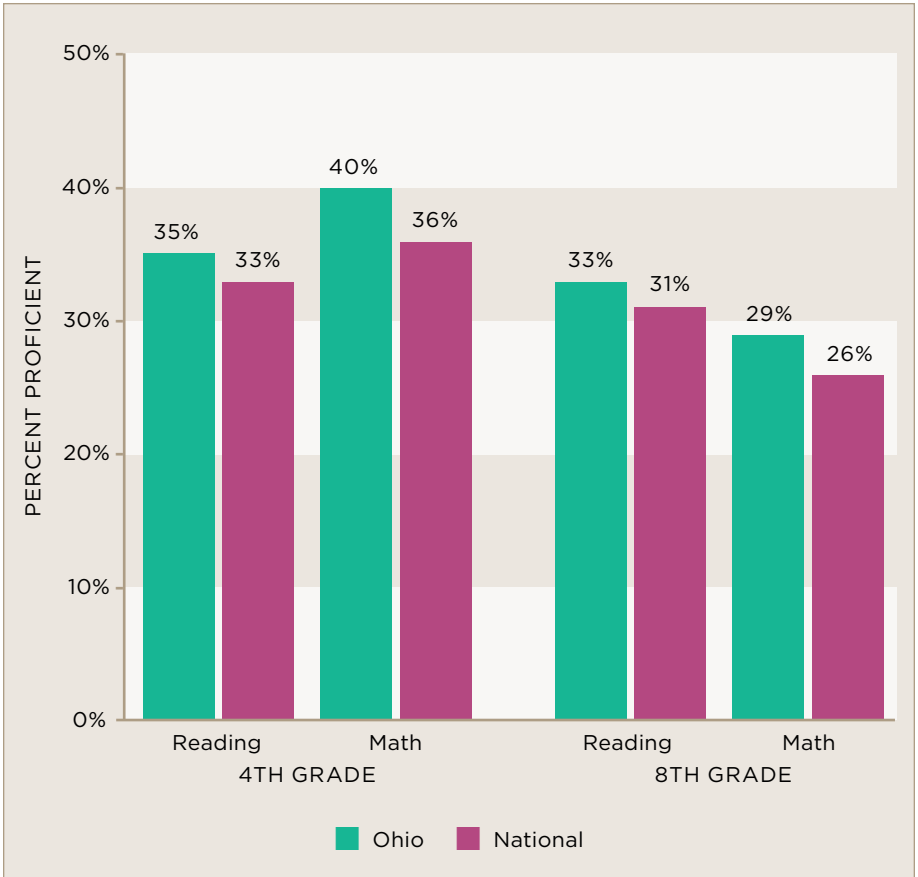
**Source:** Ohio DEW, [Homeschool Student Data](#). **Note:** Students attending online charter schools are not considered homeschool students.

# Student Achievement: National Exams



# National Exams: NAEP 2022

Approximately 30 to 40 percent of Ohio students reach the national standard for proficiency, just above the national average.



**Source:** National Assessment of Educational Progress, [Data Explorer](#) (2022). **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 11th and 20th in fourth and eighth grade math and reading. Ohio's national position has typically been between 10th and 20th for the past two decades.

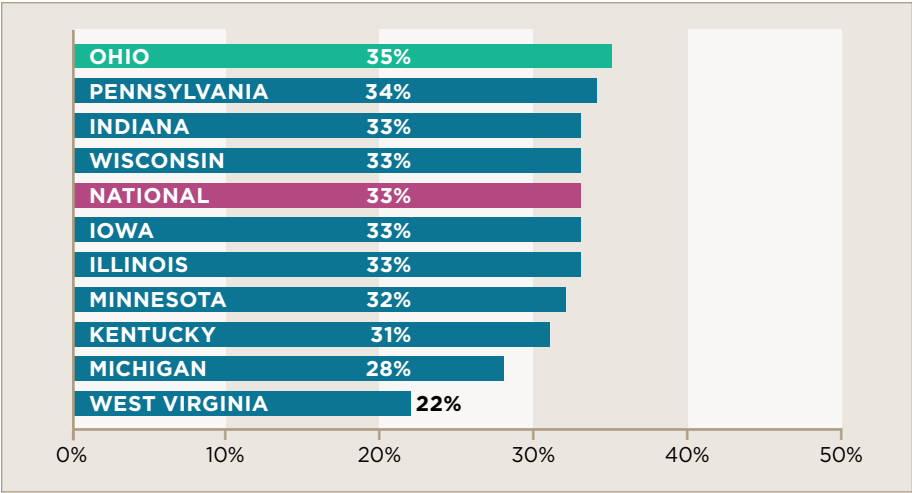
NATIONAL RANK										
	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2022
4th Grade Reading	18	18	11	15	16	20	18	11	16	14
4th Grade Math	14	10	9	13	15	15	14	20	21	17
8th Grade Reading	17	17	11	12	16	19	29	18	10	11
8th Grade Math	18	16	22	24	15	11	18	12	14	20

**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).

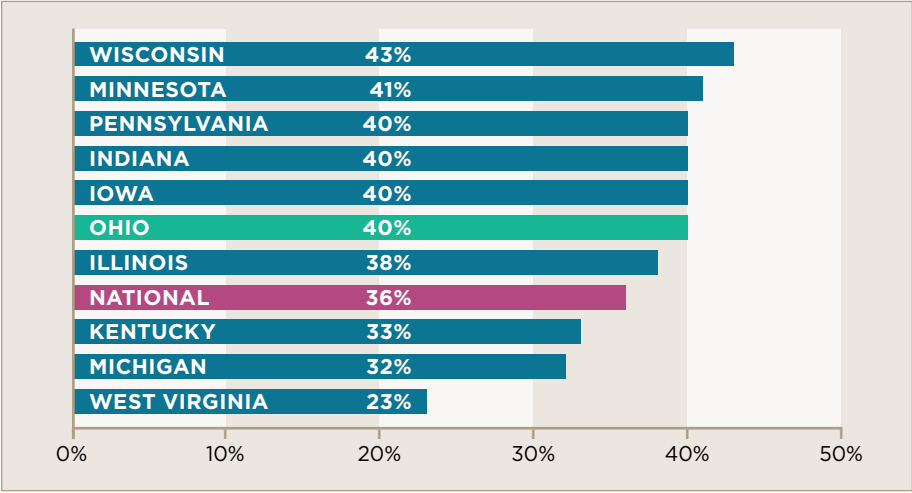
# National Exams: How Ohio Compares to Nearby States

When compared to nearby states, Ohio ranks 1st out of 10 in fourth grade reading proficiency and is tied for 3rd in fourth grade math proficiency.

## FOURTH GRADE READING



## FOURTH GRADE MATH

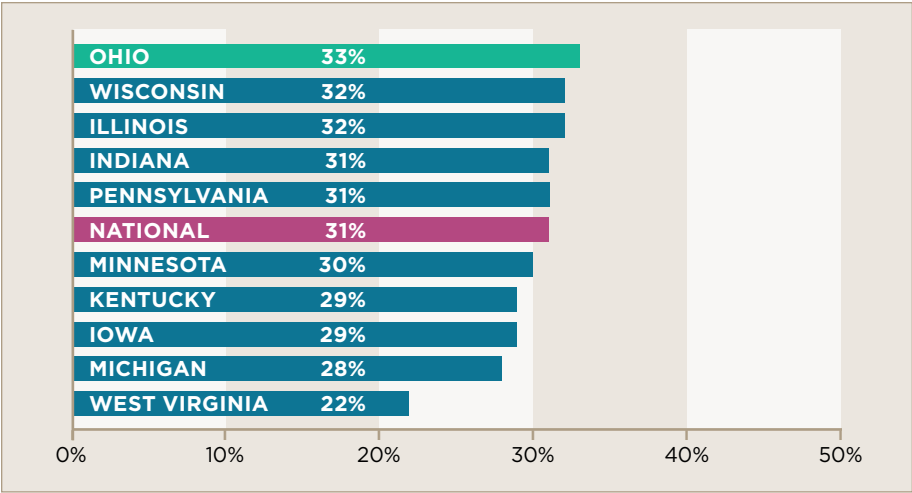


**Source:** National Assessment of Educational Progress, [Data Explorer](#) (2022). **Note:** The figure displays proficiency rates—the percentage of students achieving NAEP’s rigorous proficiency benchmark.

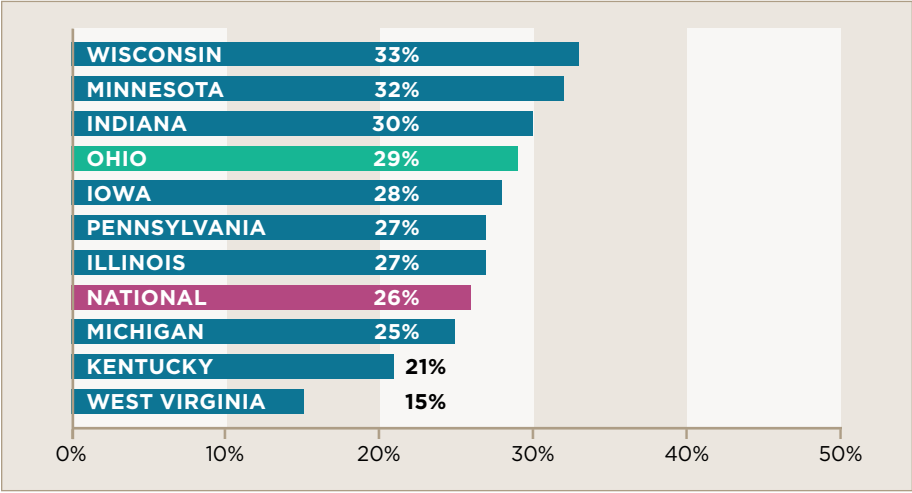
# National Exams: How Ohio Compares to Nearby States

When compared to nearby states, Ohio ranks 1st out of 10 in eighth grade reading proficiency and 4th in eighth grade math proficiency.

## EIGHTH GRADE READING



## EIGHTH GRADE MATH

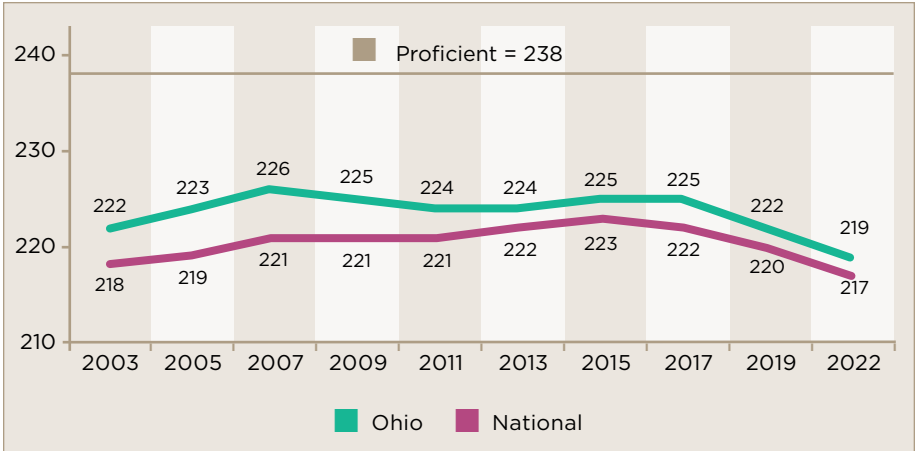


**Source:** National Assessment of Educational Progress, [Data Explorer](#) (2022). **Note:** The figure displays proficiency rates—the percentage of students achieving NAEP’s rigorous proficiency benchmark.

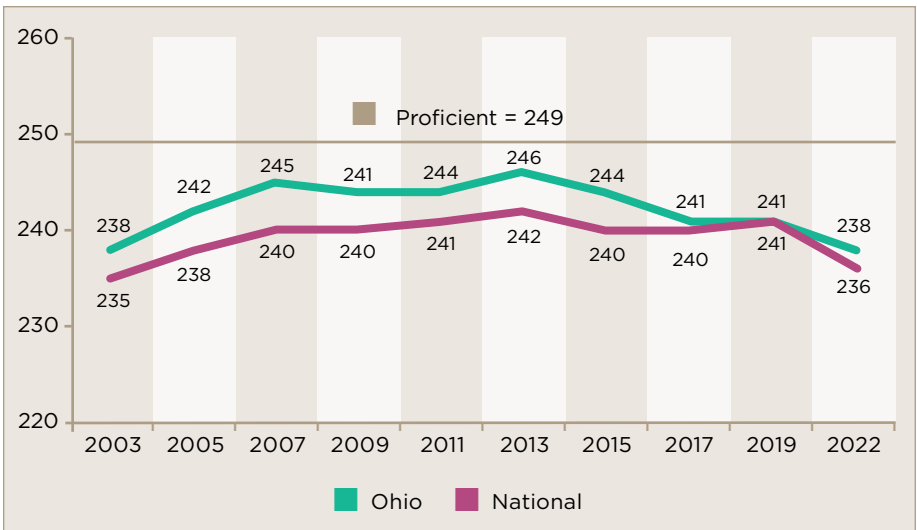
# Ohio's NAEP Scores over Time: Fourth Grade

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



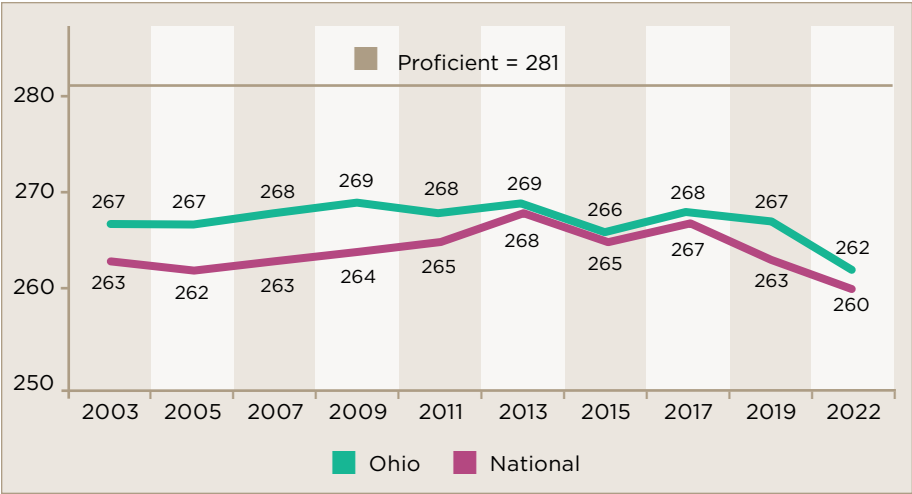
**Source:** National Assessment of Educational Progress, [Data Explorer](#). **Note:** The NAEP trend charts display scaled scores. Scores are reported on a scale of 0 and 500, with the score needed to reach proficient displayed for reference.



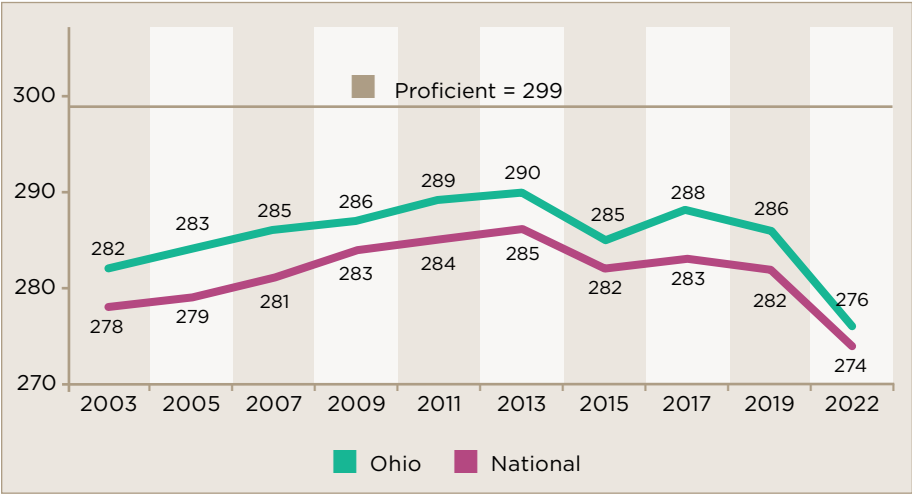
# Ohio's NAEP Scores over Time: Eighth Grade

Ohio's eighth grade reading scores were largely flat in reading until the significant decline in 2022. Eighth grade math scores increased from 2003 to 2013 but have declined since then.

## EIGHTH GRADE READING



## EIGHTH GRADE MATH

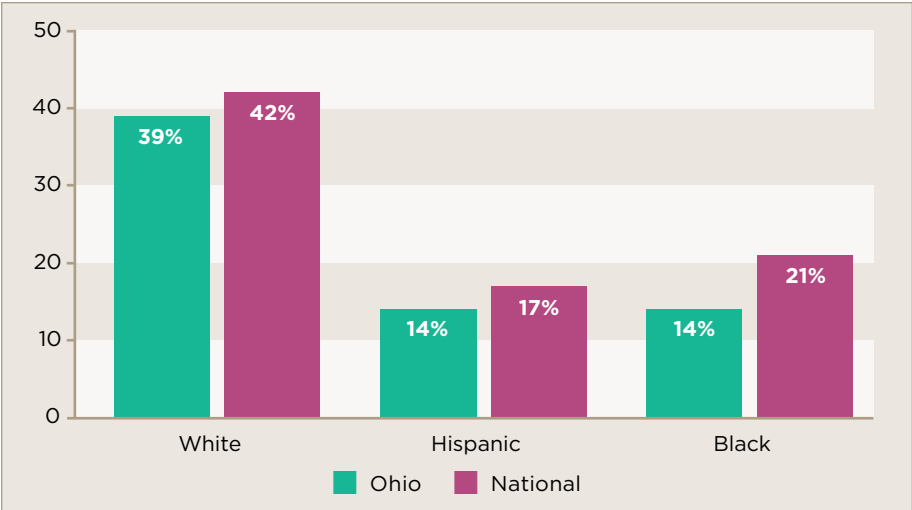


**Source:** National Assessment of Educational Progress, [Data Explorer](#). **Note:** The NAEP trend charts display scaled scores. Scores are reported on a scale of 0 and 500, with the score needed to reach proficient displayed for reference.

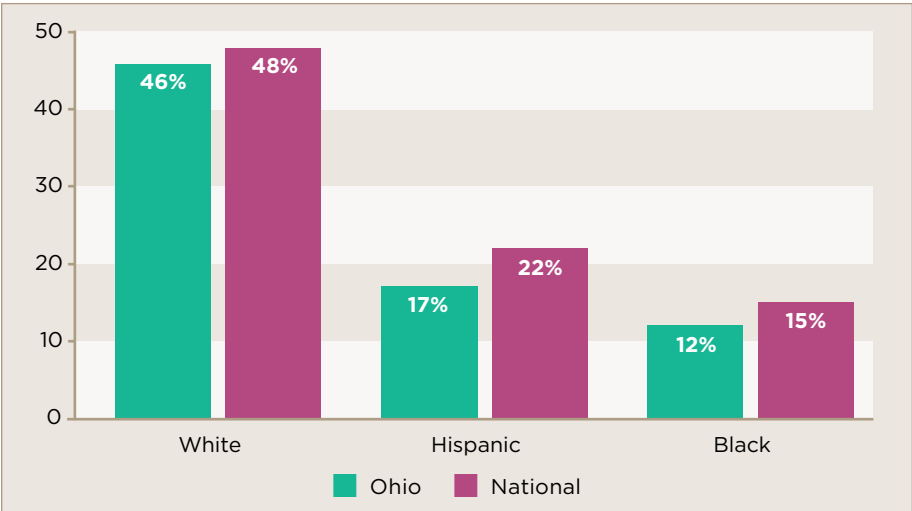
# National Exams: Achievement by Race/Ethnicity

Between 40 and 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

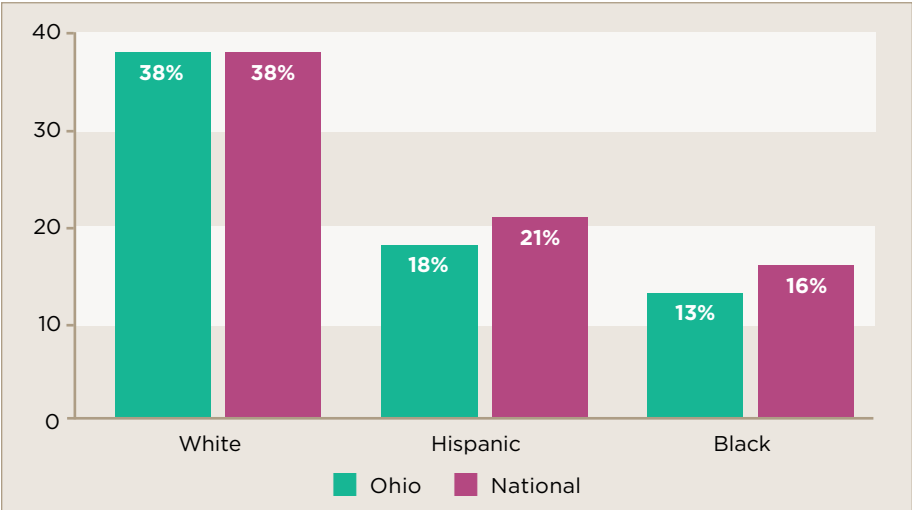


**Source:** National Assessment of Educational Progress, [Data Explorer](#) (2022). **Note:** The figure displays proficiency rates—the percentage of students achieving NAEP's rigorous proficiency benchmark. Smaller race/ethnic subgroups are omitted for display purposes.

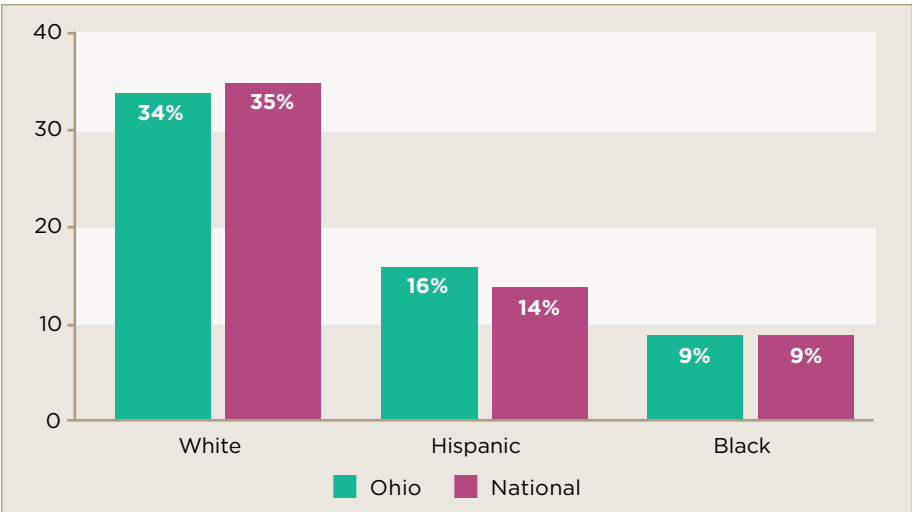
# National Exams: Achievement by Race/Ethnicity

Between 35 and 40 percent of Ohio’s white eighth grade students achieve proficiency on NAEP, but less than 15 percent of Black students in Ohio do so.

## EIGHTH GRADE READING



## EIGHTH GRADE MATH



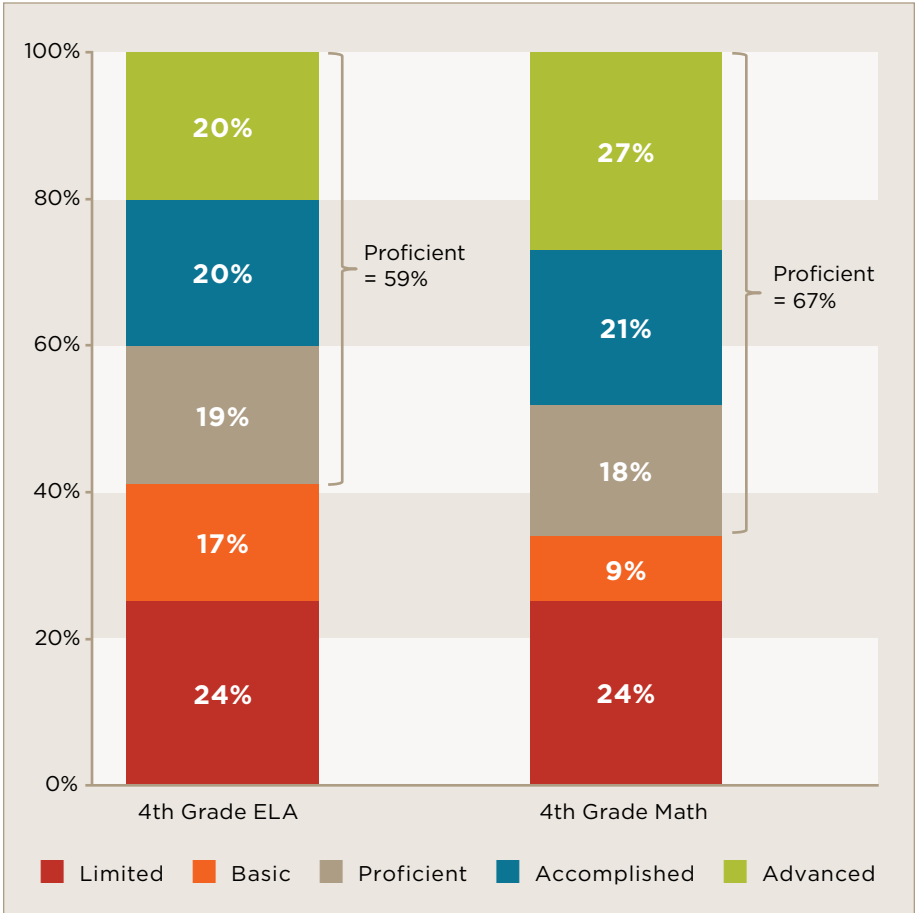
**Source:** National Assessment of Educational Progress, [Data Explorer](#) (2022). **Note:** The figure displays proficiency rates—the percentage of students achieving NAEP’s rigorous proficiency benchmark. Smaller race/ethnic subgroups are omitted for display purposes.

# Student Achievement: State Exams



# Statewide Achievement in Selected Grades and Subjects

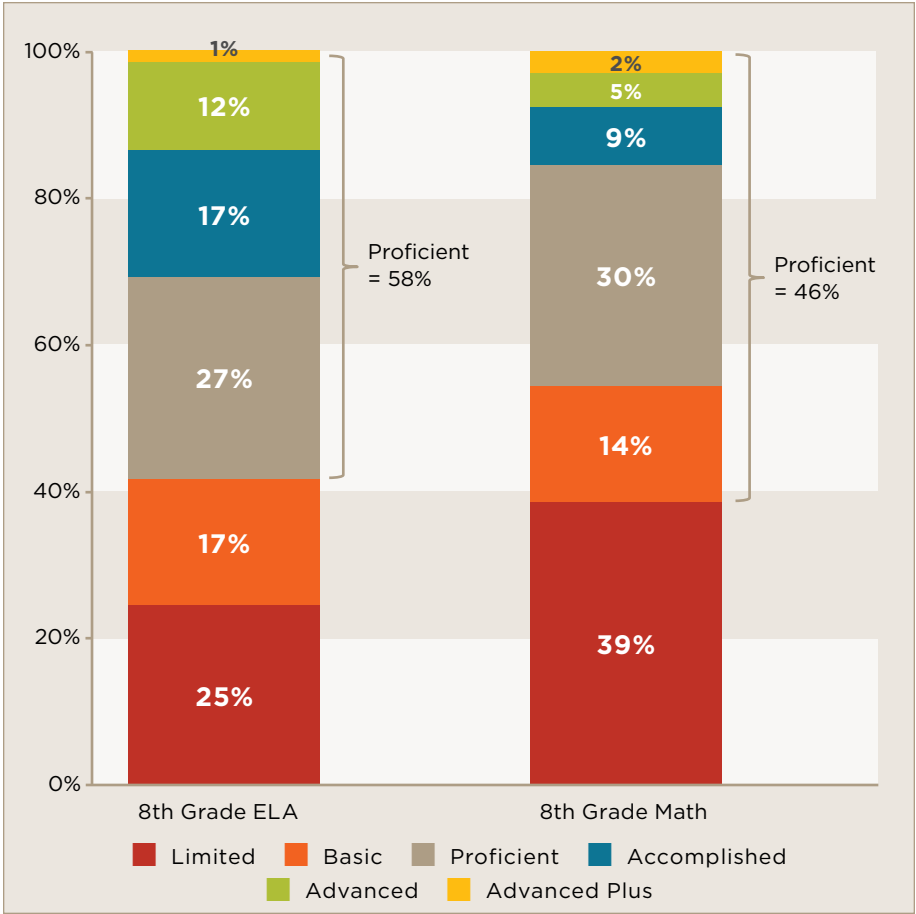
59 and 67 percent of Ohio fourth grade students reach proficient or above on state English language arts (ELA) and math exams, respectively.



**Source:** Ohio DEW, [Advanced Reports](#) (2022-23). **Note:** Percentages may not total due to rounding. Not displayed is the “advanced plus” level, a category used when students score “advanced” on an above-grade-level assessment. In fourth grade, 0.1 and 0.2 percent of students scored advanced plus in ELA and math, respectively.

# Statewide Achievement in Selected Grades and Subjects

58 and 46 percent of Ohio eighth grade students reach proficient or above on state English language arts (ELA) and math exams, respectively.

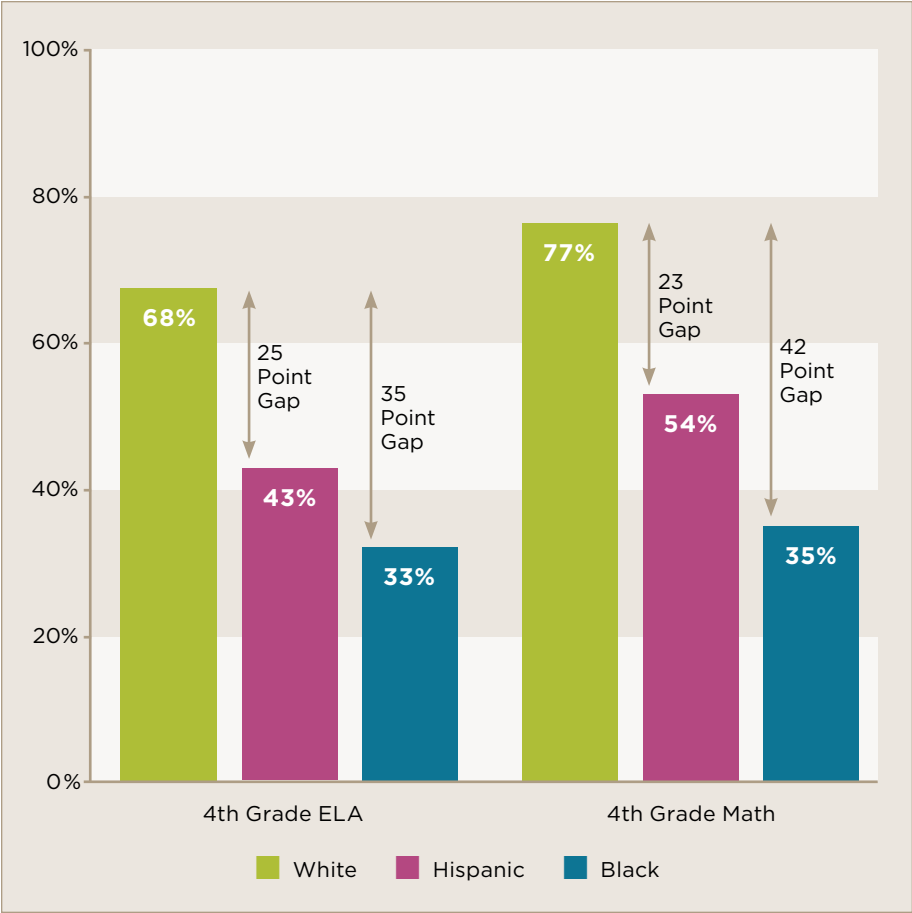


Source: Ohio DEW, [Advanced Reports](#) (2022-23). Note: Percentages may not total due to rounding.

# Achievement Gaps

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

## FOURTH GRADE: PROFICIENT OR ABOVE

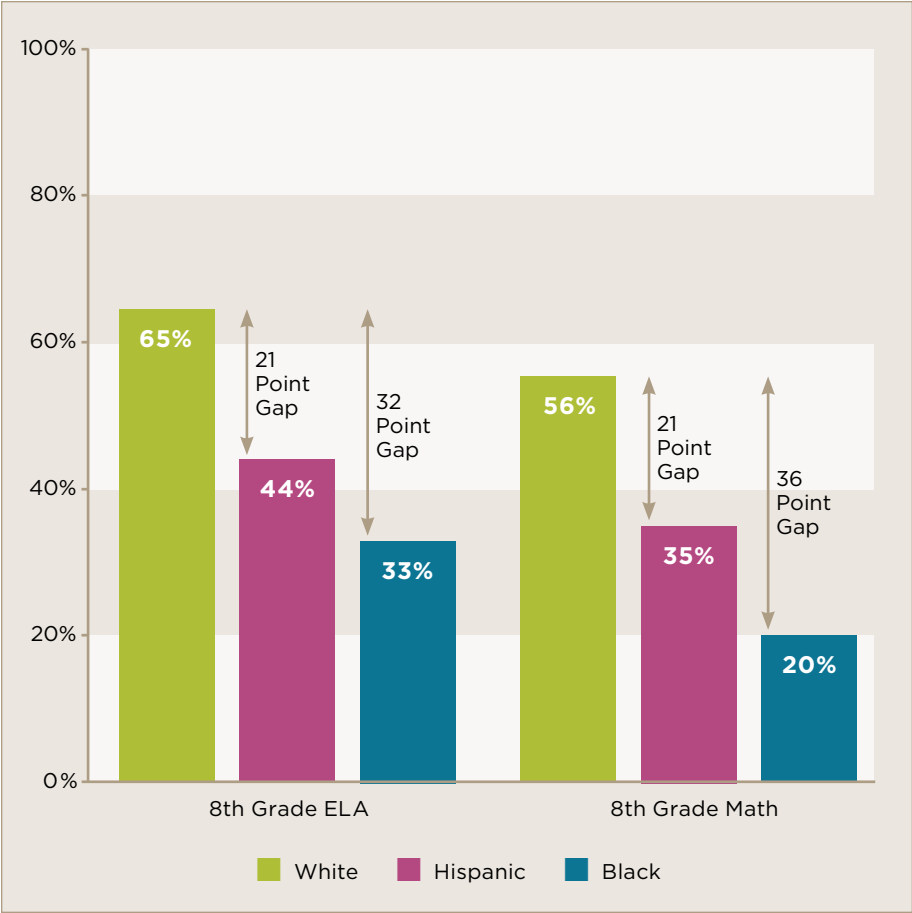


**Source:** Ohio DEW, **Advanced Reports** (2022-23). **Note:** Other race/ethnic subgroups are not shown for display purposes. Asian/Pacific Islander students achieve, on average, at higher levels than white students; multiracial students achieve at levels between white and Hispanic students.

# Achievement Gaps

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

## EIGHTH GRADE: PROFICIENT OR ABOVE



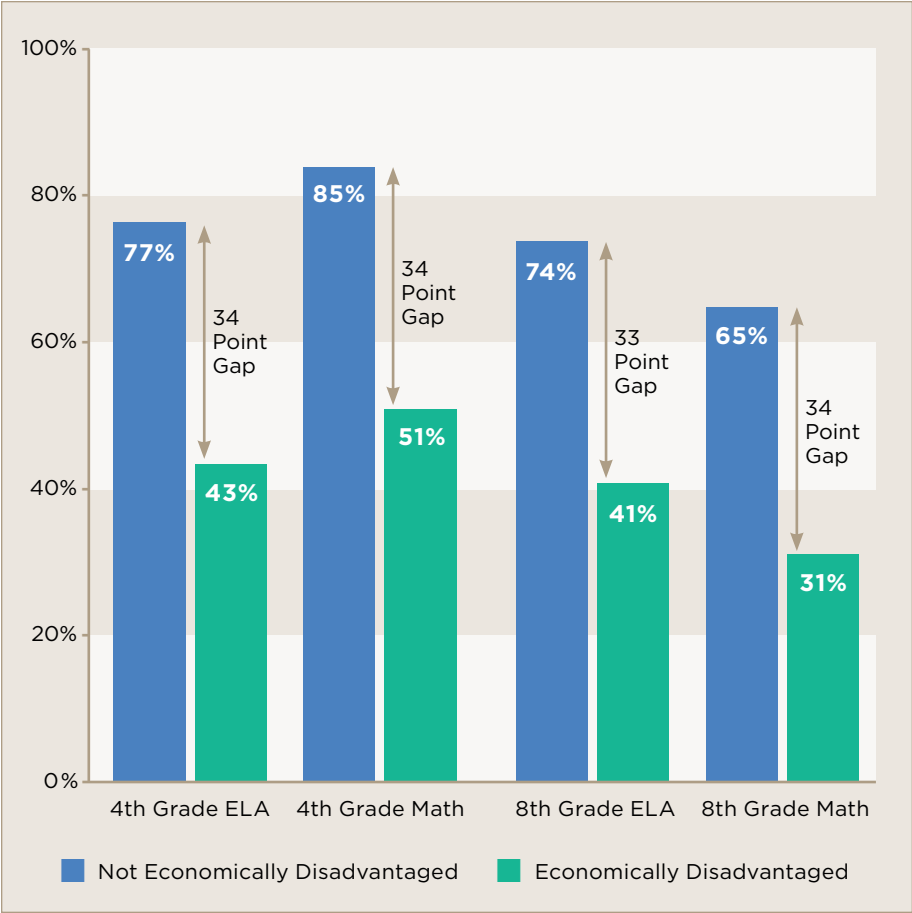
**Source:** Ohio DEW, [Advanced Reports](#) (2022-23). Note: Other race/ethnic subgroups are omitted for display purposes. Asian/Pacific Islander students achieve, on average, at higher levels than white students; multiracial students achieve at levels between white and Hispanic students.



# Achievement Gaps

On average, economically disadvantaged students achieve at lower levels than their peers on fourth and eighth grade state exams.

## FOURTH AND EIGHTH GRADE: PROFICIENT OR ABOVE



**Source:** Ohio DEW, [Advanced Reports](#) (2022-23). **Note:** For more on the identification of economically disadvantaged students, see page 10.

# Achievement Gaps Versus Prior Years

Achievement gaps were large prior to the pandemic, and they have generally widened since then.

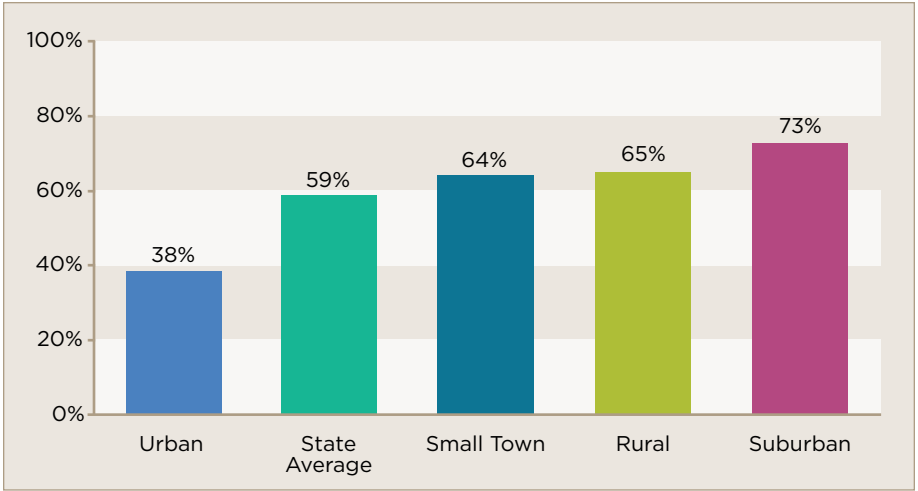
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2021	2022	2023
<b>FOURTH GRADE ELA</b>							
Black-White	33	33	30	30	38	35	35
Hispanic-White	21	21	20	21	25	22	25
Low-High Income	31	30	29	29	36	31	34
<b>FOURTH GRADE MATH</b>							
Black-White	38	38	35	34	46	45	42
Hispanic-White	21	20	19	18	27	25	23
Low-High Income	30	29	29	27	39	35	34
<b>EIGHTH GRADE ELA</b>							
Black-White	29	34	36	32	36	33	32
Hispanic-White	19	23	22	19	22	21	21
Low-High Income	30	34	32	31	35	31	33
<b>EIGHTH GRADE MATH</b>							
Black-White	31	36	33	34	36	33	36
Hispanic-White	19	20	18	17	21	19	21
Low-High Income	28	31	29	29	31	31	34

**Source:** Ohio DEW, [Advanced Reports](#) (2015-16 to 2022-23). **Note:** This table displays the percentage point difference in proficiency rates between, e.g., Black and white students. “Low-high income” gap refers to the difference in proficiency rates between economically disadvantaged students and those who are not so identified. Data are not displayed for 2019-20 due to the cancellation of state tests that year.

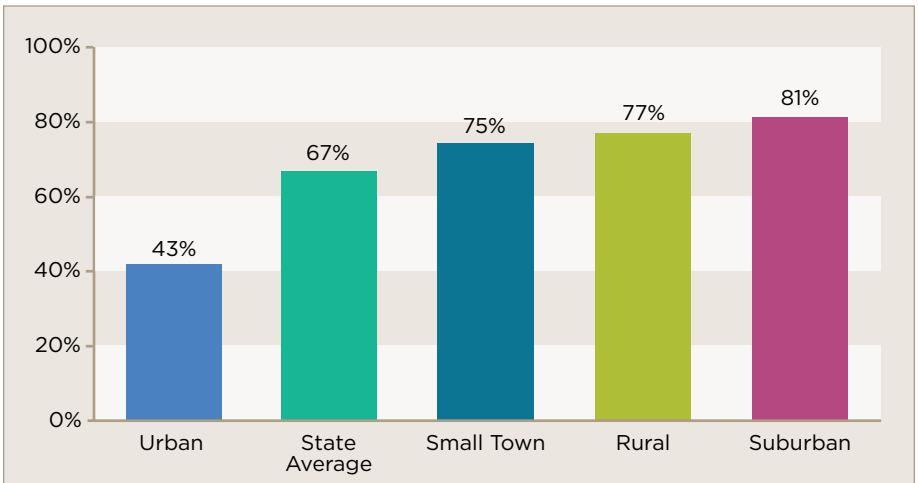
# Student Achievement by District Typology

Fourth grade proficiency rates are highest in Ohio’s suburban areas and lowest in urban areas.

## FOURTH GRADE ELA



## FOURTH GRADE MATH

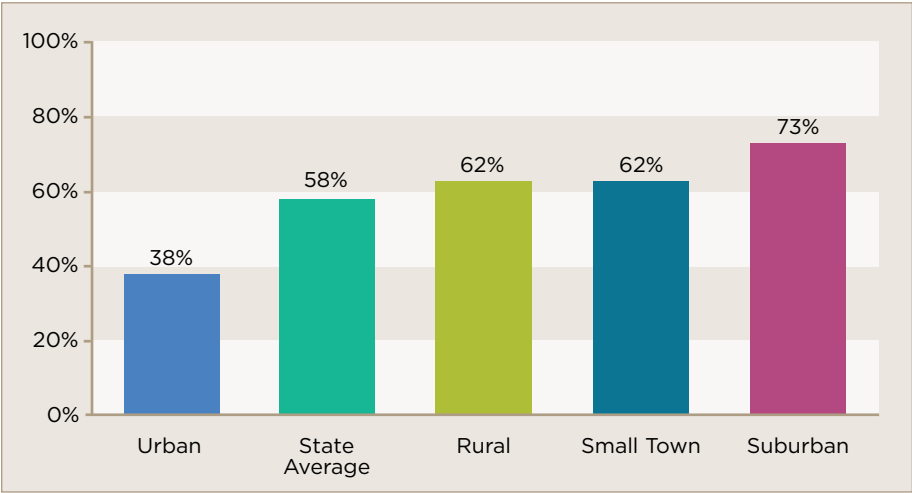


**Source:** Calculations based on Ohio DEW [downloadable](#) files titled “District and Building Achievement” (2022-23). **Note:** The typology averages are weighted by the number of fourth graders in each district, charter, or STEM school.

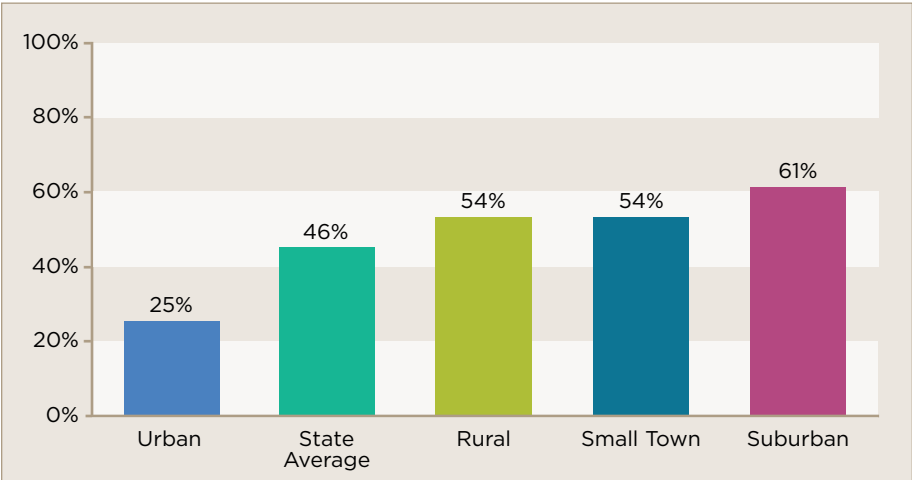
# Student Achievement by District Typology

Eighth grade proficiency rates are highest in Ohio's suburban areas and lowest in urban areas.

## EIGHTH GRADE ELA



## EIGHTH GRADE MATH

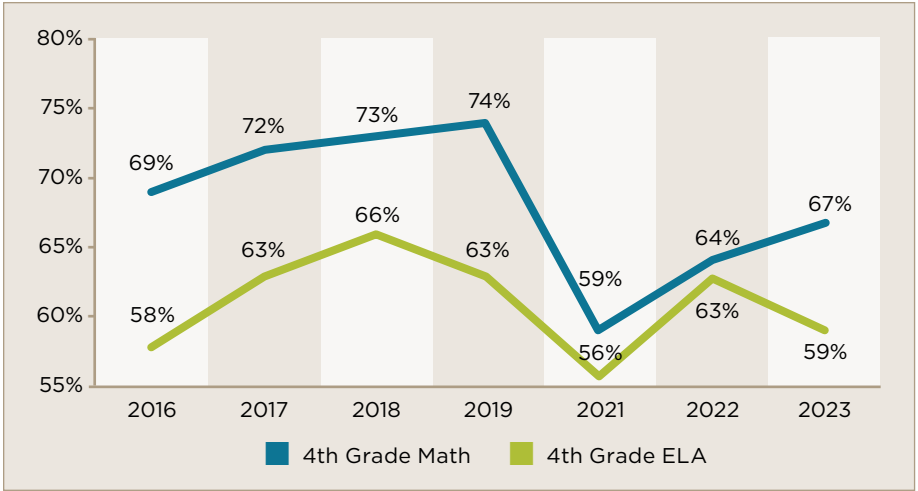


**Source:** Calculations based on Ohio DEW [downloadable](#) files titled “District and Building Achievement” (2022-23). **Note:** The typology averages are weighted by the number of eighth graders in each district, charter, or STEM school.

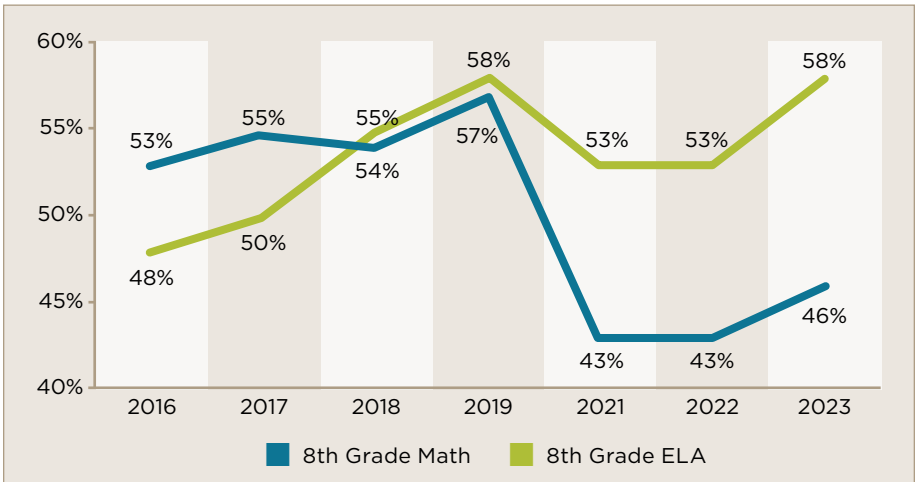
# Proficiency Trends in Fourth and Eighth Grade

Proficiency rates on state exams dipped in 2020-21, reflecting Covid-related disruptions. While math scores have rebounded, they remain significantly below pre-pandemic levels in both fourth and eighth grade. ELA scores still trail pre-pandemic levels in fourth grade but have recovered in eighth grade.

## FOURTH GRADE



## EIGHTH GRADE

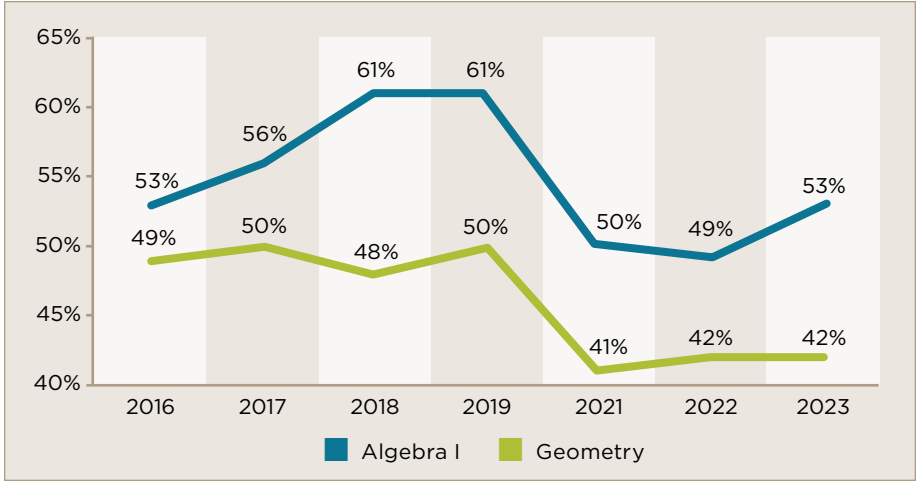


**Source:** Ohio DEW, [Advanced Reports](#). **Note:** No data are displayed for 2019-20 due to the cancellation of state tests that year.

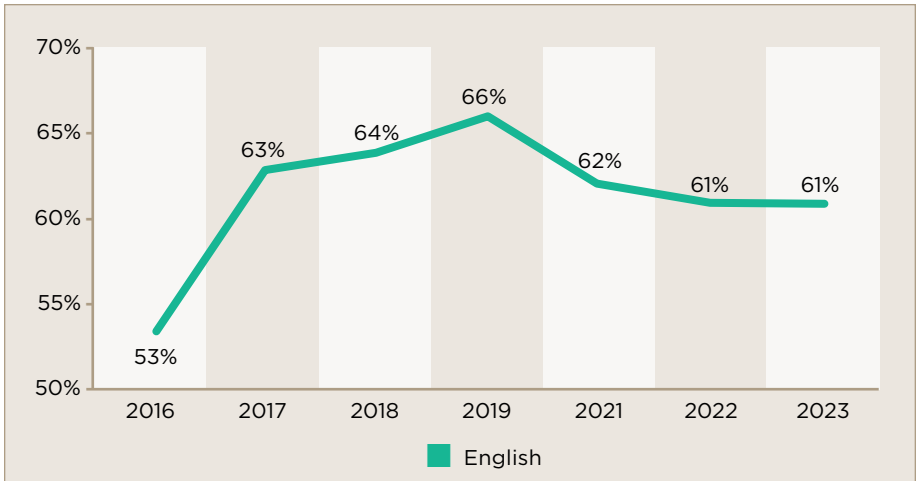
# Proficiency Trends on Selected High School Exams

Proficiency rates on state end-of-course (EOC) exams declined in 2020-21, reflecting Covid-related disruptions, and have slightly rebounded in algebra I but not in geometry or English.

## MATH EOC



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

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2021	2022	2023
<b>GRADE 3-8 EXAMS</b>							
3rd ELA	54.9	63.8	61.2	66.7	51.9	59.8	62.3
3rd Math	65.8	70.6	67.0	67.1	55.7	58.7	62.2
4th ELA	57.5	62.8	66.4	63.3	56.0	62.5	58.9
4th Math	69.2	72.4	72.5	74.3	59.4	63.6	66.8
5th ELA	60.2	67.7	70.2	69.8	64.8	64.4	67.4
5th Math	62.4	61.6	62.9	62.5	48.0	53.5	56.6
5th Science	67.5	68.3	68.5	65.0	57.9	62.9	63.9
6th ELA	54.0	60.2	59.9	56.1	51.9	55.8	55.0
6th Math	56.7	60.2	59.4	60.1	45.9	49.6	50.0
7th ELA	53.6	59.2	63.9	67.7	59.6	60.3	64.8
7th Math	55.3	56.1	59.4	57.5	44.3	45.6	47.6
8th ELA	47.5	50.3	54.5	58.3	52.7	52.7	57.5
8th Math	52.7	54.9	54.3	57.3	42.6	43.0	46.4
8th Science	64.9	65.8	67.6	68.2	59.4	63.0	64.0
<b>HIGH SCHOOL END-OF-COURSE (EOC) EXAMS</b>							
English II	53.4	63.3	64.4	66.2	62.0	61.3	60.8
Algebra I	53.0	56.2	60.5	61.1	49.4	49.1	53.0
Geometry	49.4	49.7	48.2	50.1	40.9	41.6	41.8
Biology	65.4	65.7	73.7	73.7	64.7	64.7	63.7
U.S. Gov.	68.0	73.1	79.5	77.7	73.0	73.9	72.0
U.S. History	76.3	74.5	75.7	78.1	68.3	68.2	69.7

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

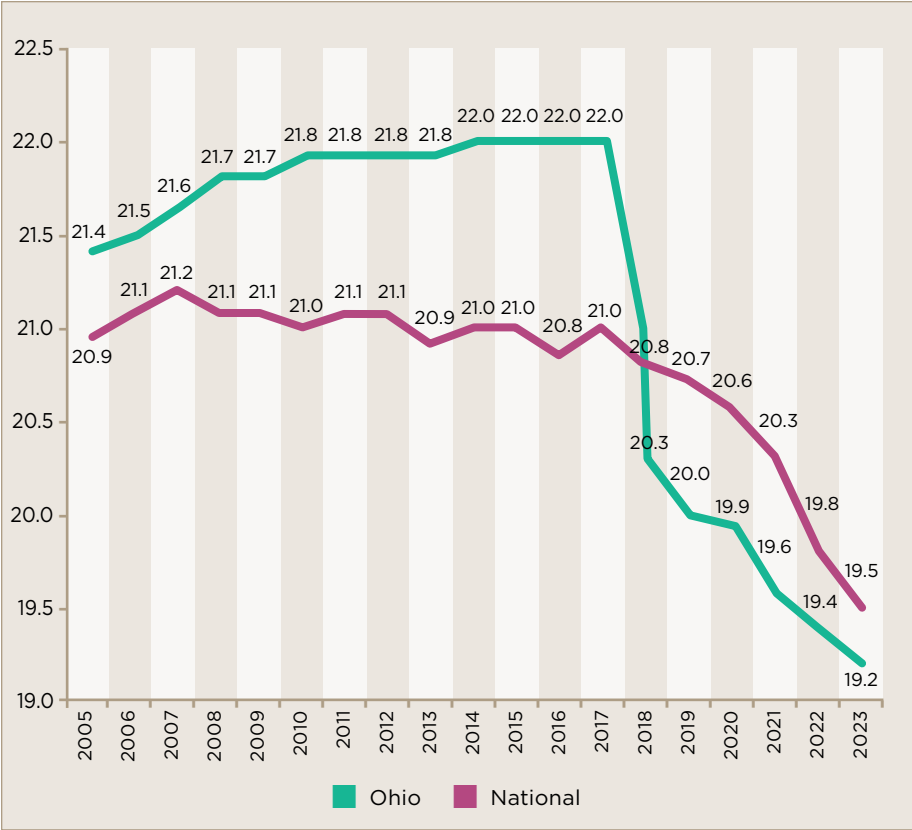
# Post-Secondary Readiness and Outcomes





# ACT Scores Over Time

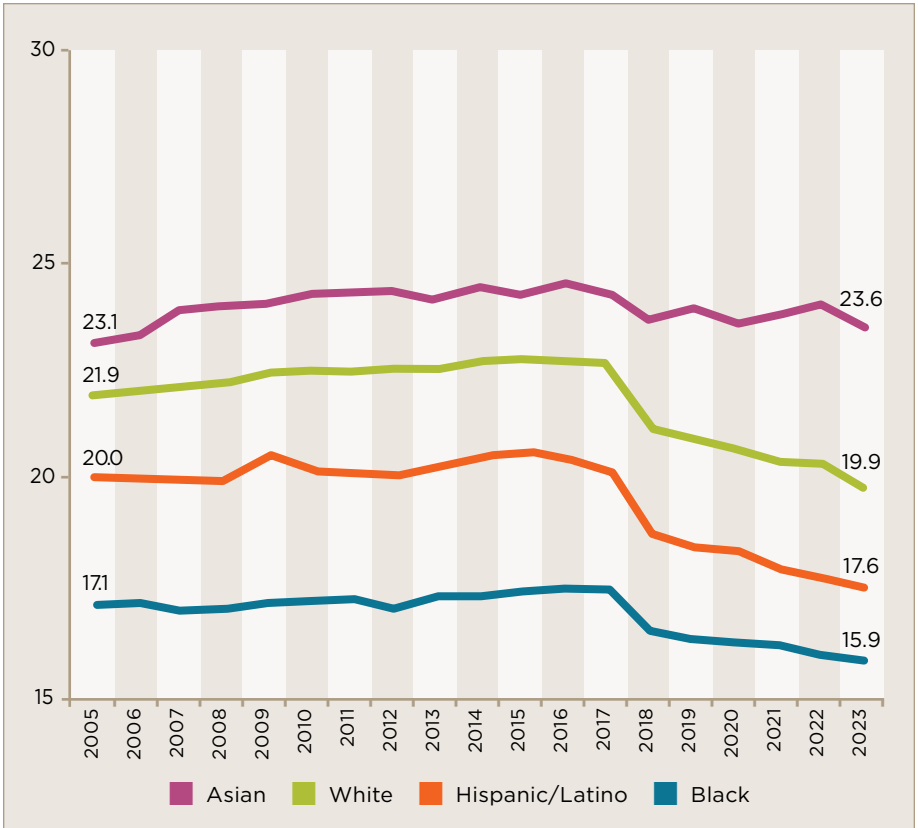
Ohio's average ACT composite score fell significantly beginning with the class of 2018, when all Ohio juniors began taking a college admissions exam. Ohio's ACT scores have declined further since 2018.



**Source:** ACT, [Average ACT Scores by State: Graduating Class of 2023](#); 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 2021-23 (roughly 80-85 percent). Composite scores are reported on a scale of 0 to 36.

## Average ACT Scores by Race/Ethnicity

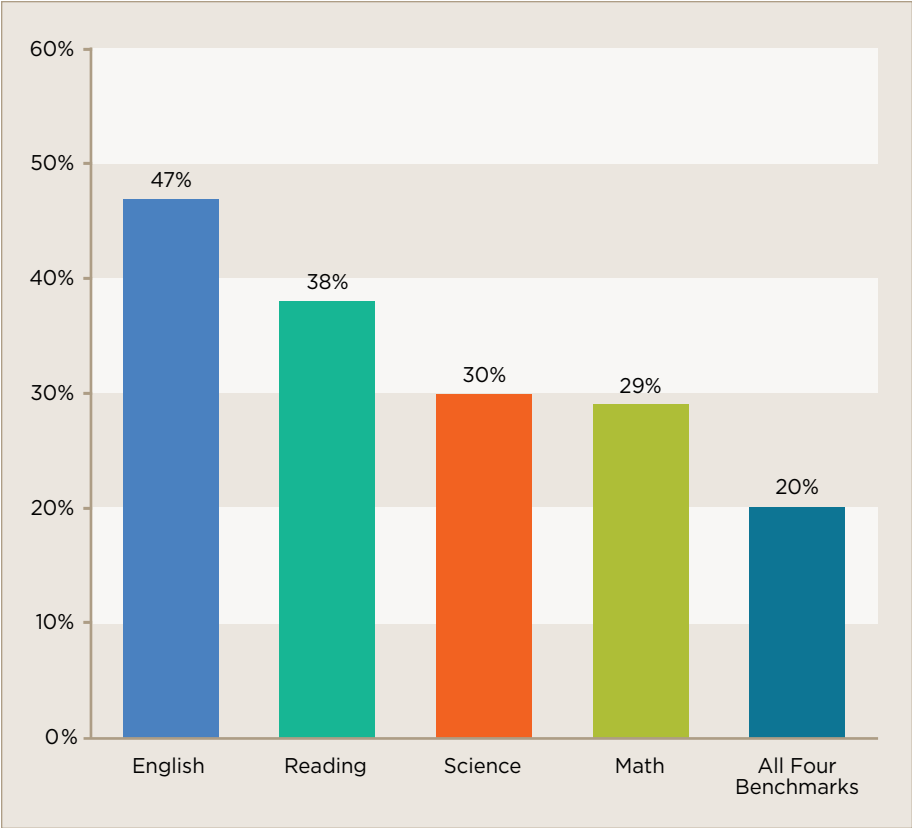
Large gaps in average ACT scores exist between race/ethnic groups; disparities have not narrowed significantly over the past decade.



**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 2023

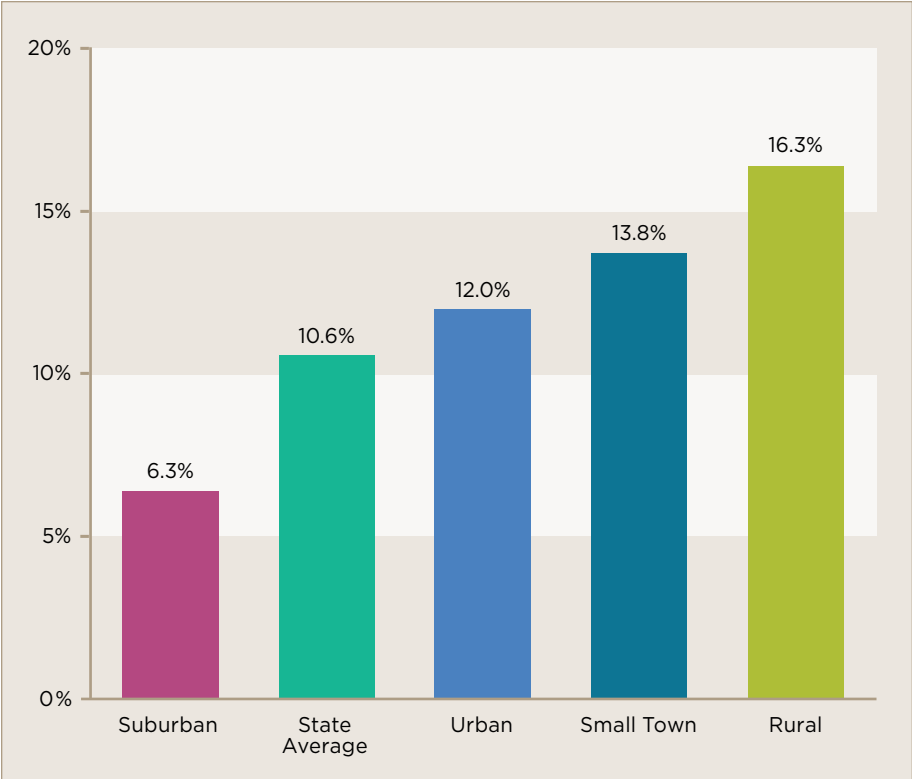
College readiness varies by ACT content area—from roughly 30 percent in math and science to 47 percent in English. Just 20 percent of Ohio students reach college ready benchmarks in all four areas of the ACT.



**Source:** ACT, [U.S. High School Graduating Class Trends](#). **Note:** ACT establishes minimum test scores in each subject that indicate readiness for college coursework in that area. For more on the college-ready benchmarks, see ACT, [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

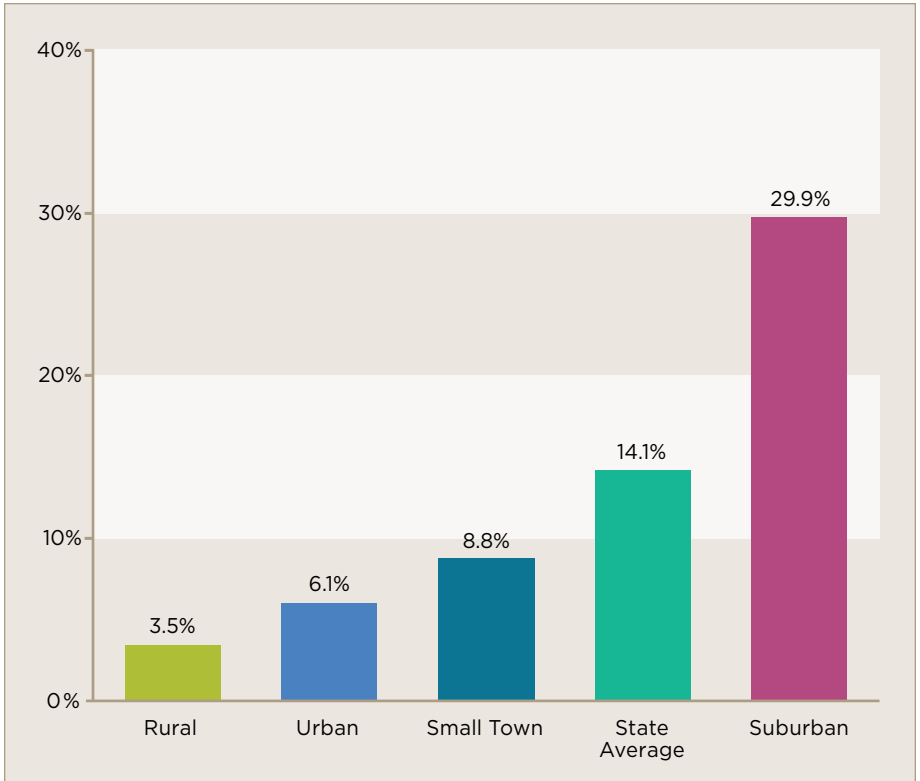
Approximately one in ten students earn twelve or more points in Ohio’s industry credentialing system before graduating. Students from rural schools have the highest rates of credentials earned (16 percent), while those from suburban schools have the lowest (6 percent).



**Source:** Calculations based on Ohio DEW [downloadable](#) files titled “District and Building CCWMMR Data” (2022-23). **Note:** The rates indicate the percentage of students earning 12 or more points in Ohio’s [industry credentialing system](#). Data are from the class of 2022, 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

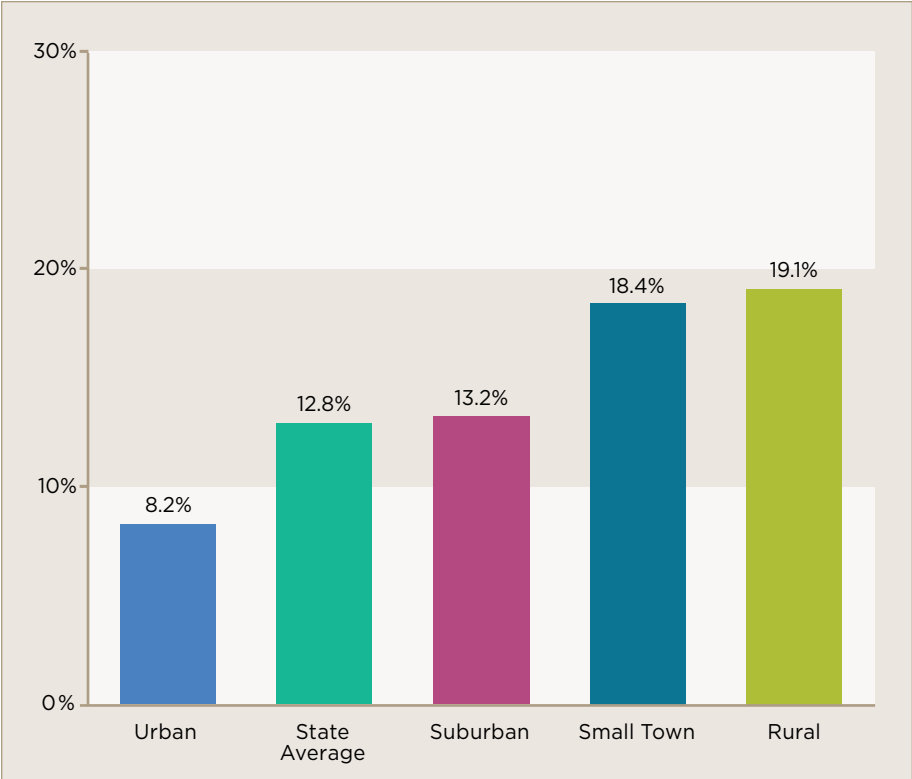
14 percent of Ohio students pass at least one AP exam. 30 percent of students from suburban schools earn a passing score, while only 3.5 percent of rural students do so.



**Source:** Calculations based on Ohio DEW [downloadable](#) files titled “District and Building CCWMR Data” (2022-23). **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 2022, 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 Credit

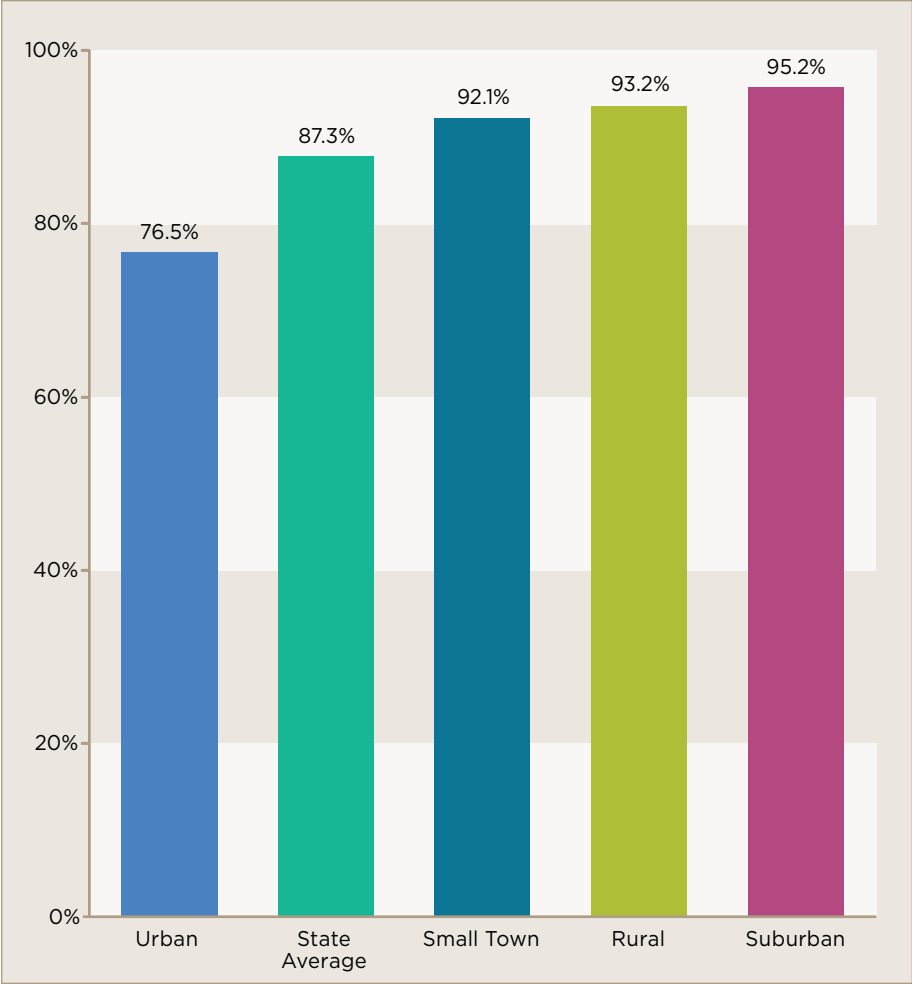
13 percent of Ohio students earn twelve or more college credits through dual enrollment programs. Almost one in five students from small town and rural schools earn twelve or more credits, while just 8 percent of urban students do so.



**Source:** Calculations based on Ohio DEW [downloadable](#) files titled “District and Building CCWMR Data” (2022-23). **Note:** The rates indicate the percentage of students earning 12 or more college credits through a dual high school/college enrollment program. Data are from the class of 2022, 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

87 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.

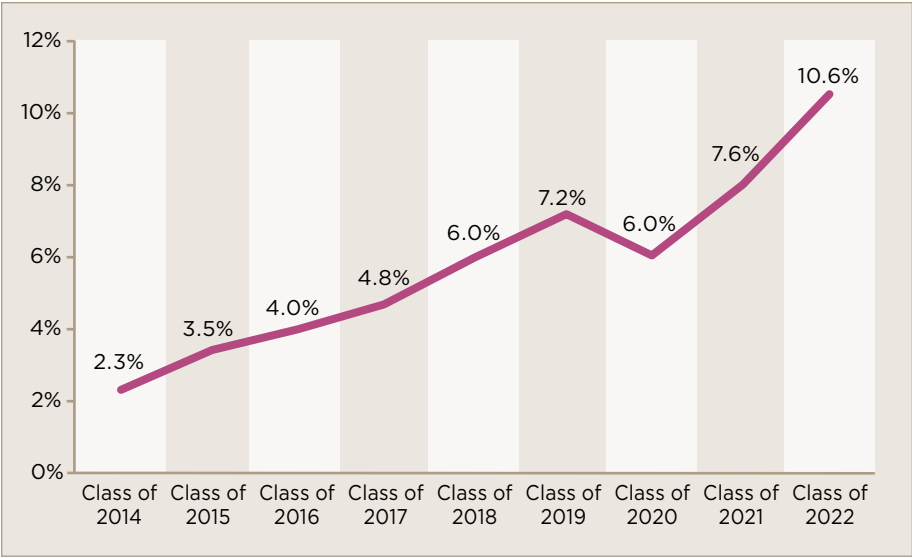


**Source:** Calculations based on Ohio DEW [downloadable](#) files titled “District and Building Graduation Rates” (2022-23). **Note:** Graduation rates indicate the percentage of students in the class of 2022 who earned a high school diploma within four years of entering ninth grade. The typology averages are weighted by the number of students in this class in each district, charter, or STEM school.

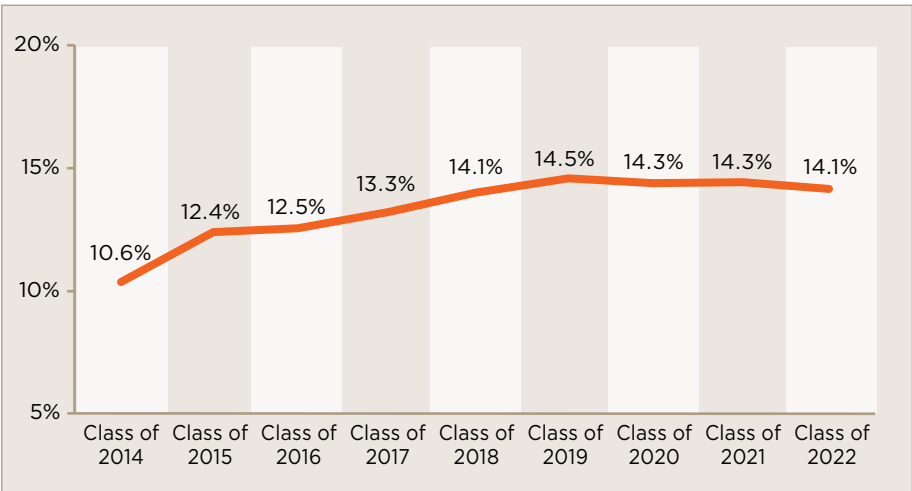
# Industry Credentials and AP Exam Trends

Attainment of industry credentials rose significantly for the class of 2022, while the percentage of students passing an AP exam has been flat in recent years.

## PERCENT EARNING INDUSTRY CREDENTIALS



## PERCENT PASSING AT LEAST ONE AP EXAM



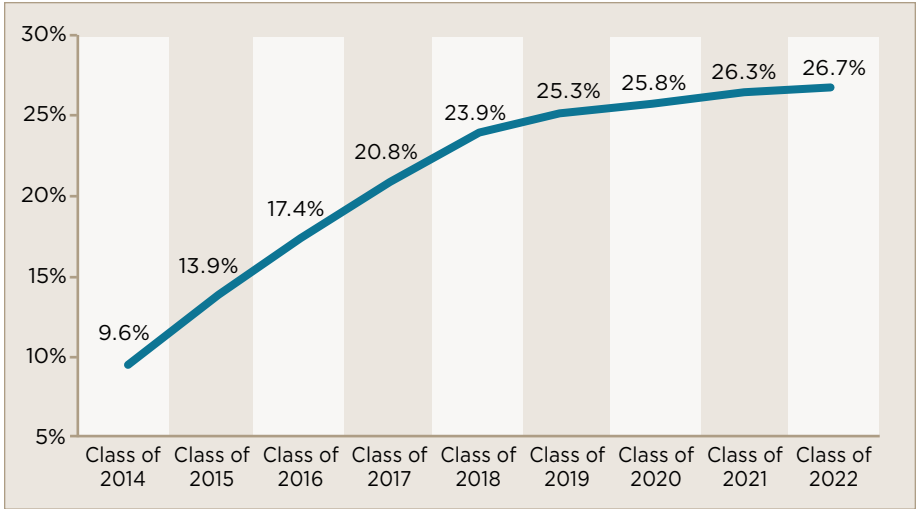
Source: Ohio DEW [downloadable](#) files titled (depending on year) "State CCWMR Data" and "State Prepared for Success."



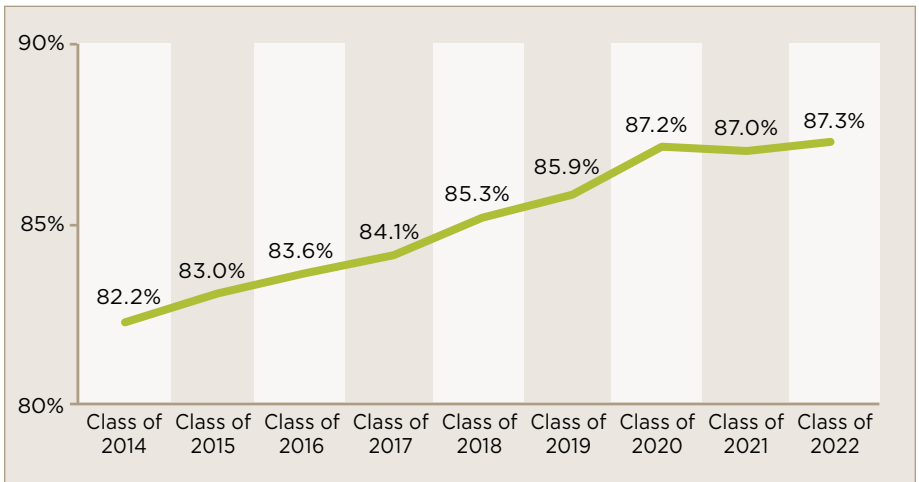
# Trends in Dual Enrollment and High School Graduation

Dual enrollment credits earned and high school graduation rates have risen during the past decade.

## PERCENT EARNING AT LEAST THREE DUAL ENROLLMENT CREDITS



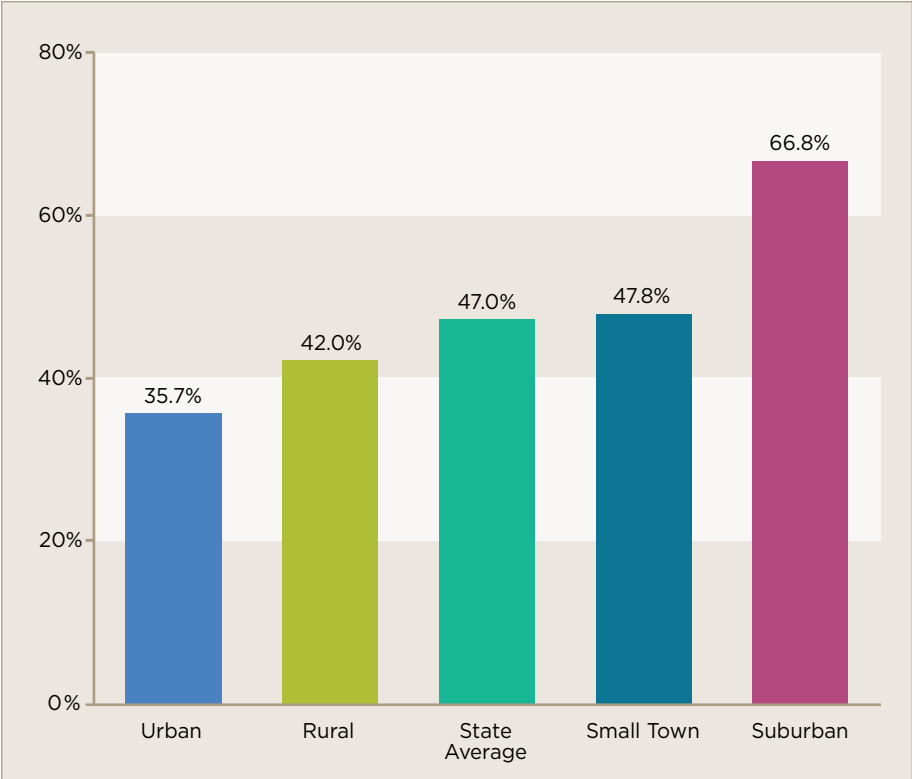
## FOUR-YEAR GRADUATION RATES



**Source:** Ohio DEW [downloadable](#) files titled (depending on year) “State CCWMR Data” and “State Prepared for Success.” **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 12 or more credits).

# College Enrollment Rates

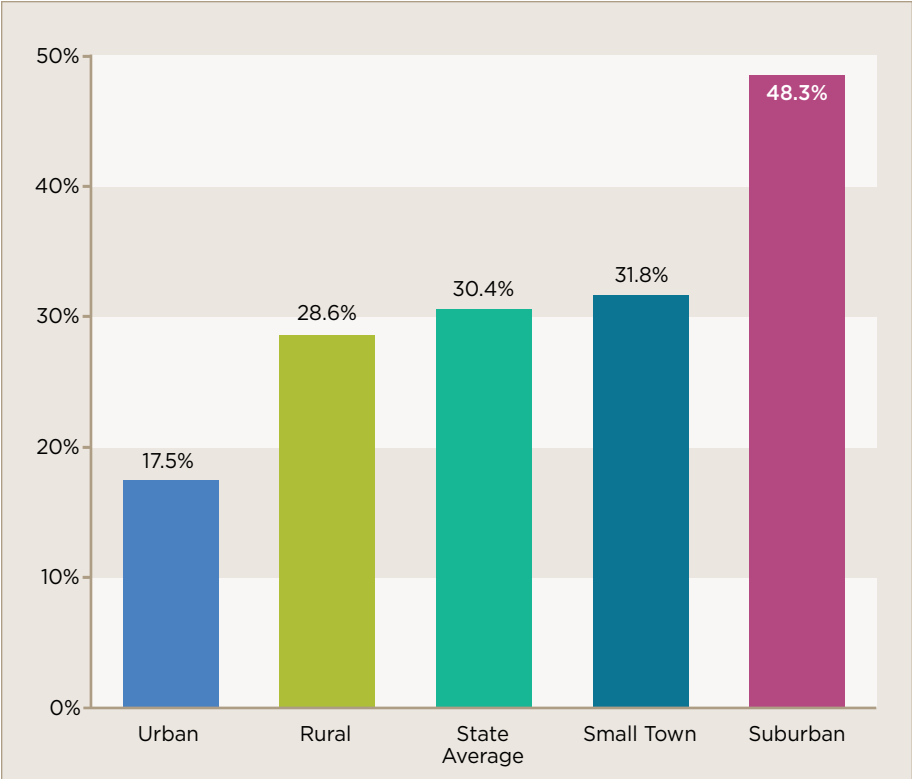
47 percent of Ohio students enroll in two or four year colleges after high school. Enrollment is highest among students from suburban areas (67 percent) and lower in other locales.



**Source:** Calculations based on Ohio DEW [downloadable](#) files titled “District and Building College Readiness” (2022-23). **Note:** The chart displays the percent of the high school class of 2020 (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 Completion Rates

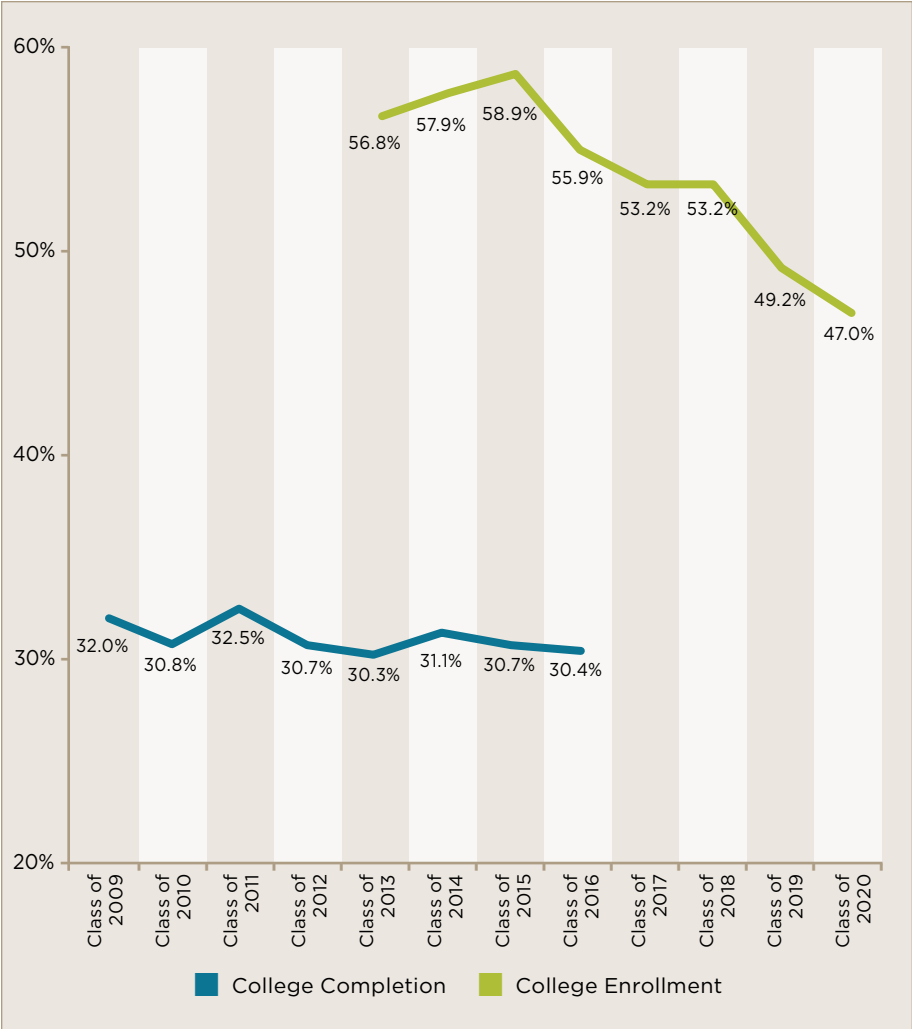
Just 30 percent of Ohio students attain at least an associate degree within six years of leaving high school. College completion rates are highest among students who attended high school in suburban areas (48 percent) and lower among those from other parts of Ohio.



**Source:** Calculations based on Ohio DEW [downloadable](#) files titled “District and Building College Readiness” (2022-23). **Note:** The chart displays the percent of the high school class of 2016 (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.

# Trends in College Enrollment and Completion

College enrollment has decreased in recent years, while college completion rates remained generally flat for the classes of 2009 to 2016.



**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 2021 and beyond, nor completion data for the classes of 2017 and beyond.

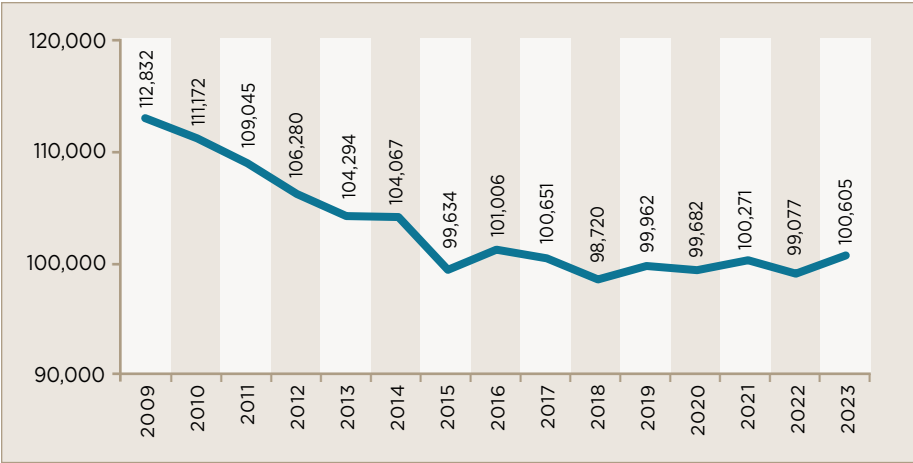
# Ohio's Educators



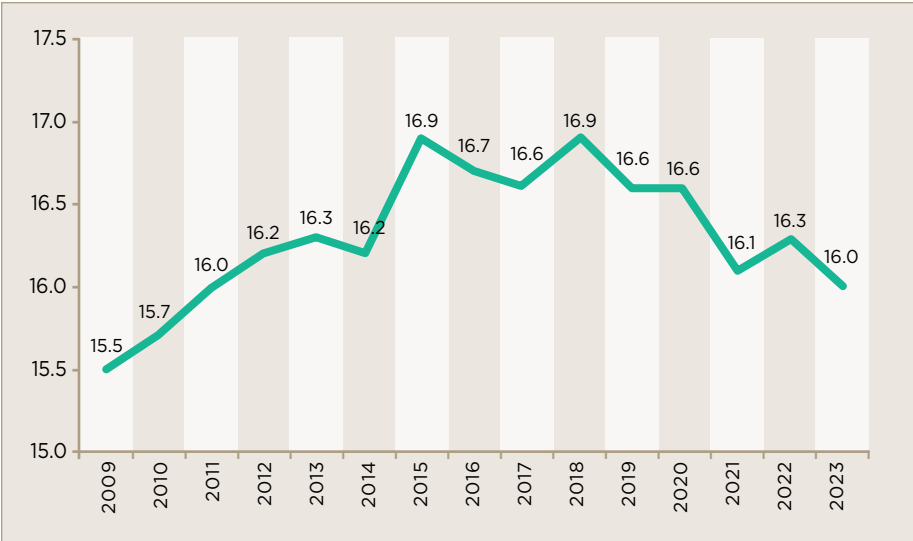
# Public School Teachers

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

Nearly three in four teachers are female, and 90 percent are white. Almost all teachers hold a bachelor’s degree or higher.

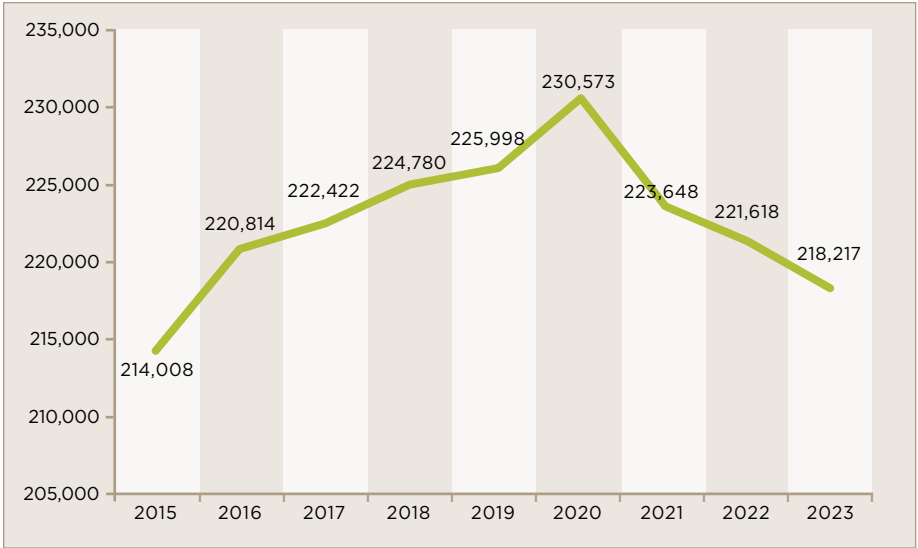
	STATEWIDE	
	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
<b>TOTAL TEACHERS</b>	<b>100,605</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>RACE OR ETHNICITY</b>		
White	90,851	90.3
African American	4,625	4.6
Hispanic	961	1.0
Multiracial	312	<1.0
Asian or Pacific Islander	576	<1.0
American Indian or Alaskan Native	70	<1.0
Not Specified	3,210	3.2
<b>GENDER</b>		
Female	74,245	73.8
Male	26,360	26.2
<b>HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT</b>		
Doctorate	433	<1.0
Master’s	61,920	61.5
Bachelor’s	35,589	35.4
Other Degree or Certificate	2,663	2.6

**Source:** DataOhio, **Education Employee Positions and Demographics—Public** (2022-23).

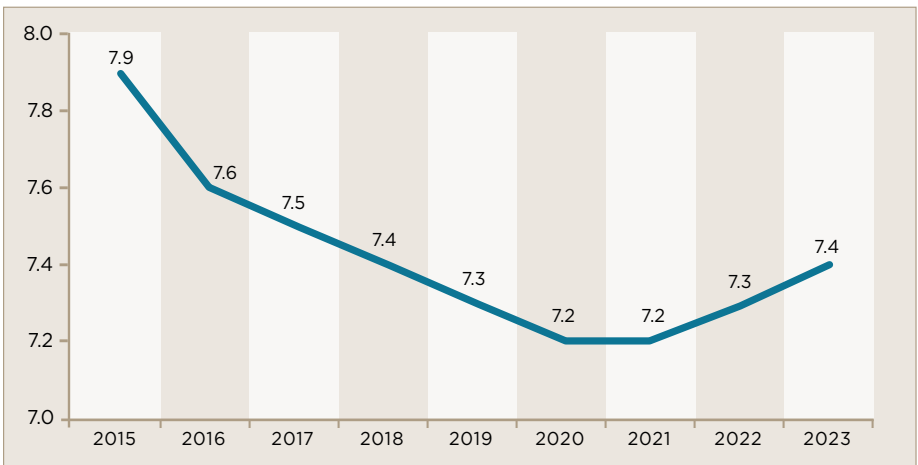
# Non-Teaching Staff Positions

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.



# Staff Positions in Ohio Schools

Classroom teachers represent about one-third of the total staff positions in public schools. Other common staffing positions include those that support athletics and extracurricular activities, as well as perform other pupil services.

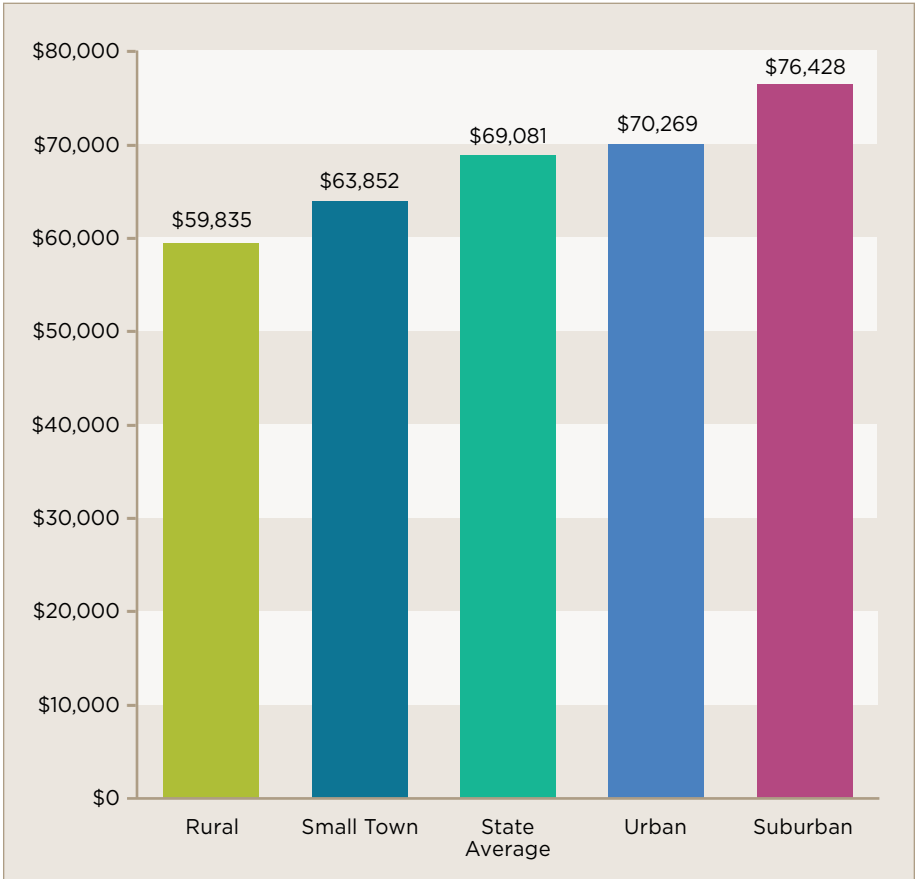
POSITION DESCRIPTION	NUMBER OF STAFF POSITIONS	PERCENT OF ALL STAFF POSITIONS
Classroom Teacher	100,605	31.6
Athletics Coach	35,263	11.1
Extracurricular Advisor	21,163	6.6
Teaching Aide	13,250	4.2
Custodian	12,377	3.9
Instructional Paraprofessional	12,354	3.9
Special Education Specialist	11,528	3.6
Bus Driver/Vehicle Operator	10,926	3.4
Clerical Staff	10,688	3.4
Other Extracurricular	10,633	3.3
Food Service	9,757	3.1
Other Education Professional	6,700	2.1
Counseling	4,305	1.4
Small Group/Tutor (Non-Special Ed)	4,020	1.3
Monitoring/Traffic Guards	3,681	1.2
Principal	3,390	1.1
Remedial Specialist	3,174	1.0
All Other Positions	45,009	14.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>318,822</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** DataOhio, [Education Employee Positions and Demographics—Public](#) (2022-23).

**Note:** Descriptions of staff positions are available at Ohio DEW, [EMIS Manual, Section 3.9: Position Codes](#). Some classroom teachers may also serve as non-teaching staff (e.g., teachers who are athletics coaches or extracurricular advisors). Schools report part-time employees as fractional staff positions.

## Teacher Salaries by District Typology

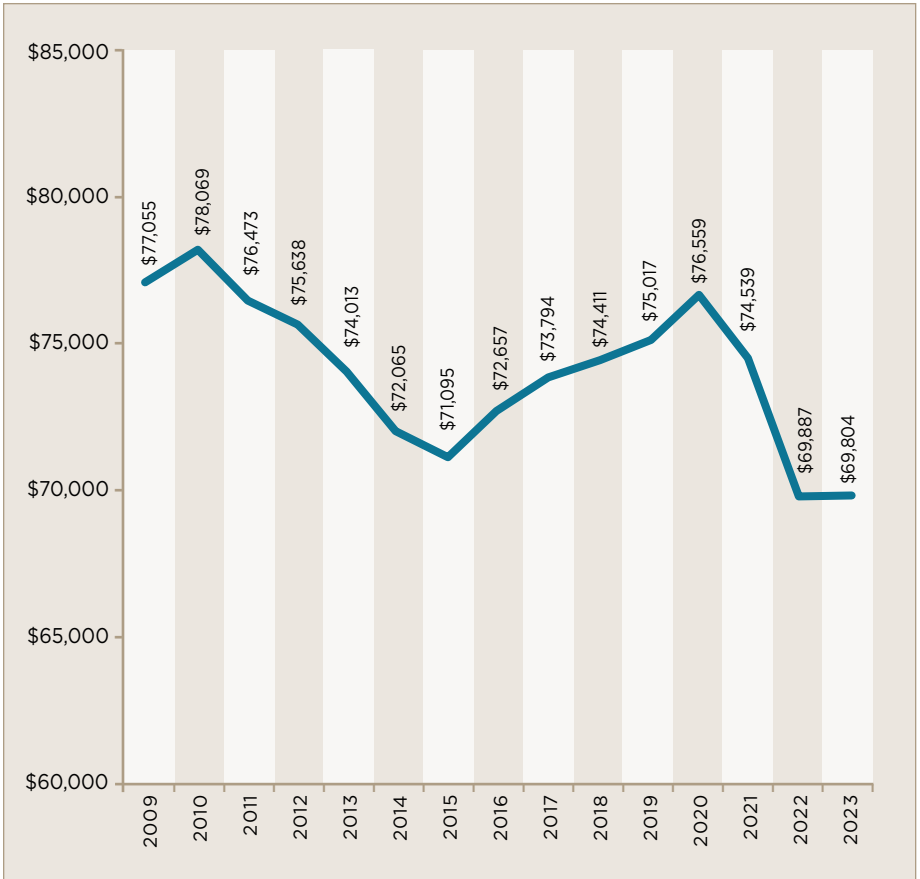
On average, Ohio teachers earn almost \$70,000 per year, with higher salaries in urban and suburban districts.



**Source:** Calculations based on Ohio DEW, [District Profile Report \(FY22\)](#). **Note:** The typology averages are weighted by district enrollment in 2021-22. Public charter and STEM schools are not included in this figure because they are not included in the District Profile Report. Salary data exclude healthcare and retirement benefits.

## Trends in Teacher Salaries

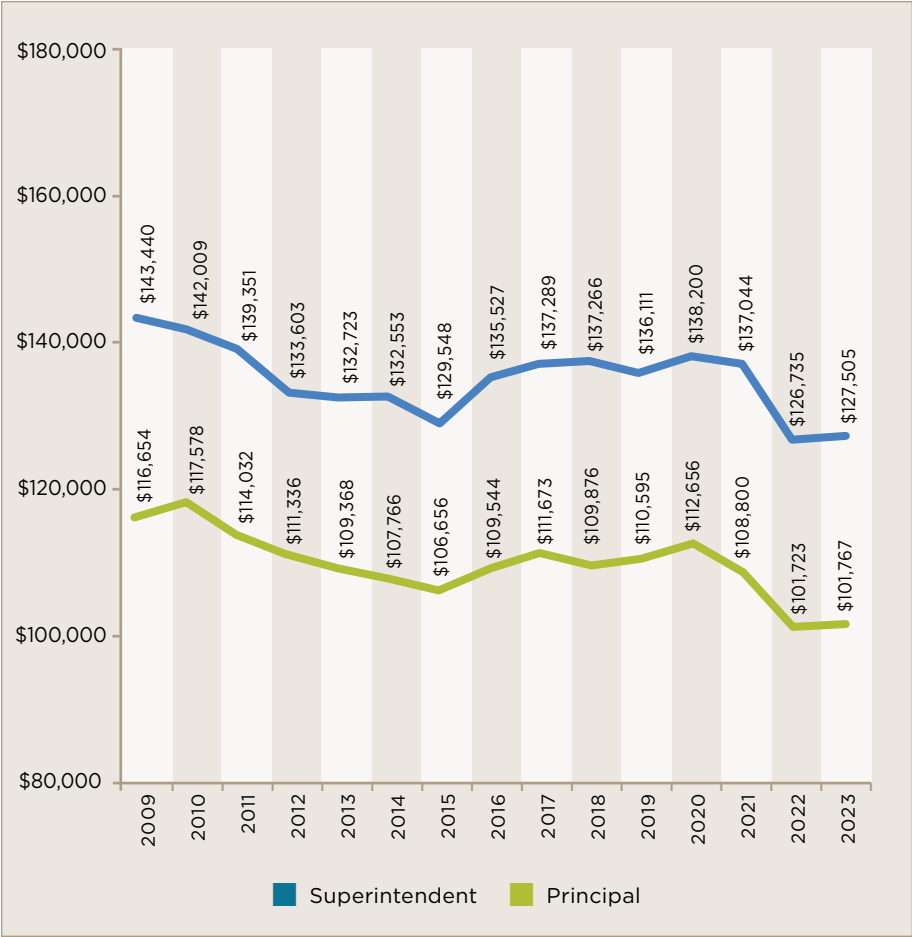
Adjusted for inflation, average teacher salaries have ranged from approximately \$70,000 to \$80,000 per year since 2009.



**Source:** DataOhio, [Education Employee Positions and Demographics—Public](#). **Note:** The FY09 to FY22 salary data were adjusted to 2023 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 \$125,000 to \$145,000 per year since 2009, while principal salaries have ranged from \$100,000 to \$115,000 per year.



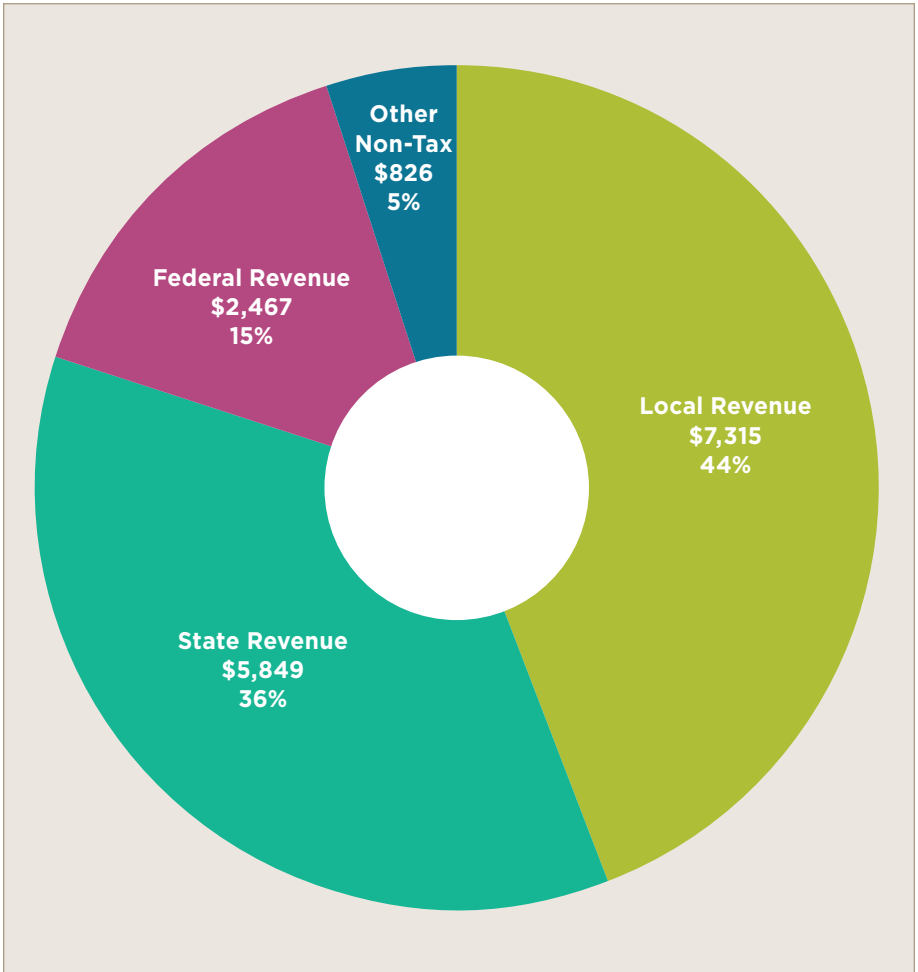
**Source:** DataOhio, [Education Employee Positions and Demographics—Public](#). **Note:** The FY09 to FY22 salary data were adjusted to 2023 price levels using the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' [Consumer Price Index](#).

# School Funding



# How Ohio Funds Public Schools

Ohio public schools receive more than \$27 billion per year via local, state, and federal tax revenues, and some non-taxpayer support. In FY22, state funds provided, on average, 36 percent of total revenues for school districts, while local taxes contributed 44 percent. Federal and non-tax sources provided the rest.

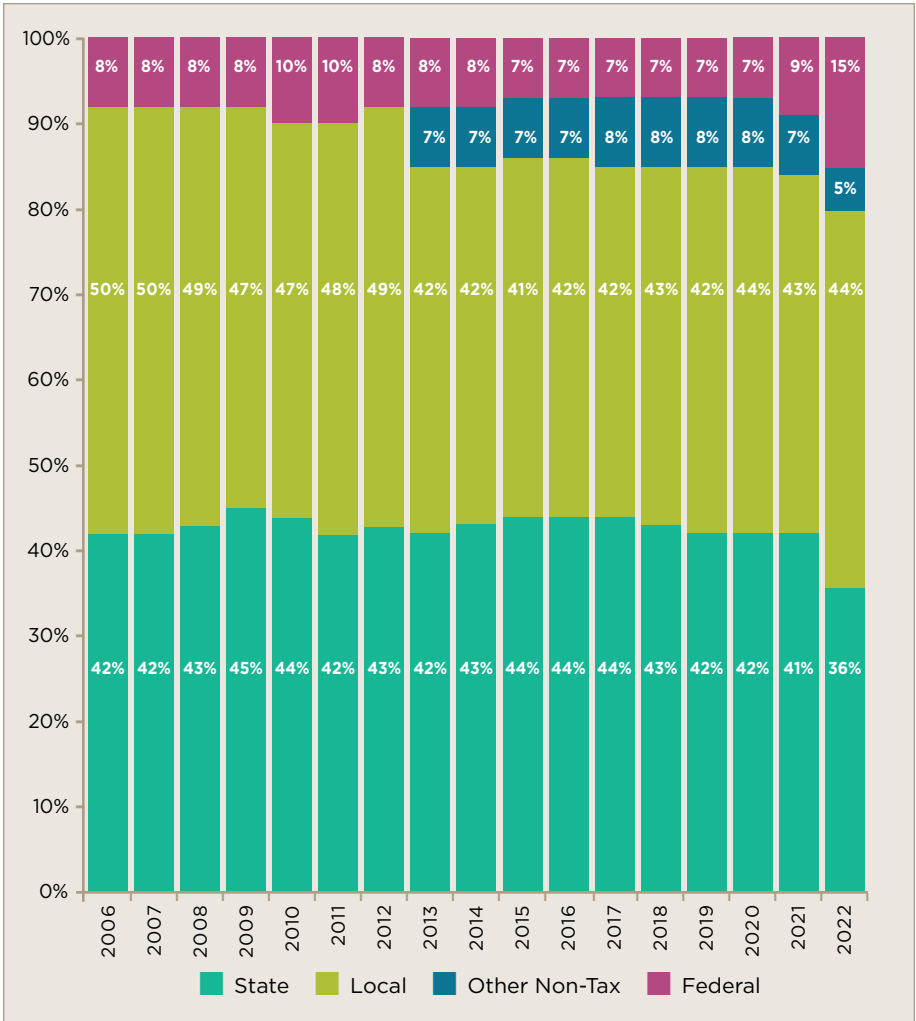


**Source:** The total revenue amount for Ohio public schools is from U.S. Department of Education, [Revenues and Expenditures for Public Elementary and Secondary Education: FY21, Table 1](#). The breakdown of revenue by source is from the Ohio DEW, [District Profile Report \(FY22\)](#).

**Note:** Other non-tax revenue includes sales of assets, fees, and investment income.

# How Ohio Funds Public Schools: Trend Over Time

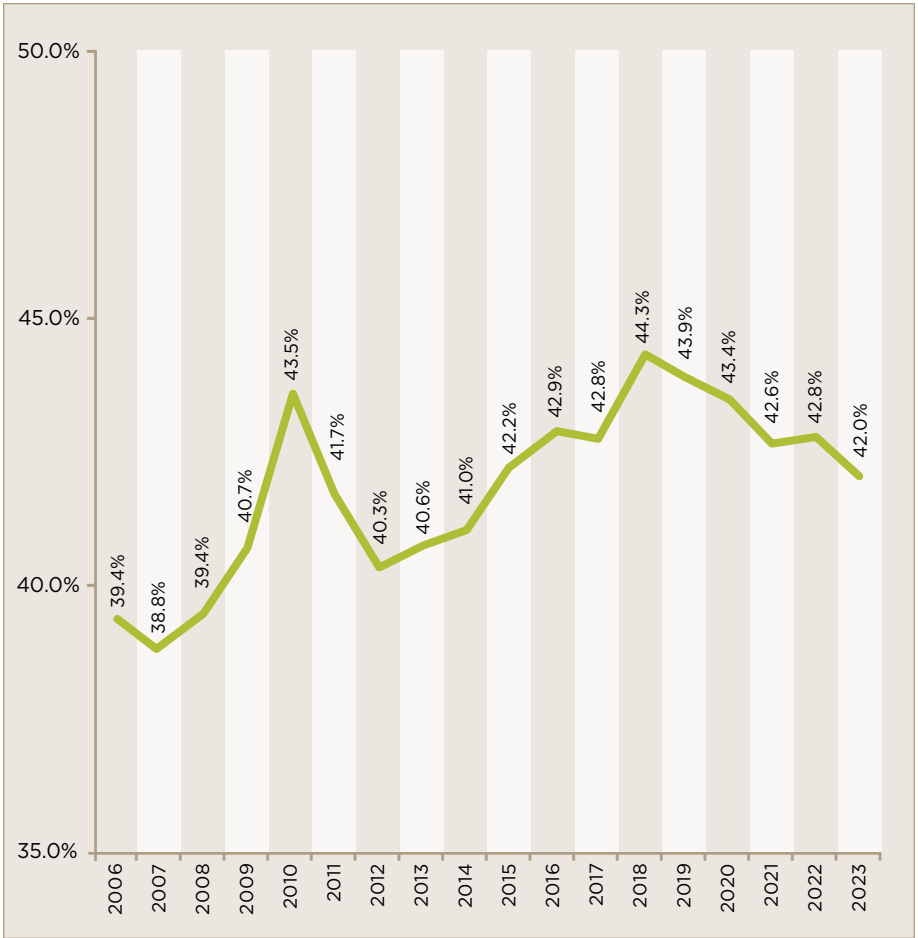
State and local taxpayer dollars provide the bulk of funding for K-12 education. Federal and non-tax revenues provide smaller shares of funding, though pandemic-relief aid led to increased federal support in 2022.



**Source:** Ohio DEW, [District Profile Report](#) (FY06 to FY22). **Note:** Prior to FY13, DEW did not report revenue as "other non-tax," a category that includes sales of assets, fees, and investment income. Previously, most of those revenues were reported as local funds.

# Education in the State Budget

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

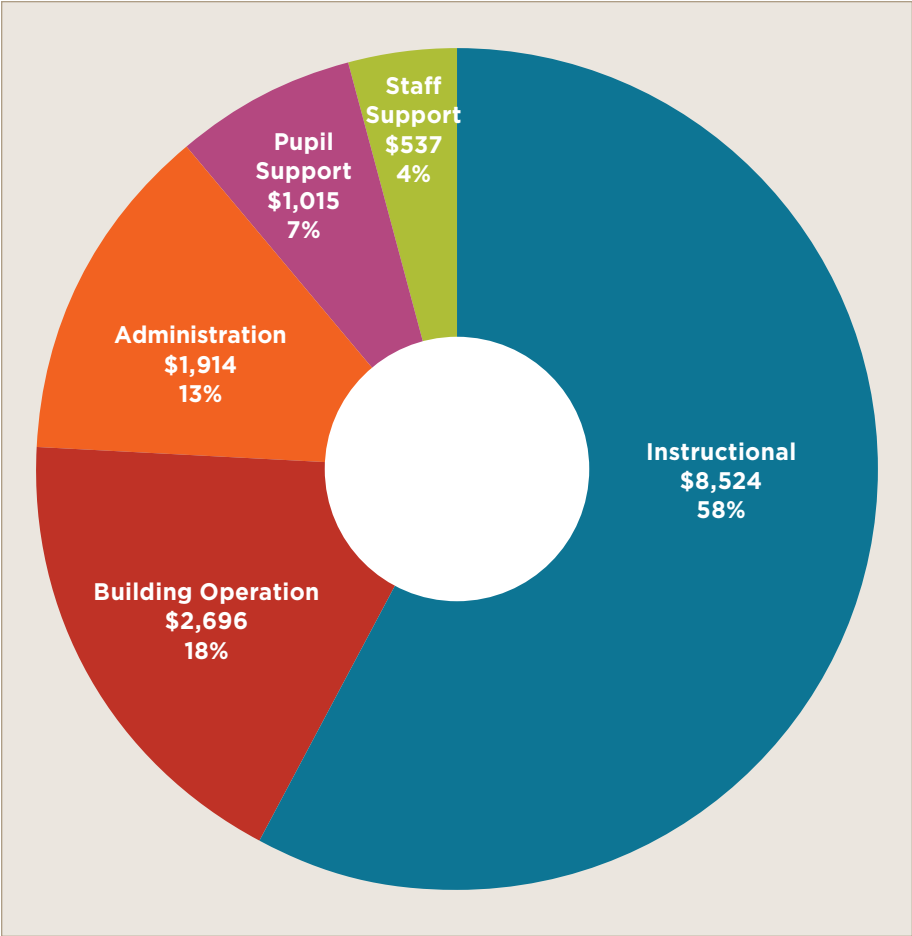


**Source:** Ohio Legislative Service Commission, [Historical Revenues and Expenditures](#), Table 2.  
**Note:** This chart shows K-12 education spending as a percentage of the state's general revenue fund, lottery profits education fund, and local government fund. It excludes federal dollars that are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



# How Funds Are Spent

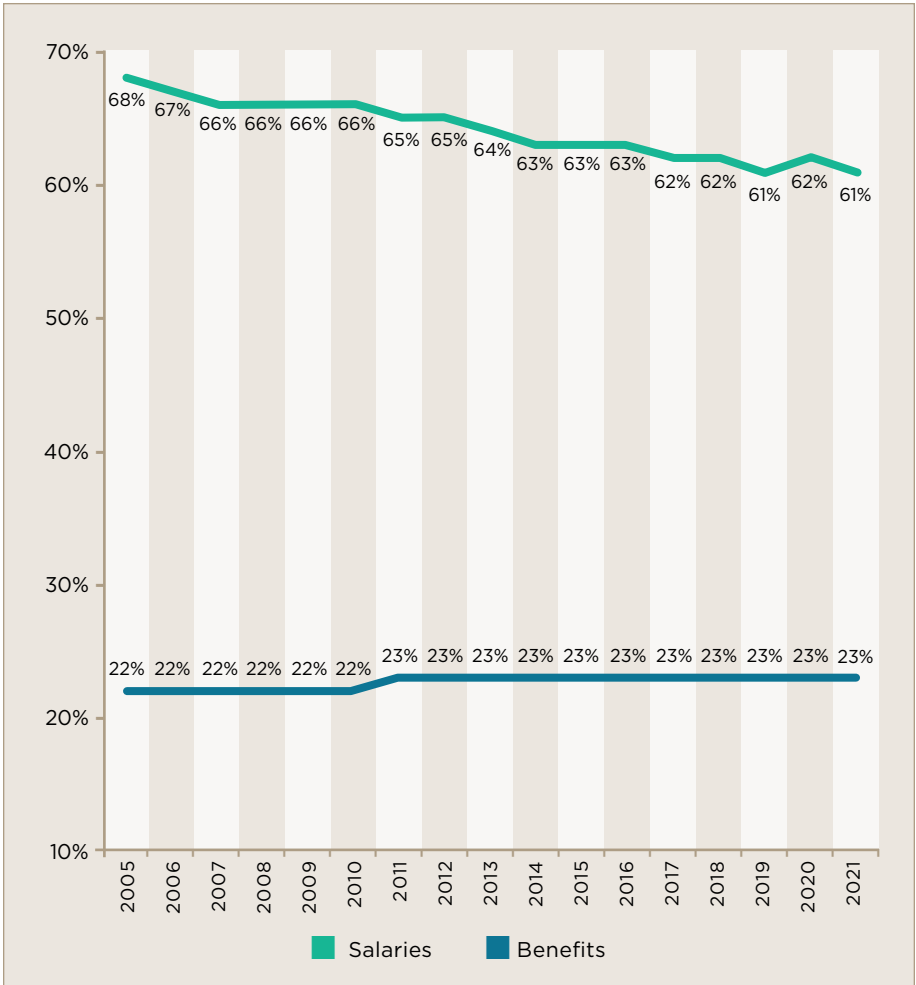
Nearly 60 percent of education funding is spent on classroom instruction. The remainder supports administration, building operations, and support activities.



**Source:** Ohio DEW, **District Profile Report** (FY22). **Note:** The expenditure data shown in this chart do not include capital outlay (e.g., construction or interest on debt); see page 76 for those expenditures.

# How Funds Are Spent: Salaries and Benefits

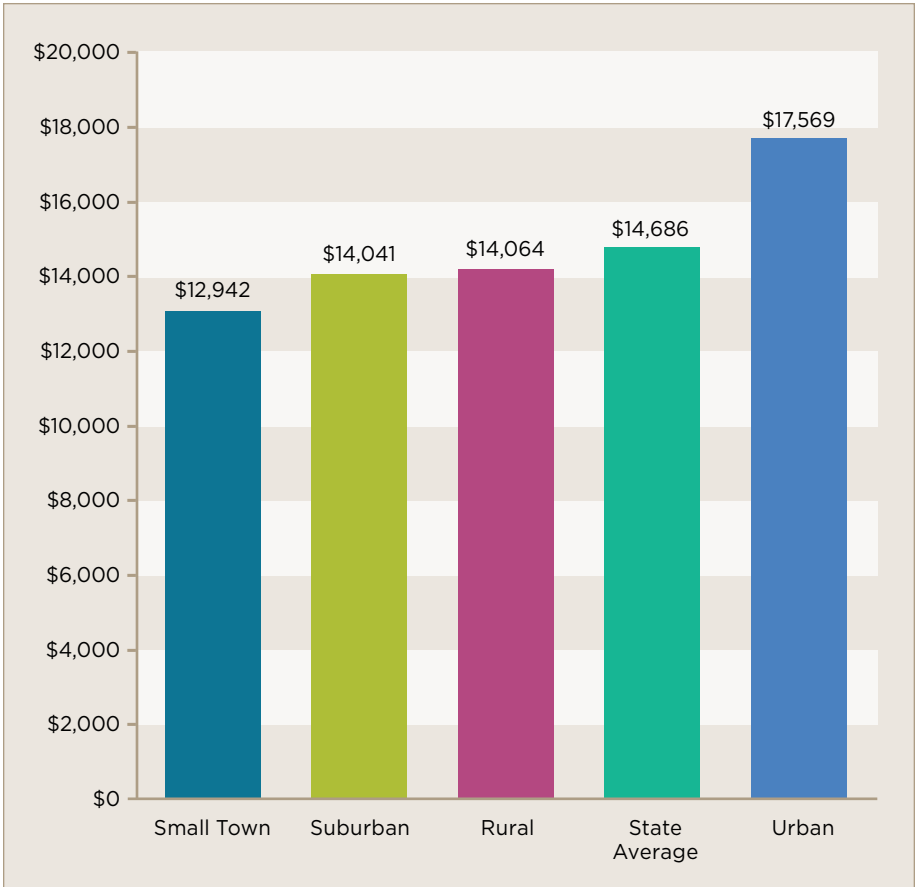
61 percent of public schools' instructional expenditures are spent on salaries and 23 percent on benefits. Educator salaries have become a slightly smaller share of instructional spending since 2005, while benefits have remained largely consistent.



**Source:** U.S. Department of Education (USED), [Revenues and Expenditures for Public Elementary and Secondary Education: FY21, Table 6](#) and historical data are from USED, [Digest of Education Statistics](#). **Note:** Benefits include spending on retirement, healthcare, worker's compensation, and tuition reimbursement. Instructional spending on salaries and benefits do not total 100% due to other expenses such as materials and curriculum development.

## Expenditure Per Pupil

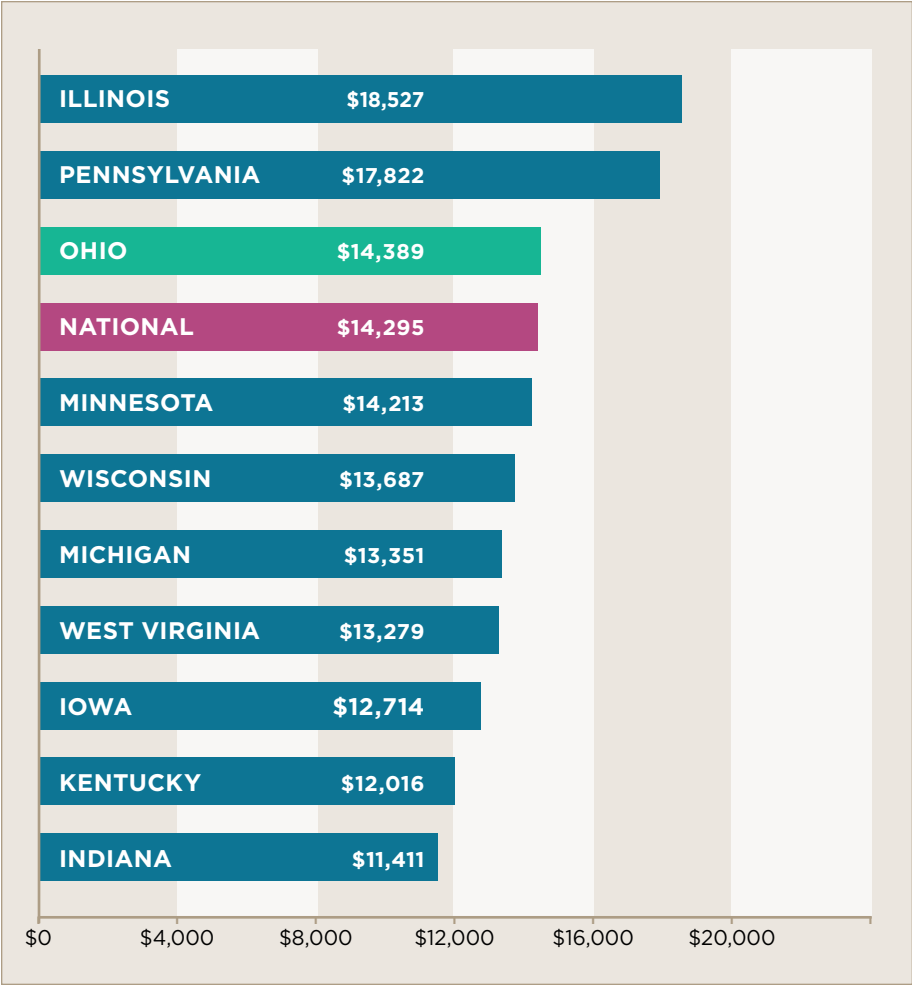
On average, Ohio school districts spent more than \$14,500 per pupil in total operational expenditures in FY22. Urban districts had the highest per pupil expenditures (\$17,569), while small town districts spent the least (\$12,942 per pupil).



**Source:** Calculations based on data from Ohio DEW, [District Profile Report \(FY22\)](#). **Note:** The average per-pupil expenditures for each typology are weighted by district enrollment in 2021-22. Public charter and STEM schools are not included in these data, as they are not included in the District Profile Report. 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

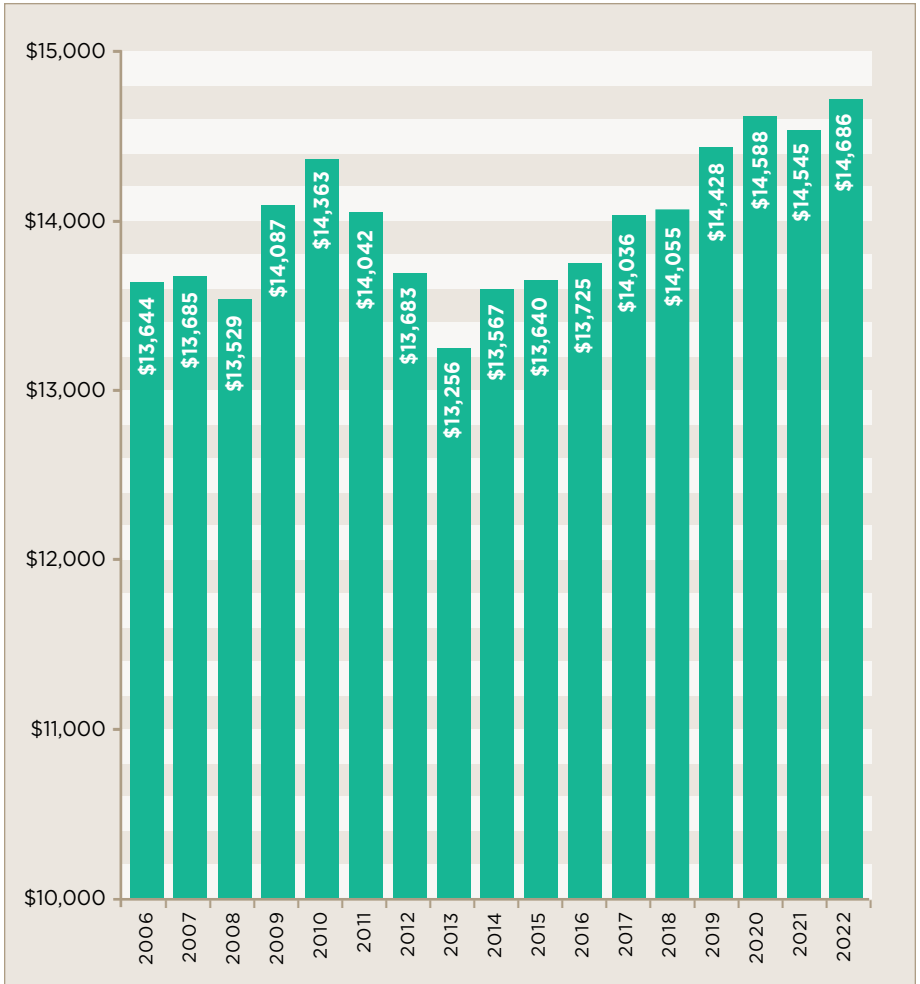
Ohio spends slightly more than the national average—and more than most nearby states—yet spends less than Illinois and Pennsylvania.



**Source:** U.S. Department of Education, [Revenues and Expenditures for Public Elementary and Secondary Education: FY21, 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

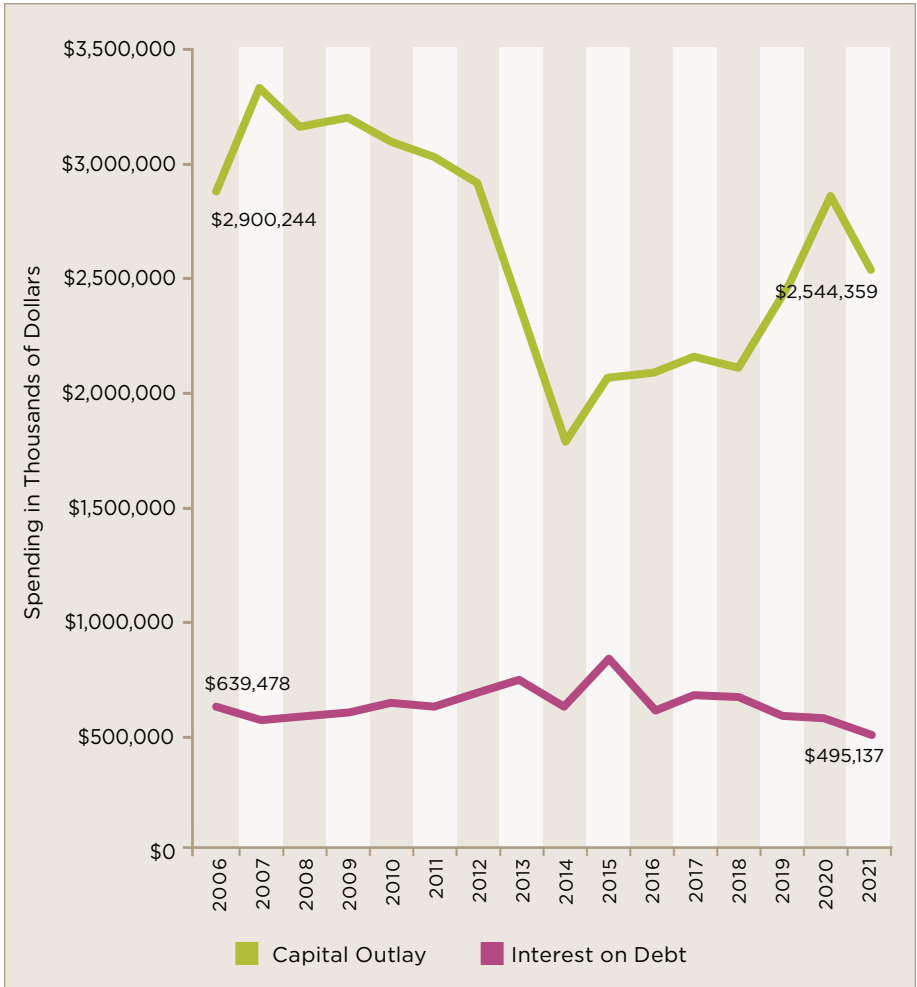
Adjusted for inflation, expenditures per pupil have steadily increased in Ohio over the past decade.



**Source:** Ohio DEW, [District Profile Report](#) (FY06 to FY22). **Note:** Statewide expenditures per pupil for FY06 to FY21 are inflation-adjusted to 2022 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

Over the past decade, Ohio public schools have spent roughly \$1.5 to \$3.5 billion per year on capital outlay—expenditures on construction, land, and equipment—and approximately \$500 million per year on interest on debt.



**Source:** U.S. Department of Education (USED), [Revenues and Expenditures for Public Elementary and Secondary Education: FY21, Table 7](#); historical data are from USED, [Digest of Education Statistics](#). **Note:** Capital expenditures for FY06 to FY20 are inflation-adjusted to 2021 dollars, using the Bureau of Labor Statistics' [Consumer Price Index](#).



FAKE FRIENDS  
REAL ENEMIES

GATEWAY 1  
Lester

GATEWAY 2  
Krylian  
Jai  
Mason  
Marlo

GATEWAY 3  
Thaddeus  
Kam  
Justin  
Jesse  
DeWitt

GATEWAY 4  
Gino  
Elyse  
Christie  
Helen  
Marshall  
Mollie

GATEWAY 5  
[Illegible]

GATEWAY 6  
[Illegible]

GATEWAY 7  
[Illegible]

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