

Grading Summary

QUALITY COUNTS 2021

	GRADE		Chance for Success		School Finance		K-12 Achievement	
	Grade	Total Score	Grade	Total Score	Grade	Total Score	Grade	Total Score
NEW JERSEY	B+	88.1	A-	89.6	A-	91.2	B	83.5
MASSACHUSETTS	B+	87.2	A-	91.6	B	85.1	B	84.8
CONNECTICUT	B	83.8	B+	87.5	B+	87.6	C	76.3
MARYLAND	B	82.8	B	84.0	B+	88.5	C	75.7
NEW YORK	B-	82.0	B	82.8	A-	89.9	C	73.4
WYOMING	B-	81.2	B-	81.7	B+	89.3	C	72.5
NEW HAMPSHIRE	B-	81.1	B+	87.9	B	83.2	C-	72.1
VERMONT	B-	81.0	B	85.8	B	86.2	C-	71.0
PENNSYLVANIA	B-	80.7	B	82.7	B	84.1	C	75.2
ILLINOIS	B-	80.4	B-	82.4	B	82.8	C	76.0
RHODE ISLAND	B-	80.3	B-	82.1	B+	87.6	C-	71.2
MINNESOTA	B-	80.2	B+	87.4	C+	78.9	C	74.3
VIRGINIA	B-	80.1	B	85.3	C+	79.0	C	76.1
WISCONSIN	C+	79.0	B	84.6	C+	77.0	C	75.4
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	C+	78.8	B+	86.8	NA	NA	C-	70.8
MAINE	C+	78.7	B-	81.2	B	85.1	C-	69.9
WASHINGTON	C+	78.7	B-	82.5	B-	81.1	C-	72.5
NORTH DAKOTA	C+	77.8	B	83.7	B-	80.5	D+	69.2
DELAWARE	C+	76.5	B-	80.4	B-	80.8	D+	68.5
NEBRASKA	C	76.0	B	84.6	C	72.9	C-	70.5
OHIO	C	75.8	C+	79.4	C	76.5	C-	71.5
HAWAII	C	75.6	C+	79.3	NA	NA	C-	72.0
FLORIDA	C	75.6	C+	78.2	D+	68.5	B-	80.2
COLORADO	C	75.6	B	84.5	D+	68.5	C	73.8
CALIFORNIA	C	75.6	C+	77.2	C+	76.5	C	73.0
UTAH	C	74.7	B	84.3	D	65.6	C	74.3
IOWA	C	74.6	B	82.7	C	74.6	D	66.4
INDIANA	C	74.5	C+	78.6	C-	71.3	C	73.6
KENTUCKY	C	74.3	C	76.0	C+	76.6	C-	70.4
GEORGIA	C	74.3	C+	77.8	C	73.0	C-	72.1
SOUTH DAKOTA	C	73.8	B-	81.8	D+	69.1	C-	70.7
KANSAS	C	73.8	B-	80.9	C	74.1	D	66.4
MICHIGAN	C	73.5	C+	78.0	C	73.5	D+	69.1
MONTANA	C	73.5	C+	79.4	C-	72.2	D+	68.9
NORTH CAROLINA	C	73.5	C+	79.3	D+	67.5	C	73.6
TENNESSEE	C	73.1	C	76.4	D+	69.0	C	73.9
ALASKA	C	73.0	C	75.4	B-	82.1	D-	61.5
MISSOURI	C	72.8	C+	79.0	C-	72.2	D+	67.3
OREGON	C	72.7	C+	77.7	C	73.4	D+	66.8
IDAHO	C-	71.5	C+	77.5	D	63.6	C	73.3
SOUTH CAROLINA	C-	71.4	C	75.9	C-	72.1	D	66.2
TEXAS	C-	71.3	C	75.0	D+	68.5	C-	70.3
ARKANSAS	C-	71.2	C	73.5	C	72.8	D+	67.2
WEST VIRGINIA	C-	70.8	C-	72.1	C	75.4	D	65.0
MISSISSIPPI	C-	70.8	C	73.5	D+	69.4	D+	69.4
ARIZONA	C-	70.3	C	74.1	D	64.8	C-	72.1
ALABAMA	D+	69.5	C	74.1	C-	70.1	D	64.3
LOUISIANA	D+	68.7	C-	72.0	C-	70.0	D	64.1
OKLAHOMA	D+	68.6	C	73.4	D	66.3	D	66.0
NEVADA	D+	68.6	C-	70.2	D-	62.4	C	73.0
NEW MEXICO	D+	66.7	D+	69.0	D+	69.0	D-	62.0
<b>U.S.</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>76.2</b>	<b>B-</b>	<b>79.5</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>76.1</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>73.0</b>

Note: States are ranked based on unrounded scores. SOURCE: EdWeek Research Center, 2021

**The Grading Scale**  
 Each state receives a numerical score for each of the indicator categories. After rounding scores to the closest whole-number values, we assign letter grades based on a conventional A-F grading scale, as follows:

- A** = 93 to 100
- A-minus** = 90 to 92
- B-plus** = 87 to 89
- B** = 83 to 86
- B-minus** = 80 to 82
- C-plus** = 77 to 79
- C** = 73 to 76
- C-minus** = 70 to 72
- D-plus** = 67 to 69
- D** = 63 to 66
- D-minus** = 60 to 62
- F** = Below 60

Methodology and Grading Scale

**HOW WE GRADED THE STATES**

The overall A-F letter grades in "Quality Counts 2021" are based on the average of scores on a traditional 100-point scale for three custom indices developed by the EdWeek Research Center: Chance for Success, K-12 Achievement, and School Finance. Each category carries equal weight in the grading.

The overall grades incorporate the most recent information available for all three categories that make up Quality Counts' full report-card framework and reflect original analyses of federal data for 39 distinct indicators.

**BEST-IN-CLASS GRADING**

The Chance-for-Success Index, K-12 Achievement Index, and School Finance Index are scored using a best-in-class rubric. Under this approach, the leading state on a particular indicator receives 100 points, and other states earn points in proportion to the gaps between themselves and the leader.

This calculation is straightforward for indicators with a clearly bounded measurement scale. Examples of such indicators include the 100-point scale for the percent of students proficient in reading, or

states' per-pupil expenditures expressed in positive dollar amounts.

But some of the indicators—such as those related to the equity of education spending—use more-complex scales for which minimum or maximum values are not as clearly defined. For such indicators, we evaluate a particular state based on its performance relative to the minimum and maximum values on that indicator. Those indicators are scored on a 50-point base, meaning that all states start with 50 points rather than zero.

To compute a state's score for a given category, we average points across the applicable set of indicators. On a best-in-class scale, a state's overall score for a category can be gauged against an implicit standard where 100 points would correspond to a state that finished first in the nation on each and every measure.