



January 2018

Leading the Nation: Fact Sheet on Massachusetts Public Schools

- Statewide, our students are #1 in the U.S. in reading and math on [NAEP](#), "The Nation's Report Card" (2015); 2015 was the sixth straight administration (2005, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013, and 2015) in which Massachusetts students scored first or statistically tied for first place on the NAEP math and reading fourth and eighth grade tests.
- #1 in the world in reading on the [PISA](#) international assessment (2016): If Massachusetts were a nation, it would share the top spot in reading with eight other nations worldwide. In science, the state's students and those from 10 nations came in second, trailing only students from Singapore. In math, 11 other nations were ahead of the Commonwealth.
- #1 in [Advanced Placement](#) success in the country (2017) in terms of the percentage of the class of 2016 that scored a 3 or higher on an Advanced Placement exam. In addition, the Commonwealth had the highest five- and ten-year growth in the percentage of graduates who scored a 3 or higher.
- Massachusetts' [four-year graduation rate](#) has increased each of the last 10 years, and the dropout rate has decreased during the same period of time.
- Students are recognized at the [national level](#) for accomplishments in overall academics, the arts, and vocational/technical skills.
- We have a strong teacher workforce that includes a [National Teacher of the Year](#).



Leading the Nation Week
May 7-11, 2018

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- Massachusetts schools have a shared commitment to welcoming and [supporting](#) all students regardless of race, ethnicity, immigration status, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or gender
 - Massachusetts' *Act Relative to Gender Identity* (Chapter 199 of the Acts of 2011) predated federal guidance on protecting the rights of transgender students and still stands despite changes at the federal level.
- Massachusetts' public education system received the highest ratings in the nation for the third year in a row in 2017 as measured by [Education Week's Quality Counts](#) report. The Commonwealth was also best in the nation on two of the indices that went into the overall ranking: K-12 achievement and the publication's Chance for Success Index, which considers outcomes from early childhood through adulthood.
- In 2017, U.S. News & World Report ranked [Massachusetts the best state to live in](#) and cited its strong education system among the factors.
- Statewide, Massachusetts public schools enroll more than 950,000 students who are taught by approximately 72,000 teachers in more than 1,800 schools in approximately 400 districts.



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