VITAL SIGNS 13

Census Demographics
Housing & Community Development
Children & Family Health
Crime & Safety
Economic & Workforce Development
Education & Youth
Arts & Culture
Sustainability

Measuring Baltimore’s Progress Towards a Better Quality of Life in Every Neighborhood
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The quality of public education lies at the heart of quality of life in every neighborhood. Residents interact with the public school system either directly, as guardian of children attending a school, or indirectly as a community member impacted by the school in the surrounding area. The neighborhood school is, in the best case, considered a community asset and the connection between schools and neighborhoods has far-reaching consequences over time.

Community access schools in Baltimore is growing through two major initiatives. The 21st Century School Buildings Plan\(^1\) began implementation in 2013 after the Maryland General Assembly passed the Baltimore City Public Schools Construction and Revitalization Act to fund $1.1 billion in school building renovation and replacement projects over the next decade. Given the aging building stock of many Baltimore City schools, many neighborhoods have not been able to use their schools as community assets or as places that facilitate healthy school environments. To make sure stakeholders in the neighborhoods surrounding the schools are involved in the planning and design phase, Baltimore’s Department of Planning has embarked on the INSPIRE\(^2\) planning process for the ¼ mile radius around each school.

The second major initiative around community access to schools is also a key component of the school buildings plan for ensuring neighborhood use of facilities through the “community school” model. Through the work of a community-school coordinator, partnerships are leveraged to provide additional programming and services for students and families such as afterschool activities or tutoring, health check-ups or mental health counseling, or tax-preparation services or financial counseling for parents.

Aside from the physical planning around schools in Baltimore, Maryland is also at the forefront nationally in terms of measuring the quality of public education, with long-standing assessments of student achievement and kindergarten readiness. In Baltimore, many area foundations have also contributed to the success of schools through grant-making and evaluation of innovative approaches to support teachers and students in and out of the classroom.

Ultimately, these efforts are aimed at reducing chronic absenteeism and increasing student achievement and successful completion rates. Although these are certainly neighborhood-based issues, with the simultaneous growth of school choice and charter school options in Baltimore, the concept of the neighborhood school may be more socially constructed than physically defined. School-based reporting systems, such as the Maryland Report Card, resonate with parents and educators connected with the school, but less so with community-based organizations that may have an unclear connection with any given school. The Vital Signs indicators on educational outcomes are aggregated student information based on where the students live and serve as a complement to school-based data.

Vital Signs 13 includes 27 indicators for Community Statistical Areas (CSAs) designed to track the educational outcomes for public school children and youth. These indicators are grouped into the following categories: student enrollment, demographics, attendance, performance, dropout and completion, and youth engagement.

Data

Education data for Vital Signs 13 indicators is provided by the Baltimore City Public School System as well as the 2009-2013 American Community Survey. The data provided by the Baltimore City Public Schools include student address, which allows BNIA-JFI to present data on educational performance by the neighborhood in which the student lives, not by the school attended.

To ensure consistent communication of these data to communities, analysis of education-related indicators has been more closely coordinated with the Baltimore City Public School System. However, each one of the Education and Youth indicators may not be directly comparable to data provided by the Baltimore City Public School System (BCPSS) for several reasons, including methodological adjustments needed to create community-based indicators, excluding students who cannot be matched between data files provided by

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5 Per an established Memorandum of Understanding with the Baltimore City Public Schools, BNIA-JFI aggregates student-level data to a larger geographic level to ensure student confidentiality.

6 CSAs are groups of census tracks that correspond to neighborhoods which vary in size. See Vital Signs 12 Introduction.
BCPSS, and excluding students whose home address cannot be geocoded. In the 2012-2013 school year, 1.4% of the student addresses could not be matched or geocoded. This means that these students were not included in our analysis and not included in calculations for the City as a whole and therefore direct comparisons to data and results available through the Baltimore City Public Schools and the Maryland Report Card cannot be made.

Indicators are created by normalizing data by the number of children ever enrolled in a Baltimore City public school that live in a given area. This will reflect the concentration of an indicator within an area, and allow for comparison across neighborhoods and over time.

**Student Officially Enrolled and Ever Attended**

The school system measures enrollment as a “census” of students that are registered for school as of September 30 in every school year. This official enrollment serves as the basis for many school-based outcome measures.

- In the 2012-2013 school year, there were a total of 71,620 students officially enrolled in 1st-12th grades in Baltimore City Public Schools. Of the total number of students enrolled, 44.5% were enrolled in elementary grades, 23.5% were enrolled in middle school grades, and 32.0% were enrolled in high school grades.

  - From 2011-2012 to 2012-2013, the total number of elementary school students enrolled in public school increased from 31,604 to 31,853. In the 2012-2013 school year, the largest number of elementary students enrolled in public school lived in Greater Rosemont (1,382) and the lowest number of students lived in Canton (79).

  - From 2011-2012 to 2012-2013, the total number of middle school students enrolled in public school decreased from 19,986 to 16,817. In the 2012-2013 school year, the largest number of middle school students enrolled in public school lived in Greater Rosemont (786) and the lowest number of students lived in Canton (35).

  - From 2011-2012 to 2012-2013, the total number of high school students enrolled in public school decreased from 23,706 to 22,950. In the 2012-2013 school year, the largest number of high school students enrolled in public school lived in Cedonia/Frankford (1,162) and the lowest number of students lived in Canton (28).

*Vital Signs 13* also reports students who ever attended the school system at any point in the school year, which is a larger figure than the officially enrolled. Education indicators are normalized using the
comparative number of students ever attended. Ever attended students represents all the children within the neighborhood who are engaged with the school system and better reflects the level of access to the school system overall. For students who were ever attended at any point during the 2012-2013 school year, there were a total of 74,437 students in a Baltimore City public school for grades 1-12.

- The total number of students ever attended in 1st-5th grade increased by 0.8% from 32,791 in 2011-2012 to 33,054 in 2012-2013. From 2011-2012 to 2012-2013, the CSAs that experienced the greatest percentage increase in total number of elementary students ever attended in a public school were South Baltimore (24.6%), Claremont/Armistead (16.7%), and Glen-Fallstaff (15.0%). The CSA with the greatest decrease in total number of students ever attended was Cross-Country/Cheswolde (-17.3%).

- The total number of students ever attended in 6th-8th grade increased by 0.1% from 17,463 in 2011-2012 to 17,481 in 2012-2013. From 2011-2012 to 2012-2013, the CSAs that experienced the greatest percentage increase in total number of middle school students ever attended in a public school were North Baltimore/Guilford/Homeland (33.6%) and Glen-Fallstaff (25.2%). The CSA with the greatest decrease in total number of students attending was Mt. Washington/Coldspring (-20.7%).

- The total number of students ever attended in 9th-12th grade decreased by 3.3% from 24,707 in 2011-2012 to 23,902 in 2012-2013. From 2011-2012 to 2012-2013, the CSAs that experienced the greatest percentage increase in total number of high school students ever attended in a public school were Fells Point (23.5%) and Highlandtown (18.8%). The CSA with the greatest decrease in total number of students ever attended in high school was Dickeyville/Franklintown (-16.0%).

Student Demographics

The demographic make-up of the public school system in Baltimore is disproportionately African-American. The City as a whole is 63.8% African-American, yet in 2013, 84.5% of the students ever enrolled in a Baltimore City public school were African-American.

- The percentage of African American students ever enrolled decreased by 0.5% percentage points between the 2012 to 2013 school years. The percentage change ranged from an increase of 7.2 percentage points in Fells Point to a decrease of 3.6 percentage points in Mt. Medfield/Hampden/Woodberry.

- The percentage of white (non-Hispanic) students ever enrolled remained steady at 8.1% between 2012 and 2013. The percentage change ranged from an increase of 3.3 percentage points in Medfield/Hampden/Woodberry to a decrease of 3.4 percentage points in North Baltimore/Guilford/Homeland.

- The percentage of Hispanic students ever enrolled increased from 4.8% in 2012 to 5.6% in 2013. The CSAs with the largest increases were Orangeville/East Highlandtown (5.9 percentage points), Patterson Park North & East (4.7 percentage points), and Canton (4.3 percentage points). The CSA with the largest decrease was Fells Point (-4.9 percentage points).
The socioeconomic background of students in the public school system in Baltimore is also disproportionately lower-income. While 34.1% of children in the City live below the poverty line according to the American Community Survey (see Vital Signs 13 Demographics), the percentage of students attending public schools in Baltimore City who received free or reduced meals was 85.1% in 2013. Between 2012 and 2013, the total percent of students receiving free or reduced lunch increased by nearly 9 percentage points.

- In 2013, there were only three CSAs where less than half of the students received free or reduced meals. These CSAs were Greater Roland Park/Poplar Hill (13.3%), Mt. Washington/Coldspring (28.96%), and North Baltimore/Guilford/Homeland (28.2%). The CSAs with the highest percentage of students receiving free or reduced meals were Harbor East/Little Italy and Upton/Druid Heights, both at 94.8%.

- The percentage of Baltimore City public school students enrolled in special education programs decreased slightly from 16.5% in 2012 to 16.2% in 2013. The percentage of students enrolled in special education programs in 2013 ranged from 19.9% in Greenmount East to 6.0% in Greater Roland Park/Poplar Hill.

**Student Attendance, Suspensions and Expulsions**

Attending school has been shown to be an important factor in student success and has become a major focus for Baltimore City, the school system, and other multi-sector stakeholders (See Data Story). In general, over the past several years, the gap between elementary and middle school chronic absenteeism (missing at least 20 days) has narrowed, with significant reductions in chronic absenteeism for middle school children over the past decade. High school chronic absenteeism, which had remained at roughly 40% for many years, dropped to 35.6% in 2013.

- The percentage of elementary school students that were chronically absent increased slightly from 12.7% in 2012 to 13.1% in 2013. In 2013, Poppleton/The Terraces/Hollins Market (21.5%) and Harbor East/Little Italy (20.6%) had the highest percentages of chronically absent elementary school students.
The percentage of middle school students that were chronically absent decreased from 15.1% in 2012 to 13.3% in 2013. Two CSAs experienced especially large decreases in the percentage of chronically absent students: Madison/East End (-9.9 percentage points) and Patterson Park North & East (-8.3 percentage points).

In 2013, the CSA with the highest percentage of chronically absent middle school students was Washington Village (28.9%).

The percentage of high school students that were chronically absent decreased between 2012 and 2013 (40.4% and 35.6% respectively). Unlike last year, one CSA suffered a rise of more than ten percentage points in high school chronic absenteeism, Canton (14.5 percentage points).

In 2013, Madison/East End (50.4%) had the largest percentage of chronically absent high school students with Oldtown/Middle East next at 46.0%.

The percentage of students suspended or expelled from Baltimore City public schools decreased from 9.6% in 2012 to 7.7% in 2013. The percentage of students suspended or expelled in 2013 ranged from 13.0% in Poppleton/The Terraces/Hollins Market to 0.0% in Greater Roland.

Data Story: Chronic Absenteeism

Reducing chronic absenteeism is a major goal for the Baltimore Attendance Collaborative and the Family League of Baltimore through its Community and School Engagement Strategy, which includes out-of-school time. Chronic absenteeism is defined as a student missing 20 or more days of school (excused or unexcused). Baltimore’s chronic absentee rate is higher than any other jurisdiction in the state and has been holding fairly steady over the past ten years with approximately 20,000 students who are chronically absent each year. While there has been a drop in middle school chronic absenteeism, to what many believe was due to the district shift from traditional middle schools to pre-K – 8 schools, chronic absenteeism in pre-K, K and high school has remained high. Chronic absenteeism rates among pre-K and K students hovers at 25% and while high schools are at 40%. We also know students who qualify for FARMS are more likely to be chronically absent and students with IEPs are disproportionately represented among those chronically absent. Many factors contribute to these high rates including a lack of access to uniforms, transportation, health, unemployment and housing instability. In an effort to combat chronic absenteeism, the Baltimore Attendance Collaborative in partnership with City Schools and Family League is working to better understand issues like transportation and health in an effort to target the major contributors to chronic absence. In addition, collection of local and national best practices are being shared broadly. Lastly, efforts to examine local, city and state policy that may be barriers to reducing chronic absenteeism are underway. Through these mechanisms and many more, we are working to reduce chronic absenteeism.

By the Family League of Baltimore

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11 The percentage of students suspended or expelled from Baltimore City public schools was recalculated for the last four years in order to eliminate extreme values caused by individuals who were suspended or expelled multiple times. The corrected citywide indicator values are 8.8% (2010), 9.5% (2011), 9.6% (2012), and 7.7% (2013).
Student Performance (Kindergarten, Elementary, Middle, and High School)

Maryland Model for School Readiness (MMSR) is an annual assessment of each kindergartener’s knowledge and abilities in domains of learning such as language & literacy, physical development, social development and critical thinking. Kindergarten students are assessed for school-readiness as a way to ensure future success on other performance assessments such as the Maryland School Assessment (MSA) test. The MSA is a test of a student’s math, reading, and science proficiency. Vital Signs 13 tracks the percentage of kindergartners “fully school ready” as well as 3rd, 5th, and 8th graders who score at an advanced or proficient level in reading and math MSA tests\textsuperscript{12}. These indicators are normalized by the total student enrollment for each of those grades. Due to the inability to match or geocode 1.1% of the student addresses in the MMR data, a small number of students were not included in the student achievement analysis. The following numbers do not include all Baltimore Public School students and differ slightly from BCPSS reported figures.

- In 2013, 77.6% of the kindergarten students were considered “fully school ready”, 4.5 percentage points higher than last year. The scores ranged from 100% in Mt. Washington/Coldspring to 40.3% in Harbor East/Little Italy. In 2013, there were 38 CSAs where at least 75\% of the kindergarten students were considered “fully school ready” (up from 26 last year) and only one CSA, Harbor East/Little Italy at 40.3%, where less than 50\% of the kindergartners tested as “fully school ready” (down from two last year).

- In 2013, for 3\textsuperscript{rd} grader achievement on the MSA exams
  - 68.1\% scored Advanced/Proficient in their math MSA exam, down from 73.6\% in 2012. The scores ranged from 96.4\% in Greater Roland Park/Poplar Hill to 50.3\% in Upton/Druid Heights.
  - 64.9\% scored Advanced/Proficient in their reading MSA exam, marking the fourth consecutive decrease from 72.5\% in 2010. The scores ranged from 100.0\% in North Baltimore/Guilford/Homeland to 49.2\% in Southwest Baltimore.

- In 2013, for 5\textsuperscript{th} graders achievement on the MSA exams

\textsuperscript{12}The 2012-2013 was the last school year that Baltimore City Public School students would be assessed using the MSA. Beginning 2014-2015, the students will be assessed using the PARCC measurement system to align with adoption of the common core curriculum. See [http://www.baltimorecityschools.org/parcc](http://www.baltimorecityschools.org/parcc) for more information.
65.0% scored Advanced/Proficient in their math MSA exam. This is a decrease of 5.4 percentage points from 2012. The scores ranged from 100% in Greater Roland Park/Poplar Hill to 40.7% in Poppleton/The Terraces/Hollins Market.

73.6% scored Advanced/Proficient in their reading MSA exam, down slightly from last year (75.8%). The scores ranged from 100.0% in Mt. Washington/Coldspring to 52.9% in Downtown/Seton Hill.

In 2013, for 8th graders achievement on the MSA exams

37.9% scored Advanced/Proficient in their math MSA exam. This represents a decrease from the previous year (39.5%). The scores ranged from 81.5% in Greater Roland Park/Poplar Hill to 16.0% in Madison/East End.

62.0% scored Advanced/Proficient in their reading MSA exam. This is an increase of 3.2 percentage points from 2012. The scores ranged from 94.5% in North Baltimore/Guilford/Homeland to 39.4% in Upton/Druid Heights.

For high school students taking and passing High School Assessment exams:

The percentage of all high school students that took and passed the High School Assessment (HSA) English exam decreased for the third consecutive year from 37.3% in 2010 to 32.5% in 2013. In 2013, the percentage of high school students that passed the English exam ranged from a high of 76.5 in Greater Roland Park/Poplar Hill (16 percentage points lower than last year) to a low of 17.5% in Clifton-Berea (5 percentage points lower than last year).

The percentage of high school students that passed the HSA Algebra exam increased from 21.0% in 2012 to 23.6% in 2013. In 2013, the percentage of high school students that passed the Algebra exam ranged from 54.5% in Mt. Washington/Coldspring to 12.1% in Downtown/Seton Hill.

The percentage of high school students that passed the HSA Biology exam remained steady in 2013 (36.4% in 2012, 36.7% in 2013). In 2013, the percentage of high school students that passed the Biology exam ranged from 81.8% in Greater Roland Park/Poplar Hill to 20.5% in Dickeyville/Franklintown.

Baltimore public schools did not offer the HSA Government exam during the 2012 school year. The percentage of high school students that passed the HSA Government exam in 2013 (44.5%) was slightly lower than the percentage in 2011 (45.4%). In 2013, the percentage of high school students that passed the HSA Government exam ranged from 95.2% in Mt. Washington/Coldspring to 22.2% in Highlandtown.

Student Withdrawals, Completion and Mobility

The City Schools and numerous other partners, including the City government, foundations, and non-profits continue to focus their efforts on reducing the number of school withdrawals and increasing high school completion. Student mobility, or moving schools from during the course of the year, is also a critical issue affecting performance and retention in schools. Vital Signs 13 tracks the withdrawal rate of students (9th
through 12th grade), the high school completion rate (for 12th grader only)\textsuperscript{13} and the percent of all students switching schools for Baltimore City Public School Students. The issue of school switching is important since numerous studies have shown that switching schools can negatively impact a child’s behavioral and academic development\textsuperscript{14}.

- The percentage of students that withdrew from Baltimore City public schools decreased from 4.1% in 2012 to 2.1% in 2013. The percentage of students that withdrew before completion in 2013 ranged from a high of 5.0% in Brooklyn/Curtis Bay/Hawkins Point to a low of 0% in four CSAs (Canton, Cross-Country/Cheswolde, Greater Roland Park/Poplar Hill, and Mt. Washington/Coldspring).

- Baltimore City’s high school completion rate for 12th graders decreased slightly from 80.3 in 2012 to 79.3 in 2013. In 2013, there were two CSAs where the completion rate was greater than 90%, down from five CSAs last year. Those CSAs were Mt. Washington/Coldspring (94.7%) and Howard Park/West Arlington (90.1%). The CSAs the lowest completion rates were Fells Point (62.5%) and Greenmount East (68.3%).

- From 2012 to 2013, the CSAs with the greatest increase in the completion rate were Orangeville/East Highlandtown (13.9 percentage points) and Inner Harbor/Federal Hill (10.3 percentage points). The greatest decreases in the completion rate were in Canton (-20.0 percentage points) and Morrell Park/Violetville (-17.7 percentage points).

- The percent of all students switching schools increased slightly from 7.1% in 2012 to 7.9% in 2013. The CSAs with the highest percent of students switching were Greenmount East (12.6%), Madison/East End (11.9%), and Poppleton/The Terraces/Hollins Market (11.3%). The CSAs with

\textsuperscript{13} The completion rate used for Vital Signs is the percentage of 12th graders that complete High School out of all 12th graders enrolled at any time during that school year. The Maryland State Department of Education and Baltimore City Public Schools calculations for completion rate of high school students are based on a cohort spanning the 4-year high school period. For more information go to: \texttt{http://www.mdreportcard.org/}.

\textsuperscript{14} For more information on the impacts associated with school switching go to: \texttt{http://www.neighborhoodindicators.org/sites/default/files/publications/children_and_foreclosures_phase_2_full_report.pdf}.
the lowest percent were South Baltimore (0.0%), Mt. Washington/Coldspring (1.2%), and Greater Roland Park/Poplar Hill (2.6%).

**Youth Engagement**

*Vital Signs 13* measures youth engagement by reporting the percent of 16-19 year-olds who are in school and/or working. Based on the 2009-2013 American Community Survey, 87.7% of the persons aged 16-19 were either in school and/or employed.

- From 2009-2013, two CSAs had 100% of persons aged 16-19 either in school and/or employed: Canton and North Baltimore/Guilford/Homeland. The CSAs with the fewest persons aged 16-19 either in school and/or employed were Harbor East/Little Italy (63.5%) and Morrell Park/Violetville (63.6%).
For each indicator reported in *Vital Signs 13*, we provide the data source, the years for which it is reported, and the five CSAs with the highest and lowest values for the indicator during the latest year available; these may not correspond to positive or negative values. Student home addresses are used as the basis for these indicators, rather than the location of the school attended.

**Student Enrollment**

**Number of Students Officially Enrolled in 1st-5th Grade**

*Measure of officially enrolled elementary school students.*

**Definition:** The number of children who have registered for and attend 1st through 5th grade at a Baltimore City Public School as of September 30th. This count only includes students enrolled in public schools.

**Source:** Baltimore City Public Schools, 2009-2010, 2010-2011, 2011-2012, 2012-2013

**Five Highest:**
1. Greater Rosemont
2. Cedonia/Frankford
3. Southwest Baltimore
4. Sandtown-Winchester/Harlem Park
5. Belair-Edison

**Five Lowest:**
1. Canton
2. Downtown/Seton Hill
3. South Baltimore
4. Mt. Washington/Coldspring
5. Midtown

**Number of Students Ever Attended 1st-5th Grade**

*Measure of elementary school students attending at any point in the school year.*

**Definition:** The number of children who have registered for and attend 1st through 5th grade at a Baltimore City Public School at any point during the school year.

**Source:** Baltimore City Public Schools, 2009-2010, 2010-2011, 2011-2012, 2012-2013

**Five Highest:**
1. Greater Rosemont
2. Cedonia/Frankford
3. Southwest Baltimore
4. Belair-Edison
5. Sandtown-Winchester/Harlem Park

**Five Lowest:**
1. Canton
2. Downtown/Seton Hill
3. South Baltimore
4. Mt. Washington/Coldspring
5. Fells Point
Number of Students Officially Enrolled in 6th-8th Grade
Measure of officially enrolled middle school students.
Definition: The number of children who have registered for and attend 6th through 8th grade at a Baltimore City Public School as of September 30th. This count only includes students enrolled in public schools.

Five Highest:
1. Greater Rosemont
2. Cedonia/Frankford
3. Belair-Edison
4. Southwest Baltimore
5. Allendale/Irvington/South Hilton

Five Lowest:
1. Canton
2. Downtown/Seton Hill
3. South Baltimore
4. Mt. Washington/Coldspring
5. Fells Point

Number of Students Ever Attended 6th-8th Grade
Measure of middle school students attending at any point in the school year.
Definition: The number of children who have registered for and attend 6th through 8th grade at a Baltimore City Public School at any point in the school year.

Five Highest:
1. Greater Rosemont
2. Cedonia/Frankford
3. Belair-Edison
4. Southwest Baltimore
5. Allendale/Irvington/S. Hilton

Five Lowest:
1. Canton
2. Downtown/Seton Hill
3. South Baltimore
4. Mt. Washington/Coldspring
5. Fells Point

Number of Students Officially Enrolled in 9th-12th Grade
Measure of officially enrolled high school students.
Definition: The number of children who have registered for and attend 9th through 12th grade at a Baltimore City Public School as of September 30th. This count only includes students enrolled in public schools.

Five Highest:
1. Cedonia/Frankford
2. Belair-Edison
3. Greater Rosemont
4. Southwest Baltimore
5. Allendale/Irvington/S. Hilton

Five Lowest:
1. Canton
2. South Baltimore
3. Downtown/Seton Hill
4. Greater Roland Park/Poplar Hill
5. Fells Point

Number of Students Ever Attended 9th-12th Grade
Measure of high school students attending at any point in the school year.
Definition: The number of children who have registered for and attend 9th through 12th grade at a Baltimore City Public School at any point in the school year.

Five Highest:
1. Cedonia/Frankford
2. Belair-Edison
3. Greater Rosemont
4. Southwest Baltimore
5. Allendale/Irvington/S. Hilton

Five Lowest:
1. Canton
2. South Baltimore
3. Downtown/Seton Hill
4. Greater Roland Park/Poplar Hill
5. Fells Point
Student Demographics

Percent of Students that are Black/African American
Measure of students who are of a particular race.
Definition: The percentage of Black/African American students of any grade that attend any Baltimore City Public School out of all public school students within an area in a school year.
Five Highest:
1. Edmondson Village
2. Greater Mondawmin
3. Clifton-Berea
   Greater Rosemont
Five Lowest:
1. South Baltimore
2. Canton
3. Orangeville/East Highlandtown
   Fells Point
4. Greater Roland Park/Poplar Hill

Percent of Students that are White (non-Hispanic)
Measure of students who are of a particular race.
Definition: The percentage of white (non-Hispanic) students of any grade that attend any Baltimore City Public School out of all public school students within an area in a school year.
Five Highest:
1. South Baltimore
2. Medfield/Hampden/Woodberry/Remington
3. Morrell Park/Violetville
4. Greater Roland Park/Poplar Hill
5. Canton
Five Lowest:
1. Edmondson Village
2. Sandtown-Winchester/Harlem Park
   Midway/Coldstream
   Loch Raven
   Greater Mondawmin

Percent of Students that are Hispanic
Measures of students who are of Hispanic ethnicity.
Definition: The percentage of students of any grade level who identify their ethnicity as being Hispanic that attend any Baltimore City Public School out of all public school students within an area in a school year. Ethnicity is separate from a student’s race.
Five Highest:
1. Orangeville/East Highlandtown
2. Fells Point
3. Highlandtown
4. Southeastern
5. Patterson Park North & East
Five Lowest:
1. Midway/Coldstream
   Clifton-Berea
2. Greater Mondawmin
3. Greenmount East
   Edmondson Village
Percent of Students Receiving Free or Reduced Meals

*Measure of students eligible for and receiving free and reduced school meals based on their household income.*

**Definition:** The percentage of students of any grade that are eligible for and receive free or reduced school meals out of all public school students. Eligibility for this program is based on the student’s household income.

**Source:** Baltimore City Public Schools, 2009-2010, 2010-2011, 2011-2012, 2012-2013

**Five Highest:**
1. Harbor East/Little Italy
   Upton/Druid Heights
2. Cherry Hill
3. Madison/East End
4. Southwest Baltimore

**Five Lowest:**
1. Greater Roland Park/Poplar Hill
2. North Baltimore/Guilford/Homeland
3. Mt. Washington/Coldspring
4. South Baltimore
5. Inner Harbor/Federal Hill

Percent of Students Enrolled in Special Education Programs

*Measure of students eligible for and participating in special education programs.*

**Definition:** The percentage of students of any grade that are eligible for and participating in public school special education programs out of all students. This includes all students with any diagnosed disability.

**Source:** Baltimore City Public Schools, 2009-2010, 2010-2011, 2011-2012, 2012-2013

**Five Highest:**
1. Greenmount East
2. Poppleton/The Terraces/Hollins Market
3. Harbor East/Little Italy
   Oldtown/Middle East
   Penn North/Reservoir Hill

**Five Lowest:**
1. Greater Roland Park/Poplar Hill
2. Mt. Washington/Coldspring
3. North Baltimore/Guilford/Homeland
4. Canton
5. South Baltimore
Student Attendance, Suspensions and Expulsions

Percent of Students that are Chronically Absent
Share of students that miss at least 20 days of school in a school year.

Definition: The percentage of students that were recognized as being absent from public school 20 or more days out of all students.


Elementary School 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students

Five Highest:
1. Poppleton/The Terraces/Hollins Market
2. Harbor East/Little Italy
3. Upton/Druid Heights
4. Brooklyn/Curtis Bay/Hawkins Point
5. Cherry Hill

Five Lowest:
1. Greater Roland Park/Poplar Hill
2. Mt. Washington/Coldspring
3. North Baltimore/Guilford/Homeland
4. Southeastern
5. Canton

Middle School 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students

Five Highest:
1. Washington Village
2. Brooklyn/Curtis Bay/Hawkins Point
3. Poppleton/The Terraces/Hollins Market
4. Morrell Park/Violetville
5. Upton/Druid Heights

Five Lowest:
1. Greater Roland Park/Poplar Hill
2. Mt. Washington/Coldspring
3. Southeastern
4. Loch Raven
5. Cross-Country/Cheswolde

High School 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students

Five Highest:
1. Madison/East End
2. Oldtown/Middle East
3. Midway/Coldstream
4. Greenmount East
5. Southwest Baltimore

Five Lowest:
1. Greater Roland Park/Poplar Hill
2. Mt. Washington/Coldspring
3. Loch Raven
4. North Baltimore/Guilford/Homeland
5. Cross-Country/Cheswolde

Percent of Students Suspended or Expelled During School Year

Measures the share of all students who are suspended or expelled during the school year.

Definition: The percentage of students of any grade level that are formally suspended or expelled for any reason during the school year out of all public school students within an area.


Five Highest:
1. Poppleton/The Terraces/Hollins Market
2. Upton/Druid Heights
3. Brooklyn/Curtis Bay/Hawkins Point
4. Cherry Hill
5. Greenmount East

Five Lowest:
1. Greater Roland Park/Poplar Hill
2. Cross-Country/Cheswolde
3. South Baltimore
4. Mt. Washington/Coldspring
5. North Baltimore/Guilford/Homeland
**Student Performance**

**Kindergarten School Readiness**

*Measures of children entering kindergarten who are assessed as “ready to learn”*

**Definition:** The percentage of children whose composite score indicates full school readiness out of all kindergarten school children tested within an area in a school year. The Maryland Model for School Readiness (MMSR) is an assessment and instructional system that was designed to provide parents, teachers, and early childhood providers with a common understanding of what children know and are able to do upon entering school. Under the MMSR system, all children entering kindergarten are assessed for level of mastery across several learning domains. These domains include: social and personal development; language and literacy; mathematical thinking; scientific thinking; social studies; the arts; and physical development and health. Kindergarten teachers must evaluate students during the first few months of the kindergarten year using selected Work Sampling System (WSS) indicators and report their ratings by the end of November of each year to the state.

**Source:** Baltimore City Public Schools, 2010-2011, 2011-2012, 2012-2013

**Five Highest:**
1. Mt. Washington/Coldspring
2. Canton
3. Greater Roland Park/Poplar Hill
4. North Baltimore/Guilford/Homeland
5. Washington Village

**Five Lowest:**
1. Harbor East/Little Italy
2. Dorchester/Ashburton
3. Madison/East End
4. Lauraville
5. Southern Park Heights
Percent of Students Passing M.S.A. Exams

Measures the achievement and progress of students in public school.

Definition: The percentages of students passing M.S.A. exams in reading and mathematics in 3rd, 5th, and 8th grades. Maryland School Assessment (MSA) scores measure the number of students scoring in one of three classifications out of all students enrolled in that grade. Students can either be rated as advanced, proficient, or having basic knowledge of a subject. This indicator includes only those students who have tested as advanced or proficient.


Percent of 3rd Grade Students Passing MSA Math

Five Highest:
1. Greater Roland Park/Poplar Hill
2. Inner Harbor/Federal Hill
3. Mt. Washington/Coldspring
4. Medfield/Hampden/Woodberry/Remington
5. Dickeyville/Franklintown

Five Lowest:
1. Upton/Druid Heights
2. Greater Rosemont
3. Washington Village
4. Sandtown-Winchester/Harlem Park
5. Clifton-Berea

Percent of 5th Grade Students Passing MSA Math

Five Highest:
1. Greater Roland Park/Poplar Hill
2. Mt. Washington/Coldspring
3. South Baltimore
4. Claremont/Armisted
5. Canton

Five Lowest:
1. Poppleton/The Terraces/Hollins Market
2. Oldtown/Middle East
3. Southern Park Heights
4. Harbor East/Little Italy
5. Clifton-Berea

Percent of 3rd Grade Students Passing MSA Reading

Five Highest:
1. North Baltimore/Guilford/Homeland
2. Greater Roland Park/Poplar Hill
3. Inner Harbor/Federal Hill
4. Mt. Washington/Coldspring
5. Dickeyville/Franklintown

Five Lowest:
1. Southwest Baltimore
2. Sandtown-Winchester/Harlem Park
3. Upton/Druid Heights
4. Greater Rosemont
5. Clifton-Berea

Percent of 5th Grade Students Passing MSA Reading

Five Highest:
1. Mt. Washington/Coldspring
2. Greater Roland Park/Poplar Hill
3. North Baltimore/Guilford/Homeland
4. South Baltimore
5. Inner Harbor/Federal Hill

Five Lowest:
1. Downtown/Seton Hill
2. Poppleton/The Terraces/Hollins Market
3. Upton/Druid Heights
4. Edmondson Village
5. Oldtown/Middle East
Percent of 8th Grade Students Passing MSA Math

**Five Highest:**
1. Greater Roland Park/Poplar Hill
2. Mt. Washington/Coldspring
3. North Baltimore/Guilford/Homeland
4. Cross-Country/Cheswolde
5. Canton

**Five Lowest:**
1. Madison/East End
2. Clifton-Berea
3. Upton/Druind Heights
4. Penn North/Reservoir Hill
5. Sandtown-Winchester/Harlem Park

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Percent of 8th Grade Students Passing MSA Reading

**Five Highest:**
1. North Baltimore/Guilford/Homeland
2. Mt. Washington/Coldspring
3. Greater Roland Park/Poplar Hill
4. South Baltimore
5. Fells Point

**Five Lowest:**
1. Upton/Druid Heights
2. Cherry Hill
3. Clifton-Berea
4. Madison/East End
5. Sandtown-Winchester/Harlem Park

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**Percent of Students Passing H.S.A. by Subject**

Measures the number of high school students with knowledge of a given subject.

**Definition:** The percentage of high school students who have successfully passed the H.S.A. exams out of all high school students that took the exam in the school year (considering only the highest score per subject area). In Maryland, all students who entered 9th grade in or after 2005 are required to take and pass the High School Assessments (H.S.A.) in order to graduate, including students in special education, English language learners (ELLs), and students with 504 plans. There are currently three H.S.A. exams: English, Algebra/Data Analysis; and Biology (a H.S.A. in Government has since been discontinued). Students can retake the HSAs as many times as necessary to pass.

**Source:** Baltimore City Public Schools, 2009-2010, 2010-2011, 2011-2012, 2012-2013

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**Percent of Students Passing H.S.A. Algebra**

**Five Highest:**
1. Mt. Washington/Coldspring
2. South Baltimore
3. Medfield/Hampden/Woodberry/Remington
4. Canton
5. Greater Roland Park/Poplar Hill

**Five Lowest:**
1. Downtown/Seton Hill
2. Greenmount East
3. Orangeville/East Highlandtown
4. North Baltimore/Guilford/Homeland
5. Fells Point

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**Percentage of Students Passing H.S.A. Government**

**Five Highest:**
1. Mt. Washington/Coldspring
2. Greater Roland Park/Poplar Hill
3. South Baltimore
4. Inner Harbor/Federal Hill
5. Cross-Country/Cheswolde

**Five Lowest:**
1. Highlandtown
2. Canton
3. Madison/East End
4. Poppleton/The Terraces/Hollins Market
5. Greenmount East
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent of Students Passing H.S.A. <strong>English</strong></th>
<th>Percent of Students Passing H.S.A. <strong>Biology</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Five Highest:</strong></td>
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<td>1. Greater Roland Park/Poplar Hill</td>
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<td>5. South Baltimore</td>
<td>5. North Baltimore/Guilford/Homeland</td>
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<td>3. Edmondson Village</td>
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<td>4. Oldtown/Middle East</td>
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<td>5. Upton/Druid Heights</td>
<td>5. Southwest Baltimore</td>
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Student Dropout and Completion

**High School Dropout/Withdraw Rate**
*Measure of students that withdrew from High School in a school year.*

**Definition:** The percentage of 9th through 12th graders who withdraw from public school out of all high school students in a school year. Withdraw codes are used as a proxy for dropping out of school based upon the expectation that withdrawn students are no longer receiving educational services. A dropout is defined as a student who, for any reason other than death, leaves school before graduation or the completion of a Maryland-approved education program and is not known to enroll in another school or State-approved program during a current school year.

**Source:** Baltimore City Public Schools, 2009-2010, 2010-2011, 2011-2012, 2012-2013

**Five Highest:**
1. Brooklyn/Curtis Bay/Hawkins Point
2. Inner Harbor/Federal Hill
3. Penn North/Reservoir Hill
4. Clifton-Berea
   South Baltimore

**Five Lowest:**
1. Mt. Washington/Coldspring
   Greater Roland Park/Poplar Hill
   Cross-Country/Cheswolde
   Canton
2. Greater Mondawmin

**High School Completion Rate**
*Measure of students who successfully complete High School.*

**Definition:** The percentage of 12th graders in a school year that successfully completed high school out of all 12th graders within an area. Completers are identified as completing their program of study at the high school level and satisfying the graduation requirements for a Maryland High School Diploma or the requirements for a Maryland Certificate of Program Completion.

**Source:** Baltimore City Public Schools, 2009-2010, 2010-2011, 2011-2012, 2012-2013

**Five Highest:**
1. Mt. Washington/Coldspring
2. Howard Park/West Arlington
3. Beechfield/Ten Hills/West Hills
4. North Baltimore/Guilford/Homeland
5. Chinquapin Park/Belvedere

**Five Lowest:**
1. Fells Point
2. Greenmount East
3. Harbor East/Little Italy
4. Midway/Coldstream
5. Upton/Druid Heights
**Percent of Students Switching Schools within a School Year**

*Measure of student mobility in a school year.*

**Definition:** The percentage of 1st through 12th graders who change schools out of all students in a school year. Students must have attended both schools for which they were registered for at least one day. Additionally, this indicator only identifies the share of students that change schools for any reasons and not the frequency, number of school switches, or change in residences in a school year. The percentage reflects the last home address available for the student who changed schools. This may or may not be the home address provided for the first school that they are registered to attend.

**Source:** Baltimore City Public Schools, 2010-2011, 2011-2012, 2012-2013

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<th>Five Highest:</th>
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<td>1. Greenmount East</td>
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<td>2. Madison/East End</td>
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<td>3. Poppleton/The Terraces/Hollins Market</td>
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<td>5. Clifton-Berea</td>
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<td>1. South Baltimore</td>
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<td>2. Mt. Washington/Coldspring</td>
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<td>3. Greater Roland Park/Poplar Hill</td>
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<td>4. Fells Point</td>
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<td>5. Morrell Park/Violetville</td>
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**Youth Labor Force Engagement**

**Percent of Population (Age 16-19) in School and/or Employed**

*Measures youth participation in productive activities.*

**Definition:** The percentage of persons aged 16 to 19 who are in school and/or are employed out of all persons in their age cohort.

**Source:** American Community Survey, 2009-2013

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<td>4. Oldtown/Middle East</td>
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<td>5. Clifton-Berea</td>
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<td>Beechfield/Ten Hills/West Hills</td>
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<td>Belair-Edison</td>
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<td>Brooklyn/Curtis Bay/Hawkins Point</td>
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<td>Dorchester/Ashburn</td>
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<td>Downtown/Seton Hill</td>
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<td>Fells Point</td>
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<td>Oldtown/Middle East</td>
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<td>Orangeville/East Highlandtown</td>
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<td>Patterson Park North &amp; East</td>
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<td>Penn North/Reservoir Hill</td>
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<td>Pimlico/Arlington/Hilltop</td>
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<td>Sandtown-Winchester/Harlem Park</td>
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<td>South Baltimore</td>
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<td>Southeastern</td>
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<td>Southern Park Heights</td>
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<td>Southwest Baltimore</td>
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<td>The Waverlies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Upton/Druid Heights</td>
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<td>Washington Village/Pigtown</td>
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<td>Westport/Mt. Winans/Lakeland</td>
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<td><strong>Baltimore City</strong></td>
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For more information on these indicators please visit [http://www.bnaflj.org](http://www.bnaflj.org).