

## “Smartest State” Factors

<b>Positive Factors</b>	<b>National Leader</b>	<b>US average</b>	<b>NC (rank)</b>
Public elementary & secondary school revenue per \$1,000 personal income (2002)	AK (\$66.48)	\$47.17	\$42.03 (43)
Per pupil elementary & secondary school current expenditures (2002)	NY (\$11,546)	\$7,701	\$6,519 (38)
Percent of per pupil elementary & secondary school current expenditures used for instruction (2002)	NY (68.7)	60.7	62.9 (12)
Percent of population graduated for high school (2003)	NH (92.1)	84.6	81.4 (40)
Public high school graduation rate	NJ (89.8)	68.3	60.6 (43)
Percent of public school 4 <sup>th</sup> graders proficient or better in reading (2003)	CT (43)	30	33 (16)
Percent of public school 8 <sup>th</sup> graders proficient or better in reading (2003)	MA (43)	30	29 (34)
Percent of public school 4 <sup>th</sup> graders proficient or better in writing (2003)	CT (49)	27	32 (6)
Percent of public school 8 <sup>th</sup> graders proficient or better in writing (2003)	CT (45)	30	34 (8)
Percent of public school 4 <sup>th</sup> graders proficient or better in mathematics (2003)	NH (43)	31	41 (4)
Percent of public school 8 <sup>th</sup> graders proficient or better in mathematics (2003)	MN (44)	29	32 (14)
<b>Negative Factors</b>	<b>National Leader</b>	<b>US average</b>	<b>NC (rank)</b>
Percent of 4 <sup>th</sup> graders whose parents have strict rules about getting homework done (2002)	KY (40)	34	38 (5)
Average teacher salary as a percent of average annual pay of all workers (2002)	RI (144.8)	123.2	131.2 (15)
Percent of school-age population in public schools (2003)	98.5	90	89.2 (28)
High school dropout rate (2001)	AZ (10.9%)	4.2%	6.3 (6)
Percent of public school teachers who reported being physically attacked in the past 12 months (2000)	ND (2.1)	4.2	5.5 (6)
Special education pupil-teacher ratio	NY (12)	17.4	20.8 (12)
Public elementary & secondary school staff who are school district administrators	AK (3.1)	1.1	0.9 (30)
Estimated pupil-teacher ratio in public elementary & secondary schools	VT (11.7)	15.9	15.2 (24)
Average class size in public elementary schools	NE (17.5)	21.2	20.9 (20)
Average class size in public secondary schools	ME (18.5)	23.4	21.7 (31)

Source: 2004-05 Education State Rankings