



What issues must we tackle to move Idaho schools up from “48th place”?

Education Week published Education Counts 2018 in January that attempted to rank the 50 state education systems using 21 indicators. These 21 indicators are listed below in edited form (the indicators are described more fully in the *Education Week* article identified in the URL at the bottom of the page). The grouping of the 21 indicators differs from that in the *Education Week* article. As you read through the 21 indicators used to rank the states, think about who in Idaho should take the lead in tackling the issue addressed by the indicator, if anybody.

THE IDAHOANS, CHILDREN AND ADULTS

1. Percent of dependent children (under 18 years of age) who live in above-low-income families.
2. Percent of dependent children with at least one parent who holds a two- or four-year postsecondary degree.
3. Percent of dependent children with at least one parent who is steadily employed, defined as working full time
4. Percent of dependent children whose parents are fluent speakers of English.
5. Percent of young adults (ages 18 to 24) who are currently enrolled in a postsecondary education program or have already earned a postsecondary credential.
6. Percent of adults (ages 25 to 64) who have earned a postsecondary degree.
7. Percent of adults (ages 25 to 64) whose annual personal income reaches or exceeds the national median.
8. Percent of adults (ages 25 to 64) who are steadily employed, defined as working full time.

THE TAX DOLLARS

1. The degree to which schools indicate that wealthier districts have higher revenue levels.
2. The ratio of the total amount spent on pupils below the median to the amount that would be needed to raise all students to the median per-pupil expenditure in the state.
3. The level of variability in funding across school districts in a state.
4. The difference between spending levels for the districts serving students at the 5th and 95th percentiles of the per-pupil-expenditure distribution.
5. Average statewide per-student spending.
6. Percent of students in districts with per-pupil expenditures at or above U.S. Average.
7. State spending according to the percent of students served by districts spending at or above the national average as well as the degree to which lower-spending districts fall short of that national benchmark.
8. The share of state resources spent on K-12 education.

THE SCHOOLS

1. Percent of 3- and 4-year-olds who are attending preschool. [This could have been called also a “tax dollar issue.”]
2. Percent of eligible children attending public or private kindergarten programs.
3. Percent of public high school students who graduated on time with a standard diploma.
4. Percent of 4th graders in public schools who scored “proficient” (an “A” performance) in reading on the State NAEP assessment.
5. Percent of 8th graders in public schools who scored “proficient” (an “A” performance) in mathematics on the State NAEP assessment.

Lloyd, S.C. (2018, January 17). Quality counts 2018: How we graded the states. *Education Week*. Retrieved May 5, 2018, from <https://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2018/01/17/how-we-graded-the-states.html>

State Per-Pupil Expenditures for School Year 2014-2015

\$20,000-21,999	CT NY NJ AK
\$18,000-19,999	VT MA
\$16,000-17,999	MD NH WY
\$14,000-15,999	RI DE ME HI PA MN
\$12,000-13,999	NE IL ND IA MI KS MT LA
\$10,000-11,999	MO CA OH IN WI WV US VA CO KY AR GA WA OR
\$8,000-9,999	NV SC NM FL MS AL TX SD TN NC OK
\$6,000-7,999	ID AZ UT

Legend: CT is higher than NY which is higher than NJ which is higher than AK; and CT is higher than VT, which is higher than MD, which is higher than RI, etc.