

States and Counties with the Highest and Lowest Levels of Adult Literacy and Numeracy Skills

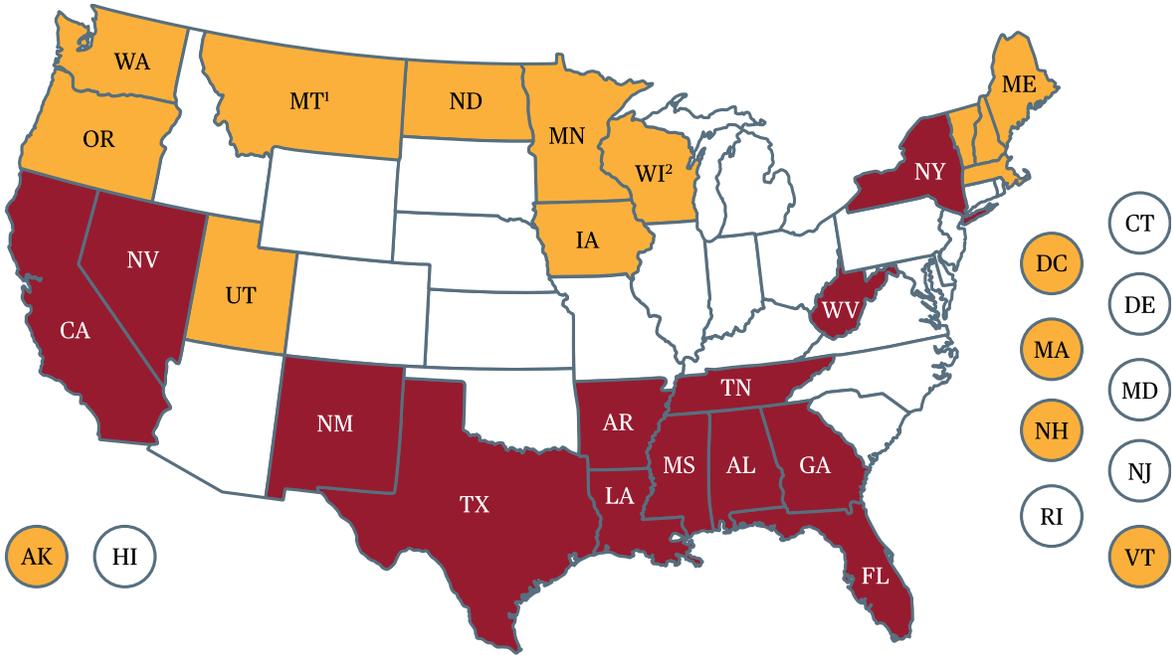
NCES analyzed the estimates of adults' literacy and numeracy skills for all U.S. states, counties, and the District of Columbia to determine the highest and lowest levels of adult literacy and numeracy proficiency, as well as the average scores.

Highest- and Lowest-Performing States

Top 25% (by average score for literacy and numeracy, combined)	
Alaska	New Hampshire
DC	North Dakota
Iowa	Oregon
Maine	Utah
Massachusetts	Vermont
Minnesota	Washington
Montana ¹	Wisconsin ²

Bottom 25% (by average score for literacy and numeracy, combined)	
Alabama	Nevada
Arkansas	New Mexico
California	New York
Florida	Tennessee
Georgia	Texas
Louisiana	West Virginia
Mississippi	-

Note: States are listed in alphabetical order
¹ Numeracy only
² Literacy only



Highest- and Lowest-Performing Counties

Top 10 (by average score for literacy and numeracy, combined)
Arlington County, VA
Carver County, MN ¹
Dallas County, IA
Delaware County, OH
Douglas County, CO
Falls Church City, VA
Hamilton County, IN
Los Alamos County, NM
Morgan County, UT
Ozaukee County, WI ²
Williamson County, TN

Bottom 10 (by average score for literacy and numeracy, combined)
Brooks County, TX ³
Culberson County, TX
Dimmit County, TX ^{2,3}
East Carroll Parish, LA ¹
Hudspeth County, TX
Jefferson County, MS ¹
Kenedy County, TX
Maverick County, TX ²
Presidio County, TX ²
Starr County, TX
Willacy County, TX
Zapata County, TX
Zavala County, TX

Note: Counties are listed in alphabetical order

¹ Numeracy only

² Literacy only

³ Brooks County, TX and Dimmit County, TX have the same score for literacy

Skills Map Capabilities

Users are able to see for each state and county the **average PIAAC scores** for the population's literacy and numeracy skills, the **percentage of adults at the lowest, middle, and highest proficiency levels** for literacy and numeracy, and **select demographic information** (such as educational attainment, race/ethnicity, employment status, and poverty level) from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey.

The tool also shows how state results compare to the national average and how county results compare to the state average, as well as how results for states or counties compare to each other. These data are provided in easy-to-understand summaries. Users can also download data for states and counties in Excel and PDF formats.

For More Information

Skills Map: nces.ed.gov/surveys/piaac/skillsmap

U.S. State and County Estimates: nces.ed.gov/surveys/piaac/state-county-estimates.asp

PIAAC Website: nces.ed.gov/surveys/piaac/

Contact: Holly Xie, 202-245-8481, Holly.Xie@ed.gov