IES Institute of Education Sciences

Adult Literacy and Numeracy Snapshot
PENNSYLVANIA

U.S. PIAAC Skills Map: State and County Indicators of Adult Literacy and Numeracy

The Skills Map provides the most comprehensive snapshot of key workforce skills in every state and county in the United States. Users can easily access information about the literacy and numeracy proficiency of adults aged 16-74 and compare performance between individual states and counties. Results are reported as the state or county average score on a scale of 0-500 and as the percentage of adults at the lowest levels of proficiency (at or below Level 1), medium proficiency (at Level 2), and the highest levels of proficiency (at or above Level 3).

The data in the tool are generated by a technique called small area estimation. The statistical models used to calculate the state and county estimates relied on combined data from the 2012, 2014, and 2017 Program of the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) in conjunction with 2013-2017 data from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) to produce reliable estimates. The estimates are predictions of how the adults in a given state or county would have performed had they taken the PIAAC assessments. For more information on the tool, please visit the PIAAC State and County Estimates page: nces.ed.gov/surveys/piaac/state-county-estimates.asp

Literacy

Average scale score:

National	Pennsylvania
264	**266**
	▬ (same as national average)

Pennsylvania proficiency level results:

At or below Level 1 (Below 226)	Level 2 (226-275)	At or above Level 3 (Above 275)
18%	**38%**	**44%**

Note: Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

States sorted by average literacy scale score:

New Hampshire	279	Connecticut	271	Oklahoma	263
Minnesota	279	Kansas	271	South Carolina	263
Vermont	277	South Dakota	271	Arizona	262
District of Columbia	277	Michigan	271	Kentucky	261
Alaska	277	Hawaii	270	Georgia	260
North Dakota	276	Virginia	270	Tennessee	260
Washington	275	Idaho	270	West Virginia	260
Utah	274	Ohio	268	New York	260
Iowa	273	Maryland	268	Florida	259
Oregon	273	Indiana	266	Alabama	259
Maine	273	**Pennsylvania**	**266**	Arkansas	259
Wisconsin	273	Rhode Island	266	California	257
Massachusetts	273	Missouri	266	Nevada	255
Montana	273	Illinois	266	Texas	254
Wyoming	272	North Carolina	265	Mississippi	252
Colorado	272	New Jersey	264	New Mexico	252
Nebraska	271	Delaware	264	Louisiana	252

Counties sorted by average literacy scale score:

County	Score	County	Score
Montgomery	285	Schuylkill	259
Chester	283	Potter	259
Allegheny	280	Jefferson	259
Bucks	280	Venango	259
Centre	279	Clarion	259
Butler	278	McKean	259
Cumberland	275	Sullivan	259
Westmoreland	273	Berks	258
Pike	272	Greene	258
Washington	271	Lebanon	258
Delaware	270	Clinton	257
Beaver	270	Bedford	257
Northampton	268	Somerset	256
Montour	267	Snyder	256
Elk	266	Fulton	256
Warren	265	Huntingdon	256
Lycoming	265	Fayette	255
Dauphin	264	Clearfield	254
York	264	Northumberland	253
Adams	264	Juniata	252
Erie	264	Mifflin	251
Wyoming	264	Philadelphia	245
Luzerne	263	Forest	235
Lawrence	263		
Lehigh	263		
Tioga	263		
Lackawanna	263		
Blair	263		
Columbia	262		
Cambria	262		
Perry	262		
Wayne	262		
Indiana	262		
Bradford	261		
Mercer	261		
Lancaster	261		
Susquehanna	261		
Monroe	261		
Carbon	261		
Franklin	261		
Cameron	260		
Crawford	260		
Armstrong	260		
Union	259		

Numeracy

Average scale score:

National
249

Pennsylvania
252
— (same as national average)

Pennsylvania proficiency level results:

At or below Level 1 (Below 226)	Level 2 (226-275)	At or above Level 3 (Above 275)
29%	**38%**	**34%**

Note: Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

States sorted by average numeracy scale score:

New Hampshire	268	South Dakota	259	Arizona	247
Minnesota	268	Hawaii	259	Oklahoma	247
Vermont	265	Kansas	258	Kentucky	247
North Dakota	264	Connecticut	258	South Carolina	246
Alaska	264	Virginia	257	New York	245
Washington	262	Idaho	256	West Virginia	245
Utah	262	Michigan	256	Tennessee	245
Iowa	261	Maryland	255	California	244
Massachusetts	261	Ohio	254	Georgia	243
Oregon	260	Rhode Island	253	Florida	243
Maine	260	**Pennsylvania**	**252**	Arkansas	243
Montana	260	Missouri	252	Alabama	242
District of Columbia	260	Illinois	252	Nevada	240
Colorado	260	Indiana	252	Texas	238
Wyoming	260	New Jersey	250	New Mexico	235
Nebraska	259	North Carolina	249	Mississippi	234
Wisconsin	259	Delaware	249	Louisiana	233

Counties sorted by average numeracy scale score:

Montgomery	275	York	251	Cambria	248
Chester	273	Lycoming	251	Bradford	247
Bucks	270	Warren	251	Franklin	247
Butler	267	Wyoming	250	Susquehanna	247
Allegheny	266	Dauphin	250	Indiana	247
Centre	266	Perry	250	Mercer	247
Cumberland	263	Lackawanna	249	Carbon	247
Westmoreland	261	Erie	249	Cameron	246
Washington	259	Luzerne	249	Monroe	246
Pike	258	Lawrence	249	Union	246
Beaver	257	Tioga	249	Armstrong	246
Delaware	257	Lehigh	249	Schuylkill	245
Northampton	255	Lancaster	249	Crawford	245
Montour	254	Wayne	248	Potter	245
Elk	253	Columbia	248	Berks	244
Adams	252	Blair	248	Venango	244

Counties sorted by average numeracy scale score (continued):

Jefferson	244
Sullivan	244
Lebanon	244
Greene	244
Clarion	243
McKean	243
Snyder	242
Clinton	242
Bedford	242
Somerset	242
Fulton	241
Huntingdon	240
Fayette	239
Clearfield	239
Northumberland	238
Juniata	237
Mifflin	236
Philadelphia	225
Forest	217