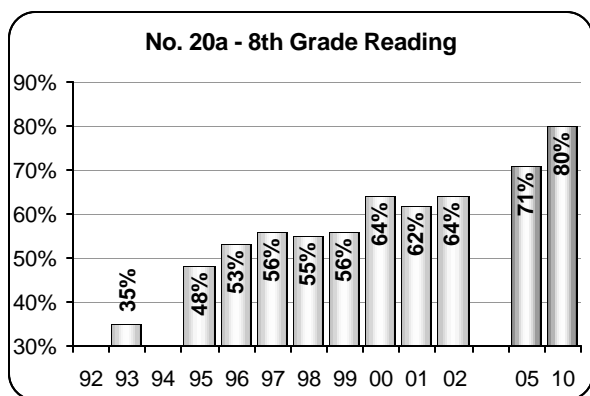


Education

EDUCATION BENCHMARKS

The key Oregon Benchmarks related to education are: children entering school ready-to-learn, student skill levels, the high school drop out rate, college graduates, and adult literacy.

The percentage of children entering school **ready-to-learn** is Benchmark 18. Kindergarten is the first educational system outside the home that is shared by virtually all children. This benchmark, which is an assessment of students' ability to meet a number of developmental dimensions, is an indicator of early childhood preparation for school years.

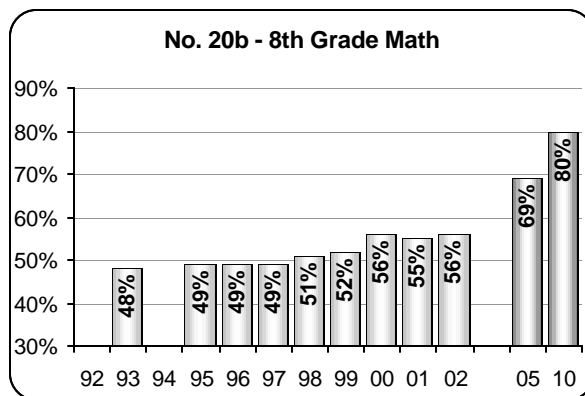


Benchmark 20 is the percentage of eighth graders who have achieved established **skill levels**: a. reading, b. math. This benchmark focuses attention on the results of the education process: the knowledge and capabilities of students themselves.

The **high school drop out rate** is Benchmark 22. It measures the percentage of students each year who leave grades 9 to 12 before receiving a high school diploma. Opportunities tend to be bleak for young Oregonians who drop out of high school.

Benchmark 26, which tracks the percentage of **Oregon adults (25+) who have completed**: a. bachelor's degree, b. advanced degree, acknowledges that new and current jobs in the state will continue to require higher average skills levels. Also, out-of-state recruitment may be required when Oregonians are not qualified for jobs created in the state.

The **literacy rate**, Benchmark 27, measures the percentage of adult Oregonians with intermediate literacy skills: a. prose, b. document, c. quantitative. Levels of literacy are highly correlated with earnings potential and poverty.



Other educational benchmarks include:

- **Foreign Language** – Benchmark 17: Percent of Oregonians who speak a language in addition to English.
- **3rd grade Skill Levels** – Benchmark 19: Percent of third graders who achieve established skill levels: a. reading, b. math.
- **Certificate of Initial Mastery** – Benchmark 21: Percent of high school students who attain a Certificate of Initial Mastery.
- **GED** – Benchmark 23: Percent of Oregon adults (25+) completing high school or equivalent.
- **Some College** – Benchmark 24: Percent of Oregon adults (25+) who have completed some college.

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- **Professional-technical** – Benchmark 25: Percent of Oregon adults (25+) who have postsecondary professional-technical credentials.
- **Computer Literacy** – Benchmark 28: Percent of adult Oregonians who use a computer or related electronic device to: a. access the Internet, b. create documents/graphics or analyze data.
- **Skills Training** – Benchmark 29: Percent of Oregonians in the labor force who received at least 20 hours of skills training in the past year.