

Hispanics: Education

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Highlights

- ◆ Hispanics make up 18% of all students in public K-12 schools, compared to 12% of all Idahoans. They accounted for 42% of enrollment growth in the last five years.^{a,b}
- ◆ Average scores on K-12 standardized tests are lower among Hispanic students than among non-Hispanics.^{a,c}
- ◆ Students in Idaho's English Learner Program make up 5% of public K-12 enrollment. Roughly 80% of these students speak Spanish as their primary language.^a
- ◆ While the number of Hispanics in postsecondary institutions has tripled in the last ten years, the percentage of Hispanic students enrolling in postsecondary education within a year of high school graduation remains lower than among non-Hispanics.^{d,e}
- ◆ In the last five years, ten K-12 districts and four postsecondary institutions had increases in Hispanic enrollment at the same time they had decreases in non-Hispanic enrollment.^{a,d}

K-12 enrollment

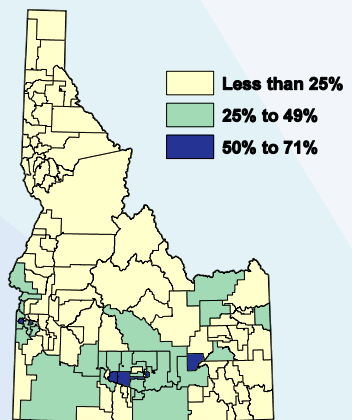
Hispanic students make up 18% of the 292,000 students enrolled in Idaho's public K-12 schools. These 51,000 students are overwhelmingly concentrated in southern Idaho. In 2015-16:

- ◆ Five districts in the Boise metro area accounted for 36% of all Hispanic students: Nampa (5,118); Caldwell (3,804); West Ada (3,651); Boise Independent (3,162); and Vallivue (2,975).
- ◆ Districts with at least 50% Hispanic students are located in both rural and urban areas. They include: Wilder (71%); Caldwell (61%); Aberdeen (61%); Wendell (60%); Heritage Community Charter (52%); and Jerome Joint (51%).^a

Idaho's K-12 enrollment grew by 14,860 students in the last five years.

- ◆ Hispanics accounted for 42% of all K-12 enrollment growth.
- ◆ Hispanic enrollment growth outpaced non-Hispanic growth: 14% growth among Hispanics, compared to 4% among non-Hispanics.
- ◆ Ten school districts would have lost enrollment if not for Hispanic growth: Blaine County; Caldwell; Cassia County Joint; Fruitland; Idaho Falls; Jerome Joint; Minidoka County Joint; North Valley Academy; Pocatello; and Wendell.^a

Hispanic K-12 Enrollment
2015-2016



SOURCE: Idaho Department of Education

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English Learner and Migrant Education Programs

Students are eligible for the English Learner (EL) Program^f if they meet three criteria: they have a home language other than English; they do not show proficiency on an English language test; and their parents do not waive EL services. In the 2014-15 school year, 13,260 Idaho students participated in EL. These students made up about 5% of total K-12 enrollment, and 80% spoke Spanish. Districts with the largest percentage of EL-participating students included American Falls Joint (27%), Shoshone Joint (24%), and Wendell (21%). All three of these districts also had a high percentage of Hispanic students.^a

In April 2016, Idaho's Migrant Education Program (MEP) served 3,585 migrant students. MEP is a federally-funded, supplemental program for the children of migratory agricultural workers. Most MEP students are Hispanic (96%), 21% are under age five and not yet in kindergarten, and 50% are in grades K-6.^a

For both of these programs, we present data in this report for the number of children receiving services. The number of children who are eligible is higher, but not known.

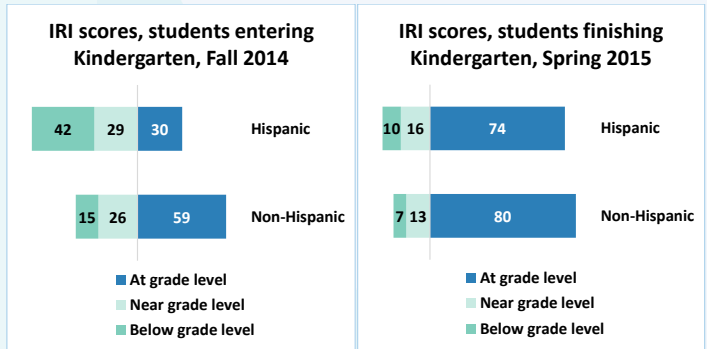
K-12 achievement

The **Idaho Reading Indicator (IRI)** measures whether students' reading skills are at, near, or below grade level. The test is administered to K-3 students in the fall and spring. At each grade level, the percentage of Hispanic students reading at grade level is lower than the percentage of non-Hispanic students.

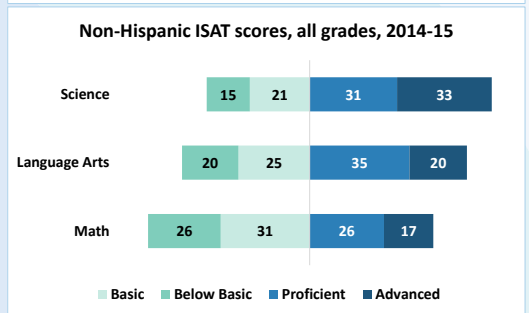
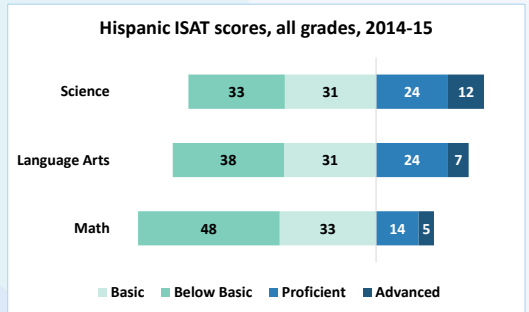
In the 2014-15 school year, the percentage of students with reading skills at grade level increased from fall to spring in all grades, among both Hispanics and non-Hispanics. The increase between fall and spring scores was most dramatic among Hispanic kindergarteners. In fall 2014, 30% of Hispanic kindergarteners had reading skills at grade level, compared to 74% in the spring. For non-Hispanic kindergarteners, 59% had reading skills at grade level in the fall, compared to 80% in the spring.^c

The **Idaho Standards Achievement Test (ISAT)** measures proficiency in science, language arts, and math in grades 3-10. In 2014-15:

- ◆ Hispanic students were less likely than non-Hispanics to have proficient or advanced scores on the three ISAT tests;
- ◆ Both Hispanic and non-Hispanic students performed best in science and language arts; and
- ◆ Nearly half of all Hispanic students had below basic scores in math, compared to one-fourth among non-Hispanic students.^a



SOURCE: Idaho Department of Education



SOURCE: Idaho Department of Education

High school graduation and beyond

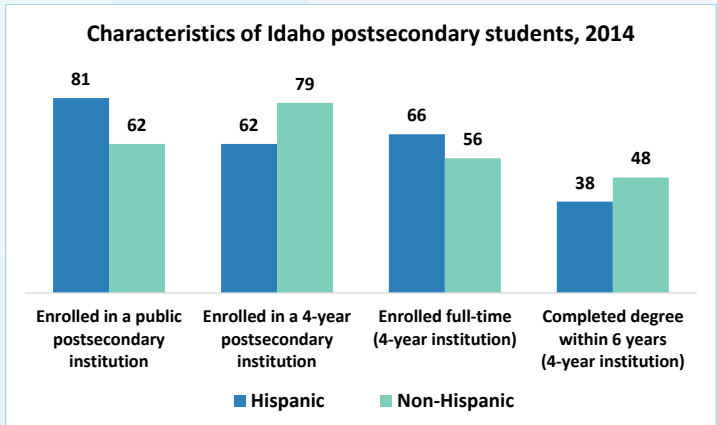
Idaho's Hispanic students are less likely to graduate from high school and go on to postsecondary education. In the 2013-14 school year, the high school graduation rate^g among Idaho Hispanics was 70%, compared to 79% among non-Hispanics.^h The college-going rate among Hispanic high school graduates was 46% for females and 39% for males, compared to 60% for females and 43% for males among non-Hispanics.^e

Just as the Hispanic high school graduation rate is increasing nationally, so is the percentage of Hispanic high school graduates going on to postsecondary education, including apprenticeship, certificate, and college programs. In a national poll of young adults, 66% of Hispanics and 39% of non-Hispanic whites who did not enroll in college directly after high school said they didn't go because they needed to work to support their family.ⁱ In Idaho:

- ◆ Hispanic enrollment in postsecondary education tripled in the last ten years, from roughly 3,100 in 2004 to 9,400 in 2014. By comparison, enrollment among non-Hispanics increased by 50%.
- ◆ Hispanics made up 8% of the state's 120,700 postsecondary students in 2014, up from 4% in 2004.
- ◆ At four of Idaho's public, postsecondary institutions, Hispanic enrollment increased between 2009 and 2014 while non-Hispanic enrollment decreased: University of Idaho; Idaho State University; College of Southern Idaho; and Eastern Idaho Technical College.^d

Idaho's Hispanic postsecondary students differ from non-Hispanics in several ways. In 2014, Hispanic students were:

- ◆ more likely to attend one of the state's public institutions;
- ◆ less likely to attend a four-year institution;
- ◆ more likely to attend school full-time; and
- ◆ less likely to complete a Bachelor's degree within 6 years.^d



SOURCE: National Center for Education Statistics

Adult educational attainment

On average, Idaho's Hispanic adults have lower educational attainment levels than their non-Hispanic peers. In Idaho in 2014, Hispanic adults were more likely to have less than a 9th-grade education (25%, compared to 2%); less likely to have a high school diploma (58%, compared to 93%); and less likely to have a Bachelor's degree or higher (8%, compared to 27%).^b

Education levels are higher among native-born Hispanics than among those who are foreign-born. For example, 45% of foreign-born Hispanics have less than a 9th-grade education, compared to 10% of native-born Hispanics.^j

Educational attainment among Idaho's Hispanic adults has increased since 2009, when a third (33%) of Idaho's Hispanic adults had not completed the 9th grade.^b

Educational attainment	Hispanic				Non-Hispanic (2014)
	Total Hispanic (2009)	Total Hispanic (2014)	Native born (2011-2013)	Foreign born (2011-2013)	
<i>Percent of population age 25+</i>					
Did not finish 9th grade	33	25	10	45	2
High school graduate	52	58	78	37	93
Bachelor's degree or higher	7	8	14	5	27

SOURCE: US Census Bureau

Selected education indicators	IDAHO		
	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic	Total
ENROLLMENT			
K-12 public school enrollment ^a			
2015-2016 school year (#)	51,308	240,323	291,631
2010-2011 school year (#)	45,084	231,687	276,771
Change, 2010-2011 to 2015-2016 (%)	14	4	5
Postsecondary enrollment, Fall 2014 ^d			
Total enrollment, all institutions (#)	9,384	111,330	120,714
Public, 4-year and above (% of enrollment)	47	42	43
Public, less than 4-year (% of enrollment)	34	20	21
Private, 4-year and above (% of enrollment)	15	36	35
Private, less than 4-year (% of enrollment)	4	2	2
Change in postsecondary enrollment, Fall 2004 to Fall 2014 ^d			
Total change in enrollment, all institutions (#)	6,297	37,144	43,441
Public, 4-year and above (% of change)	39	2	8
Public, less than 4-year (% of change)	42	27	29
Private, 4-year and above (% of change)	15	67	61
Private, less than 4-year (% of change)	4	2	2
ACHIEVEMENT			
Idaho Reading Indicator ^c			
Kindergarteners scoring at grade level (%), Fall 2014	30	59	54
Kindergarteners scoring at grade level (%), Spring 2015	74	80	79
ATTAINMENT			
Total population aged 25 and older (#), 2014 ^b	93,318	951,875	1,045,193
Less than a 9th grade education (%)	25	2	4
Graduated from high school, including GED or alternative (%)	58	93	90
Graduated from college, bachelor's degree or higher (%)	8	27	25
High school graduation rate (%), 2013-14 school year ^h	70	79	77

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HISPANIC: An ethnicity that refers to those who identify themselves as “Spanish,” of “Hispanic origin,” or “Latino.” Hispanics may be of any race.

SOURCES:

- a—Idaho Department of Education, public records request.
- b—U.S. Census Bureau, 2009 and 2014 American Community Survey, Single-year estimates, Tables B15002, B150021.
- c—Idaho Department of Education, Idaho Reading Indicator, Public Reports.
- d—National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Data Center.
- e—Idaho State Board of Education, June 2015 presentation to the University of Idaho Latino Advisory Council.
- f—Formerly known as the Limited English Proficiency Program.
- g—This is a four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate, in accordance with 34 C.F.R. 200.19(b).
- h—Idaho Department of Education, Report Card 2013-2014.
- i—Pew Research Center, “5 facts about Latinos and education.”
- j—U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2013 American Community Survey, 3-year estimates, retrieved via DataFerrett.

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