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TO: Members of the State Board of Education
FROM: Lillian M. Lowery, Ed.D. *Lillian M. Lowery*
DATE: January 28, 2014
SUBJECT: Education Week's Quality Counts 2014

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this agenda item is to provide information about *Education Week's Quality Counts 2014*.

BACKGROUND:

Education Week, a national education newspaper, annually produces and publishes *Quality Counts*. According to the Education Week Research Center, this report has the tradition of "tracking key education indicators and grading the states on their performance and outcomes."

Historically, *Quality Counts* graded states in six critical categories, produced a composite score for each state, and ranked states based on that score. In 2014, however, *Education Week* only updated the three performance categories and integrated those with policy data from previous years. As a result, *Quality Counts 2014* does not contain state composite scores or an overall state ranking. The 2014 report does assign new grades in the three performance indicators and ranks states in each category.

SUMMARY:

The Updated Grades:

- **K-12 Achievement – Maryland received a B grade (second in the nation).** Maryland improved from third to second in the rankings. This category includes National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) scores and an analysis of achievement gaps.
- **Chance for Success (Updated for 2014) – Maryland received a B grade (eighth in the nation).** Maryland received a B+ grade in 2013, ranking sixth. This category includes such factors as parental education, family income, student performance, and graduation rates.
- **School Finance – Maryland received a B grade (eighth in the nation).** This is the same grade – and the same ranking – Maryland received last year. This category is based on school funding and equity in finance.

The Grades that Were Not Updated:

- **Transitions and Alignment – Maryland was among eight States with an A grade in 2013.** This category includes early childhood education, college readiness policies, and workforce policies.
- **Standards, Assessments, and Accountability– Maryland received a B+ grade (2012 data).** Maryland has a long history of high standards and detailed statewide accountability programs.
- **The Teaching Profession – Maryland ranked third in the nation with a B grade (third in the nation, 2012 data).** Maryland has long been working to improve the quality of its education workforce, a process that continues through the Teacher Principal Evaluation program.

ACTION:

For information only. No action required.

Attachment

QUALITY COUNTS 2014

Published by Education Week Research Center

Quality Counts - history

- 18th annual *Education Week Quality Counts* report
- Designed to assess state progress in the areas of performance and policy
- Assigns each state grades in 6 critical categories
- Beginning in 2008, Education Week issued a comprehensive state ranking based on composite scores from the 6 critical categories

Maryland ranked #1

For five years in a row, Maryland was ranked #1 in the nation based on the composite score derived from the following 6 categories:

- Chance for Success
- K-12 Achievement
- School Finance
- Standards, Assessments, Accountability
- Transitions and Alignment
- Teaching Profession

Performance

Policy

Quality Counts transition

Education Week now says,

- *“In effect, much of what Quality Counts was originally designed to monitor has become the educational law-of-the-land across much of the country.”*
- *“The time seems right to step back and reconsider the framework that guides Quality Counts, in light of the constantly evolving federal and state policy contexts.”*

Equity in Achievement, Funding Are Hurdles for States Amid Progress

Education Week - January 2014

2014 *Quality Counts*

In 2014, *Quality Counts* updated the performance categories:

- Chance for Success
- K-12 Achievement
- School Finance

It reported, but did not update, the 2013 data in the policy categories:

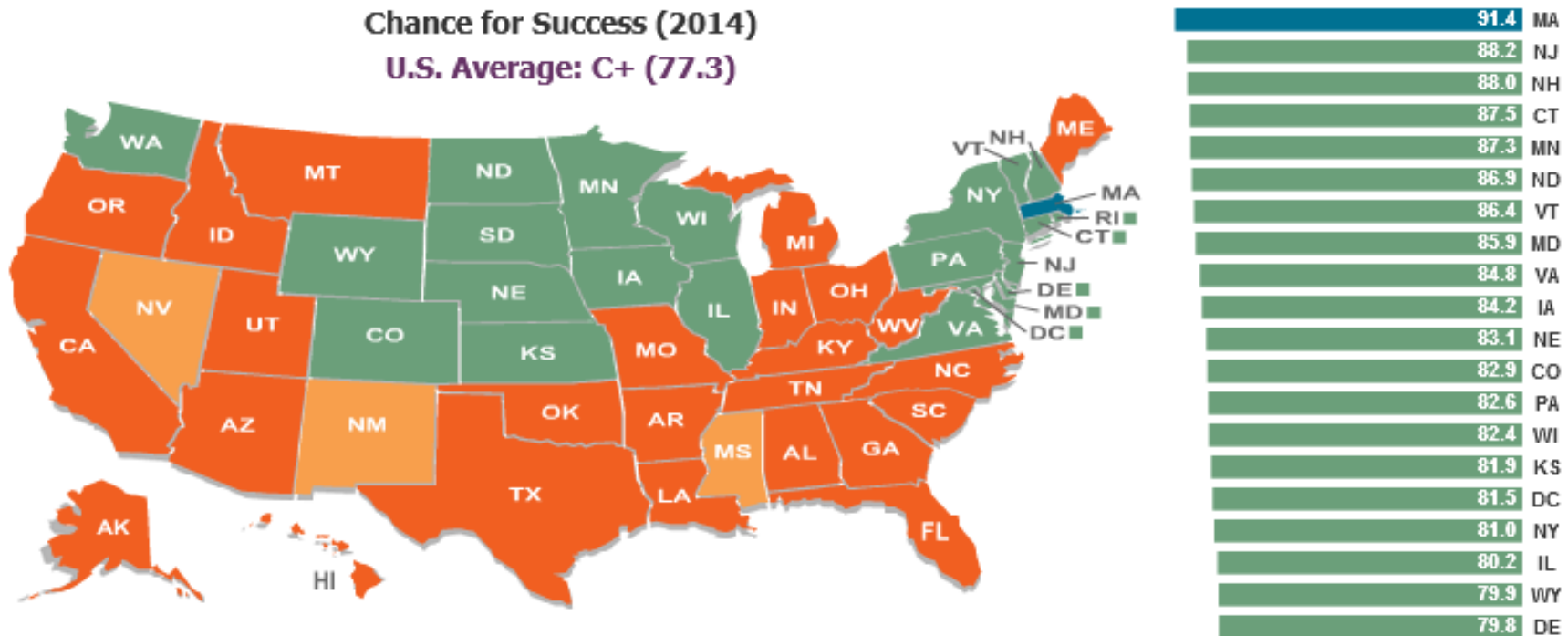
- Standards, Assessments, Accountability
- Transitions and Alignment
- Teaching Profession

Maryland 2014 grades

2014

	2014 Grade	2014 Rank	2013 Rank	U.S. Average
Chance for Success index	B	8	6	C+
K – 12 Achievement	B	2	3	C-
School Finance Analysis	B	8	8	C

Chance for Success – Maryland “B”



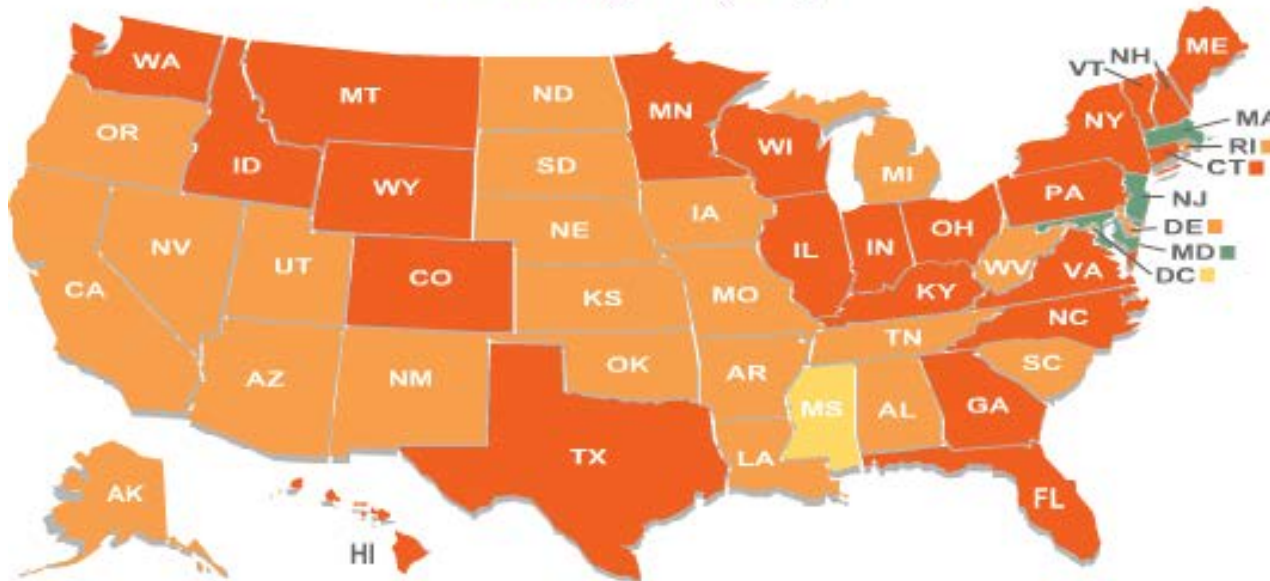
Chance for Success indicators

2014 Chance For Success components

Early Foundations	A (89.7)
School Years	B- (82.2)
Adult Outcomes	B+ (88.1)

K-12 Achievement – Maryland “B”

K-12 Achievement (2014)
U.S. Average: C- (70.2)



83.7	MA
83.1	MD
82.1	NJ
78.8	NH
77.3	VT
76.7	MN
75.8	FL
75.6	PA
74.9	WA
74.2	VA
74.2	CO
72.8	IN
72.6	ME
72.4	CT
72.1	WI
71.3	OH
70.7	GA
70.4	HI
70.3	KY

K-12 Achievement indicators

2014 K – 12 Achievement components

Status

B (83.6)

Change

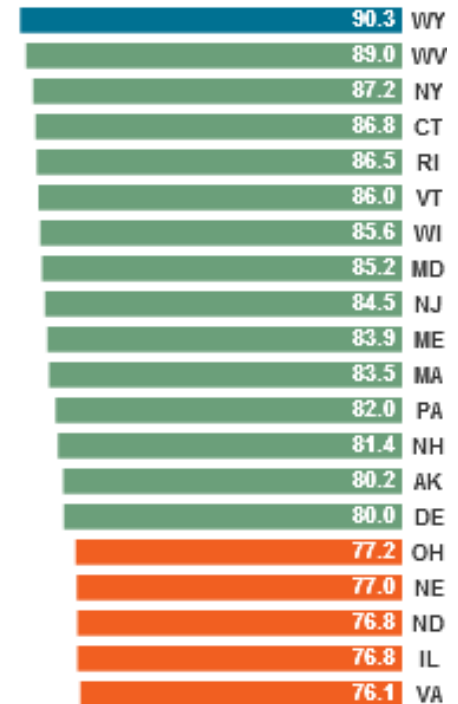
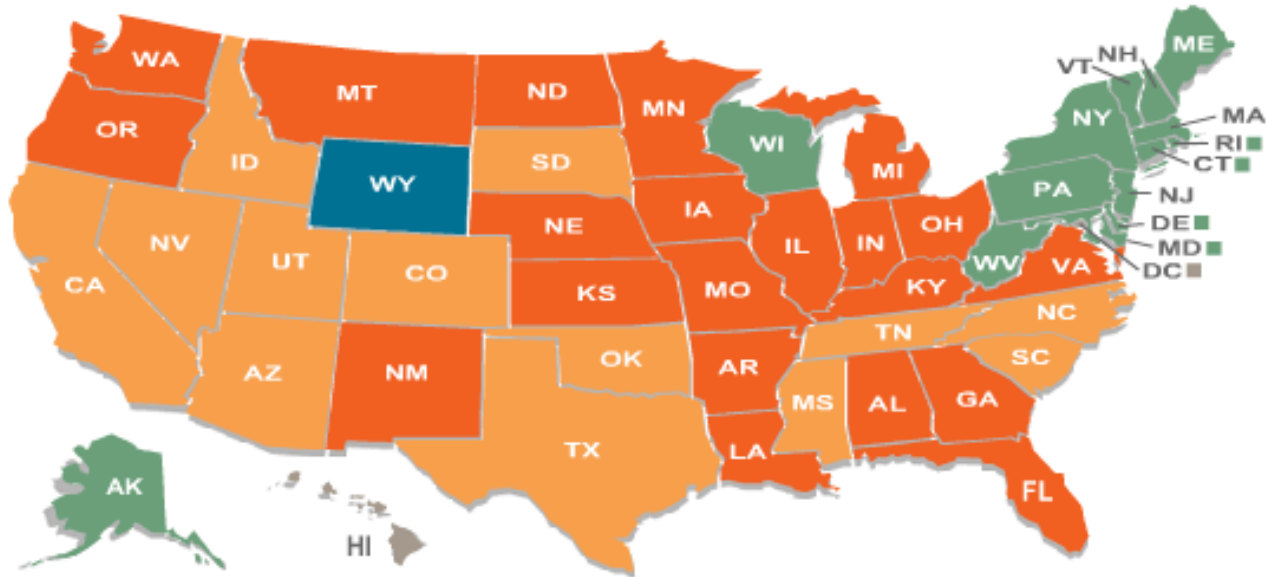
B (81.7)

Equity

B (84.6)

School Finance – Maryland “B+”

School Finance (2014)
U.S. Average: C (75.5)



School Finance Analysis components

2014 School Finance Analysis components

Equity (2011)

Spending (2011)

Components Not Updated in 2014

Not updated in 2014

	2013 Grade	2013 Rank	U.S. Average
Transitions and Alignment	A	2	B-
Standards, Assessments, and Accountability	B+	24	B
Teaching Profession – efforts to improve teaching	B	3	C

Where do they get the data?

- Education Week Research Center directly collects the data for the three 2014 education indicators directly from NAEP, USDE, the U.S. Census Bureau, the College Board, the U.S. Department of Commerce, and original analysis.
- MSDE was not asked to complete state surveys this year, which provided policy information for the three indicators not updated this year.

Conclusion

“Overall findings from Quality Counts show that some states perform consistently well or poorly across the full range of graded categories. [...] ...while broad evaluations of state rankings and performance can be useful, a deeper reading of the results presented in this State Highlights Report will provide a more nuanced perspective on the educational condition of the nation and states.”

Education Week Research Center
January 2014