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Oregon Ranks 28th Overall and 43rd for Education in 2025 KIDS COUNT Data Book as Our Children Oregon Urges Focus on Supporting Children and Families

Data shows that Education indicators are down in Oregon, impacting learning success and child wellbeing, the Annie E. Casey Foundation finds

Portland, Oregon — Oregon maintained a troubling ranking, holding at 43rd in the nation for education, published in the *2025 KIDS COUNT Data Book*, a national report of recent data developed by the Annie E. Casey Foundation that analyzes how kids are faring in post-pandemic America. Indicators worsened for “4th Graders Below Proficient Reading Level,” and “8th Graders Below Proficient Math Level,” contributing to the stagnant ranking. The data shows that Oregon leaders must do more to expand access to early learning programs, address systemic inequities in education funding, and ensure every child—regardless of zip code—has the opportunity to succeed in school and beyond.

At the same time, while Oregon gained ground moving up from 12th to 8th in the nation for children’s physical health, but child and teen mortality alarmingly rose with a death rate increase of 35% between 2019 and 2023, underscoring the need for expanded access to pediatric mental health care, youth crisis response, and safer, more resourced communities.

“While high school graduation rates are increasing (81%), proficiency in 4th grade reading and 8th grade math is at an all-time low (27% and 24% proficient, respectively). Since it is difficult to catch up in reading and math proficiency in later years, this suggests that many Oregon students are being sent out into the workforce underprepared for success in adulthood. The future of Oregon depends on building

upon the momentum we already have in supporting youth to reverse this trajectory so all students are set up to thrive throughout childhood and into adulthood,” said Jenna Marie, Data and Research Manager at Our Children Oregon.

Each year, the *Data Book* presents national and state data from 16 indicators in four domains — economic well being, education, health, and family and community factors — and ranks the states according to how children are faring overall.

In its 36th year of publication, the *KIDS COUNT® Data Book* provides reliable statewide numbers to help leaders see where progress is being made, where greater support is needed and which strategies are making a difference. Our Children Oregon encourages lawmakers and officials in Oregon to use this detailed information to unite across party lines and respond with initiatives that invest in young people. By offering a local road map, the *Data Book* equips policymakers, advocates and communities with the information they need to make decisions that help kids and young people thrive.

“As a statewide organization that champions equitable policies and opportunities for every child by leveraging data and research, we have seen firsthand the critical need for legislators to support evidence-based children's policies in order to lay the foundation for stronger families, safer communities, and a more prosperous economy,” said Ali King, Our Children Oregon’s Director of Policy and Advocacy.

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RELEASE INFORMATION

The 2025 *KIDS COUNT Data Book* will be available at www.aecf.org/databook. Additional information is available at www.aecf.org/databook. Journalists interested in creating maps, graphs and rankings in stories about the *Data Book* can use the KIDS COUNT Data Center at datacenter.aecf.org.

ABOUT THE ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION

The Annie E. Casey Foundation creates a brighter future for the nation’s young people by developing solutions to strengthen families, build paths to economic opportunity and transform struggling communities into safer and healthier places to live, work and grow. For more information, visit www.aecf.org. KIDS COUNT is a registered trademark of the Annie E. Casey Foundation.