01/08/2024







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NAEP Comparisons

National Assessment of Educational Progress

- 2001 KILGORE DECISION: "Arkansas' fourth and eighth grade students do not rank at or above the national average for proficiency in math, reading, science or writing as measured by the Southern Regional Education Board's State Analysis of the National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) test scores."
- NOW: Arkansas's 4th and 8th grade students have made some progress on the NAEP assessments since the 2001 Kilgore decision. However, the most recent scores in both math and reading fall below the peak that was set in previous years for each test. The impact of COVID-19 both in Arkansas and nationwide also is evident.



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College-Going Rates

- 2001 KILGORE DECISION: "For the period 1996 through 1998, the percentage of Arkansas high school graduates attending college is approximately 53%."
- NOW: The most recent data still show that less than half of Arkansas's graduating students go on to postsecondary education while nearly two-thirds of the nation's graduates do.



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High School Graduates

- 2001 KILGORE DECISION: "Arkansas ranks lower than the national average for percentage of adults ages 25 years and older who have graduated from high school."
- NOW: While Arkansas still ranks below the national average, it has increased the percentage of adults who have graduated from high school and narrowed the gap to only .7 percentage points below the national rate.







4-Year College Graduates

- 2001 KILGORE DECISION: "Arkansas ranks 49th in the nation in percentage of the population age 25 years or older with a bachelor's degree or higher."
- NOW: According to the latest data from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey, in 2021, Arkansas ranked 49th out of the 50 states and the District of Columbia for the percentage of adults 25 and older with bachelor's degrees at 25.3%, compared to the national average of 35%, despite Arkansas's rate of residents holding bachelor's degrees increasing by 3.3 percentage points from the previous year and narrowing the gap with the national rate to the smallest ever since 2005 – 7.9 percentage points.



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Median Income

- 2001 KILGORE DECISION: "Arkansas ranks 49th among the states for median household income."
- NOW: According to the latest data from the U.S. Census Bureau (the American Community Survey, a different survey source from the 2000 Census data), in 2021, Arkansas ranked 48th, at \$52,528, ahead of Louisiana, West Virginia and Mississippi.



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Teacher Pay

- 2001 KILGORE DECISION: "Arkansas generally ranks between 48th and 50th in teacher pay."
- NOW: Arkansas's average annual teacher salary increased by more than \$17,000 since 2000, but its ranking in average annual teacher salaries in 2022 was 45th, ahead of Missouri, Louisiana, Florida, West Virginia, South Dakota, and Mississippi.







