As of 2009, more than one-third (35.9%) of 4th graders in Michigan public schools scored below basic on reading proficiency and 22.0% scored below basic on mathematics proficiency.

What is education?

Educational attainment is the highest grade of school an individual attends and completes. Educational proficiency measures a student’s mastery of skills and understanding. High school dropout rates are defined here as the percentage of students in grades 9 through 12 who dropped out of school in the past year (event dropout rate) or the percentage of 16- to 24-year-olds who are not enrolled and have not yet completed high school (status dropout rate).

How many Michigan residents are affected?

In 2008–2009:

- 3.8% of Michigan public school students in grades 9-12 dropped out of school (event dropout rate) in the preceding year.

As of 2009:

- 12.1% of adults (age 25 and older) in Michigan—about 802,000 persons—had not completed high school, and 43.2% had not attended one or more years of college.
- 3.7% of adults (age 25 and older) in Michigan had less than a 9th grade education.
- More than one-quarter (28.0%) of 8th graders scored below basic on reading proficiency in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP).
- Almost one-third (32.2%) of 8th graders scored below basic on mathematics proficiency.
In 2008–2009, the public school event dropout rate in Michigan was three times higher among black students than white students (7.9% vs. 2.6% respectively).

**What are the trends?**
Between 1992 and 2009, the percentage of Michigan 4th and 8th grade students who scored below basic in mathematics proficiency assessments decreased by 17.5 and 9.9 percentage points respectively.

**Who is affected?**
**Males:** As of 2008-2009, the event dropout rate in Michigan was higher for males (4.4%) than females (3.2%).

**Seniors:** In 2009, almost one out of four (22.4%) older adults (age 65 and older) in Michigan did not have a high school diploma.

**Minorities:** Among 8th graders evaluated for mathematics proficiency in 2009, average scores in Michigan were 269 and 246, respectively, for Hispanic and black students and 286 for whites.

**The Poor:** In 2007–2008 the event dropout rate was 8.2% among economically disadvantaged students, compared to 5.6% among all Michigan students.

**Sources and Methods**