



The Children's Partnership

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ALABAMA

Youth and Technology Fact Sheet

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A fact sheet for each of the 50 states can be viewed at
<http://www.childrenspartnership.org/TPB/StateFactSheets/>

The New Workforce: Benefits of Being Prepared With Technology Skills

- At present, over half (56%) of employed Americans over age 18 use a computer at work.¹
- Between 2004 and 2014, jobs in the information technology fields are expected to increase by about 30%, for an addition of over 1 million jobs nationally.²
- 46 out of every 1,000 private sector workers in Alabama are employed by high-tech firms (24th highest rate in the nation).³
- Alabama ranks 22nd in the U.S. for overall number of high-tech workers and 33rd for average high-tech wage.⁴
- In Alabama, high-tech industry workers earn an average of \$26,526 more per year than other private sector workers.⁵

How Wide is the Digital Opportunity Gap?

- 77% of households in Alabama earning less than \$15,000 per year do not own a computer compared to 46% of all Alabama's households and 38% of all households nationally.⁶
- 84% of households in Alabama earning less than \$15,000 per year do not use the Internet at home compared to 54% of all Alabama's households and 45% of all households nationally.⁷
- 8% of households in Alabama earning less than \$15,000 per year have broadband compared to 15% of all Alabama's households and 20% of all households nationally.⁸
- Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, Alabama ranks 48th in percentage of households with a computer, 46th in percentage of households with Internet access, and 39th in percentage of households with broadband access.⁹

Are Schools Equipping Today's Youth? Where Alabama Stands

- 30% of 4th graders and 45% of 8th graders in Alabama scored below the basic level of math that is expected in their grade (national average is 19% and 30%, respectively).¹⁰
- There are 4.8 students for every Internet-connected computer in Alabama's public schools; in high-poverty schools there are 4.8 students per connected computer (the national average is 3.7 and 3.8, respectively).¹¹
- In 15% of schools in Alabama, the majority of teachers (at least half) are "beginners" when it comes to using technology (the national average is 15%).¹²
- Alabama is among the 34 states that has education technology standards by grade level.¹³

Alabama's Young People Most in Need

- Of the 1.1 million children in Alabama, 263,000, or 24%, are living in poverty.¹⁴ Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, Alabama ranks 3rd in percentage of children living in poverty.¹⁵
- 36% of Alabama's children live with parents who do not have full-time, year-round employment (the national average is 34%).¹⁶
- 10% of teens in Alabama do not attend school and do not work (the national average is 8%).¹⁷
- Alabama residents aged 20-24 have an unemployment rate of 7.6% (the state unemployment rate for all ages is 4.1%).¹⁸

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¹ U.S. Department of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration, *Computer Use and Internet Use in the United States: 2003*, Issued October 2005, Viewed March 5, 2008: 23-208 (www.census.gov/prod/2005pubs/p23-208.pdf).

² Jay Vesgo, *BLS Current and Projected IT Employment Figures by Detailed Occupation*, Computing Research Association, Revised January 13, 2006, Viewed March 10, 2008 (<http://www.cra.org/wp/index.php?p=71>).

³ U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Covered Employment and Wages as reported in American Electronics Association, *Cyberstates 2007: A State-by-State Overview of the High-Technology Industry*. State rankings associated with footnotes #3-4 are based on data that includes Puerto Rico and Washington, DC, along with the fifty states. A ranking of #1 represents the best state; a ranking of #52 represents the worst. (Not available online)

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid. Calculation by The Children's Partnership.

⁶ U.S. Census Bureau, *Current Population Survey: Computer and Internet Use 2003*, special tabulation by the U.S. Department of Commerce. Calculation by The Children's Partnership. (2003 represents the most recent data available.)

⁷ Ibid. Calculation by The Children's Partnership.

⁸ Ibid. Calculation by The Children's Partnership.

⁹ Ibid. Rankings calculated by The Children's Partnership. A ranking of #1 represents the best state; a ranking of #51 represents the worst.

¹⁰ U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), *2007 Mathematics Assessment*, as reported by The Annie E. Casey Foundation, Profiles by State, March 11, 2008 (<http://www.kidscount.org/sld/profile.jsp>).

¹¹ Market Data Retrieval, "2005-06 Public School Technology Survey," and unpublished tabulations from MDR's Public School Technology Survey (2005), as reported in Education Week, *Technology Counts 2007: A Digital Decade*. This figure includes only computers that are available for student instruction. High-poverty schools refer to schools in which more than half the students are eligible for the federal free or reduced-price lunch program. March 6, 2008: 3 (http://www.edweek.org/media/ew/tc/2007/AL_STR2007.pdf).

¹² *Education Counts Custom Table Builder*. Education Week, August 23, 2007 (<http://www.edweek.org/rc/2007/06/07/edcounts.html>).

¹³ The Children's Partnership, review of the Department of Education Web sites for the 50 states, conducted December 2007.

¹⁴ U.S. Census Bureau, *Current Population Survey 2005 Annual Social and Economic Supplement*, Revised November 2, 2006, Viewed March 5, 2008 (http://pubdb3.census.gov/macro/032005/pov/new46_100125_03.htm).

¹⁵ Ibid. Rankings calculated by The Children's Partnership. A ranking of #1 represents the worst state (highest percentage of children living in poverty); a ranking of #51 represents the best (lowest percentage of children living in poverty).

¹⁶ Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, *2007 Kids Count Data Book*, as reported by The Annie E. Casey Foundation, February 29, 2008: 51 (http://www.aecf.org/upload/PublicationFiles/databook_2007.pdf).

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics and U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey: Local Area Unemployment Statistics, *Preliminary 2006 Data on Employment Status by State and Demographic Group*, March 5, 2008: 3-53 (<http://www.bls.gov/lau/ptable14full2006.pdf>).