

Empowering Parents with Data

Ensuring Parents Have Data to Make Informed Choices



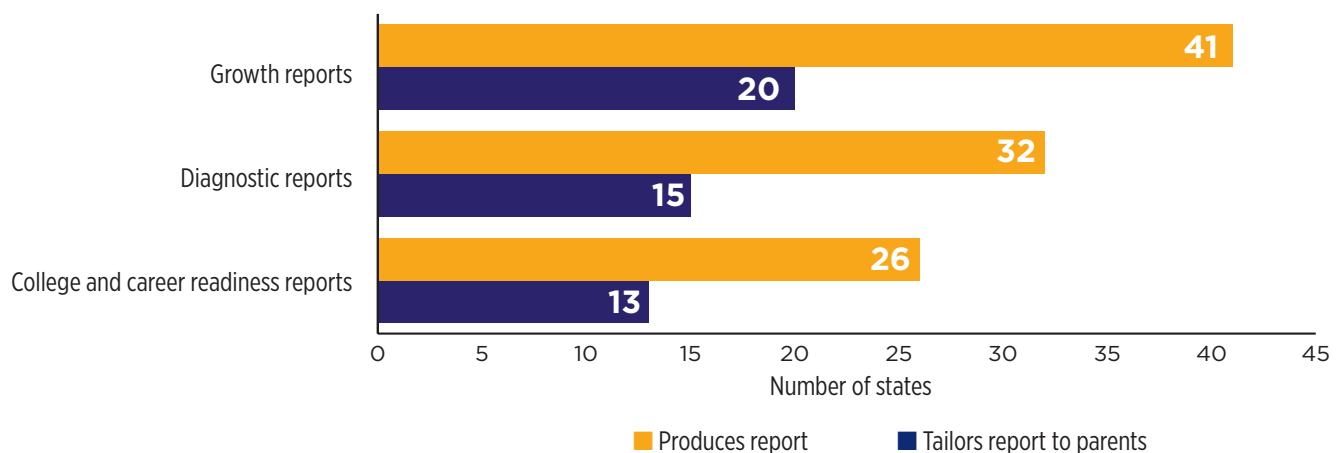
Why do parents need data?

Accessible, tailored, and easy-to-understand data can help parents answer questions about their children's education such as, "Is my child on track to graduate college and career ready?" and "How does my child's school compare to other schools so that I can make the best choice about my child's education?" Information about their own children's progress in school over time helps parents establish expectations, have meaningful conversations with their children's teachers, and take action to support their children's success.

Publicly reported information about their children's current school and other schools helps parents understand the quality of the schools in their communities.

While schools and districts provide information to parents about their own children's progress, states also have a role in ensuring that parents have access to user-friendly data about their children's academic performance. States have access to limited but critical student data collected by schools, and states can use their resources, including technical expertise and financial support, to produce student progress reports to help parents make informed decisions about their children's education. States can also support districts in their efforts to provide parents with information about their children's academic achievement.

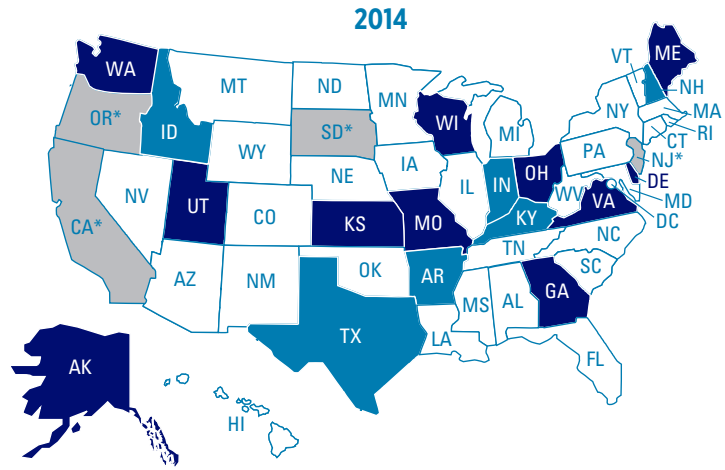
According to *Data for Action 2014*,* most states create student progress reports providing information that educators, parents, and students can use to improve student achievement. Few states tailor these reports to meet parents' needs.



*The Data Quality Campaign's *Data for Action* is a series of analyses that highlight state progress and key priorities to promote the effective use of data to improve student achievement. For more information, and to view *Data for Action 2014*, please visit www.dataqualitycampaign.org.

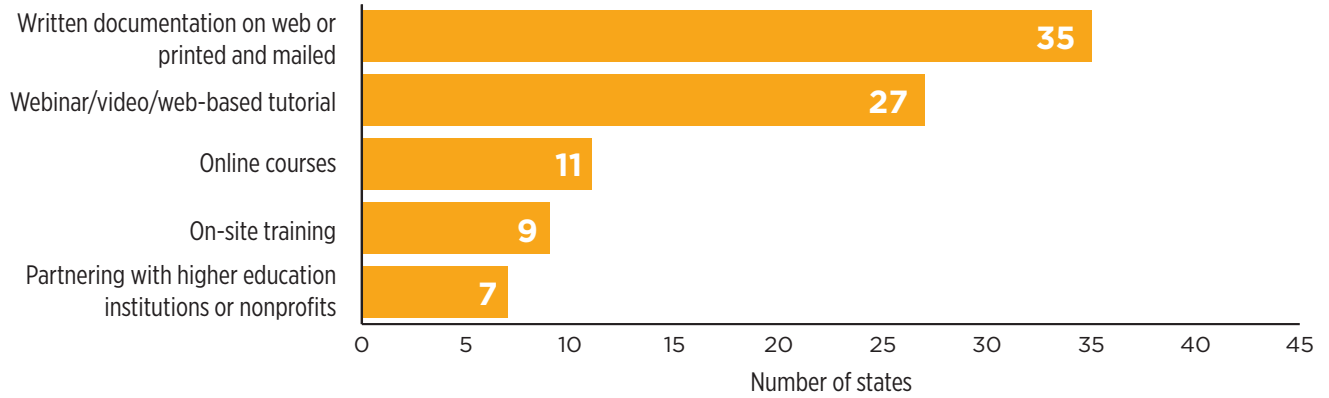
In 17 states, parents have access to their own children’s data that follow their progress over time, primarily through local, secure portals or websites.

- Parent access through secure state website or portal
- Parent access through secure local website or portal



*California, New Jersey, Oregon, and South Dakota did not participate in the *Data for Action 2014* survey.

States can provide information and training for parents on how to use and interpret data. By helping families know how to access and use data appropriately, parents can feel comfortable using data to inform the important education decisions they make for their children.



District Spotlight: Metro Nashville Public Schools

Metro Nashville Public Schools (MNPS) is engaging in innovative practices across the district to help educators and families use data to improve outcomes for students. For example, parents participate in data chats—evening events to learn how to access and interpret their children’s education data and how they can help at home. MNPS educators talk with parents about their students’ data to help them understand what the data mean. The chats also provide an opportunity for educators to learn more about where parents see their child is struggling in school. MNPS educators report that parents appreciate the data chats because the chats empower them to be better partners with the school in their children’s education.

To learn about empowering parents with data, read *Talking about the Facts of Education Data with Parents*, *What Every Parent Should Be Asking about Education Data*, and *Don’t Make Decisions in the Dark: Parents*.