Economic Vitality and Education in the South (EVES)
The South’s Pre-Pandemic Position
Alabama, 2019

Poverty and Food Insecurity

Children eligible for free or reduced price lunch
55%

People living in poverty

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children Under 18</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children Under 5</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Children living in food insecure households
14%

Median Household Income

On average, people of color were paid less than White people.

- Black: $35,774
- Hispanic: $42,113
- White: $59,966

Childcare and Early Childhood Education

Children under 6 with all caretakers in the workforce
66%

Families who lived in childcare deserts
60%

Four-year-olds enrolled in a public ECE program in 2020
41%

Annual childcare expenses should cost just 7%* of a family's income, but infant care for one child cost

- 17% of the average Black household's income
- 14% of the average Hispanic household's income
- 10% of the average White household's income

If infant care cost 7% of the region's median income, just 27 of every 100 families could afford it.

Performance on NAEP*

Below the Proficient Level in 4th Grade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low-Income</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Below the Proficient Level in 8th Grade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low-Income</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*National Assessment of Educational Progress
### Economic Vitality and Education in the South (EVES)

**The South’s Pre-Pandemic Position**

**Alabama, 2019**

#### Attainment and the Workforce

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
<th>White</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adults 25+ with a high school diploma or less</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults 25+ with a Bachelor’s degree or more</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults 25-64 facing unemployment</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adults 25-64 with higher attainment have a higher employment-to-population ratio — they are more likely to be in the labor force.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educational Attainment</th>
<th>No high school credential</th>
<th>High school or equivalent</th>
<th>Some college or associate degree</th>
<th>Bachelor’s degree or higher</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adults 25+ with lower attainment earn less.</td>
<td>$22,395</td>
<td>$30,845</td>
<td>$35,107</td>
<td>$50,643</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults 25+ living in poverty</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 2017-2018 School Discipline

**Students who were suspended, by race:**

- **in-school suspension:**
  - Black: 12%
  - Hispanic: 4%
  - White: 6%

- **out-of-school suspension:**
  - Black: 15%
  - Hispanic: 3%
  - White: 4%

**School enrollments in the school year:**

- 33% were Black
- 8% were Hispanic
- 55% were White

Of those who were referred to law enforcement,

- 48% were Black
- 5% were Hispanic
- 44% were White

Of the students who had a school-related arrest,

- 60% were Black
- 4% were Hispanic
- 33% were White

---

The SEF Region includes AL, AR, DE, FL, GA, KY, LA, MD, MS, MO, NC, OK, SC, TN, TX, VA, WV

©Southern Education Foundation, 2022

southerneducation.org