### Poverty and Food Insecurity

- **Children eligible for free or reduced price lunch:** 59%
- **People living in poverty:**
  - Children Under 18: 19%
  - Children Under 5: 22%
  - Black: 21%
  - Hispanic: 25%
  - White: 11%
- **Children living in food insecure households:** 13%

### Median Household Income

- Black: $40,768
- Hispanic: $46,126
- White: $60,678

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

### Childcare and Early Childhood Education

- **Children under 6 with all caretakers in the workforce:** 65%
- **Families who lived in childcare deserts:** 48%
- **Four-year-olds enrolled in a public ECE program in 2020:** 27%

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

- 21% of the average Black household's income
- 19% of the average Hispanic household's income
- 14% of the average White household's income

If infant care cost 7% of the region's median income, just 14 of every 100 families could afford it.

*according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

### Performance on NAEP*

#### Below the Proficient Level in 4th Grade

- **Reading**
  - Black: 83%
  - Hispanic: 79%
  - White: 58%
  - Low-Income: 82%

- **Math**
  - Black: 77%
  - Hispanic: 81%
  - White: 52%
  - Low-Income: 78%

#### Below the Proficient Level in 8th Grade

- **Reading**
  - Black: 84%
  - Hispanic: 78%
  - White: 62%
  - Low-Income: 83%

- **Math**
  - Black: 88%
  - Hispanic: 81%
  - White: 62%
  - Low-Income: 85%

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

The South’s Pre-Pandemic Position
Tennessee, 2019

Attainment and the Workforce

Adults 25+ with a high school diploma or less
- Black: 46%
- Hispanic: 63%
- White: 42%

Adults 25+ with a Bachelor’s degree or more
- Black: 22%
- Hispanic: 19%
- White: 30%

Adults 25-64 facing unemployment
- Black: 7.4%
- Hispanic: 4.5%
- White: 3.9%

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

- No high school credential: 48%
- High school or equivalent: 67%
- Some college or associate degree: 75%
- Bachelor’s degree or higher: 84%

Adults 25+ with lower attainment earn less.

- No high school credential: $25,365
- High school or equivalent: $30,596
- Some college or associate degree: $35,518
- Bachelor’s degree: $50,633
- Graduate or professional degree: $62,832

Adults 25+ living in poverty

- No high school credential: 27%
- High school or equivalent: 14%
- Some college or associate degree: 10%
- Bachelor’s degree or higher: 4%

Adults 25-64 facing unemployment

- No high school credential: 7.4%
- High school or equivalent: 4.7%
- Some college or associate degree: 3.8%
- Bachelor’s degree or higher: 2.2%

2017-2018 School Discipline

Students who were suspended, by race:

- In-school suspension:
  - Black: 13%
  - Hispanic: 6%
  - White: 6%

- Out-of-school suspension:
  - Black: 17%
  - Hispanic: 4%
  - White: 3%

School enrollments in the school year:

- 21% were Black
- 10% were Hispanic
- 63% were White

Of those who were referred to law enforcement,

- 22% were Black
- 6% were Hispanic
- 68% were White

Of the students who had a school-related arrest,

- 31% were Black
- 7% were Hispanic
- 58% were White

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

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