


TALENT 2025 INDICATORS: Adult Workforce Development

POPULATION WITH AN ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE OR HIGHER

TABLE 1:
Percent of the population with an Associates Degree or greater

2007	2010	TREND
31.5%	32.1%	

KEY:










-  **IMPROVING** – Statistically significant increase when comparing to 2007 and 2010
-  **NO CHANGE** – No statistically significant change when comparing 2007 and 2010
-  **DECLINING** – Statistically significant decrease when comparing to 2007 and 2010

TABLE 2:
Percent of the population comparison to US, Michigan and highest performing county in West Michigan

COMPARISON GROUPS	2010 TEST YEAR	COMPARED TO BENCHMARK
West Michigan	32.1%	
US	35.6%	
Michigan	33.2%	
Kent County	38.4%	

KEY:

-  **BETTER** – Newaygo County is performing statistically better
-  **NO DIFFERENCE** – No statistically significant difference between Newaygo County and benchmark
-  **WORSE** – Newaygo County is performing statistically worse when compared to benchmark

What is the indicator?

The percentage of the population between the ages of 25 to 64 that have earned at least an Associate's degree or higher.

What does it tell us?

A skilled workforce is an indicator of the presence of industries that require talented individuals as well as a measure of a region's ability to not only educate, but also attract skilled workers. Areas with higher proportions of college-educated citizens is in itself a good indication of how successful the area or region is in creating and retaining good jobs.

What's the significance?

Approximately one third of the West Michigan population has at least an associate's degree. Since 2007, that trend has remained stable as the proportion of the population in West Michigan with an associate's degree or higher was unchanged between 2007 and 2010. Compared to national and state benchmarks, the proportion of the population with at least an associate's degree was significantly lower than the United States (35.6%) and the state of Michigan (33.2%). Kent County is the region's leader where nearly 40% of the population has at least an associate's degree.

Next Update: 2013

Geography: West Michigan TALENT 2025 (excluding Lake County)

TALENT 2025 INDICATORS: K-12 Education

PERCENT OF THIRD GRADERS PROFICIENT IN MATH

TABLE 1:

Third Grade Math Proficiency: 2007 to 2010 Trend

2007	2010	TREND
37.4%	36.7%	=

KEY:









-  **IMPROVING** – Statistically significant increase when comparing to 2007 and 2010
-  **NO CHANGE** – No statistically significant change when comparing 2007 and 2010
-  **DECLINING** – Statistically significant decrease when comparing to 2007 and 2010

TABLE 2:

Third Grade Math Proficiency: 2010 Comparison to Michigan and the highest performing county in West Michigan

COMPARISON GROUPS	2010 TEST YEAR	COMPARED TO BENCHMARK
West Michigan	36.7%	
Michigan	34.9%	
Allegan County	45.1%	

KEY:

-  **BETTER** – Newaygo County is performing statistically better
-  **NO DIFFERENCE** – No statistically significant difference between Newaygo County and benchmark
-  **WORSE** – Newaygo County is performing statistically worse when compared to benchmark

What is the indicator?

The proportion of 3rd grade students taking the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) determined to be proficient in math. Scores for state assessments are reported in ranges called performance levels: advanced, proficient, partially proficient, and not proficient. The indicator represents the proportion of students earning either an advanced or a proficient score on the test. These scores represent the new cut scores adopted by the State Board of Education in 2011.

What does it tell us?

Mathematical competence is essential, not only for our knowledge based economy, but for everyday life. Students who demonstrate competency in mathematics are more likely to attend and complete college.¹ Essential math skills and competencies are also related with higher earnings and employability.²

What's the significance?

Slightly more than a third of West Michigan 3rd graders are proficient in math. In 2007, 37.4 percent of 3rd graders were proficient in math, while 36.7 percent were proficient in 2010. The difference between the proportion of proficient students in 2007 and 2010 was not significant. In 2010, the proportion of West Michigan of 3rd graders rated as proficient in math was significantly higher than the state of Michigan as a whole. In 2010, only 34.9 percent of third graders in the entire state of Michigan were proficient in math as compared to 36.7 percent in West Michigan. Within the West Michigan area, Allegan County had the highest proportion of 3rd grade students rated as proficient in math at 45.1 percent in 2010.

Next Update: 2012

Geography: West Michigan TALENT 2025 Region

¹Attawell, P., & Domina, T. (2008). Raising the bar: Curricular intensity and academic performance. *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*, Vol. 30, No. 1, 51-71

²Tyler, J. H. (2004). Basic skills and the earnings of dropouts. *Economics of Education Review* Volume 23, Issue 3, June 2004, Pages 221-235.