

The Opportunity Washington Scorecard scores each state on 16 variables across three categories:

Achieve (eight measures of education quality and outcomes), **Connect** (three measures of transportation efficiency and reliability) and **Employ** (five measures of economic vitality).

The data sets used to develop the Scorecard were selected because they are updated regularly; provide a reliable, 50-state comparison; and address the issues that communities across Washington have told us are most important to expanding opportunity and shared prosperity.

To normalize scoring across the data sets, the median score is set at 75 for each variable and the score of the 10th best state is set at 100. The analysis then produces a weighted average or “Opportunity Score” for each state. The three categories receive the following weights: Achieve, 40%; Connect, 20%; and Employ, 40%. Our goal is to make Washington a top 10 state overall and in each category.

ACHIEVE

SOURCE

4th grade reading performance

National Assessment for Educational Progress

8th grade math performance

National Assessment for Educational Progress

High school graduation rate

U.S. Department of Education

Postsecondary degree production
(Associate’s, bachelor’s, STEM bachelor’s, master’s
and doctoral degrees awarded per capita)

National Center for Education Statistics

CONNECT

Average statewide commute time

American Community Survey

Road conditions

Federal Highway Administration

Bridge conditions

Federal Highway Administration

EMPLOY

2015 State Business Tax Climate Index

Tax Foundation

Business taxes as a percent of private sector GSP

Council on State Taxation

Private sector R&D investment

National Science Foundation

Entrepreneurial activity

Kauffman Index

Unemployment insurance tax

U.S. Department of Labor, Employment & Training Administration

Growth entrepreneurship

Kauffman Index

What is the Opportunity Washington Scorecard?

The Opportunity Washington Scorecard is a data-driven analysis of state performance in three categories that communities across Washington state have said are most important to expanding a culture of opportunity and shared prosperity. The categories measured include:

ACHIEVE: a measure of education quality and outcomes.

CONNECT: a measure of transportation system reliability and efficiency.

EMPLOY: a measure of economic vitality.

The Opportunity Washington Scorecard measures state performance in each of the three categories – using independent data across 16 variables – and combines those measures to create an overall opportunity score.

What is the purpose of the Opportunity Washington Scorecard?

The Opportunity Washington Scorecard provides a data-driven assessment of Washington’s performance as compared to other states on priority issues. Our goal is to make Washington a top 10 state overall and in each category.

How are the state rankings and opportunity scores calculated?

Fifty-state data is gathered from independent sources measuring 16 variables across the three categories (eight Achieve variables, three Connect variables, and five Employ variables). The score of the 10th best state is set at 100 and the median is 75. From there, the analysis produces a weighted average or “opportunity score” for each state. Achieve and Employ data each make up 40 percent of the opportunity score; Connect makes up 20 percent.

What do the Opportunity Washington Scorecard dials tell me?

The dials depict where Washington stands compared to the 50 states. The dials are set so that the score of the 10th best state is 100, and the median is 75. Our goal is to make Washington a top 10 state, scoring 100 or better.

Who develops the Opportunity Washington Scorecard?

WashACE – a statewide coalition led by the Association of Washington Business, Washington Research Council and Washington Roundtable – developed the Opportunity Washington Scorecard as a means for measuring progress against priorities detailed in [Opportunity Washington: Priorities for Shared Prosperity](#), a roadmap for Washington released in January 2015. A [broad range of partners](#) have signed on in support.

How often will the Scorecard be updated?

The fall 2015 release of the Opportunity Washington Scorecard sets the baseline. The Scorecard will be updated regularly with new data and insight into practices and policies that we believe will lead to improved performance and rankings for Washington state.

How do I get updates?

On our web site at www.opportunitywa.org. You can also track the effort by reading our blog, following us on [Facebook](#) and Twitter [@opportunitywa](#), or [signing up](#) for our email updates.