Improving Child Well-Being in New Mexico

Family and Community

INDICATOR: Children in Families where Household Head Lacks High School Diploma*

2016 indicator ranking

47th

Percent of children in families where household head lacks high school diploma

18%

Number of children in families where household head lacks high school diploma

89,300

Trends in children in families where household head lacks high school diploma

WHAT IT WOULD TAKE TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES**

To move up 1+ rankings to 46th

It would take a 3% drop in children in this situation

Which means 2,300 fewer children in this situation

To move up 5+ rankings to 39th

It would take a 19% drop in children in this situation

Which means 17,300 fewer children in this situation

To move up to the top ranking 1st

It would take a 75% drop in children in this situation

Which means 67,300 fewer children in this situation

WHAT NEW MEXICO CAN DO

• Expand access to high school equivalency programs, adult basic education, post-secondary education, and job training through a career pathways approach.
• Provide need-based financial assistance these programs for low-income and low-skilled adults.
• Expand funding and access for English as a second language classes.
• Fund alternative high schools and evidence-based drop-out prevention and recovery programs that combine education, job training, and youth development.
• Expand access to education-oriented youth employment and career exploration programs including paid summer jobs and internships, on-the-job training, career technical education, etc.

*Children (ages 0-17) in families where the household head lacks a high school diploma.
**Ranking improvement estimates are based on point-in-time data reported in 2016; changes in other states’ outcomes can also influence New Mexico’s future rankings.
Sources: Rankings from: KIDS COUNT Data Book, Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2016 (because states can tie in indicator rankings it may take more than 1 or 5 rankings in order to move up); Data from: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2008-2014