



ACE State Summary – Montana

March 2019

Key Academic Findings

- **A higher rate of ACE scholars are proficient at reading and math** – A considerably higher percentage of ACE third graders (76%) posted a proficiency score in reading on a standardized test compared to their public school peers (all students 51%, FRL students 38%). Similarly, a greater proportion of ACE eighth graders (63%) tested at or above proficiency in math, than their public school peers (all students (42%, FRL 30%).
- **Students attain proficiency in two years** – Three-year growth scores shows that ACE students become proficient in reading in slightly more than two years and proficient in math in slightly less.
- **All ACE students graduated** –All ACE students graduated high school compared to 86% of all Montana students and 78% of low-income students.
- **ACE scholars perform as well as or better than public school students on college-entrance exams** – ACE Montana students outperformed Montana students of all income levels in English scale scores on the ACT. In math, reading, and science, these students performed within point of Montana students.
- **ACE schools report higher college matriculation rates than the state of Montana** – Nearly all students at ACE-affiliated schools went to a college or university (99.6%) – 45 points higher than the Montana college matriculation rate.

Key Findings from Parents

- **Academics and safety are driving factors for choice** – Most ACE parents choose private schools due to the better academics (89.6%), the safer environment (84.7%), and the faith-based curriculum (75.7%).
- **ACE households are poorer** -- Compared to Montana household with school-aged children, ACE children are growing up in homes that earn 61% of other households. ACE annual median income is \$38,552 while the median income for Montana household with school-aged children is \$63,214.
- **Parents are satisfied with their chosen schools for a variety of reasons.** These include:
 - Better academics (89.6 percent)
 - Safer environment (84.7 percent)
 - Faith-based curriculum (75.7 percent)
 - Better access to teachers (77.1 percent)



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ACE-affiliated Building Findings

- **ACE-affiliated schools have more experienced principals** – on average, a principal at an ACE-affiliated private school has nearly 11 years of experience as a principal, seven of those years at their current school (66.0% of their total experience). Further, their total experience is three years longer than the average Montana principal.
- **ACE-affiliated schools are at 76.3% capacity** – Nearly two thousand (1,974) seats are available for children at ACE-affiliated Montana .