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[Kids Who Attended Preschool Scored Higher Than Peers at Start of Kindergarten](#)

Children who primarily attended preschool, day care or other types of center-based care before kindergarten have higher scores in math and reading than their peers who had no such early care and education arrangements, finds a new AIR report.

[Smoking Among Young Students in the U.S. at an Historic Low](#)

Smoking levels among students are at their lowest since 1980 per a report co-produced by AIR. *America's Children in Brief: Key National Indicators of Well-Being* showed a decline between 1995 and 2015 among eighth graders (9 percent to 1 percent), tenth graders (16 percent to 3 percent) and twelfth graders (22 percent to 6 percent) who reported smoking daily in the last 30 days.

[Creating Coherence in the Teacher-Shortage Policy Debate](#)

Teacher shortages are a concern for decades, but clear-cut data depicting the problem have been hard to come by. For states stepping up efforts to gather teacher supply-and-demand data to assess shortages, AIR's Education Policy Center has developed a guide to help policymakers find common ground for dialogue with stakeholders.

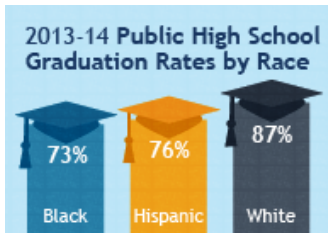
[AIR Publishes New Report on Calif.'s Transitional Kindergarten Program](#)

With transitional kindergarten fully implemented in California, AIR has examined program features in a new report. Transitional kindergarten classrooms that were separated from traditional kindergarten offered more subject variety and developmentally appropriate instruction. About 75 percent of transitional kindergarten classrooms are standalone.



Breaking New Ground on Reading: One Teacher's Experience

A fourth-grade teacher in Kulob, Tajikistan describes how specialized training improved her classroom instruction. This photo essay captures AIR's work with the U.S. Agency for International Development's Quality Reading Project in Tajikistan.



See more stats from this year's [Condition of Education](#) report.



[Patricia Campie](#) talks about what parents, schools, police, gun shop owners and others can do to help prevent gun violence.

Quotable

"Even when scholars communicate broadly about results ... researchers still drive the research agenda with nobody riding shotgun."

— [Julie Kochanek](#) making a case for research-practice partnerships in the [London School of Economics Impact Blog](#).

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