

Website Guide to www.just4kids.org *A resource for every public school*

Just for the Kids provides academic performance data and best practice information to support sound decision-making for schools and districts across the country. Its goal is to support efforts to reach excellence in education – to raise academic expectations and to promote the practices that will help more students reach college and career readiness.

Many of the state-specific resources *Just for the Kids* provides are available to the public through a common website at www.just4kids.org. *Just for the Kids* and its partner organizations across the country initiated the *Communities Just for the Kids* outreach program to make *Just for the Kids* information, tools and services **a resource for every public school**.

Who can use www.just4kids.org?



Educators:

Educators have helped build the information tools and research-based *Best Practices* available at www.just4kids.org. The goal for *Just for the Kids* is to eliminate some of the guesswork in assessing program success at the district, school and classroom level and ultimately, to positively impact student learning. www.just4kids.org gives busy educators a practical and easy-access way to tap into successful teams of educators from across their state and across the nation.

School Partners:

We've seen first hand what a difference support from corporate, community and foundation partners can make in our public schools. Since our founding, we have relied on mentoring and financial contributions from business and community leadership. Our *Just for the Kids* state partners support us partly because our information helps them see the impact they're making and allows them to better manage their public school contributions. Through www.just4kids.org every school partner has access to yearly academic gains and losses, a view of performance trends (including AYP student populations) over multiple years, a portfolio of proven successful practices from *Higher Performing Schools* in a format they can understand, and much more to help make their efforts to improve schools effective.



Helping you help your schools achieve!

Policy Makers:



Those in a position to guide public education policy should have something more to go on than good intentions. They should be given the academic achievement results and research-base of *Best Practices* necessary to make informed choices for our public schoolchildren. *Just for the Kids School Reports* and *Best Practices from Higher Performing Schools* provide just that from a vantage point that allows decisions and action at the district, school, grade and subject levels.

For information about developing statewide data systems and the level of data necessary to support the work of organizations such as *Just for the Kids*, see information at www.dataqualitycampaign.org.

Parents:

For parents of public school kids, knowledge is power. www.just4kids.org gives parents the understanding and therefore the power, to act in their child's best interest – the power to evaluate schools in their district; the power to understand the relative academic success of their school state-wide; the power to bring their school's focus to grade or subject level problems in an un-biased and timely way; the power to understand their student's progress toward college and career readiness; the power to bring *Just for the Kids* data and best practice information to bare on their school's improvement efforts and the power to celebrate their school's academic progress.



Helping you help your schools achieve!

2007

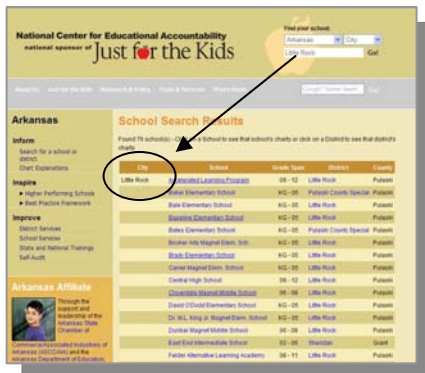
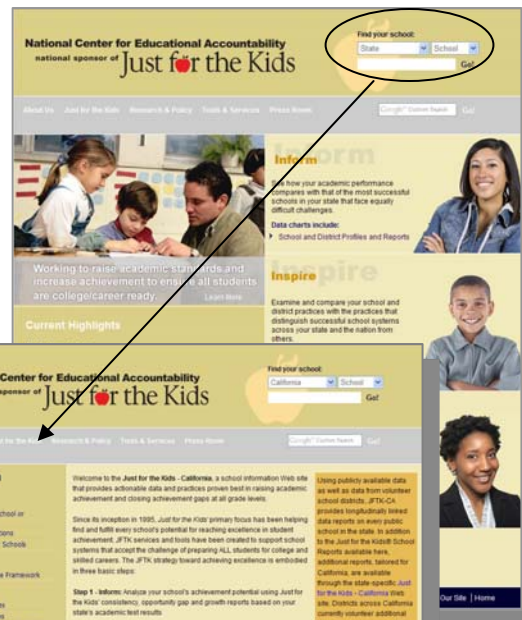
Use www.just4kids.org To Help Answer These Important Questions:

How is **your school** doing academically?

Find out how your school is performing compared to state-wide top performing schools with similar student populations. As a community member who wants to support change in your public school, you must first determine its current level of academic achievement in order to establish a realistic goal for improvement. *Just for the Kids School Reports on www.just4kids.org* provide fair and accurate pictures of your public school performance compared to top performing, demographically comparable schools that are grade level and subject specific and show progress your school is making overall and by student subgroup from one year to the next. All school reports on www.just4kids.org are based on state mandated academic test results. Using views of school performance on www.just4kids.org, community members and school leaders can set their sights on common targets for improvement.

Accessing *Just for the Kids School Reports on www.just4kids.org*:

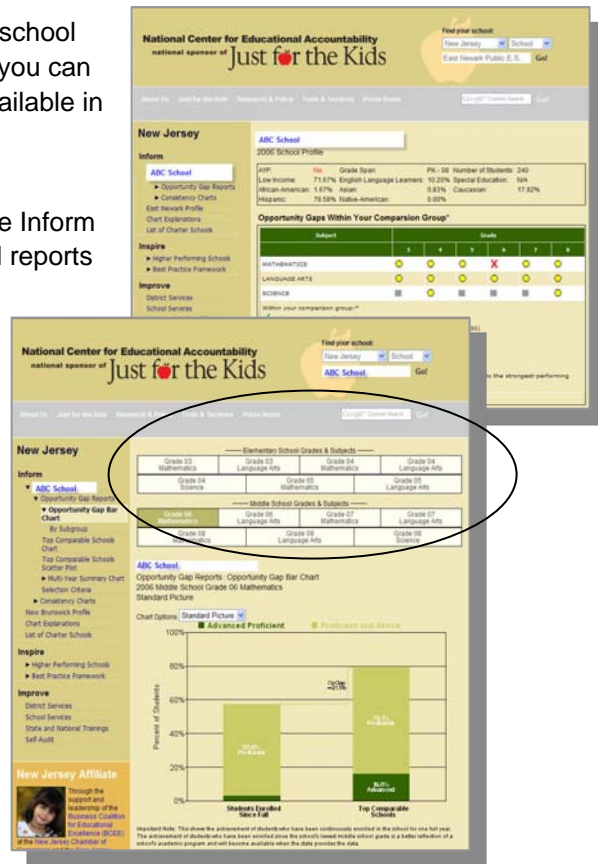
1. Access the Internet through the browser of your choice. Enter www.just4kids.org and click **your state** on the dropdown state selection list at upper right of the national home page. You may further select a school, district, county or city in the same menu.
2. Selecting only **your state** from the national home page takes you directly to your state home page on www.just4kids.org. Overview information about our work and access to school data (**Inform**), best practice information (**Inspire**), and training information (**Improve**) from the left navigation menu will be specific to your state when selected from this page.



3. Selecting a **school name, district, county or city** from the national home page, or your state home page, will return a *search results list* of all information in your state satisfying your request. When your search results are returned, click on the name of the school or district you are interested in from the interactive list.

Helping you help your schools achieve!

- Depending on your selection, a district or school interactive **profile** will appear from which you can access results for grades and subjects available in your state.
- Once a grade and subject is selected, the Opportunity Gap report will display and the Inform menu will expand to reveal various school reports available.
- Use the **Grades & Subjects** selection boxes at the top of school report display area to view results in a different grade and subject once you are viewing a school report.
- Click one of the menu choices under the **Inform** section at the left side of your state home page to change the school report type displayed. *JFTK School Reports* include Opportunity Gap Bar Charts, Top Comparable and Multiyear Summary Charts, Consistent Performance Reports and in some states, Growth to College and Career Readiness Reports.



How do **your school** practices compare to *Higher Performing Schools*?

Determine what district, school and classroom practices higher performers are using that your school or district could implement. *Just for the Kids*' state comparable *Best Practice Studies* provide information on how *Higher Performing Schools* are succeeding and begin to equip others with tools for improvement. State study results are published on www.just4kids.org through the *Best Practice Framework*. Using the interactive *Best Practice Framework*, community members and school leadership can begin to benchmark their school educational practices against those of higher performers and find ways to work together to better impact student academic performance.

Accessing Higher Performing School information on www.just4kids.org:

- For overview information about our *Best Practice Studies* and *Framework*, click on *Research and Policy* from the top menu bar found on the home page and select **Best Practices** from the dropdown list of options. Or, simply click on *Best Practices* under the **Inspire** section displayed on the right side of the national home page.

Helping you help your schools achieve!

2. To access specific state level *Best Practice* information, click **your state** on the dropdown state selection list at upper right of the national home page. From your state home page, access your state *Higher Performing Schools* lists or more about *Best Practices* using the **Inspire** menu at the left.

3. If you select the **Higher Performing Schools**, click on a school level (*elementary, middle or high*) to retrieve a list of higher performing schools for your state and details of the methodology used in the JFTK analysis, including specific criteria.

4. If you choose to access the **Best Practice Framework** under Inspire menu, an interactive version of the Framework will appear in the display window. Clicking on any of the squares will pull up a narrative description of what that practice looks like at the district, school or classroom level (depending upon your selection square) and presents page links to sample best practice evidence available for viewing or printing.

5. Other ways to access and view best practice information and sample evidence available under each state's **Inspire** menu include, *Searching for State Evidence*, retrieving individual *State Case Studies*, seeing NCEA's *Executive Summaries* of individual State Comparable Studies and learning more *About the Framework*.

The screenshot displays the National Center for Educational Accountability's 'Just for the Kids' website. The main navigation includes 'About Us', 'Just for the Kids', 'Research & Policy', 'Tools & Services', and 'Press Room'. The 'Michigan' state page is active, showing the 'Best Practice Framework' grid. The grid is organized into four quadrants: 'Recognize, intervene and adjust based on school performance', 'Recognize, intervene or adjust based on teacher and student performance', 'Recognize, intervene or adjust based on student performance', and 'Recognize, intervene or adjust based on student performance'. A callout box titled 'How to Use The Framework:' provides instructions: 1. Understand the structure of The Framework by clicking on 'About the Framework.' 2. Explore the tabular Best Practice by clicking on any cell on the Framework graphic above to learn more about any particular practice. 3. Use the 'Search for Evidence' link to filter for information from a particular state or type of school. 4. Explore various state studies about many of the studied schools for additional information about how schools implemented these practices. Another callout box titled 'Findings, using our online Self-Audit tool, strengths and weaknesses of your' is also visible. A detailed view of a 'Best Practice Framework' for 'Texas' is shown, focusing on 'Curriculum & Academic Goals'. It includes a checklist for action plans and a 'Sample Evidence' section with questions like 'Did the school report and support?' and 'Did the school select action?'. The footer of the website includes '2007' and '281 878 0970'.

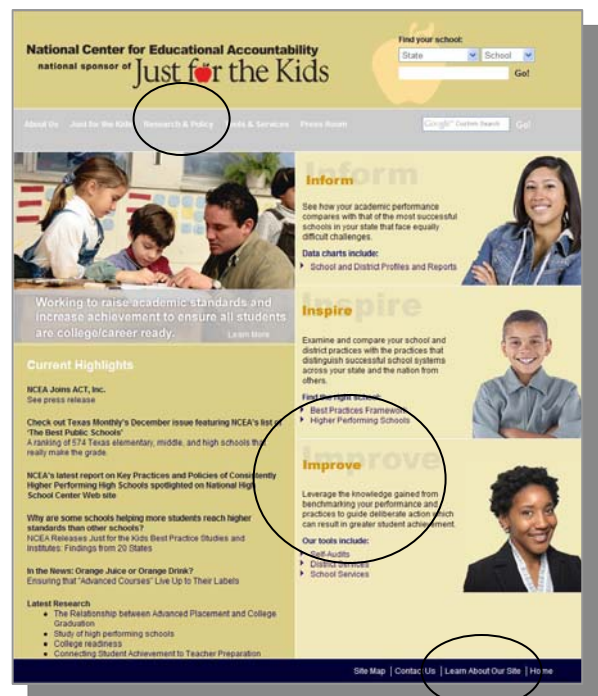
Helping you help your schools achieve!

How can you apply *Just4kids.org* to **your school** improvement efforts?

Develop and support targeted strategies to improve achievement based on knowledge gained from *Just for the Kids School Reports* and *Best Practices from Higher Performing Schools* on www.just4kids.org. The goal for providing school information and tools found on www.just4kids.org is to allow for benchmarking against the achievement levels and best practices of higher performers in a way that will benefit schools in need of improvement. But unless they are applied to real school improvement efforts, that goal will not be realized. Members of each school community are in a position to help us fulfill our goal by sharing JFTK resources and incorporating them into their ongoing school improvement efforts, in whatever way suits them best.

Accessing community uses and information about Just for the Kids School and District Services on www.just4kids.org:

1. To see the latest research information related to important issues in education, such as College and Career Readiness, access **Research & Policy** from the top menu bar on the www.just4kids.org national home page.
2. If you are interested in helping your school leverage the knowledge gained from benchmarking performance and practices to guide deliberate action in support of greater student achievement, access the **Improve** section of www.just4kids.org from the right side of the home page. Improve tools and service links provide information about the availability of state and national *JFTK Trainings, District* and *School Services*.
3. To gain a better understanding about how to access and use tools and information found on www.just4kids.org, click on **Learn About Our Site** at the bottom menu on the national home page. There you can access tools by audience type (including Communities Just for the Kids information guides), *FAQs, Glossary* of terms, *Chart Explanations* and a *Site Map*.



Contact Us

For more information about the tools and services on www.just4kids.org, or if you or your organization has valuable feedback on how you're using the resources found there, logon to www.just4kids.org and refer to the *Contact Us* section.

Helping you help your schools achieve!