

# The American School System

A Beginner's Guide



# Early Education

Preschool age range between 3 and 5



Elementary school typically begins at age 5 or 6, beginning with Kindergarten



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<https://www.parents.com/preschool-age-when-are-kids-ready-to-start-7486687>

# Age Ranges

Age	School
< 5	nursery school / preschool
5-11	elementary school
11-14	middle school / junior high school
14-18	high school / senior high school

Source <https://www.ego4u.com/en/read-on/countries/usa/school>

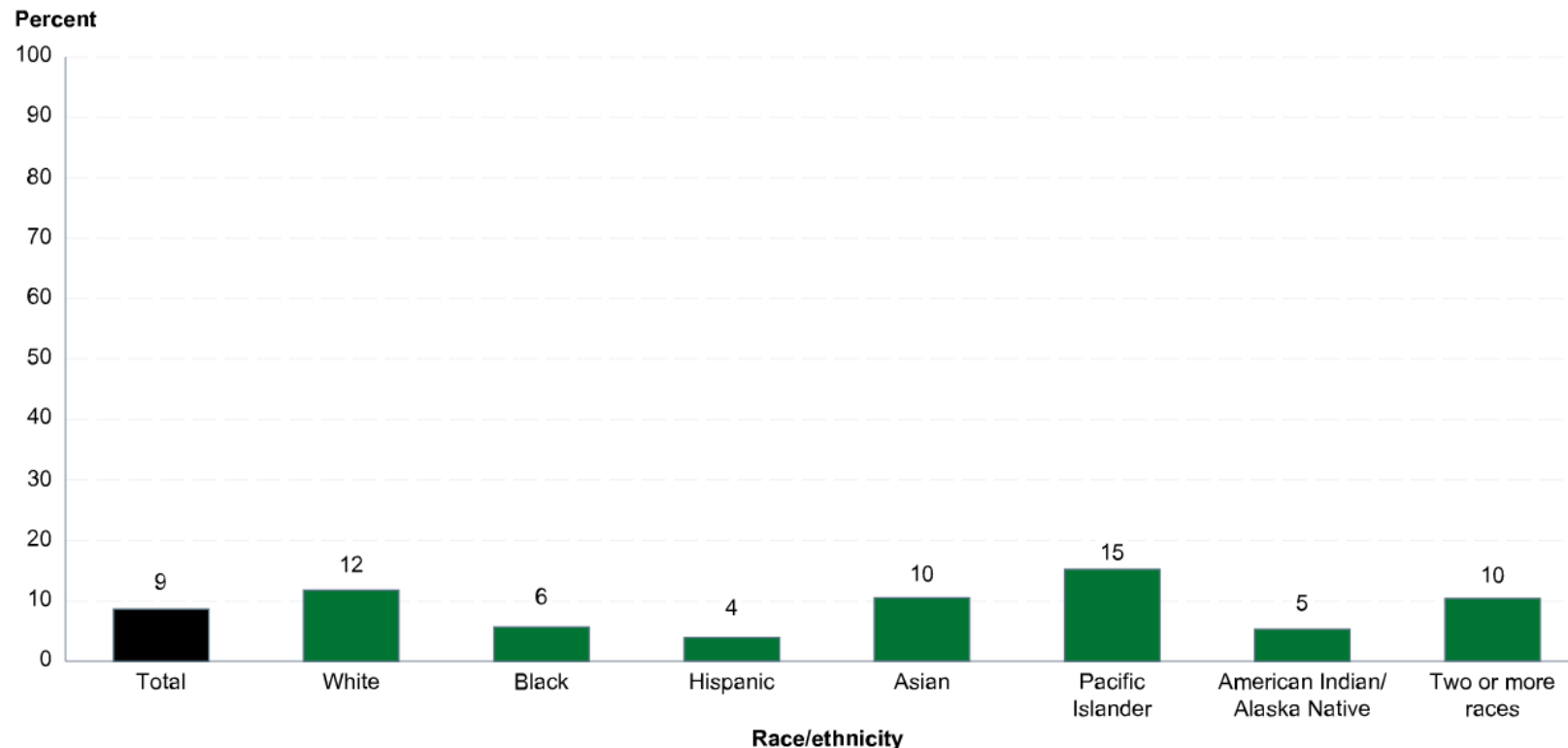
# Elementary School, Junior High, & High School

- Elementary school= K-5th grade.
  - Focuses on essential reading, writing, and math skills;
  - avg. 20-30 students per class.
- Junior high school= 6th-8th grade.
- High School=9th-12th grade.
  - Mandatory subjects include history, English, various math and science (biology, physics, chemistry) and physical education (aka Gym) classes.

# Public Vs. Private Schools

- Most US students attend public schools (approx. 91%), which are financed through state and local taxes.
- As of 2019, approx. 9%, according to the National Center for Education Statistics, attended private school. (1-2% homeschool).

*Percentage of kindergarten through grade 12 students enrolled in private schools, by race/ethnicity: Fall 2019*



Source:  
<https://nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/display.asp?id=55>

# Grading System

- A > 90 % (excellent)
- B > 80 % (very good)
- C > 70 % (improvement needed; satisfactory)
- D > 50-60 % (close fail)
- F < 50 % (fail)

# Higher Education

- 1) State College or University, run by state or local government, e.g. Washington State University.
- 2) Private college or university, e.g. Fordham University.
- 3) Community colleges (2-year degrees), e.g. Brookdale Community College.
- 4) Institute of Technology (programs of 4 years or more that specialize in science and technology).
- College admissions (esp. for private institutions) typically require some combination of standardized test – SAT – scores, a certain GPA, a mixture of other extracurricular activities, interests, talents, etc.

# Any questions?



Source: <https://www.istockphoto.com/de/search/2/image-film?phrase=hands+raised+in+classroom>