



# THE EQUALIZER

## How Education Creates Fairness for Children in Canada

UNICEF Report Card 15  
[www.unicef.ca/irc15](http://www.unicef.ca/irc15)

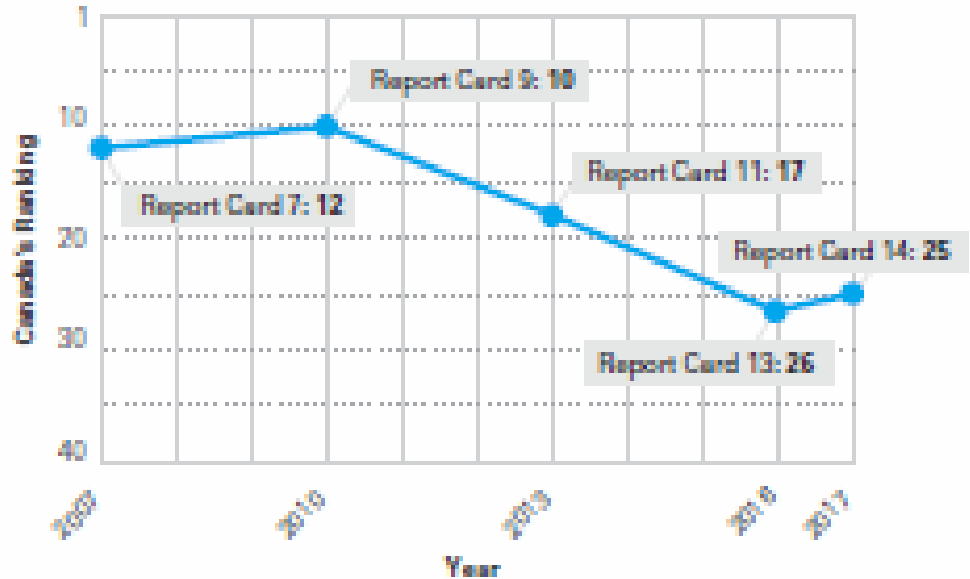


One Challenge. One Canada. One Childhood.

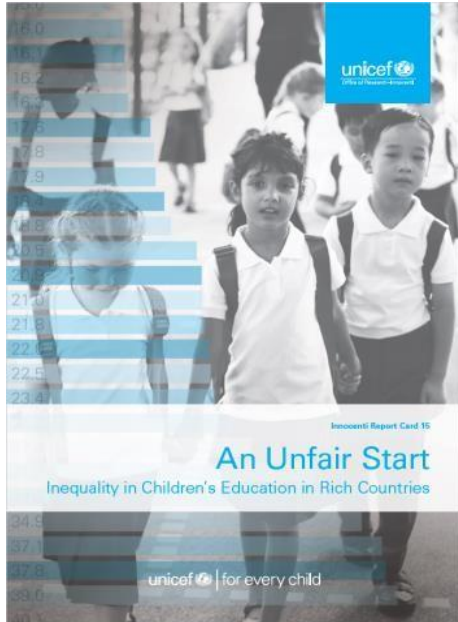
# A generation of UNICEF Report Cards



- Index of Child and Youth Well-being
- Child poverty
- Inequality and opportunity
- Maltreatment
- Health
- Education



# We asked:



- How much educational inequality is there in rich countries?
- Why are there wider educational inequalities in some countries?
- What can help narrow inequalities while supporting high achievement and well-being?

## Canada ranks



out of 38 countries in  
education equality

*Secondary School*  
*Expectations for further education*

*Primary School*

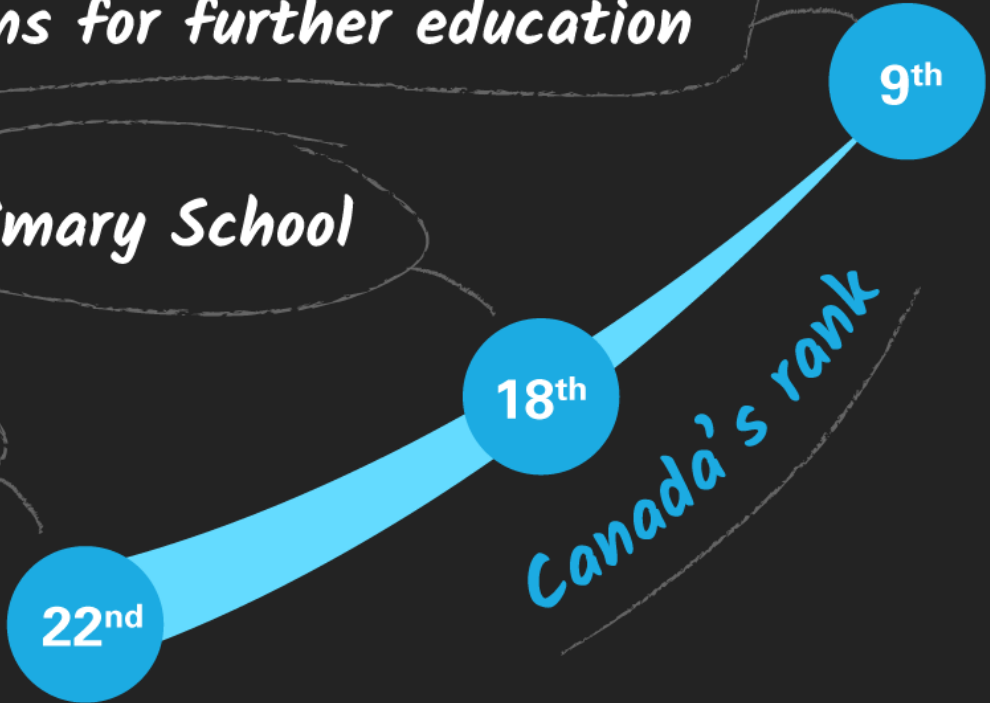
*Preschool*

22<sup>nd</sup>

18<sup>th</sup>

9<sup>th</sup>

*Canada's rank*



*There is a reading gap that widens in favour of girls as children progress through school*



*Many First Nations children, children with disabilities, racialized children and children in care are left behind*



*Migrant children do just as well in reading achievement in secondary school as Canadian-born children*

*Canada's federal,  
provincial and  
territorial governments  
invest in education*



*Public education  
systems distribute  
quality teaching and  
resources across schools*



*Public schools have  
a range of inclusive  
policies and  
programs*



*Students are not  
selectively admitted  
into schools as  
often as in other  
countries*



*Fairness*

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*Greatness*

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***Income Inequality***

+

***School Stratification***

*(How students are pooled between and in schools)*

+

***Shadow Education***

*(Private investment gap in children's education)*

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***Growing threats to educational equality***



## **Reduce**

*income inequality*



## **Guarantee**

*access to high  
quality Early  
Childhood  
Education*



## **Close**

*the gaps between  
children in schools*



## **Establish**

*A reconciliation  
framework to close  
gaps for Indigenous  
children*



## **Expand**

*learning for the future  
- the new basics*



## **Make**

*learning safer and  
healthier*



*If Canada brought to other aspects of child and youth well-being the shared commitment we have to good education, many more children would be healthy, free of violence, and able to reach their full potential*

## *Key areas to improve:*



*Health*

Canada ranks **29<sup>th</sup>**



*Poverty*

Canada ranks **32<sup>nd</sup>**



*Nutrition*

Canada ranks **37<sup>th</sup>**



*Safety*

Canada ranks **37<sup>th</sup>**

See UNICEF Report Card 14 for more on Canada's rankings



CANADA

# U-REPORT: Future expectations



We asked young people what influenced their decisions to go to college or university, and what the barriers were:

- 16% of young people say they can't go because of their grades.
- The biggest barrier that young people (41%) say might stop them from going to college or university is the cost.



CANADA

# U-REPORT: Indigenous education



We asked young people about their knowledge of Indigenous history and culture, and their desire to learn more:

- An overwhelming 91% of young people say they are interested in learning more about Indigenous history and culture.



# U-REPORT: School meal programs



**CANADA**

We asked young people for their thoughts on school meal programs:

- Most young people (64%) say their school doesn't have a meal program.
- A large number of young people (70%) say they think students in their schools would benefit from a school meal program. They would use a school meal program if their school had one.

# Kids of Canada



*“Students may spend countless hours studying and stressing just to “boost” their average a couple of percentage points. I have seen many people, including my close friends, break down and lose hours of sleep, night after night. Too many students have been affected by this for it to be considered a small issue.”*

*Yash, age 17*

# More to do



- If you are 13-24 years old, join **U-Report** and speak out on issues that matter to you and inform decisions that affect you
- Write a blog on your school experience or something you are passionate about for our **Kids of Canada** series
- Sign up for our One Youth **Newsletter** to learn more about what we're up to: [oneyouthcanada.ca](https://oneyouthcanada.ca)
- Sign up to SAY YES at [healthyschoolfood.ca](https://healthyschoolfood.ca) to help every child get a nutritious meal during the school day
- Show support for the *School is a Time for Dreams* campaign for the right to education for First Nations children
- Join the conversation [#unfairstart](https://twitter.com/unfairstart)



# More to know



[www.unicef.ca/irc15](http://www.unicef.ca/irc15)

[www.unicef-irc.org/unfairstart](http://www.unicef-irc.org/unfairstart)

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