

MEASURING UP 2008

THE STATE REPORT CARD
ON HIGHER EDUCATION



What is Measuring Up?

The purpose of a state report card is to provide the general public and policymakers with information they can use to assess and improve postsecondary education in each state. *Measuring Up 2008* is the fifth in a series of biennial report cards.

The report card grades states in six overall performance categories: **Preparation:** How adequately does the state prepare students for education and training beyond high school? **Participation:** Do state residents have sufficient opportunities to enroll in education and training beyond high school? **Affordability:** How affordable is higher education for students and their families? **Completion:** Do students make progress toward and complete their certificates or degrees in a timely manner? **Benefits:** What benefits does the state receive from having a highly educated population? **Learning:** What is known about student learning as a result of education and training beyond high school?

Grades compare the current performance of each state with the best-performing states, but do not compare with past performance. Key indicators (back page) allow states to compare current performance with past performance.



THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR
PUBLIC POLICY AND
HIGHER EDUCATION

Colorado



PREPARATION

A-



2008 Grade Change Over Time

Colorado performs well in preparing its young people for college, but there are large gaps by ethnicity.

- High school students score well on Advanced Placement tests, and Colorado is the top state in student performance on college entrance exams.
- However, only 69% of Hispanics have a high school credential, compared with 92% of whites.

PARTICIPATION

C+



2008 Grade Change Over Time

College opportunities for Colorado residents are only fair.

- The likelihood of enrolling in college by age 19 is fairly low, but a fairly high percentage of working-age adults are enrolled in higher education.
- Nineteen percent of Hispanic young adults are enrolled in college, compared with 41% of whites.

AFFORDABILITY

F



2008 Grade Change Over Time

Higher education has become less affordable for students and their families.

- Poor and working-class families must devote 43% of their income, even after aid, to pay for costs at public four-year colleges.
- Financial aid to low-income students is low. For every dollar in Pell Grant aid to students, the state spends only 41 cents.

COMPLETION

B-



2008 Grade Change Over Time

Colorado performs fairly well—and has improved—in awarding certificates and degrees relative to the number of students enrolled.

- Fifty-three percent of college students complete a bachelor's degree within six years.
- However, only 42% of Hispanics graduate within six years, compared with 56% of whites.

REPORT CARD

Preparation	A-
Participation	C+
Affordability	F
Completion	B-
Benefits	B+
Learning	I

WHAT DO THE ARROWS MEAN?



State has increased or remained stable on the key indicator in the category.



State has declined on the key indicator in the category.

See back page for key indicator by category.

BENEFITS

B+



2008 Grade Change Over Time

A large proportion of residents have a bachelor's degree, but gaps by race and ethnicity persist.

- Twelve percent of Hispanics have a bachelor's degree, compared with 42% of whites—one of the largest gaps in the nation.
- If all racial/ethnic groups had the same educational attainment and earnings as whites, total annual personal income in the state would be about \$10 billion higher.

LEARNING

I

2008 Grade

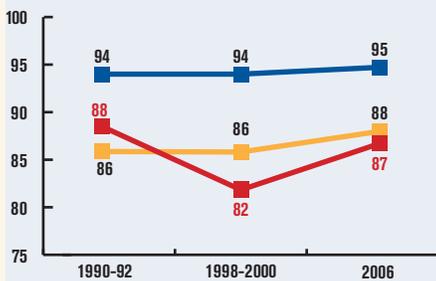
Like all states, Colorado receives an "Incomplete" in Learning because there is not sufficient data to allow meaningful state-by-state comparisons.

This page reflects Colorado's performance and progress since the early 1990s on several key indicators.

PREPARATION

The percentage of young adults in Colorado who earn a high school diploma has decreased somewhat since the early 1990s. High school completion is slightly below the U.S. average and below the top-performing states.

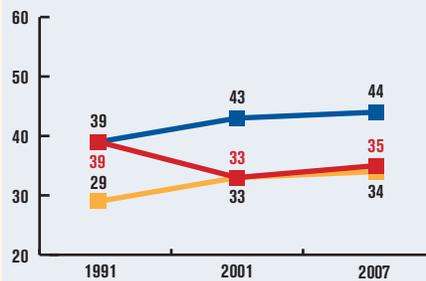
Percentage of 18-24 Year-Olds with a High School Credential*



PARTICIPATION

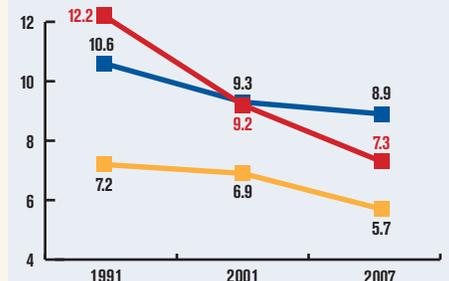
College enrollment of young adults in Colorado has declined since the early 1990s. The state is slightly above the national average but below the top states in the percentage of young adults enrolled.

Percentage of 18-24 Year-Olds Enrolled in College*



The enrollment of working-age adults, relative to the number of residents without a bachelor's degree, has declined substantially in Colorado—as it has nationally and in the best-performing states. The percentage attending college in Colorado is higher than the U.S. average but below the top states.

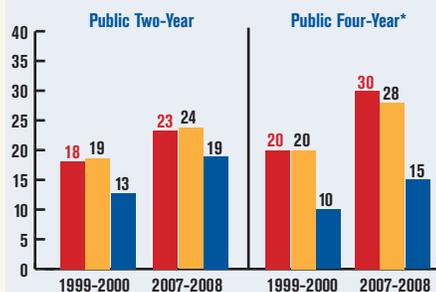
Percentage of 25-49 Year-Olds Without a Bachelor's Degree Enrolled in College



AFFORDABILITY

The share of family income, even after financial aid, needed to pay for college has risen substantially. To attend public two-year colleges, students and families in Colorado pay close to the national average, which is more than those in the best-performing states pay. To attend public four-year colleges, they pay more than the U.S. average.

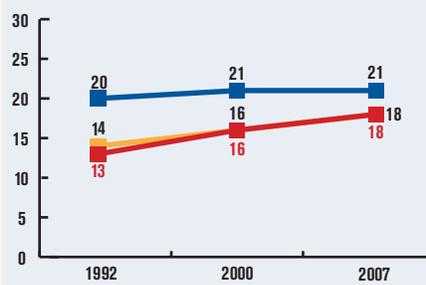
Percentage of Income Needed to Pay for Public Two- and Four-Year Colleges



COMPLETION

The number of undergraduate credentials and degrees awarded in Colorado, relative to the number of students enrolled, has increased since the early 1990s. Colorado performs at the U.S. average but is below the top states on this measure.

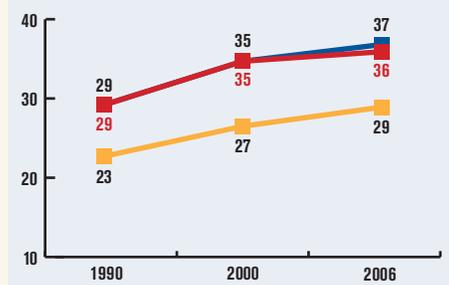
All Degree Completions per 100 Students*



BENEFITS

The percentage of residents who have a bachelor's degree has increased. Colorado is well above the U.S. average but slightly below the top states.

Percentage of 25-64 Year-Olds with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher*



*Key indicator for the category.

LEGEND:

- & ■ = Colorado
- & ■ = United States
- & ■ = Median of Top Five States



152 North Third Street, Suite 705
 San Jose, California 95112
Telephone: 408.271.2699
Fax: 408.271.2697
center@highereducation.org
www.highereducation.org