

# 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

# Delaware



## PREPARATION

C+



**2008 Grade** *Change Over Time*  
Delaware's fairly low performance in educating its young population could limit the state's access to a competitive workforce and weaken its economy.

- Eighth graders perform fairly poorly in math, science, reading, and writing.
- Only 83% of blacks have a high school credential, compared with 90% of whites.

## PARTICIPATION

C-



**2008 Grade** *Change Over Time*  
College opportunities for Delaware residents are fairly poor.

- The likelihood of enrolling in college by age 19 is only fair, and a very low percentage of working-age adults are enrolled in higher education.
- Forty-one percent of black young adults are enrolled in college, compared with 49% 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 56% 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 49 cents.

## COMPLETION

B



**2008 Grade** *Change Over Time*  
Delaware performs well in awarding certificates and degrees relative to the number of students enrolled, but there are large gaps by ethnicity.

- Sixty-six percent of college students complete a bachelor's degree within six years—a top performance compared with other states.
- However, only 41% percent of blacks graduate within six years, compared with 73% of whites—one of the largest gaps in the nation.

## REPORT CARD

Preparation	C+
Participation	C-
Affordability	F
Completion	B
Benefits	C+
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

C+



**2008 Grade** *Change Over Time*  
Only a fair proportion of residents have a bachelor's degree, and this weakens the state economy.

- Twenty-three percent of blacks have a bachelor's degree, compared with 33% of whites.
- If all racial/ethnic groups had the same educational attainment and earnings as whites, total annual personal income in the state would be about \$1 billion higher.

## LEARNING

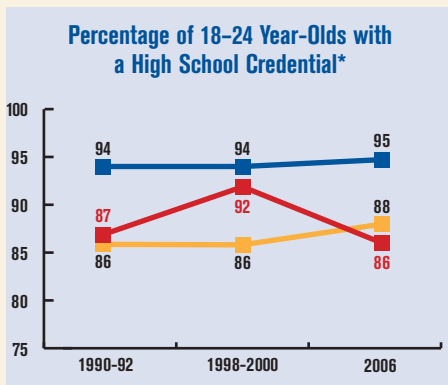
I

**2008 Grade**  
Like all states, Delaware receives an "Incomplete" in Learning because there is not sufficient data to allow meaningful state-by-state comparisons.

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

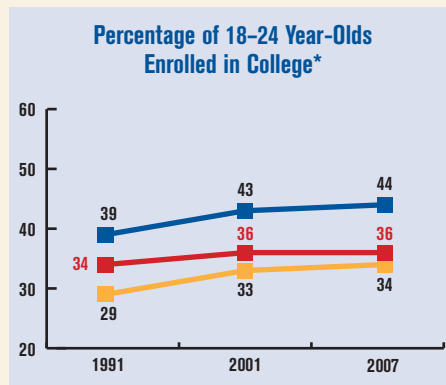
## PREPARATION

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

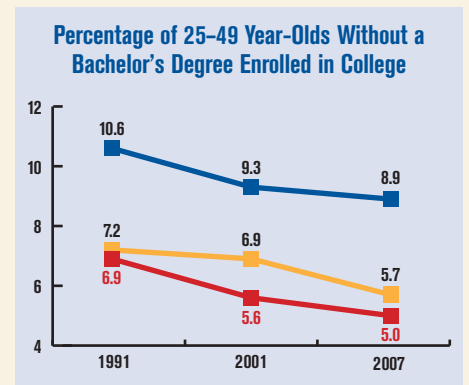


## PARTICIPATION

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

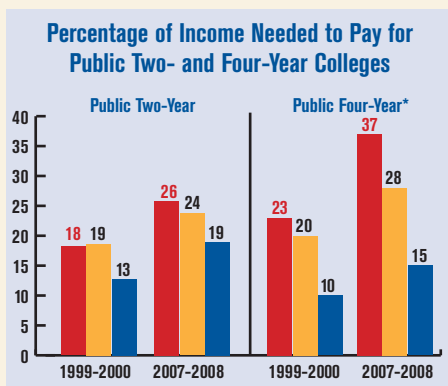


The enrollment of working-age adults, relative to the number of residents without a bachelor's degree, has declined in Delaware—as it has nationally and in the best-performing states. The percentage attending college in Delaware is below the U.S. average and well below the top states.



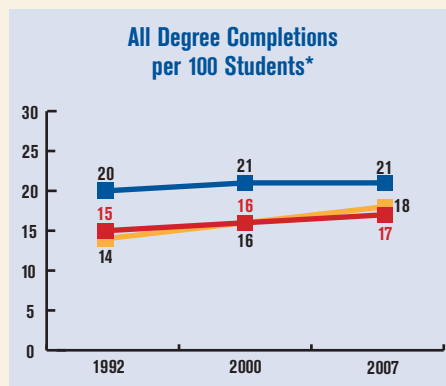
## AFFORDABILITY

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



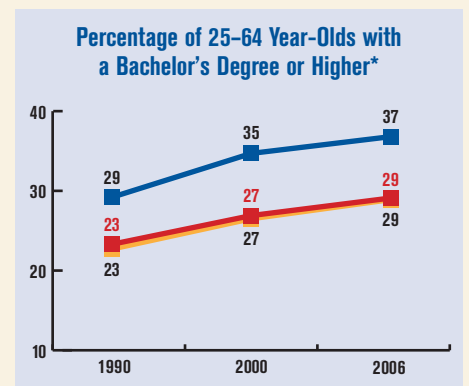
## COMPLETION

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



## BENEFITS

The percentage of residents who have a bachelor's degree has increased. Delaware is the same as the U.S. average but below the top states.



\*Key indicator for the category.

## LEGEND:

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



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