

## 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  
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### PREPARATION

**C**



2008 Grade Change Over Time

Florida'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 have improved in writing, but they perform poorly in science, math, and reading.
- Only 78% of Hispanics and 84% of blacks have a high school credential, compared with 90% of whites.

### PARTICIPATION

**D**



2008 Grade Change Over Time

College opportunities for young and working-age adults are poor.

- The likelihood of enrolling in college by age 19 is very low, partly because the state has one of the lowest high school graduation rates in the country.
- Among young adults, 29% of Hispanics and 30% of blacks are enrolled in college, compared with 37% 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 24% 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 21 cents.

### COMPLETION

**B+**



2008 Grade Change Over Time

Florida performs 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, 44% of blacks and 49% of Hispanics graduate within six years, compared with 57% of whites.

### REPORT CARD

Preparation	C
Participation	D
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.

- Sixteen percent of blacks and 23% of Hispanics have a bachelor's degree, compared with 30% 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 \$27 billion higher.

### LEARNING

**I**

2008 Grade

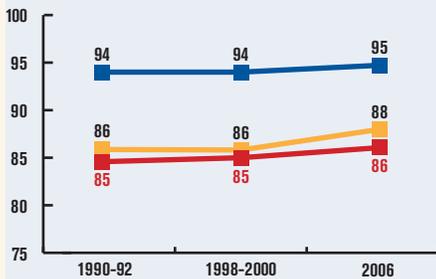
Like all states, Florida receives an "Incomplete" in Learning because there is not sufficient data to allow meaningful state-by-state comparisons.

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

## PREPARATION

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

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



## PARTICIPATION

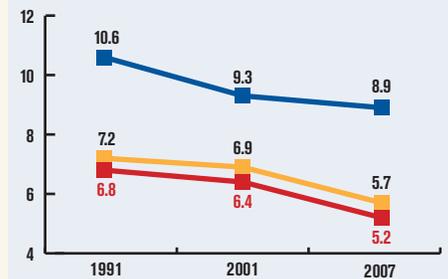
College enrollment of young adults in Florida has improved since the early 1990s. The state is slightly below the national average and well below the top states in the percentage of young adults enrolled.

**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 in Florida—as it has nationally and in the best-performing states. The percentage attending college in Florida is slightly below the U.S. average and well below the top states.

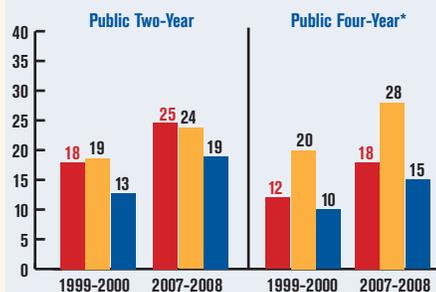
**Percentage of 25-49 Year-Olds Without a Bachelor's Degree Enrolled in College**



## 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 Florida pay more than the U.S. average. To attend public four-year colleges, they pay less than the national average but more than those in the best-performing states.

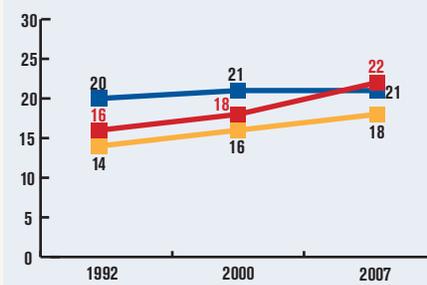
**Percentage of Income Needed to Pay for Public Two- and Four-Year Colleges**



## COMPLETION

The number of undergraduate credentials and degrees awarded in Florida, relative to the number of students enrolled, has increased since the early 1990s. Florida surpasses the U.S. average and is one of the top states on this measure.

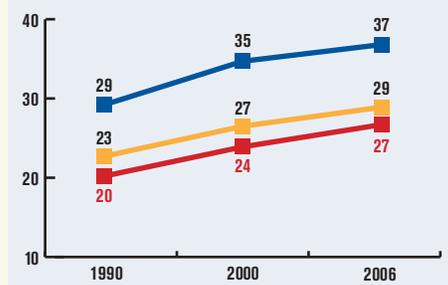
**All Degree Completions per 100 Students\***



## BENEFITS

The percentage of residents who have a bachelor's degree has increased in Florida, but is below the U.S. average and well below the top states.

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



\*Key indicator for the category.

## LEGEND:

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



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