

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.

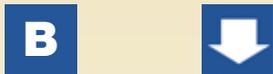


THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR
PUBLIC POLICY AND
HIGHER EDUCATION

Iowa



PREPARATION

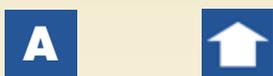


2008 Grade Change Over Time

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

- Eighth graders perform well in math, science, and reading, but their scores in writing are fairly low.
- Only 74% of Hispanics have a high school credential, compared with 94% of whites.

PARTICIPATION

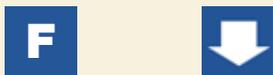


2008 Grade Change Over Time

Iowa does well in providing college opportunities for young and working-age adults.

- The state is a top performer in the percentage of working-age adults enrolled in higher education.
- However, 24% of Hispanic young adults are enrolled in college, compared with 42% of whites.

AFFORDABILITY

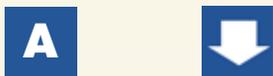


2008 Grade Change Over Time

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

- Poor and working-class families must devote 40% of their income, even after aid, to pay for costs at two-year colleges.
- Financial aid to low-income students has declined. For every dollar in Pell Grant aid to students, the state spends only 33 cents—down from 40 cents in 1993.

COMPLETION



2008 Grade Change Over Time

Iowa performs very well in awarding certificates and degrees.

- Sixty-three percent of college students complete a bachelor's degree within six years.
- However, only 50% of Hispanics graduate within six years, compared with 65% of whites.

REPORT CARD

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

WHAT DO THE ARROWS MEAN?



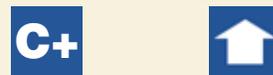
State has increased or remained stable on the key indicator in the category.



State has declined on the key indicator in the category.

See back page for key indicator by category.

BENEFITS



2008 Grade Change Over Time

Only a fair proportion of residents have a bachelor's degree, and this weakens the state economy.

- Eight percent of Hispanics have a bachelor's degree, compared with 27% 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



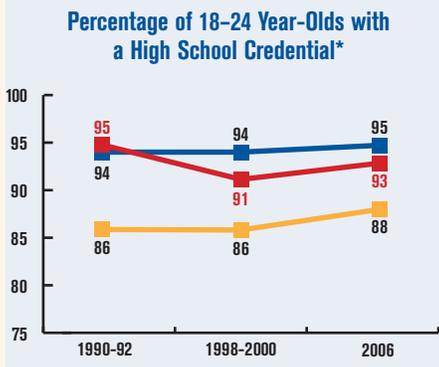
2008 Grade

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

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

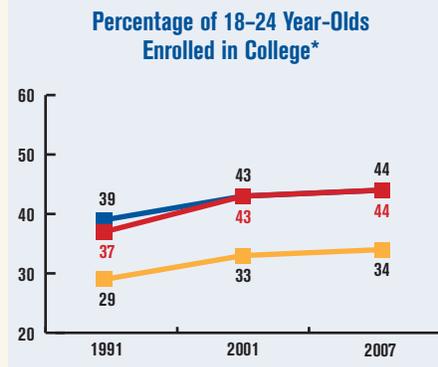
PREPARATION

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

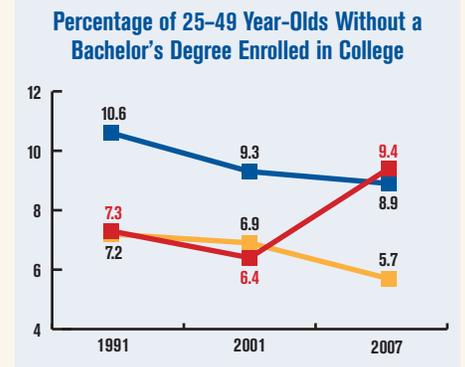


PARTICIPATION

College enrollment of young adults in Iowa has improved substantially since the early 1990s. Iowa is one of the top states in the percentage of young adults enrolled.

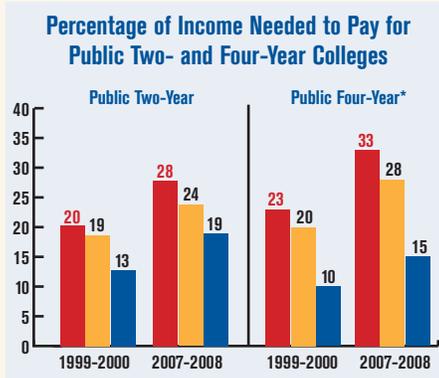


The enrollment of working-age adults, relative to the number of residents without a bachelor's degree, has increased in Iowa, making the state a top performer in this area. In contrast, the percentage of working-age adults attending college has declined nationally.



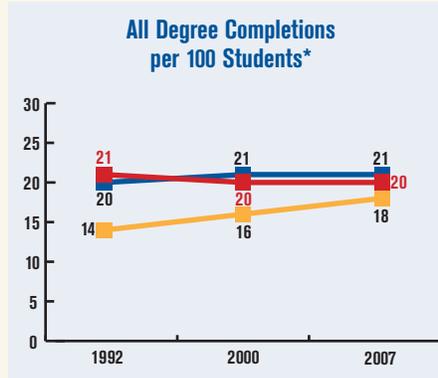
AFFORDABILITY

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 Iowa, students and families pay more than the U.S. average and more than those in the best-performing states.



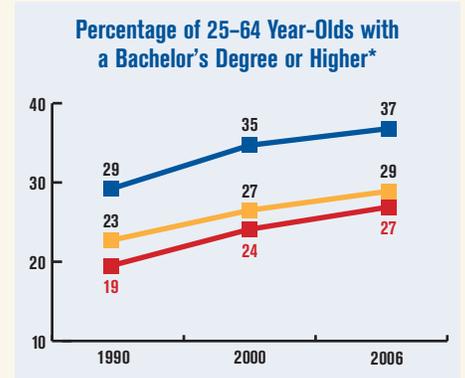
COMPLETION

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



BENEFITS

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



*Key indicator for the category.

LEGEND:

- & ■ = Iowa
- & ■ = 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