

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.

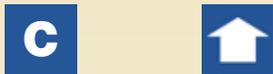


THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR
PUBLIC POLICY AND
HIGHER EDUCATION

Kentucky



PREPARATION

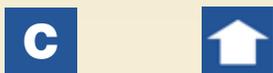


2008 Grade Change Over Time

Kentucky has made strides in preparing young people for college, though compared with other states its performance is only fair.

- Kentucky is one of the fastest-improving states in the scores of 8th graders in science and low-income 8th graders in math—though their performance in both areas remains low.
- There is an 8% gap between whites and all minorities in the percentage of young adults with a high school credential.

PARTICIPATION

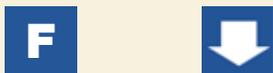


2008 Grade Change Over Time

College opportunities for young and working-age adults are only fair.

- The likelihood of enrolling in college by age 19 has increased by 28%, but remains only fair.
- There is a 6% gap between whites and all minorities in the percentage of young adults enrolled in college.

AFFORDABILITY

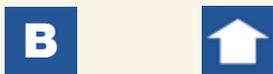


2008 Grade Change Over Time

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

- Poor and working-class families must devote 39% 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 48 cents.

COMPLETION



2008 Grade Change Over Time

Kentucky performs well—and has improved—in awarding certificates and degrees relative to the number of students enrolled, but few students attain a bachelor's degree in a timely manner.

- Forty-seven percent of college students complete a bachelor's degree within six years.
- Thirty-seven percent of blacks graduate within six years, compared with 49% of whites.

REPORT CARD

Preparation	C
Participation	C
Affordability	F
Completion	B
Benefits	D+
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

A very small proportion of residents have a bachelor's degree, and this substantially weakens the state economy.

- Fourteen percent of blacks have a bachelor's degree, compared with 22% 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

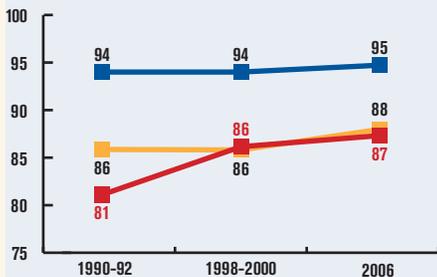
Like all states, Kentucky receives an "Incomplete" in Learning because there is not sufficient data to allow meaningful state-by-state comparisons.

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

PREPARATION

The percentage of young adults in Kentucky who earn a high school diploma has increased substantially since the early 1990s. However, 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

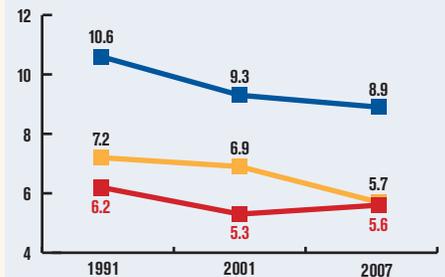
College enrollment of young adults in Kentucky has improved substantially since the early 1990s. The state is slightly above the national average but below the top states in the percentage of young adults enrolled.

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

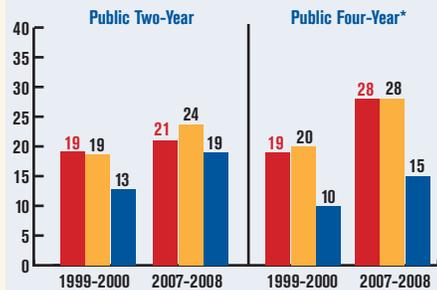
Percentage of 25-49 Year-Olds Without a Bachelor's Degree Enrolled in College



AFFORDABILITY

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

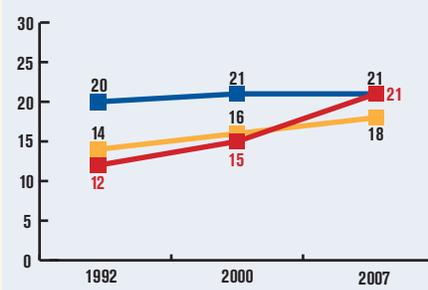
Percentage of Income Needed to Pay for Public Two- and Four-Year Colleges



COMPLETION

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

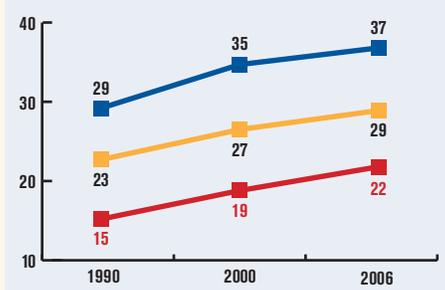
All Degree Completions per 100 Students*



BENEFITS

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

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



*Key indicator for the category.

LEGEND:

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



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