

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

Montana

PREPARATION

B-



2008 Grade Change Over Time

Montana performs fairly well in preparing its young people for college.

- Eighth graders perform very well on national assessments in math, science, and reading, but their scores in writing are fairly low.
- There is a 5% gap between whites and all minorities in the percentage of 18- to 24-year-olds with a high school credential.

PARTICIPATION

D+



2008 Grade Change Over Time

College opportunities for Montana residents are poor.

- The likelihood of enrolling in college by age 19 is fairly high, but a very low percentage of working-age adults are enrolled in higher education.
- There is an 8% gap between whites and all minorities in the percentage of young adults enrolled in college.

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 47% 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 nine cents.

COMPLETION

C-



2008 Grade Change Over Time

Montana performs fairly well in awarding certificates and degrees relative to the number of students enrolled, but few students complete a bachelor's degree in a timely manner.

- Forty-three percent of college students complete a bachelor's degree within six years.
- Only 29% of Native Americans graduate within six years, compared with 45% of whites.

REPORT CARD

Preparation	B-
Participation	D+
Affordability	F
Completion	C-
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

A fairly large proportion of residents have a bachelor's degree.

- Ten percent of Native Americans 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 \$1 billion higher.

LEARNING

I

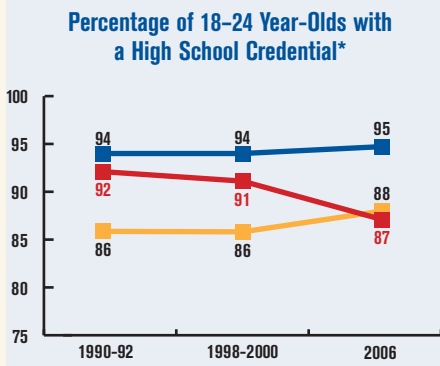
2008 Grade

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

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

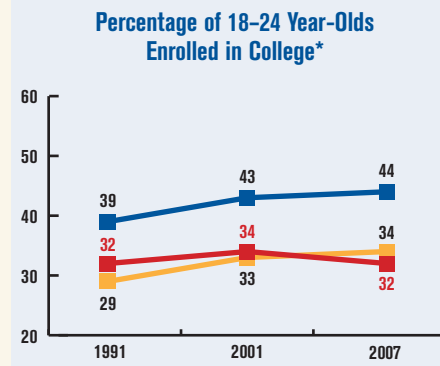
PREPARATION

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

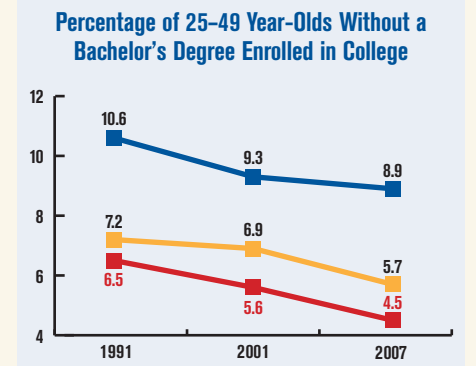


PARTICIPATION

College enrollment of young adults in Montana has remained stable 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.

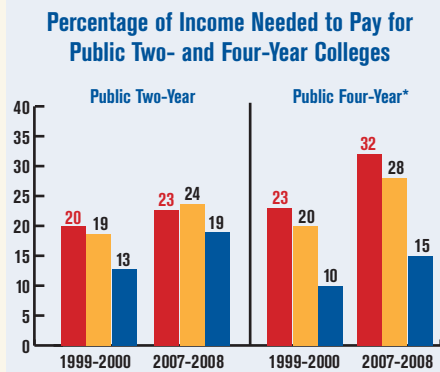


The enrollment of working-age adults, relative to the number of residents without a bachelor's degree, has declined in Montana—as it has nationally and in the best-performing states. The percentage attending college in Montana is well below the U.S. average and the top states.



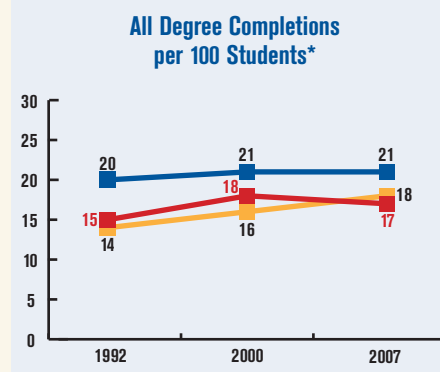
AFFORDABILITY

The share of family income, even after financial aid, needed to pay for college has risen substantially. To attend public two-year colleges in Montana, 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 more than the national average.



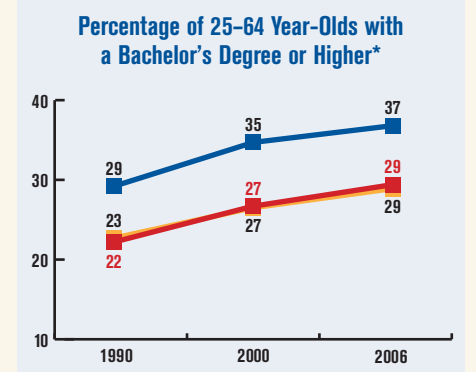
COMPLETION

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



BENEFITS

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



*Key indicator for the category.

LEGEND:

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



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