

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

North Dakota



PREPARATION

B-



2008 Grade Change Over Time

North Dakota performs fairly well in preparing its young people for college.

- Eighth graders perform very well in math and science, but their scores in writing are very low.
- Small proportions of high school students score well on Advanced Placement tests, but fairly large proportions score well on college entrance exams.

PARTICIPATION

B+



2008 Grade Change Over Time

North Dakota does well in providing college opportunities for its residents.

- North Dakota is a top performer in the likelihood of enrolling in college by age 19, but only a fair percentage of working-age adults are enrolled in higher education.
- There is a 15% gap between whites and all minorities in the percentage of young adults enrolled in college, which is one of the largest gaps in the country.

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 54% 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 10 cents.

COMPLETION

A



2008 Grade Change Over Time

North Dakota performs 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-seven percent of college students complete a bachelor's degree within six years.
- Seventeen percent of Native Americans graduate within six years, compared with 48% of whites—one of the largest gaps in the nation.

REPORT CARD

Preparation	B-
Participation	B+
Affordability	F
Completion	A
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

D



2008 Grade Change Over Time

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

- Fourteen percent of Native Americans have a bachelor's degree, compared with 31% 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 \$300 million higher.

LEARNING

I

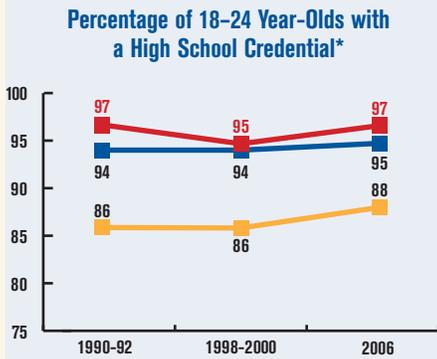
2008 Grade

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

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

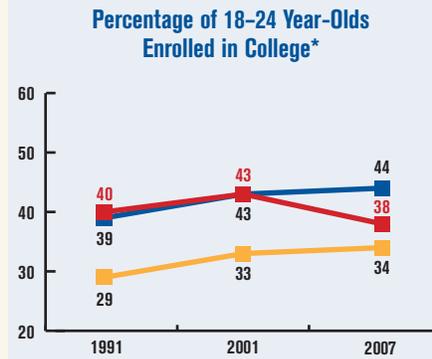
PREPARATION

The percentage of young adults in North Dakota who earn a high school diploma has remained stable since the early 1990s. North Dakota is a top-performing state in high school completion.

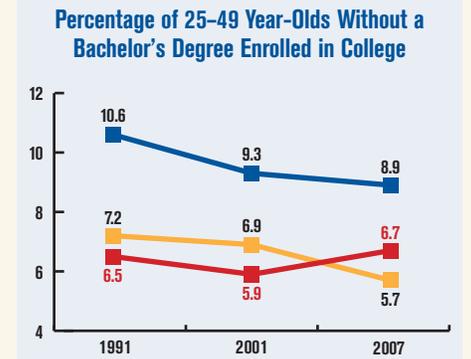


PARTICIPATION

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

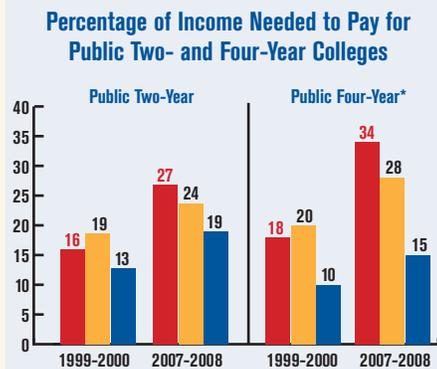


The enrollment of working-age adults, relative to the number of residents without a bachelor's degree, has increased slightly in North Dakota. In contrast, it has declined nationally and in the best-performing states. The percentage attending college in North Dakota is higher than the U.S. average but below the top states.



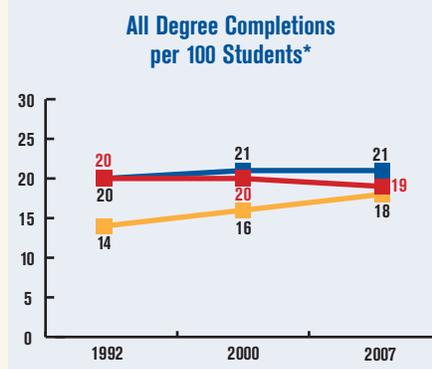
AFFORDABILITY

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



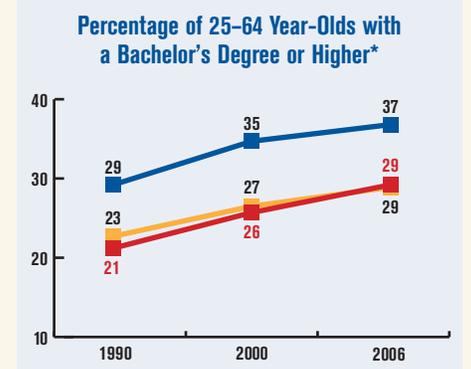
COMPLETION

The number of undergraduate credentials and degrees awarded in North Dakota, relative to the number of students enrolled, has decreased slightly since the early 1990s. North Dakota 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 considerably in North Dakota. North Dakota is the same as the U.S. average but below the top states.



*Key indicator for the category.

LEGEND:

- & ■ = North Dakota
- & ■ = United States
- & ■ = Median of Top Five States



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