

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

Oregon



PREPARATION

C+



2008 Grade Change Over Time

Oregon's fairly low performance in educating its young population could limit the state's access to a competitive workforce and weaken its economy.

- Small proportions of high school students score well on Advanced Placement tests and college entrance exams.
- Only 62% of Hispanics have a high school credential, compared with 90% of whites—one of the largest gaps in the nation.

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, and a small percentage of working-age adults are enrolled in higher education.
- Fourteen percent of Hispanic young adults are enrolled in college, compared with 36% 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 44% of their income, even after aid, to pay for costs at two-year colleges.
- Financial aid to low-income students is low. For every dollar in Pell Grant aid to students, the state spends only 24 cents.

COMPLETION

C+



2008 Grade Change Over Time

Oregon performs fairly well in awarding certificates and degrees.

- Fifty-seven percent of college students complete a bachelor's degree within six years.
- Fifty-one percent of Hispanics graduate from within six years, compared with 58% of whites.

REPORT CARD

Preparation	C+
Participation	D
Affordability	F
Completion	C+
Benefits	B+
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

B+



2008 Grade Change Over Time

A fairly high proportion of residents have a bachelor's degree, but there are substantial gaps by ethnicity.

- Ten percent of Hispanics 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 \$3 billion higher.

LEARNING

I

2008 Grade

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

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

PREPARATION

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

PARTICIPATION

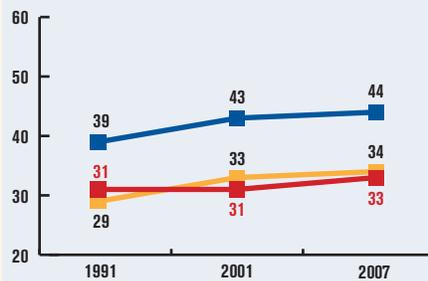
College enrollment of young adults in Oregon has improved slightly since the early 1990s. The state is slightly below the national average and well below the top states in the percentage of young adults enrolled.

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

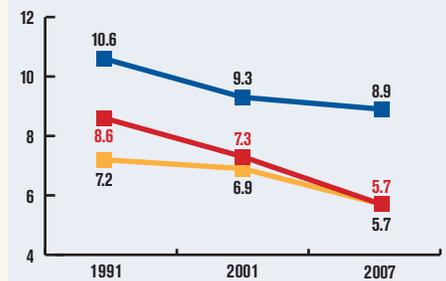
Percentage of 18-24 Year-Olds with a High School Credential*



Percentage of 18-24 Year-Olds Enrolled in College*



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- and four-year colleges in Oregon, students and families pay more than the U.S. average and more than those in the best-performing states.

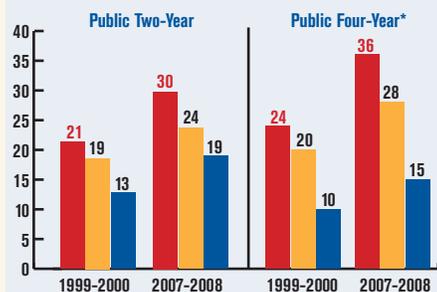
COMPLETION

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

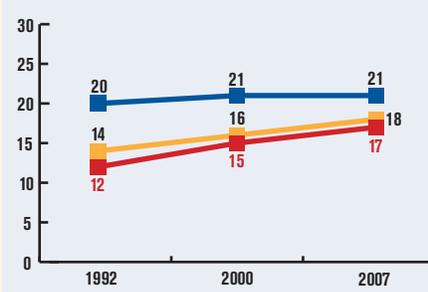
BENEFITS

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

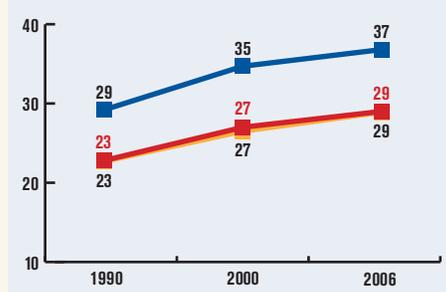
Percentage of Income Needed to Pay for Public Two- and Four-Year Colleges



All Degree Completions per 100 Students*



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



*Key indicator for the category.

LEGEND:

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



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