MEASURING UP 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.



South Dakota



PREPARATION





2008 Grade Change Over Time

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

- Eighth graders perform very well in math, science, and reading; the state's students are among the top performers on the science test.
- However, there is a 24% gap between whites and all minorities in the percentage of young adults with a high school credential—the largest gap in the nation.

PARTICIPATION





2008 Grade Change Over Time

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

- The likelihood of enrolling in college by age 19 is high—and has increased by 35% since the early 1990s.
- There is an 18% gap between whites and all minorities in the percentage of young adults enrolled in college, which is one of the largest gaps in the United States.

Participation

REPORT CARD

Preparation

Affordability	F
Completion	В
Benefits	D+

WHAT DO THE ARROWS MEAN?



Learning



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.

AFFORDABILITY





Change Over Time 2008 Grade

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

- Poor and working-class families must devote 30% of their income, even after aid, to pay for costs at public four-year colleges.
- The state makes no investment in need-based financial aid.

BENEFITS





Change Over Time 2008 Grade

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

- Nine 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.

COMPLETION





2008 Grade

Change Over Time

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

- Forty-five percent of college students complete a bachelor's degree within six years.
- Only 33% of Native Americans graduate within six years, compared with 48% of whites.

LEARNING



2008 Grade

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

CHANGE OVER TIME: KEY INDICATORS

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

PREPARATION

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

60

50

40

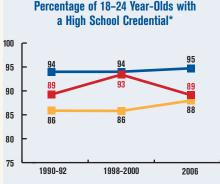
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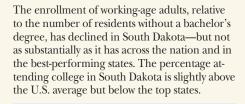


PARTICIPATION

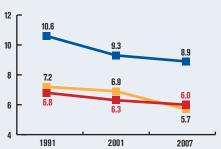
College enrollment of young adults in South Dakota has improved since the early 1990s. The state is above the national average but below the top states in the percentage of young adults enrolled.

Percentage of 18-24 Year-Olds

Enrolled in College*



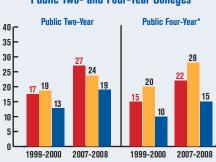
Percentage of 25-49 Year-Olds Without a **Bachelor's Degree Enrolled in College**



AFFORDABILITY

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

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



*Key indicator for the category.

COMPLETION

1991

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

2001

this measure.

All Degree Completions

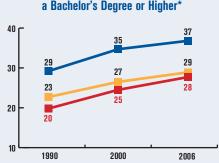
per 100 Students*

2007

The percentage of residents who have a bachelor's degree has increased substantially in South Dakota, but it is still slightly below the U.S. average and below the top states.

BENEFITS











2007

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