

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.

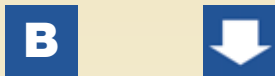


THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR
PUBLIC POLICY AND
HIGHER EDUCATION

Utah



PREPARATION

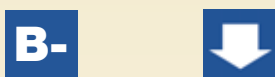


2008 Grade Change Over Time

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

- Eighth graders perform well in science, but their scores in math, reading, and writing are fairly poor.
- Only 67% of Hispanics have a high school credential, compared with 94% of whites—one of the largest gaps in the nation.

PARTICIPATION

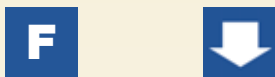


2008 Grade Change Over Time

Utah is slipping behind other states in providing college opportunities for its residents.

- The likelihood of enrolling in college by age 19 is low, and has dropped by 14% since the early 1990s.
- Sixteen percent of Hispanic young adults are enrolled in college, compared with 45% of whites—one of the largest gaps in the nation.

AFFORDABILITY

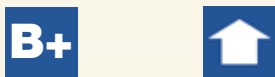


2008 Grade Change Over Time

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

- Poor and working-class families must devote 28% 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 eight cents.

COMPLETION



2008 Grade Change Over Time

Utah 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-nine percent of college students complete a bachelor's degree within six years.
- Forty-three percent of Hispanics graduate within six years, compared with 51% of whites.

REPORT CARD

Preparation	B
Participation	B-
Affordability	F
Completion	B+
Benefits	B
Learning	I

WHAT DO THE ARROWS MEAN?



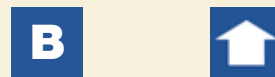
State has increased or remained stable on the key indicator in the category.



State has declined on the key indicator in the category.

See back page for key indicator by category.

BENEFITS



2008 Grade Change Over Time

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

- Thirteen percent of Hispanics have a bachelor's degree, compared with 32% 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 \$2 billion higher.

LEARNING



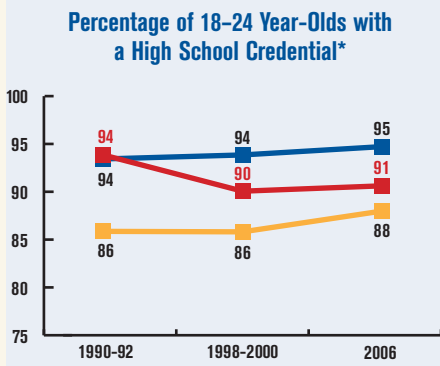
2008 Grade

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

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

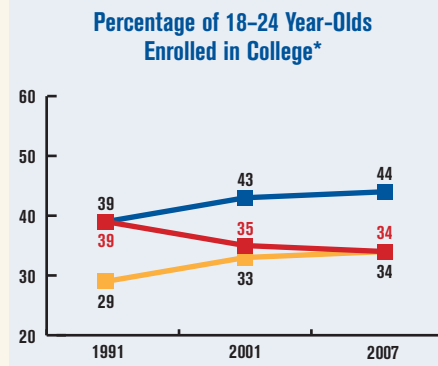
PREPARATION

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

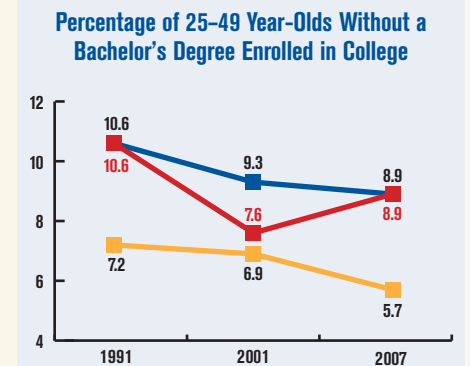


PARTICIPATION

College enrollment of young adults in Utah has declined since the early 1990s. Utah is at the national average but below the top states in the percentage of young adults enrolled.

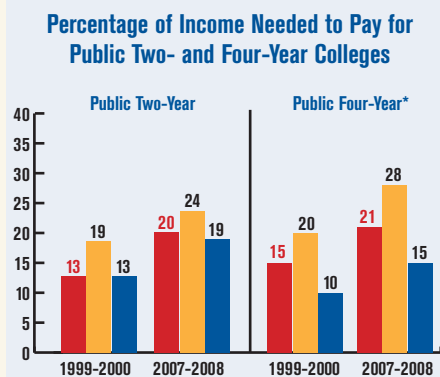


The enrollment of working-age adults, relative to the number of residents without a bachelor's degree, has declined in Utah—as it has nationally and in the best-performing states. Utah is a top-performing state in this area.



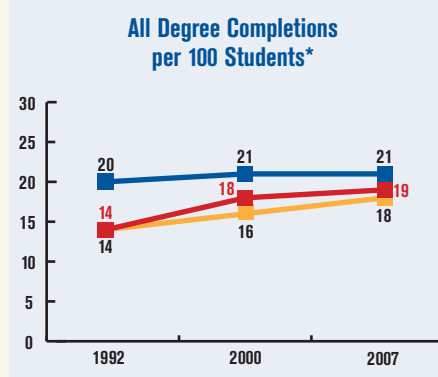
AFFORDABILITY

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 Utah, students and families pay less than the U.S. average but more than those in the best-performing states.



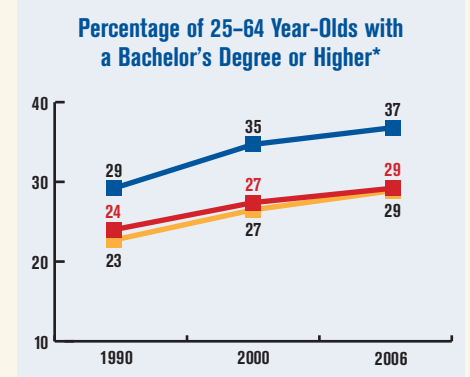
COMPLETION

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



*Key indicator for the category.

LEGEND:

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



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