

# 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

# Vermont



## PREPARATION

**A-**



2008 Grade Change Over Time

Vermont performs well in preparing its young people for college.

- Vermont is a top state in the performance of 8th graders in math, science, and reading.
- Fairly large proportions of high school students score well on Advanced Placement tests and college entrance exams.

## PARTICIPATION

**C**



2008 Grade Change Over Time

College opportunities for Vermont residents are only fair.

- The likelihood of enrolling in college by age 19 is fair.
- A very low percentage of working-age adults (4 in 100) are enrolled in higher education.

## AFFORDABILITY

**F**



2008 Grade Change Over Time

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

- Financial aid to low-income students is high compared with other states. For every dollar in Pell Grant aid to students, the state spends 96 cents.
- However, poor and working-class families must devote 56% of their income, even after aid, to pay for costs at public four-year colleges.

## COMPLETION

**A-**



2008 Grade Change Over Time

Vermont performs very well in awarding certificates and degrees.

- Sixty-four percent of college students complete a bachelor's degree within six years.
- Over the past decade, the state has consistently performed well in this area.

## REPORT CARD

Preparation	A-
Participation	C
Affordability	F
Completion	A-
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.

- If all racial/ethnic groups had the same educational attainment and earnings as whites, total annual personal income in the state would be about \$200 million higher.

## LEARNING

**I**

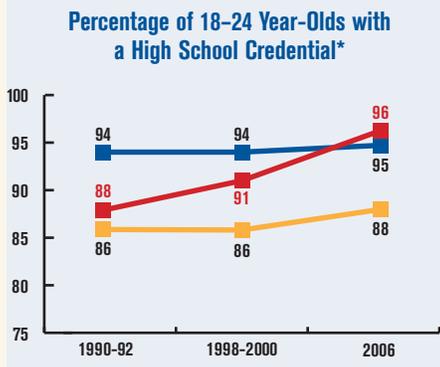
2008 Grade

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

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

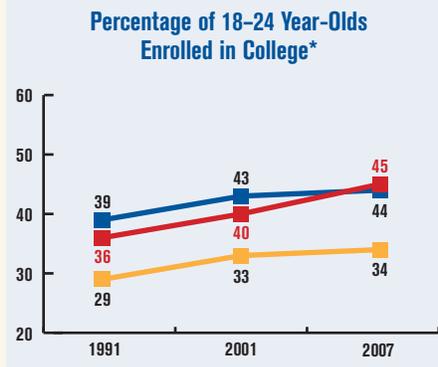
## PREPARATION

The percentage of young adults in Vermont who earn a high school diploma has increased substantially since the early 1990s. Vermont is a top-performing state in high school completion.

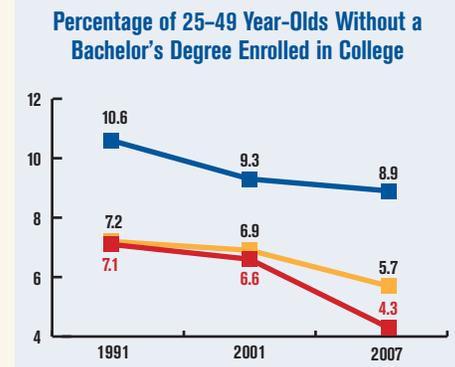


## PARTICIPATION

College enrollment of young adults in Vermont has improved considerably since the early 1990s. Vermont is one of the top states in the percentage of young adults enrolled.

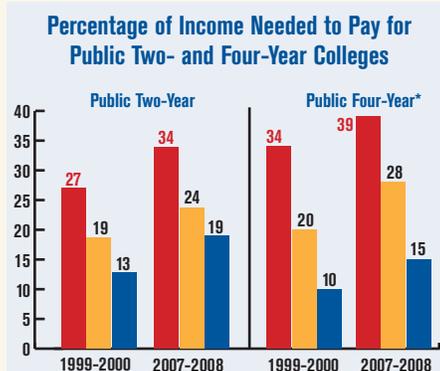


The enrollment of working-age adults, relative to the number of residents without a bachelor's degree, has declined in Vermont—as it has nationally and in the best-performing states. The percentage attending college in Vermont is well below the U.S. average and the top states.



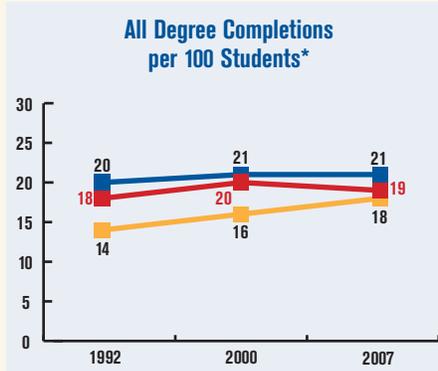
## AFFORDABILITY

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



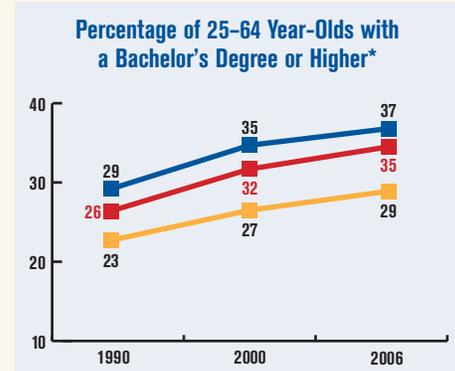
## COMPLETION

The number of undergraduate credentials and degrees awarded in Vermont, relative to the number of students enrolled, has increased slightly since the early 1990s. Vermont 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 substantially in Vermont. The state is well above the U.S. average but is slightly below the top states.



\*Key indicator for the category.

### LEGEND:

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



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