

MEASURING UP 2008

THE STATE REPORT CARD
ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Washington



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

PREPARATION

C+



2008 Grade Change Over Time

Washington'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 66% of Hispanics have a high school credential, compared with 91% of whites.

PARTICIPATION

D



2008 Grade Change Over Time

College opportunities for young and working-age adults are poor.

- A low percentage of young adults (ages 18 to 24) are enrolled in college-level education and training.
- Sixteen 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.

- Financial aid to low-income students is high compared with other states, and has increased substantially since the early 1990s.
- However, poor and working-class families must devote 36% of their income, even after aid, to pay for costs at two-year colleges.

COMPLETION

A-



2008 Grade Change Over Time

Washington performs very well—and has improved—in awarding certificates and degrees.

- Sixty-three percent of college students complete a bachelor's degree within six years.
- However, 51% of Hispanics graduate within six years, compared with 65% of whites.

REPORT CARD

Preparation	C+
Participation	D
Affordability	F
Completion	A-
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 large proportion of residents have a bachelor's degree, yet the economic benefits to the state as a result are only fair.

- Eleven percent of Hispanics have a bachelor's degree, compared with 34% 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 \$7 billion higher.

LEARNING

I

2008 Grade

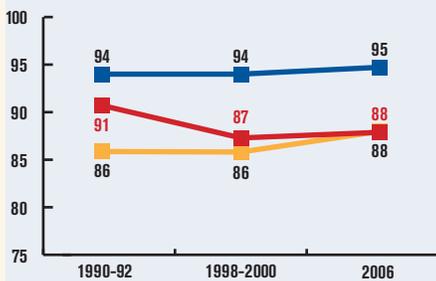
Like all states, Washington receives an "Incomplete" in Learning because there is not sufficient data to allow meaningful state-by-state comparisons.

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

PREPARATION

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

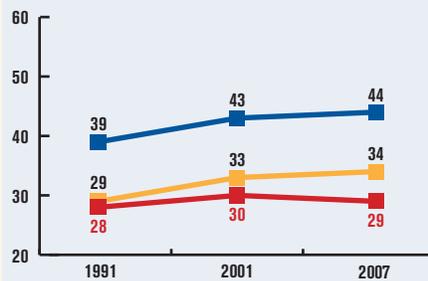
Percentage of 18-24 Year-Olds with a High School Credential*



PARTICIPATION

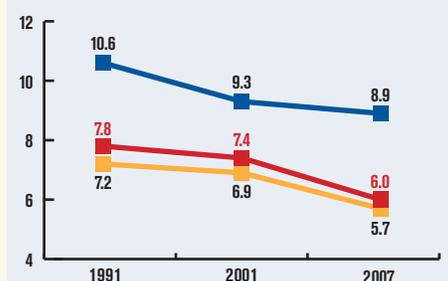
College enrollment of young adults in Washington has improved slightly since the early 1990s. Compared with the national average and the top states, however, substantially fewer young adults are enrolled in Washington (in percentages).

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



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

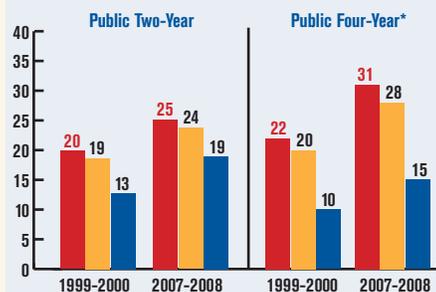
Percentage of 25-49 Year-Olds Without a Bachelor's Degree Enrolled in College



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

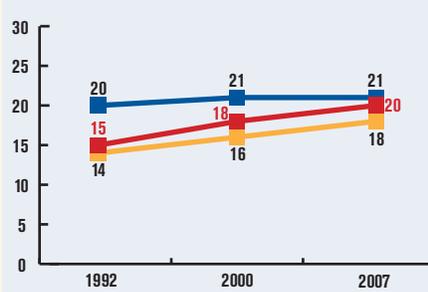
Percentage of Income Needed to Pay for Public Two- and Four-Year Colleges



COMPLETION

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

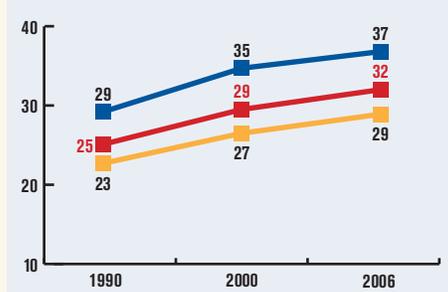
All Degree Completions per 100 Students*



BENEFITS

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

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



*Key indicator for the category.

LEGEND:

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



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