

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.

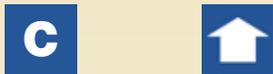


THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR
PUBLIC POLICY AND
HIGHER EDUCATION

West Virginia



PREPARATION

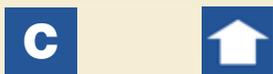


2008 Grade Change Over Time

West Virginia has made strides in preparing young people for college, though compared with other states its performance is only fair.

- West Virginia has substantially increased high school enrollment in upper-level math and science over the past 15 years.
- Very small proportions of high school students score well on Advanced Placement tests and college entrance exams—but student scores have improved on the Advanced Placement tests.

PARTICIPATION

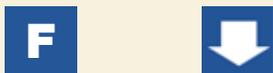


2008 Grade Change Over Time

College opportunities for West Virginia residents are only fair.

- The likelihood of enrolling in college by age 19 is fair.
- A low percentage of working-age adults are enrolled in higher education, but the state has improved substantially on this measure.

AFFORDABILITY

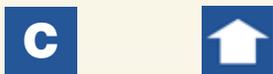


2008 Grade Change Over Time

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

- Poor and working-class families must devote 34% 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 43 cents.

COMPLETION



2008 Grade Change Over Time

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

- Forty-four percent of college students complete a bachelor's degree within six years.
- Only 29% of blacks graduate within six years, compared with 45% of whites.

REPORT CARD

Preparation	C
Participation	C
Affordability	F
Completion	C
Benefits	F
Learning	I

WHAT DO THE ARROWS MEAN?



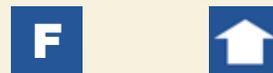
State has increased or remained stable on the key indicator in the category.



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

- If all racial/ethnic groups had the same educational attainment and earnings as whites, total annual personal income in the state would be about \$300 million higher.

LEARNING



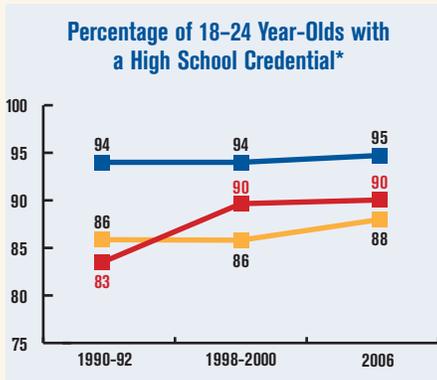
2008 Grade

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

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

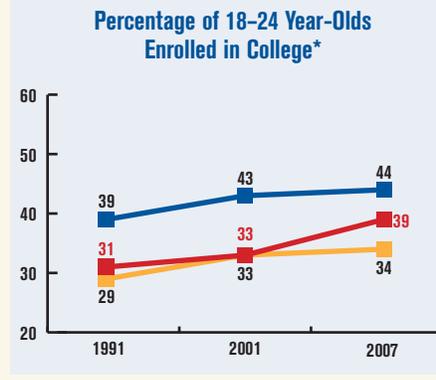
PREPARATION

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

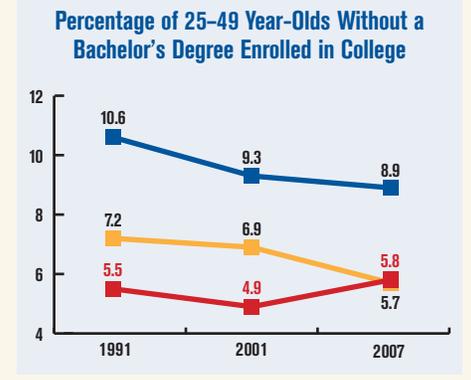


PARTICIPATION

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

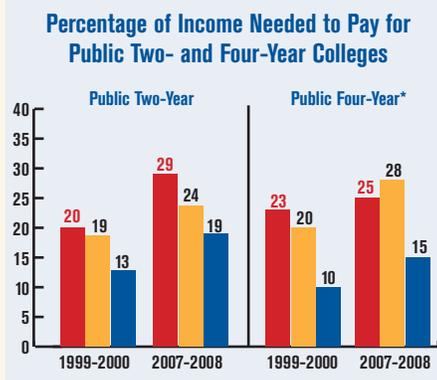


The enrollment of working-age adults, relative to the number of residents without a bachelor's degree, has increased slightly in West Virginia. In contrast, it has declined nationally and in the best-performing states. The percentage attending college in West Virginia is slightly above the U.S. average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



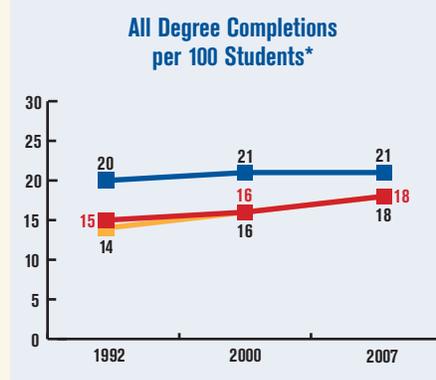
AFFORDABILITY

The share of family income, after financial aid, needed to pay for college has risen at two-year colleges but has remained relatively stable at four-year institutions. To attend public two-year colleges in West Virginia, 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.



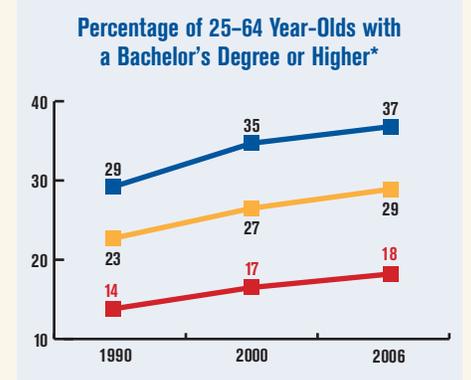
COMPLETION

The number of undergraduate credentials and degrees awarded in West Virginia, relative to the number of students enrolled, has increased since the early 1990s. West Virginia performs at 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 in West Virginia but is well below the U.S. average and the top states.



*Key indicator for the category.

LEGEND:

- & ■ = West Virginia
- & ■ = United States
- & ■ = Median of Top Five States



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