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

- Massachusetts is a top state in the performance of 8th graders in math, science, reading, and writing.
- However, only 80% of Hispanics have a high school credential, compared with 94% of whites.

The state does fairly well in providing college opportunities for its residents.

- The likelihood of enrolling in college by age 19 is very high, but the percentage of working-age adults enrolled in higher education has dropped substantially.
- Among young adults, 28% of Hispanics and 39% of blacks are enrolled in college, compared with 49% of whites.

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

- Poor and working-class families must devote 49% 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 57 cents.

Massachusetts performs well in awarding certificates and degrees relative to the number of students enrolled.

- Sixty-eight percent of college students complete a bachelor’s degree within six years—a top performance compared with other states.
This page reflects Massachusetts’ performance and progress since the early 1990s on several key indicators.

**PREPARATION**

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

**PARTICIPATION**

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

**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 Massachusetts, 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 Massachusetts, relative to the number of students enrolled, has increased since the early 1990s. Massachusetts 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 considerably in Massachusetts. The state is well above the U.S. average and is one of the top states.

**PARTICIPATION**

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