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

- Eighth graders perform well on national assessments in math, science, reading, and writing.
- However, small proportions of high school students score well on Advanced Placement tests and college entrance exams.

College opportunities for Maine residents are only fair.

- The likelihood of enrolling in college by age 19 is high—and has increased by 23% since the early 1990s.
- However, a very low percentage of working-age adults (4 in 100) are enrolled in higher education.

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

- Poor and working-class families must devote 47% 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 37 cents.

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

- Fifty-eight percent of college students complete a bachelor’s degree within six years.
- Over the past decade, Maine has increased the proportion of students completing certificates and degrees, but its rate of improvement lags behind other states.

Like all states, Maine receives an “Incomplete” in Learning because there is not sufficient data to allow meaningful state-by-state comparisons.
This page reflects Maine’s performance and progress since the early 1990s on several key indicators.

**PREPARATION**

The percentage of young adults in Maine who earn a high school diploma has remained stable 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 Maine has improved substantially since the early 1990s. The state is slightly 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 declined in Maine—as it has nationally and in the best-performing states. The percentage attending college in Maine 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 increased. To attend public two- and four-year colleges in Maine, 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 Maine, relative to the number of students enrolled, has increased slightly since the early 1990s. However, Maine is below the U.S. average and the top states on this measure.

**BENEFITS**

The percentage of residents who have a bachelor’s degree has increased in Maine, but is slightly below the U.S. average and below the top states.

**LEGEND:**

- = Maine
- = United States
- = Median of Top Five States

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