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.

**WHAT DO THE ARROWS MEAN?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2008 Grade</th>
<th>Change Over Time</th>
<th>Note</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preparation</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affordability</td>
<td>F</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completion</td>
<td>A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefits</td>
<td>D</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning</td>
<td>I</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**REPORT CARD**

**Preparation**

- **2008 Grade**: B-
- **Change Over Time**: Up
- North Dakota performs fairly well in preparing its young people for college.
  - Eighth graders perform very well in math and science, but their scores in writing are very low.
  - Small proportions of high school students score well on Advanced Placement tests, but fairly large proportions score well on college entrance exams.

**Participation**

- **2008 Grade**: B+
- **Change Over Time**: Down
- North Dakota does well in providing college opportunities for its residents.
  - North Dakota is a top performer in the likelihood of enrolling in college by age 19, but only a fair percentage of working-age adults are enrolled in higher education.
  - There is a 15% gap between whites and all minorities in the percentage of young adults enrolled in college, which is one of the largest gaps in the country.

**Affordability**

- **2008 Grade**: F
- **Change Over Time**: Down
- Only a fair proportion of residents have a bachelor’s degree, and this substantially weakens the state economy.
  - Fourteen percent of Native Americans have a bachelor’s degree, compared with 31% 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 $300 million higher.

**Completion**

- **2008 Grade**: A
- **Change Over Time**: Down
- North Dakota 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-seven percent of college students complete a bachelor’s degree within six years.
  - Seventeen percent of Native Americans graduate within six years, compared with 48% of whites—one of the largest gaps in the nation.

**Benefits**

- **2008 Grade**: D
- **Change Over Time**: Up
- Only a fair proportion of residents have a bachelor’s degree, and this substantially weakens the state economy.
  - Fourteen percent of Native Americans have a bachelor’s degree, compared with 31% 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 $300 million higher.

**Learning**

- **2008 Grade**: I
- **Change Over Time**: Up
- Like all states, North Dakota receives an “Incomplete” in Learning because there is not sufficient data to allow meaningful state-by-state comparisons.

**North Dakota**

North Dakota performs fairly well in preparing its young people for college.

- Eighth graders perform very well in math and science, but their scores in writing are very low.
- Small proportions of high school students score well on Advanced Placement tests, but fairly large proportions score well on college entrance exams.

North Dakota does well in providing college opportunities for its residents.

- North Dakota is a top performer in the likelihood of enrolling in college by age 19, but only a fair percentage of working-age adults are enrolled in higher education.
- There is a 15% gap between whites and all minorities in the percentage of young adults enrolled in college, which is one of the largest gaps in the country.

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

- Poor and working-class families must devote 54% 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 10 cents.

North Dakota 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-seven percent of college students complete a bachelor’s degree within six years.
- Seventeen percent of Native Americans graduate within six years, compared with 48% of whites—one of the largest gaps in the nation.

For the complete state report card and more information on state grades go to www.highereducation.org
This page reflects North Dakota’s performance and progress since the early 1990s on several key indicators.

**PREPARATION**

The percentage of young adults in North Dakota who earn a high school diploma has remained stable since the early 1990s. North Dakota is a top-performing state in high school completion.

**PARTICIPATION**

College enrollment of young adults in North Dakota has declined slightly since the early 1990s. The state is above the national average but 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 increased. To attend public two- and four-year colleges in North Dakota, 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 North Dakota, relative to the number of students enrolled, has decreased slightly since the early 1990s. North Dakota 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 considerably in North Dakota. North Dakota is the same as the U.S. average but below the top states.

**PARTICIPATION**

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

---

*Key indicator for the category.*

---

**LEGEND:**

- North Dakota
- United States
- Median of Top Five States

---

152 North Third Street, Suite 705
San Jose, California 95112
Telephone: 408.271.2699
Fax: 408.271.2697
center@highereducation.org
www.highereducation.org

FOR THE COMPLETE STATE REPORT CARD AND MORE INFORMATION ON STATE GRADES GO TO WWW.HIGHEREDUCATION.ORG