South Carolina

PREPARATION

C+
2008 Grade Change Over Time
South Carolina's fairly low performance in educating its young population could limit the state's access to a competitive workforce and weaken its economy.

- Despite improvement over the decade, the performance of 8th graders in math, science, and writing remains poor.
- Only 85% of blacks have a high school credential, compared with 90% of whites.

PARTICIPATION

D-
2008 Grade Change Over Time
College opportunities for young and working-age adults are poor.

- The likelihood of enrolling in college by age 19 is low, primarily because the state has one of the lowest high school graduation rates in the country.
- Twenty-nine percent of black young adults are enrolled in college, compared with 40% of whites.

AFFORDABILITY

F
2008 Grade Change Over Time
A small proportion of residents have a bachelor's degree, and this weakens the state economy.

- Eleven percent of blacks have a bachelor's degree, compared with 29% 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 $10 billion higher.

COMPLETION

C+
2008 Grade Change Over Time
South Carolina performs fairly well in awarding certificates and degrees.

- Fifty-six percent of college students complete a bachelor's degree within six years.
- However, only 44% of blacks graduate within six years, compared with 61% of whites.

BENEFITS

C
2008 Grade Change Over Time
A small proportion of residents have a bachelor's degree, and this weakens the state economy.

- 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 36 cents.

LEARNING

I
2008 Grade
Like all states, South Carolina receives an "Incomplete" in Learning because there is not sufficient data to allow meaningful state-by-state comparisons.

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.
This page reflects South Carolina’s performance and progress since the early 1990s on several key indicators.

**PREPARATION**

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

**PARTICIPATION**

College enrollment of young adults in South Carolina has improved substantially since the early 1990s. The state is slightly below the national average and well 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 South Carolina—as it has nationally and in the best-performing states. The percentage attending college in South Carolina 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 risen substantially. To attend public two- and four-year colleges in South Carolina, students and families pay less than the U.S. average but more than those in the best-performing states.

**COMPLETION**

The number of undergraduate credentials and degrees awarded in South Carolina, relative to the number of students enrolled, has increased since the early 1990s. South Carolina 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 South Carolina, but remains well below the U.S. average and the top states.

**PARTICIPATION**

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

**LEGEND:**

- Red = South Carolina
- Orange = United States
- Blue = Median of Top Five States

*Key indicator for the category.*

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