South Dakota

PREPARATION

2008 Grade: B

Change Over Time

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

- Eighth graders perform very well in math, science, and reading; the state’s students are among the top performers on the science test.
- However, there is a 24% gap between whites and all minorities in the percentage of young adults with a high school credential—the largest gap in the nation.

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.

REPORT CARD

Preparation: B
Participation: B
Affordability: F
Completion: B
Benefits: D+
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.

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.

FOR THE COMPLETE STATE REPORT CARD AND MORE INFORMATION ON STATE GRADES GO TO WWW.HIGHEREDUCATION.ORG
This page reflects South Dakota’s performance and progress since the early 1990s on several key indicators.

**PREPARATION**
The percentage of young adults in South Dakota who earn a high school diploma has remained stable 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 South Dakota has improved 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 risen substantially. To attend public two-year colleges in South Dakota, 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 South Dakota, relative to the number of students enrolled, has increased since the early 1990s. South 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 substantially in South Dakota, but it is still slightly below the U.S. average and below the top states.

---

**LEGEND:**
- Red && = South Dakota
- Orange && = United States
- Blue && = Median of Top Five States

---

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