

# MEASURING UP 2008

## THE STATE REPORT CARD ON HIGHER EDUCATION



### 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.



THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR  
PUBLIC POLICY AND  
HIGHER EDUCATION

# Maine



## PREPARATION

**B-**



2008 Grade Change Over Time

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.

## PARTICIPATION

**C-**



2008 Grade Change Over Time

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.

## AFFORDABILITY

**F**



2008 Grade Change Over Time

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.

## COMPLETION

**C+**



2008 Grade Change Over Time

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.

## REPORT CARD

Preparation	B-
Participation	C-
Affordability	F
Completion	C+
Benefits	C
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.

## BENEFITS

**C**



2008 Grade Change Over Time

Only a fair proportion of residents have a bachelor's degree, and this weakens the state economy.

- 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

**I**

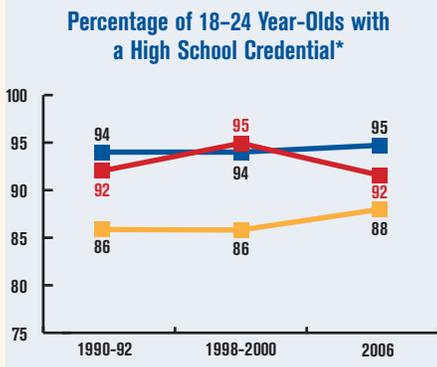
2008 Grade

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.

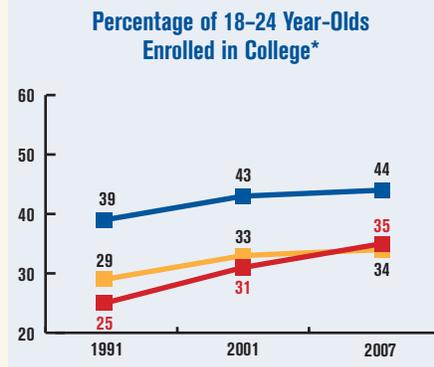
## PREPARATION

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.

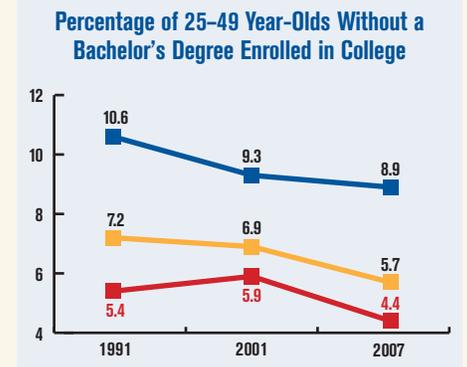


## PARTICIPATION

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.

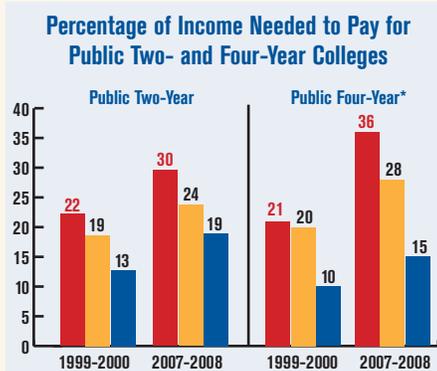


The enrollment of working-age adults, relative to the number of residents without a bachelor's degree, has declined in Maine—as it has nationally and in the best-performing states. The percentage attending college in Maine is well below the U.S. average and the top states.



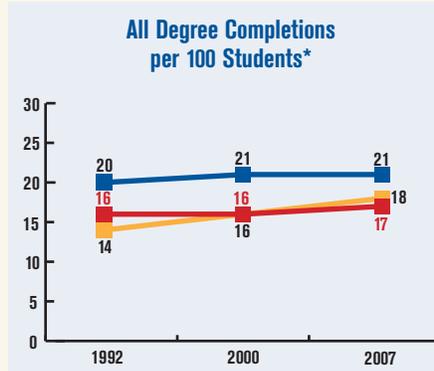
## AFFORDABILITY

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.



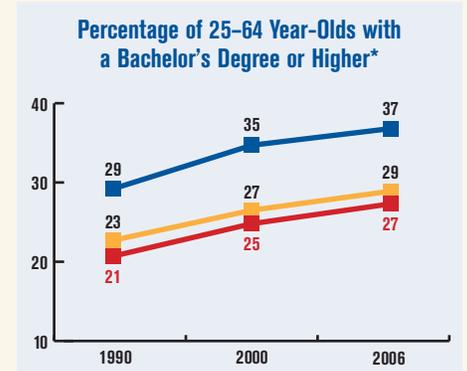
## COMPLETION

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.



\*Key indicator for the category.

## LEGEND:

- & ■ = Maine
- & ■ = 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**