

**MEASURING UP**  
**2008**

**THE STATE REPORT CARD  
ON HIGHER EDUCATION**



**Montana**



**THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR  
PUBLIC POLICY AND  
HIGHER EDUCATION**

# What Is Measuring Up?

**M**easuring Up is a series of biennial report cards that provide the general public and policymakers with information to assess and improve higher education in each state. The report cards evaluate states because they are primarily responsible for educational access and quality in the United States. This year's edition, *Measuring Up 2008*, is the fifth in the series, which began in 2000. In *Measuring Up*, "higher education" refers to all education and training beyond high school, including public and private, two- and four-year, and for-profit and nonprofit institutions.

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?

Each state receives a letter grade in each performance category. Each grade is based on the state's performance on several indicators, or quantitative measures, in that category.

In four of the performance categories — Preparation, Participation, Completion, and Benefits — grades are calculated by comparing each state's current performance with that of the best-performing states. This comparison provides a benchmark for evaluating each state's performance within a national context and encourages each state to "measure up" to the highest-performing states. The Affordability category is the exception. In this category, the state's current performance is compared with the performance of the best states in the late 1990s, since current performance reflects a trend to "measure down" rather than "measure up." All but one state receive an "F" in Affordability. The failing grades in this category confirm the fast decline in affordable higher education for American families. Despite state and federal increases in student financial aid, the over-

all portion of income that most families must devote for higher education continues to escalate.

In *Measuring Up 2008*, state performance in higher education is assessed in three ways:

**Graded Information:** Each state's current performance is compared with that of the best-performing states, and the results are indicated by letter grades.

**Change Over Time:** Change Over Time indicators compare each state's current performance with its own previous performance in the 1990s. For each category, the state's change is determined by its improvement or decline in performance on a key indicator in that category. This information is displayed in two ways. First, states receive either an "up" or a "down" arrow in each performance area (see page 3). An "up" arrow indicates that the state has increased or remained stable on the key indicator in the category, a "down" arrow indicates that the state has declined on the key indicator in the category. Secondly, information about Change Over Time is presented graphically in greater detail on the fourth page of this report card.

**International Comparisons:** As in 2006, this year's edition of *Measuring Up* offers international comparisons that reveal how well the United States and each of the 50 states are preparing residents with the knowledge and skills necessary to compete in a global economy. State performance is compared with the performance of nations that are associated with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

In *Measuring Up 2008*, all states receive an "Incomplete" in Learning because there are not sufficient data to allow meaningful state-by-state comparisons. *Measuring Up 2006* provided state-specific information on Learning for nine states, but in 2008 no state collects and provides the information necessary to determine the state's "educational capital" — or the level of knowledge and skills possessed by its residents.

## A Snapshot of Grades and Change Over Time

### Preparation:

**Grades:** 6 states received an A, 18 states received a B, 21 states received a C, 5 states received a D, and no state received an F.

**Change Over Time:**\* 34 states have improved or remained stable on the key indicator and 16 states have declined on the key indicator.

### Participation:

**Grades:** 2 states received an A, 8 states received a B, 22 states received a C, 15 states received a D, and 3 states received an F.

**Change Over Time:**\* 43 states have improved or remained stable on the key indicator and 7 states have declined on the key indicator.

### Affordability:

**Grades:** 1 state received a C and 49 states received an F.

**Change Over Time:**\* 2 states have improved or remained stable on the key indicator and 48 states have declined on the key indicator.

### Completion:

**Grades:** 11 states received an A, 20 states received a B, 16 states received a C, 1 state received a D, and 2 states received an F.

**Change Over Time:**\* 48 states have improved or remained stable on the key indicator and 2 states have declined on the key indicator.

### Benefits:

**Grades:** 5 states received an A, 15 states received a B, 19 states received a C, 10 states received a D, and 1 state received an F.

**Change Over Time:**\* 50 states have improved or remained stable on the key indicator.

\*For the key indicators for Change Over Time, please see the five indicators with asterisks on page 4.



## PREPARATION

**B-**

2008 Grade



Change Over Time

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

- Eighth graders perform very well on national assessments in math, science, and reading, but their scores in writing are fairly low.
- There is a 5% gap between whites and all minorities in the percentage of 18- to 24-year-olds with a high school credential.

## PARTICIPATION

**D+**

2008 Grade



Change Over Time

College opportunities for Montana residents are poor.

- The likelihood of enrolling in college by age 19 is fairly high, but a very low percentage of working-age adults are enrolled in higher education.
- There is an 8% gap between whites and all minorities in the percentage of young adults enrolled in college.

## 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 nine cents.

## COMPLETION

**C-**

2008 Grade



Change Over Time

Montana performs fairly 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-three percent of college students complete a bachelor's degree within six years.
- Only 29% of Native Americans graduate within six years, compared with 45% of whites.

## REPORT CARD

Preparation	<b>B-</b>
Participation	<b>D+</b>
Affordability	<b>F</b>
Completion	<b>C-</b>
Benefits	<b>C+</b>
Learning	<b>I</b>

## BENEFITS

**C+**

2008 Grade



Change Over Time

A fairly large proportion of residents have a bachelor's degree.

- Ten percent of Native Americans have a bachelor's degree, compared with 30% 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 \$1 billion higher.

## LEARNING

**I**

2008 Grade

Like all states, Montana 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.

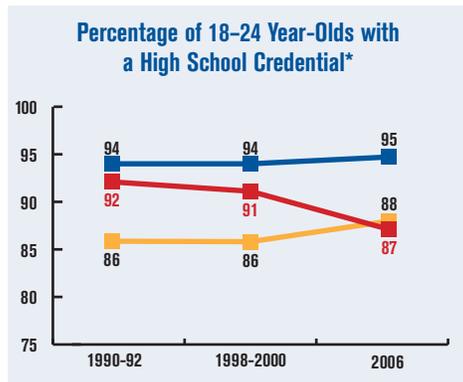


State has declined on the key indicator in the category.

This page reflects Montana's performance and progress since the early 1990s on several key indicators.

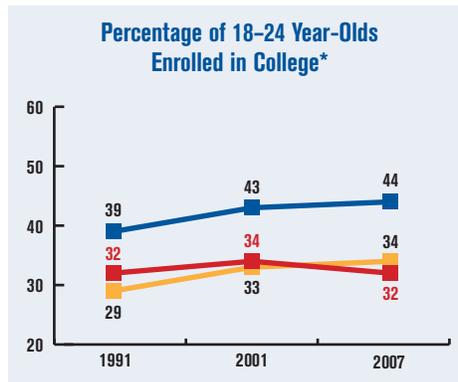
## PREPARATION

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

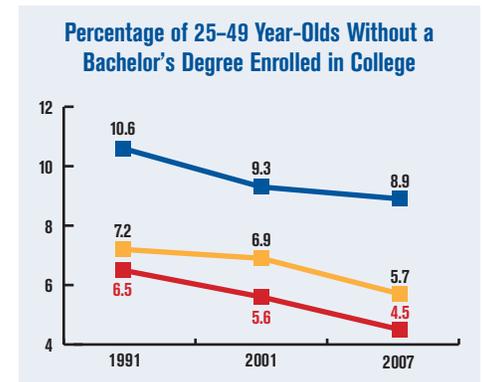


## PARTICIPATION

College enrollment of young adults in Montana has remained stable 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.

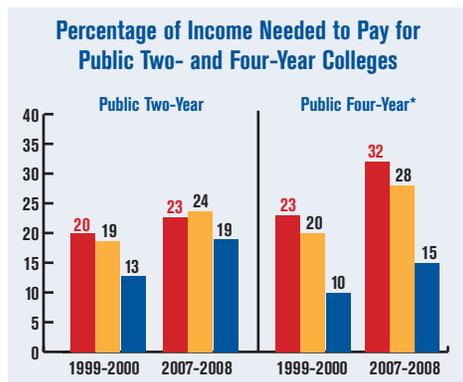


The enrollment of working-age adults, relative to the number of residents without a bachelor's degree, has declined in Montana—as it has nationally and in the best-performing states. The percentage attending college in Montana is well below the U.S. average and the top states.



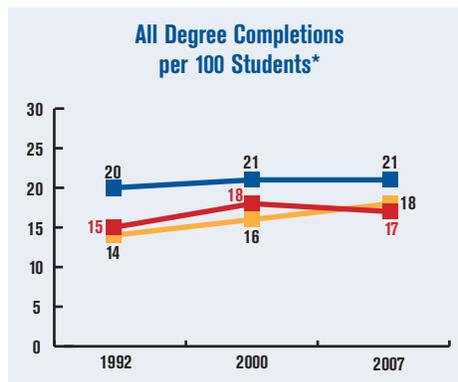
## AFFORDABILITY

The share of family income, even after financial aid, needed to pay for college has risen substantially. To attend public two-year colleges in Montana, students and families pay less than the U.S. average but more than those in the best-performing states. To attend public four-year colleges, they pay more than the national average.



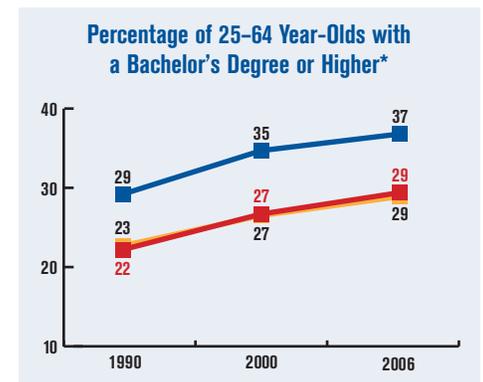
## COMPLETION

The number of undergraduate credentials and degrees awarded in Montana, relative to the number of students enrolled, has increased since the early 1990s. However, Montana 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. The state equals the U.S. average but is below the top states.



\*Key indicator for the category.

## LEGEND:

—■— & ■ = Montana

—■— & ■ = United States

—■— & ■ = Median of Top Five States



2008 Grade Change Over Time

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

## Graded Information

### Compared with other states:

- Eighty-seven percent of young adults in Montana earn a high school diploma or General Education Development (GED) diploma by age 24.
- A very small proportion (22%) of 8th graders take algebra.
- Eighth graders perform very well on national assessments in math, science, and reading, indicating that they are well prepared to succeed in challenging high school courses. Montana is a top-performing state in science and reading. However, the performance of 8th graders on national assessments in writing is fairly low.
- Low-income 8th graders perform very well on national assessments in math.
- Very small proportions of 11th and 12th graders score well on Advanced Placement tests, but large proportions score well on college entrance exams.
- Seventy-six percent of secondary school students are taught by qualified teachers, which compares very well with top-performing states.

## Performance Gaps

- There is a 5% gap between whites and all minorities in the percentage of 18- to 24-year-olds with a high school credential.

PREPARATION	Montana		Top States
	Early 1990s*	2008	
<b>High School Completion (25%)</b>			
18- to 24-year-olds with a high school credential	92%	87%	95%
<b>K-12 Course Taking (30%)</b>			
9th to 12th graders taking at least one upper-level math course	44%	n/a**	64%
9th to 12th graders taking at least one upper-level science course	27%	n/a**	46%
8th grade students taking algebra	n/a	22%	47%
<b>K-12 Student Achievement (35%)</b>			
8th graders scoring at or above “proficient” on the national assessment exam in math	27%	38%	41%
8th graders scoring at or above “proficient” on the national assessment exam in reading	38%	39%	39%
8th graders scoring at or above “proficient” on the national assessment exam in science	41%	42%	41%
8th graders scoring at or above “proficient” on the national assessment exam in writing	25%	33%	46%
Low-income 8th graders scoring at or above “proficient” on the national assessment exam in math	17%	22%	24%
Number of scores in the top 20% nationally on SAT/ACT college entrance exam per 1,000 high school graduates	164	228	265
Number of scores that are 3 or higher on an Advanced Placement subject test per 1,000 high school juniors and seniors	30	96	237
<b>Teacher Quality (10%)</b>			
7th to 12th graders taught by teachers with a major in their subject	n/a	76%	83%

\*The indicators report data beginning in the early 1990s or the closest year for which reliable data are available. See the *Technical Guide for Measuring Up 2008*.

\*\*Data are not available because the state did not participate in the national survey.

## Change in Graded Measures

- Over the past decade, Montana has consistently performed very well on national assessments in science, math, and reading.

## Other Key Facts

- Among working-age adults (ages 25 to 49) without a high school diploma, only 15 out of 1,000 earned a GED.
- About 17% of children under age 18 live in poverty, compared with a national rate of 18%.
- Policymakers and state residents do not have access to important information about the courses students take in high school because the state declined to participate in the national survey.

The preparation category measures how well a state's K-12 schools prepare students for education and training beyond high school. The opportunities that residents have to enroll in and benefit from higher education depend heavily on the performance of their state's K-12 educational system.



2008 Grade *Change Over Time*



College opportunities for Montana residents are poor.

## Graded Information

### Compared with other states:

- The chance of Montana high school students enrolling in college by age 19 is fairly high, even though few graduates go on to college immediately after high school.
- However, a very low percentage of working-age adults (ages 25 to 49) are enrolled in college-level education or training.

## Performance Gaps

- There is an 8% gap between whites and all minorities in the percentage of 18- to 24-year-olds enrolled in college.

## Change in Graded Measures

- Since the early 1990s, the percentage of working-age adults (ages 25 to 49) who are enrolled in education or training beyond high school has declined by 31%, compared with a national decline of 22%.

PARTICIPATION	Montana		Top States
	Early 1990s*	2008	
<b>Young Adults (67%)</b>			
Chance for college by age 19	43%	46%	57%
18- to 24-year-olds enrolled in college	32%	32%	44%
<b>Working-Age Adults (33%)</b>			
25- to 49-year-olds enrolled in any type of postsecondary education with no bachelor's degree or higher	6.5%	4.5%	8.9%

\*The indicators report data beginning in the early 1990s or the closest year for which reliable data are available. See the *Technical Guide for Measuring Up 2008*.

## Other Key Facts

- Montana's population is projected to grow by 11% from 2005 to 2025, below the national increase of 18%. During approximately the same period, the number of high school graduates is projected to decrease by 6%.
- About 10% of the adult population has less than a high school diploma or its equivalent, compared with 16% nationwide.
- In Montana, 19 more students are leaving the state than entering to attend college. About 24% of Montana high school graduates who go to college attend college out of state.

The participation category addresses the opportunities for state residents to enroll in higher education. A strong grade in participation generally indicates that state residents have high individual expectations for education and that the state provides enough spaces and types of educational programs for its residents.



2008 Grade Change Over Time



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

## Graded Information

- Compared with best-performing states, families in Montana devote a very large share of family income, even after financial aid, to attend public two- and four-year colleges and universities, which enroll 90% of college students in the state.
- The state's investment in need-based financial aid is very low when compared with top-performing states, and Montana does not offer low-priced college opportunities.
- Undergraduate students borrowed on average \$4,611 in 2007.

## Other Key Facts

- In Montana, 69% of students are enrolled in public four-year colleges and universities.

AFFORDABILITY	Montana		Top States in Previous Years
	Previous Years*	Current Year	
<b>Family Ability to Pay (50%)</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2008</b>	
Percent of income (average of all income groups) needed to pay for college expenses minus financial aid:			
at community colleges	20%	23%	13%
at public 4-year colleges/universities	23%	32%	10%
at private 4-year colleges/universities	41%	52%	30%
<b>Strategies for Affordability (40%)</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>2008</b>	
State investment in need-based financial aid as compared to the federal investment	1%	9%	89%
At lowest-priced colleges, the share of income that the poorest families need to pay for tuition	13%	29%	7%
<b>Reliance on Loans (10%)</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>2008</b>	
Average loan amount that undergraduate students borrow each year	\$2,839	\$4,611	\$2,619

\*See the *Technical Guide for Measuring Up 2008*.

Note: In the affordability category, the lower the figures, the better the performance for all indicators except for "State investment in need-based financial aid."

The affordability category measures whether students and families can afford to pay for higher education, given income levels, financial aid, and the types of colleges and universities in the state.

## Financial Burden to Pay for College Varies Widely by Family Income

Those who are striving to reach or stay in the middle class — the 40% of the population with the lowest incomes — earn on average \$16,129.

- If a student from such a family were to attend a public four-year college in the state, their net cost to attend college would represent about 47% of their income annually.

Tuition, room, and board:	\$11,692
Financial aid received:	-\$4,158
Net college cost:	\$7,534
Percent of income:	47%

Note: The numbers shown for tuition, room, and board, minus financial aid may not exactly equal net college cost due to rounding.

A CLOSER LOOK AT FAMILY ABILITY TO PAY	Median Family Income	Community Colleges		Public 4-Year colleges/universities		Private Non-Profit 4-Year colleges/universities	
		Net college cost*	Percent of income needed to pay net college cost	Net college cost*	Percent of income needed to pay net college cost	Net college cost*	Percent of income needed to pay net college cost
<b>Income groups used to calculate 2008 family ability to pay</b>							
20% of the population with the lowest income	\$10,062	\$3,998	40	\$6,344	63	\$12,652	126
20% of the population with lower-middle income	\$23,042	\$6,971	30	\$8,606	37	\$13,059	57
20% of the population with middle income	\$37,833	\$8,158	22	\$10,313	27	\$14,037	37
20% of the population with upper-middle income	\$56,347	\$8,689	15	\$10,414	18	\$14,468	26
20% of the population with the highest income	\$93,878	\$8,899	9	\$10,669	11	\$15,729	17
<b>40% of the population with the lowest income</b>	<b>\$16,129</b>	<b>\$5,297</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>\$7,534</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>\$12,845</b>	<b>80</b>

\*Net college cost equals tuition, room, and board, minus financial aid.



2008 Grade Change Over Time



Montana performs fairly 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.

## Graded Information

### Compared with other states:

- A low percentage (40%) of first-year students in community colleges return for their second year, making Montana the lowest-performing state on this measure.
- However, at four-year colleges and universities, a high percentage (68%) of freshmen return for their sophomore year.
- A fairly low percentage (43%) of first-time, full-time college students complete a bachelor's degree within six years of entering college.
- However, a fairly large proportion of students complete certificates and degrees relative to the number enrolled.
- Twenty-six postsecondary certificates and degrees were awarded for every 1,000 people in the state without a college degree.

COMPLETION	Montana		Top States
	Early 1990s*	2008	
<b>Persistence (20%)**</b>			
1st year community college students returning their second year	n/a	40%	66%
Freshmen at 4-year colleges/universities returning their sophomore year	64%	68%	82%
<b>Completion (80%)</b>			
First-time, full-time students completing a bachelor's degree within 6 years of college entrance	41%	43%	65%
Certificates, degrees, diplomas at all colleges & universities per 100 undergraduate students	15	17	21
Certificates, degrees, diplomas at all colleges & universities per 1,000 adults with no college degree	21	26	44

\*The indicators report data beginning in the early 1990s or the closest year for which reliable data are available.

\*\*2008 data may not be comparable with data from previous years. See the *Technical Guide for Measuring Up 2008*.

## Performance Gaps

- There is a 14% gap between whites and all minorities in college graduation rates at four-year institutions. Twenty-nine percent of Native Americans, the largest minority population in Montana, graduate from a four-year institution within six years, compared with 45% of whites.
- Among white students, 18 degrees are awarded for every 100 students. In contrast, among all minority students, 13 degrees are awarded for every 100 students. Montana has one of the largest gaps in the United States on this measure. The rate of awards for Native Americans, the largest minority population in the state, is 12 for every 100 undergraduate enrollments.

## Change in Graded Measures

- Since the early 1990s, Montana has seen a slight increase in the number of certificates and degrees completed relative to the population with no college degree.

The completion category addresses whether students continue through their educational programs and earn certificates or degrees in a timely manner. Certificates and degrees from one- and two-year programs as well as the bachelor's degree are included.



2008 Grade Change Over Time

A fairly large proportion of residents have a bachelor's degree.

## Graded Information

### Compared with other states:

- A fairly large proportion of residents have a bachelor's degree.
- In addition, residents contribute substantially to the civic good, as measured by charitable giving and voting.

## Performance Gaps

- There is an 11% gap between whites and minorities in the percentage of 25- to 64-year-olds with a bachelor's degree or higher. Among the same population, 10% of Native Americans, the largest minority population in Montana, have a bachelor's degree or higher, compared with 30% 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 \$1 billion higher.

## Change in Graded Measures

### Since the early 1990s:

- The percentage of residents who have a bachelor's degree has increased substantially.
- When compared with other states, Montana has consistently performed very well on the percentage of residents who vote.

BENEFITS	Montana		Top States
	Early 1990s*	2008	
<b>Educational Achievement (38%)</b>			
Adults (ages 25 to 64) with an associate's degree or higher	29%	39%	44%
Adults (ages 25 to 64) with a bachelor's degree or higher	22%	29%	37%
<b>Economic Benefits (31%)</b>			
Increase in total personal income as a result of the percentage of population with some college (including an associate's degree), but not a bachelor's degree	-1%	2%	3%
Increase in total personal income as a result of the percentage of population holding a bachelor's degree	7%	6%	11%
<b>Civic Benefits (31%)</b>			
Residents voting in national elections	67%	64%	65%
Of those who itemize on federal income taxes, the percentage declaring charitable gifts	85%	82%	90%
Increase in volunteering as a result of college education	19%	14%	20%
<b>Adult Skill Levels (0%)**</b>			
Quantitative Literacy	n/a	n/a	n/a
Prose Literacy	n/a	n/a	n/a
Document Literacy	n/a	n/a	n/a

\*The indicators report data beginning in the early 1990s or the closest year for which reliable data are available. See the *Technical Guide for Measuring Up 2008*.

\*\*State-level estimates on these measures are not currently available except for six states participating in an oversample; NCES intends to release limited 50-state data on this 2003 survey in 2009.

## Other Key Facts

- In 2007, Montana scored 50 on the New Economy Index, compared with a nationwide score of 62. The New Economy Index, created by the Kauffman Foundation, measures the extent to which a state is participating in knowledge-based industries. A higher score means increased participation.
- Policymakers and state residents do not have access to important information about high-level literacy skills because the state has declined to participate in the national literacy survey.

The benefits category measures the economic and societal benefits that the state receives as a result of having well-educated residents.



2008 Grade

Like all states, Montana receives an “Incomplete” in Learning because there is not sufficient data to allow meaningful state-by-state comparisons.

*Measuring Up 2004* for the first time provided state-level results in Learning because five states (Illinois, Kentucky, Nevada, Oklahoma, and South Carolina) participated in a groundbreaking effort to pilot comparable measures in this category. The National Forum on College-Level Learning conducted this project, which was funded by the Pew Charitable Trusts.<sup>1</sup> These results were also included in *Measuring Up 2006*, which for the first time reported performance measures based on licensure and graduate admissions examination scores for all 50 states.

The approach used to examine Learning employed a method similar to that of the other five performance categories in *Measuring Up*. Indicators were developed in three categories:

- 1. Literacy Levels of College-Educated Residents.** What are the abilities of the state’s college-educated population? The answer to this question constitutes the “educational capital” that the state can count on with respect to developing a twenty-first century workforce and a citizenry equipped to function effectively in civic and democratic processes.
- 2. Graduates Ready for Advanced Practice.** To what extent do colleges and universities in the state educate students to be capable of contributing to the workforce? The answer to this question depends a great deal on the extent to which graduates of the state’s colleges and universities are ready to enter a licensed profession or participate in graduate study.
- 3. Performance of College Graduates.** How effectively can the state’s college and university

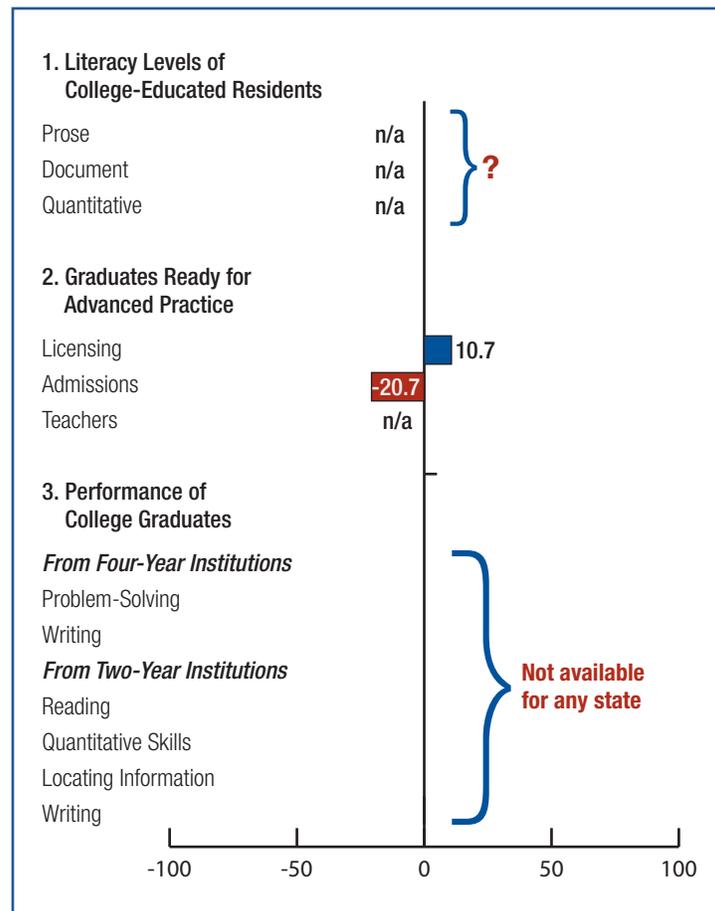
graduates communicate and solve problems? This is the bottom line with respect to performance in learning that can only be determined by common direct assessments of college graduates.

To evaluate state performance on Learning in *Measuring Up 2004*, indicator results within each of these three categories were compiled for the pilot states and compared with a common standard: the national average on each measure. Performance on the resulting group of measures created a “learning profile” for

each state that shows how many percentage points above or below this national level the values of each of the state’s indicators fall.

*Measuring Up 2008* uses the same method for portraying results in Learning, although the picture is incomplete. Results for Literacy Levels of College-Educated Residents can be calculated only for the six states (Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Missouri, New York, and Oklahoma) that participated in the State Assessment of Adult Literacy (SAAL)-a state-level version of the

National Assessment of Adult Literacy (NAAL) conducted in 2003. Results for Graduates Ready for Advanced Practice, which are based on common licensure and graduate admissions examinations, can be calculated for all 50 states. Results for Performance of College Graduates relied upon specially administered standardized assessments given to representative samples of the state’s about-to-graduate college students for five states in 2004. These measures were reported in *Measuring Up 2004* and *Measuring Up 2006*, but have not been repeated for 2008.



## Montana Results

Montana is almost 11 percentage points above the national benchmark in workforce preparation as reflected in professional licensure examinations. Six percent more of the state’s graduates take such examinations than do graduates on average nationwide, and their pass rates are 2% above the national average. The state is more than 20 percentage points below the national benchmark in preparing students for graduate study as reflected in graduate admissions examinations. Montana graduates are 12% less likely to take such examinations than are graduates on average nationwide, and the proportion earning competitive scores is 10% below the national average.

Montana is one of three states that does not publicly report pass rates on its teacher licensure examinations.

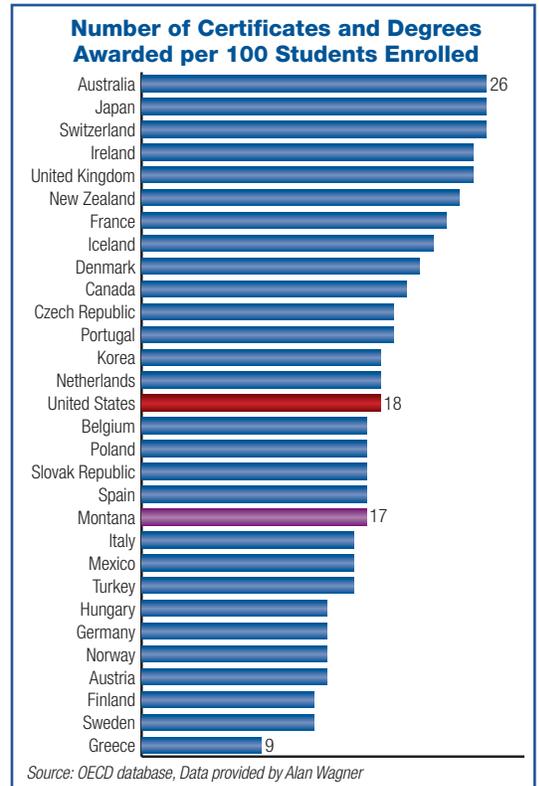
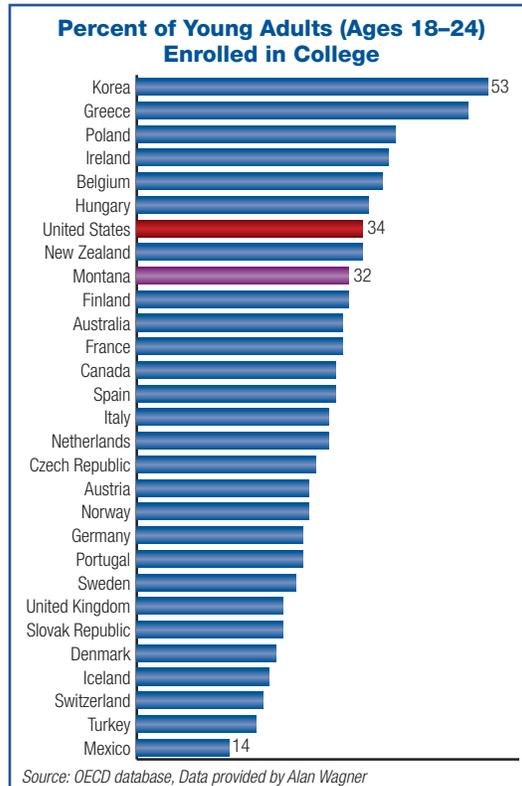
Montana did not participate in the SAAL, so no results on literacy are available.

1. A full report on the results of this project can be obtained from the National Center at [http://www.highereducation.org/reports/mu\\_learning/index.shtml](http://www.highereducation.org/reports/mu_learning/index.shtml).

## How Montana Measures Up Internationally

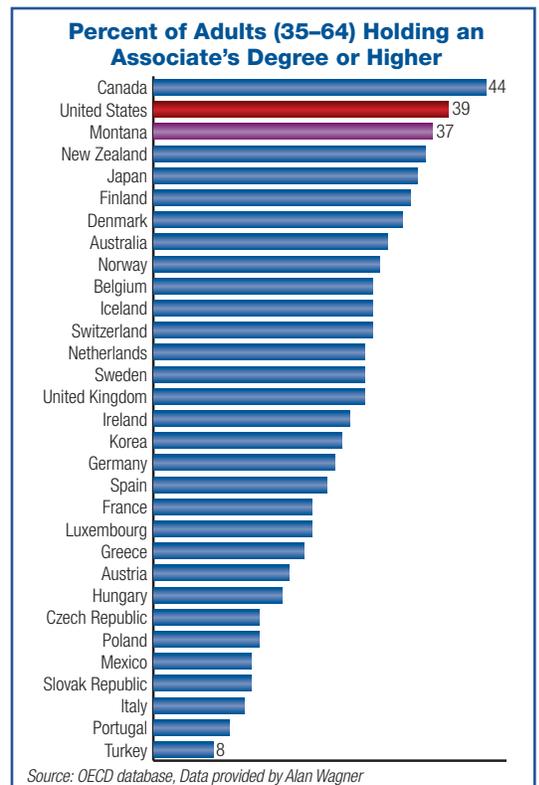
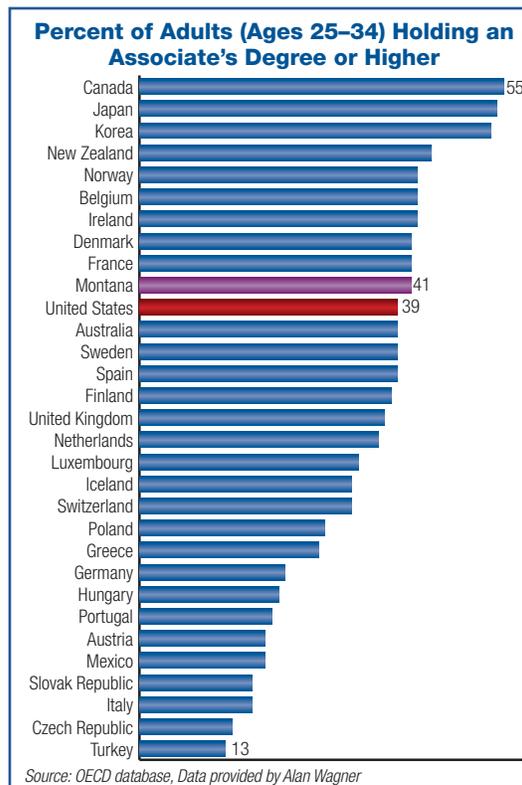
### Participation

About 32% of young adults, ages 18 to 24, in Montana are currently enrolled in college. Internationally, although Montana's enrollment rate compares well with that of top countries, it is 21% less than the rate in Korea, the best-performing nation on this measure. Montana is also surpassed by Greece, Poland, Ireland, Belgium, Hungary, and New Zealand.



### Completion

When compared internationally, Montana is surpassed by many countries in the proportion of students who complete certificates or degrees. With 17 out of 100 students enrolled completing a degree or certificate, Montana's completion rate is only 65% of the rate in Australia, the top-performing country on this measure, where 26 out of 100 students complete certificates or degrees. Montana also lags Japan, Switzerland, Ireland, the United Kingdom, New Zealand, France, Iceland, Denmark, Canada, the Czech Republic, Portugal, Korea, and the Netherlands.



### Educational Level of Adult Population

Montana's younger adults, ages 25 to 34, are ahead of older adults, ages 35 to 64, in attaining a college degree. When compared internationally, Montana is among the leaders in the educational attainment of younger adults. However, the proportion of younger adults with a college degree in the state is 14% less than the proportion in Canada, the top-performing nation on this measure. Montana is also surpassed by Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Norway, Belgium, and Ireland.

State Context	Montana	State Rank
Population (2007)	957,861	44
Gross State Product (2007, in millions)	\$34,253	46
Leading Indicators	Montana	U.S.
Projected % change in population, 2005-2025	11%	18%
Projected % change in number of all high school graduates, 2005-2022	-6%	9%
Projected budget surplus/shortfall by 2013	-6%	-6%
Median income of poorest 20% of population (2006)	\$10,062	\$11,169
Children in poverty (2006)	17%	18%
Percent of adult population with less than a high school diploma or equivalent (2006)	10%	16%
GEDs awarded to 25- to 49-year-olds with no high school diploma (2006)	15	8
New Economy Index (2007)*	50	62
Facts and Figures	Montana	
	Number/Amount	Percent
Institutions of Postsecondary Education (2007-08)	Number/Amount	Percent
Public 4-Year	6	26%
Public 2-Year	12	52%
Private 4-Year	4	17%
Private 2-Year	1	4%
Students Enrolled by Institution Type (2006)		
Public 4-Year	29,771	69%
Public 2-Year	8,846	21%
Private 4-Year	3,906	9%
Private 2-Year	467	1%
Students Enrolled by Level (2006)		
Undergraduate	42,990	91%
Graduate	3,916	8%
Professional	595	1%
Enrollment Status of Students (2006)		
Full-time	35,358	74%
Part-time	12,143	26%
Net Migration of Students (2006)		
Positive numbers for net migration mean that more students are entering than leaving the state to attend college. Negative numbers reveal the reverse.	-19	
Average Tuition (2007-08)		
Public 4-year institutions	\$5,346	
Public 2-year institutions	\$3,009	
Private 4-year institutions	\$16,582	
State and Local Appropriations for Higher Education		
Per \$1,000 of personal income, FY 2008	\$6	
Per capita, FY 2008	\$198	
% change, FY 1998-2008		49%

\*The New Economy Index, created by the Kauffman Foundation, measures the extent to which a state is participating in knowledge-based industries. A higher score means increased participation.

# Questions and Answers about *Measuring Up 2008*

**Q. Who is being graded in this report card, and why?**

**A.** *Measuring Up 2008* grades states, not students or individual colleges or universities, on their performance in higher education. The states are responsible for preparing students for higher education by means of sound K-12 school systems, and they provide most of the public financial support — approximately \$77 billion in 2008 — for colleges and universities. Through their oversight of public institutions of higher education, state leaders affect the types and number of education programs available in the state. State leaders also determine the limits of financial support and often influence tuition and fees for public colleges and universities. They also establish how much state-based financial aid is available to students and their families, which affects students attending both private and public colleges and universities. In addition, state economic development policies influence the income advantage that residents receive from having some college experience or a college degree.

**Q. How are states graded?**

**A.** States receive letter grades in each performance category. Each category consists of several indicators, or quantitative measures — a total of 36 indicators in the five graded categories. Grades are calculated based on each state's current performance on these indicators, relative to the best-performing states. Grades in *Measuring Up 2008* reflect state performance for 2006 or 2007, the most recent information available.

For the sixth category, Learning, states receive an “Incomplete” because there is not sufficient information about student learning for meaningful state-by-state comparisons.

**Q. What sources of information are used to determine the grades?**

**A.** All data used to grade states in *Measuring Up 2008* were collected from reliable national sources, including the U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Department of Education. All data are the most recent public information available for state comparisons. Please see the *Technical Guide for Measuring Up 2008* for more information regarding data sources.

**Q. How do we measure Change Over Time?**

**A.** Change Over Time indicators compare each state's current performance with its own previous performance in the 1990s. For each category, the state's change is determined by its improvement or decline in performance on a key indicator in that category. This information is displayed in two ways. First, states receive either an “up” or a “down” arrow in each performance area (see page 3). An “up” arrow indicates that the

state has increased or remained stable on the key indicator in the category, a “down” arrow indicates that the state has declined on the key indicator in the category. Secondly, information about Change Over Time is presented graphically in greater detail on the fourth page of this report card.

**Q. What is new in *Measuring Up 2008*?**

**A.** This year the National Center replaced the data from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS) with the American Community Survey (ACS), also administered by the Census Bureau. The ACS has a sample size of three million households (as of 2005), and will eventually replace the long survey form of the decennial census. Because of its large sample size, it is a valuable resource for state data. This new data source affects several indicators in the preparation, participation, completion, and benefits categories. For more information on these indicators, see *Technical Guide for Measuring Up 2008* at [www.highereducation.org](http://www.highereducation.org). In addition, *Measuring Up 2008* includes two new indicators, one in Completion and one in Benefits. These new indicators can be found in the *Technical Guide for Measuring Up 2008*.

**Q. What information is provided but not graded?**

**A.** The state report cards highlight important gaps in college opportunities for various income and ethnic groups, they identify improvements and setbacks in each state's performance over time, and they compare state performance in higher education with other countries. Each state report card also presents important contextual information, such as demographic trends, student migration data, and state funding levels for higher education.

**Q. Why does *Measuring Up 2008* include international indicators?**

**A.** As in 2006, this year's edition of *Measuring Up* provides information on key international indicators of educational performance. In the global economy, it is critical for each nation to establish and maintain a competitive edge through the ongoing, high-quality education of its population. *Measuring Up 2008* offers international comparisons that reveal how well the United States and each of the 50 states are preparing residents with the knowledge and skills necessary to compete in a global economy. As with other data in the report card, each international measure is based on the most current data available. In this case, the data are from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). International comparisons are used to gauge the states' and the nation's standing relative to OECD countries on the participation and educational success of their populations. Please see the *Technical Guide for Measuring Up 2008* for more information regarding data sources.

# State Grades 2008

State	Preparation	Participation	Affordability	Completion	Benefits	Learning
Alabama	D+	D+	F	C-	C	I
Alaska	C+	F	F	F	C+	I
Arizona	D	A	F	B	B-	I
Arkansas	C-	D+	F	C-	D+	I
California	C+	C	C-	B-	B+	I
Colorado	A-	C+	F	B-	B+	I
Connecticut	A	C-	F	B-	A-	I
Delaware	C+	C-	F	B	C+	I
Florida	C	D	F	B+	C	I
Georgia	C+	D-	F	B-	B	I
Hawaii	C-	D	F	C	B-	I
Idaho	C	D	F	C	C-	I
Illinois	B	C	F	B+	B	I
Indiana	C	C	F	B-	D+	I
Iowa	B	A	F	A	C+	I
Kansas	B	B-	F	B	C+	I
Kentucky	C	C	F	B	D+	I
Louisiana	D-	F	F	C+	D	I
Maine	B-	C-	F	C+	C	I
Maryland	A-	C	F	B-	A	I
Massachusetts	A	B-	F	A	A	I
Michigan	C	C	F	C+	B+	I
Minnesota	B	B	F	A	B	I
Mississippi	D	D+	F	C	D	I
Missouri	C+	C	F	B	C+	I
Montana	B-	D+	F	C-	C+	I
Nebraska	B-	B	F	B+	B	I
Nevada	C	F	F	F	D	I
New Hampshire	B	C-	F	A-	B	I
New Jersey	A-	C	F	C+	A-	I
New Mexico	D-	B-	F	D+	C+	I
New York	B	D+	F	B+	B	I
North Carolina	B-	D+	F	B-	C+	I
North Dakota	B-	B+	F	A	D	I
Ohio	B-	C-	F	B-	C+	I
Oklahoma	C-	C-	F	C	D+	I
Oregon	C+	D	F	C+	B+	I
Pennsylvania	B-	C-	F	A	C	I
Rhode Island	C+	C+	F	A	B-	I
South Carolina	C+	D-	F	C+	C	I
South Dakota	B	B	F	B	D+	I
Tennessee	C	D	F	C	C	I
Texas	B	D-	F	C-	C+	I
Utah	B	B-	F	B+	B	I
Vermont	A-	C	F	A-	C+	I
Virginia	B+	C	F	B	A	I
Washington	C+	D	F	A-	B	I
West Virginia	C	C	F	C	F	I
Wisconsin	B	C+	F	A-	C	I
Wyoming	C	C	F	A	D-	I

# State Change Over Time on Key Indicators

State	Preparation	Participation	Affordability	Completion	Benefits
Alabama	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑
Alaska	↑	↓	↓	↑	↑
Arizona	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑
Arkansas	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑
California	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑
Colorado	↓	↓	↓	↑	↑
Connecticut	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑
Delaware	↓	↑	↓	↑	↑
Florida	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑
Georgia	↓	↑	↓	↑	↑
Hawaii	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑
Idaho	↑	↓	↓	↑	↑
Illinois	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑
Indiana	↓	↑	↓	↑	↑
Iowa	↓	↑	↓	↓	↑
Kansas	↓	↑	↓	↑	↑
Kentucky	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑
Louisiana	↓	↑	↓	↑	↑
Maine	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑
Maryland	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑
Massachusetts	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑
Michigan	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑
Minnesota	↓	↑	↓	↑	↑
Mississippi	↓	↑	↓	↑	↑
Missouri	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑
Montana	↓	↑	↓	↑	↑
Nebraska	↓	↑	↓	↑	↑
Nevada	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑
New Hampshire	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑
New Jersey	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑
New Mexico	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑
New York	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
North Carolina	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑
North Dakota	↑	↓	↓	↓	↑
Ohio	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑
Oklahoma	↑	↓	↓	↑	↑
Oregon	↓	↑	↓	↑	↑
Pennsylvania	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑
Rhode Island	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑
South Carolina	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑
South Dakota	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑
Tennessee	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
Texas	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑
Utah	↓	↓	↓	↑	↑
Vermont	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑
Virginia	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑
Washington	↓	↑	↓	↑	↑
West Virginia	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑
Wisconsin	↓	↑	↓	↑	↑
Wyoming	↓	↓	↓	↑	↑

## Key Indicators by Category:

**Preparation:** Percentage of 18- to 24-year-olds with a high school credential (1990 to 2006)

**Participation:** Percentage of 18- to 24-year-olds enrolled in higher education (1991 to 2007)

**Affordability:** Percentage of income (average of all income groups) needed to pay for college expenses at public four-year institutions (1999-2007)

**Completion:** All degree completions per 100 students (1992 to 2007)

**Benefits:** Percentage of 25- to 64-year-olds with a bachelor's degree or higher (1990 to 2006)

# Measuring Up 2008 Resources

To view *Measuring Up 2008* and its resources visit [www.highereducation.org](http://www.highereducation.org)

## National Picture

- **2008 Snapshot:** Performance overview on national maps
- **Improvements and Declines:** The nation's performance since the early 1990s
- **Download** the national report in PDF format

## State Reports

- **State Report Cards:** A comprehensive picture of higher education in each state
- **Download** each state's report card in PDF format

## Compare States

- **Graded Performance:** Compare state results by performance category
- **State Facts:** Compare non-graded state information
- **Index Scores** (sort/compare/map): Sort states by their rank within each category and create a national map based on individual indicator scores

## Commentary

- **Foreword**, by Governor James B. Hunt Jr., Chairman, the National Center's Board of Directors
- **The 2008 National Report Card: Modest Improvements, Persistent Disparities, Eroding Global Competitiveness**, by Patrick M. Callan, President, The National Center
- **The Information Gap: Much Talk, Little Progress**, by Dennis P. Jones, President of the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems

- **Stuck on Student Learning**, by Peter T. Ewell, Vice President of the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems
- **Facing the Nation: The Role of College Leaders in Higher Education Policy**, by David W. Breneman, University Professor and Director, University of Virginia

## News Room

- **National Press Releases**
- **State Press Releases**
- **Press Contact Information**

## About Measuring Up

- What's New in *Measuring up 2008*?
- Questions and Answers about *Measuring Up 2008*
- How We Grade States
- How We Measure Change
- *Measuring Up 2008* Database
- Technical Guide
- *Measuring Up 2008* National Advisory Group
- Acknowledgements
- About the National Center
- Site Map

To view *Measuring Up 2008* individual state report cards for each of the 50 states, visit [www.highereducation.org](http://www.highereducation.org).



THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR  
PUBLIC POLICY AND  
HIGHER EDUCATION

ity education and training beyond high school. Established in 1998 by a consortium of national foundations, the National Center is an independent, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that is not affiliated

The *Measuring Up 2008* national and state report cards on higher education were made possible by grants from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Lumina Foundation for Education.

The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education promotes public policies that enhance Americans' opportunities to pursue and achieve high-quality

with any institution of higher education or government agency. It conducts research and analyses of policy issues facing the states and the nation with a particular focus on opportunity and achievement in higher education — including two- and four-year, public and private, for-profit and nonprofit institutions. The National Center communicates findings and recommendations, including information on state and national performance of American higher education, to the public, to civic, business, and higher education leaders, and to state and federal policymakers.

The National Center is solely responsible for *Measuring Up 2008*.

**For further information about the National Center and its publications, visit [www.highereducation.org](http://www.highereducation.org).**

152 North Third Street, Suite 705, San Jose, California 95112

Telephone: 408-271-2699, FAX: 408-271-2697

[www.highereducation.org](http://www.highereducation.org)

National Center Report #08-3. Material may be duplicated with full attribution. © 2008 by The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education.



THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR  
PUBLIC POLICY AND  
HIGHER EDUCATION

152 North Third Street, Suite 705

San Jose, California 95112

**Telephone:** 408.271.2699

**Fax:** 408.271.2697

**center@highereducation.org**

**www.highereducation.org**

---

To view *Measuring Up 2008* individual state report cards for each of the 50 states, visit **www.highereducation.org**.