

# MEASURING UP 2008

THE STATE REPORT CARD  
ON HIGHER EDUCATION

# New Mexico



## 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.

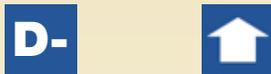
The report card grades states in six overall performance categories: **Preparation:** How adequately does the state prepare students for education and training beyond high school? **Participation:** Do state residents have sufficient opportunities to enroll in education and training beyond high school? **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  
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## PREPARATION



2008 Grade Change Over Time

New Mexico's underperformance in educating its young population could limit the state's access to a competitive workforce and weaken the state's economy.

- Eighth graders perform very poorly in math, science, reading, and writing.
- New Mexico is among the poorest-performing states in high school completion. Eighty percent of Hispanics have a high school credential, compared with 92% of whites.

## PARTICIPATION



2008 Grade Change Over Time

New Mexico does fairly well in providing college opportunities for its residents.

- The likelihood of enrolling in college by age 19 is only fair, but a very high percentage of working-age adults are enrolled in higher education.
- Twenty-nine percent of Hispanic young adults are enrolled in college, compared with 40% of whites.

## AFFORDABILITY

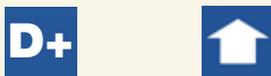


2008 Grade Change Over Time

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

- Poor and working-class families must devote 28% of their income, even after aid, to pay for costs at two-year colleges.
- Financial aid to low-income students is low. For every dollar in Pell Grant aid to students, the state spends only 20 cents.

## COMPLETION



2008 Grade Change Over Time

New Mexico performs poorly in awarding certificates and degrees, but the state has improved over the decade.

- Only 42% of college students complete a bachelor's degree within six years.
- Thirty-eight percent of Hispanics graduate within six years, compared with 47% of whites.

## REPORT CARD

Preparation	D-
Participation	B-
Affordability	F
Completion	D+
Benefits	C+
Learning	I

## WHAT DO THE ARROWS MEAN?



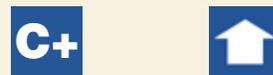
State has increased or remained stable on the key indicator in the category.



State has declined on the key indicator in the category.

See back page for key indicator by category.

## BENEFITS



2008 Grade Change Over Time

A fairly small proportion of residents have a bachelor's degree, and the economic benefits to the state as a result are only fair.

- Thirteen percent of Hispanics have a bachelor's degree, compared with 40% of whites—one of the largest gaps in the nation.
- If all racial/ethnic groups had the same educational attainment and earnings as whites, total annual personal income in the state would be about \$7 billion higher.

## LEARNING



2008 Grade

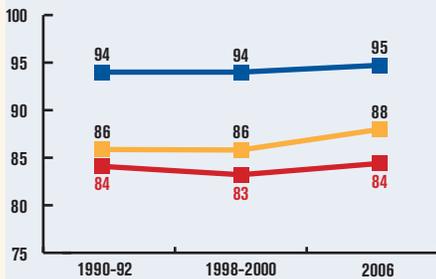
Like all states, New Mexico receives an "Incomplete" in Learning because there is not sufficient data to allow meaningful state-by-state comparisons.

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

## PREPARATION

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

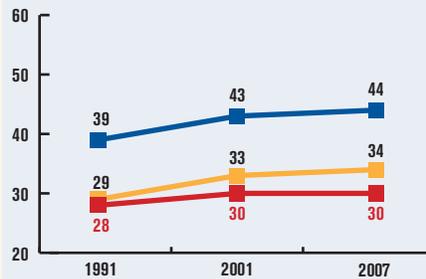
**Percentage of 18-24 Year-Olds with a High School Credential\***



## PARTICIPATION

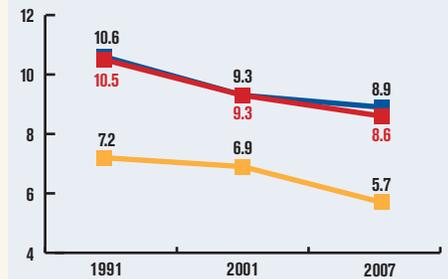
College enrollment of young adults in New Mexico has improved slightly since the early 1990s. Compared with the national average and the top states, however, considerably fewer young adults are enrolled in New Mexico (in percentages).

**Percentage of 18-24 Year-Olds Enrolled in College\***



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

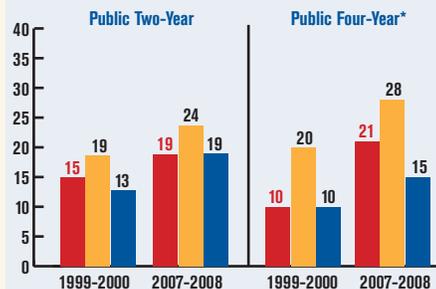
**Percentage of 25-49 Year-Olds Without a Bachelor's Degree Enrolled in College**



## 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 New Mexico, students and families pay less than the U.S. average but more than those in the best-performing states.

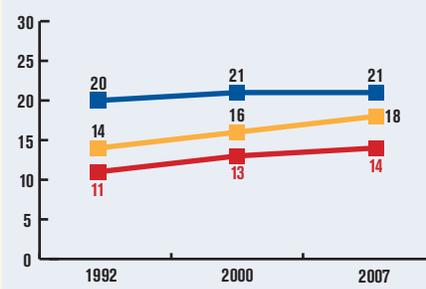
**Percentage of Income Needed to Pay for Public Two- and Four-Year Colleges**



## COMPLETION

The number of undergraduate credentials and degrees awarded in New Mexico, relative to the number of students enrolled, has increased since the early 1990s. However, New Mexico is considerably below the U.S. average and the top states on this measure.

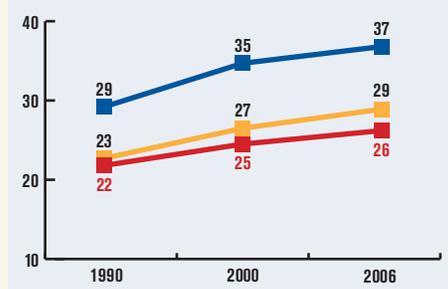
**All Degree Completions per 100 Students\***



## BENEFITS

The percentage of residents who have a bachelor's degree has increased in New Mexico, but is below the U.S. average and well below the top states.

**Percentage of 25-64 Year-Olds with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher\***



\*Key indicator for the category.

## LEGEND:

- & ■ = New Mexico
- & ■ = 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**