

# MEASURING UP 2008

THE STATE REPORT CARD  
ON HIGHER EDUCATION

# Connecticut



## 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.



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## PREPARATION



2008 Grade Change Over Time

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

- Connecticut is among the top states in student performance on Advanced Placement tests.
- However, only 81% of Hispanics have a high school credential, compared with 95% of whites.

## PARTICIPATION



2008 Grade Change Over Time

College opportunities for Connecticut residents are only fair.

- The likelihood of enrolling in college by age 19 is high, but a low percentage of working-age adults (4 in 100) are enrolled in higher education.
- Twenty-seven percent of Hispanic young adults are enrolled in college, compared with 50% 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 43% of their income, even after aid, to pay for costs at public four-year colleges.
- For every dollar in Pell Grant aid to students, the state spends 74 cents.

## COMPLETION



2008 Grade Change Over Time

Connecticut performs fairly well in awarding certificates and degrees relative to the number of students enrolled.

- Sixty-three percent of college students complete a bachelor's degree within six years.
- However, only 53% of Hispanics graduate within six years, compared with 64% of whites.

## REPORT CARD

Preparation	A
Participation	C-
Affordability	F
Completion	B-
Benefits	A-
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 very large proportion of residents have a bachelor's degree, but there are substantial gaps by ethnicity.

- Thirteen percent of Hispanics have a bachelor's degree, compared with 41% 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 \$8 billion higher.

## LEARNING



2008 Grade

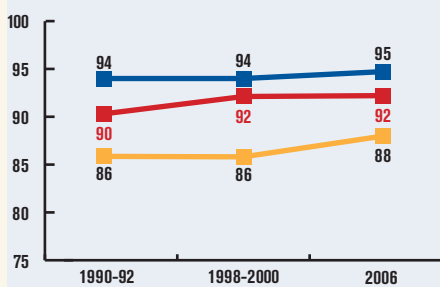
Like all states, Connecticut receives an "Incomplete" in Learning because there is not sufficient data to allow meaningful state-by-state comparisons.

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

## PREPARATION

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

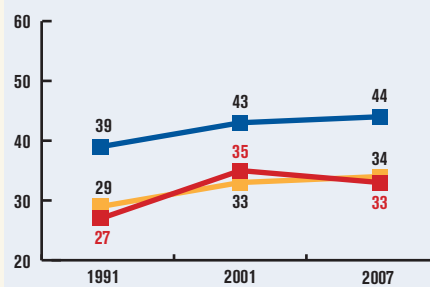
**Percentage of 18-24 Year-Olds with a High School Credential\***



## PARTICIPATION

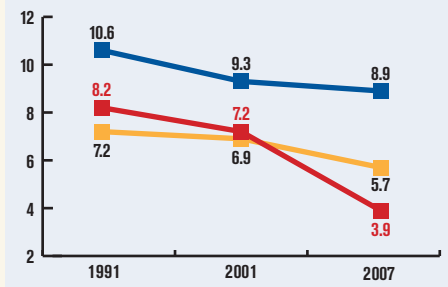
College enrollment of young adults in Connecticut has improved substantially since the early 1990s. The state is slightly below the national average and well below the top states in the percentage of young adults enrolled.

**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 substantially in Connecticut—as it has nationally and in the best-performing states. The percentage attending college in Connecticut is well below the U.S. average and the top states.

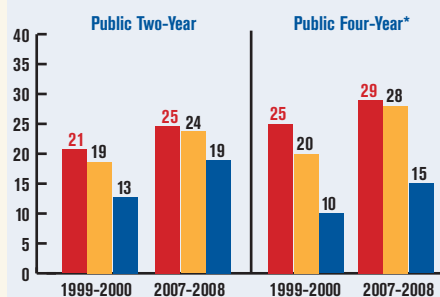
**Percentage of 25-49 Year-Olds Without a Bachelor's Degree Enrolled in College**



## 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 Connecticut, students and families pay more than the U.S. average and more than those in the best-performing states.

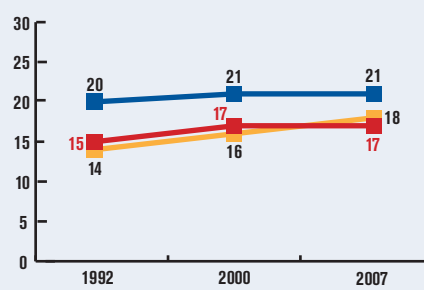
**Percentage of Income Needed to Pay for Public Two- and Four-Year Colleges**



## COMPLETION

The number of undergraduate credentials and degrees awarded in Connecticut, relative to the number of students enrolled, has increased since the early 1990s. Connecticut performs near the U.S. average but below the top states on this measure.

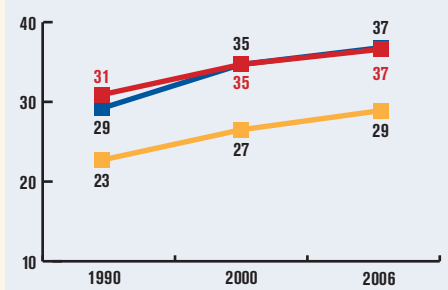
**All Degree Completions per 100 Students\***



## BENEFITS

The percentage of residents who have a bachelor's degree has increased. Connecticut is well above the U.S. average and the same as top states.

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



\*Key indicator for the category.

### LEGEND:

- & ■ = Connecticut
- & ■ = United States
- & ■ = Median of Top Five States



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