MEASURING UP 2008

THE STATE REPORT CARD ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Georgia

THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR
PUBLIC POLICY AND
HIGHER EDUCATION

What Is *Measuring Up?*

Measuring 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 overall 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.*

Georgia

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

PREPARATION

C+

2008 Grade

↓

Change Over Time

Georgia's fairly low performance in educating its young population could limit the state's access to a competitive workforce and weaken its economy.

- Eighth graders perform poorly in math, science, reading, and writing.
- Georgia is among the poorest-performing states in high school completion. Only 84% of blacks have a high school credential, compared with 89% of whites.

PARTICIPATION

D-

2008 Grade

↑

Change Over Time

College opportunities for young and working-age adults are poor.

- The likelihood of enrolling in college by age 19 is low, primarily because the state has one of the lowest high school graduation rates in the country.
- Twenty-eight percent of black young adults are enrolled in college, compared with 39% of whites.

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 40% of their income, even after aid (including HOPE scholarships), to pay for costs at public four-year colleges.
- The state makes almost no investment in need-based financial aid.

BENEFITS

B

2008 Grade

↑

Change Over Time

Only a fair proportion of residents have a bachelor's degree, yet the economic benefits to the state are very high.

- Nineteen percent of blacks have a bachelor's degree, compared with 33% 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 $24 billion higher.

COMPLETION

B-

2008 Grade

↑

Change Over Time

Georgia is a top performer in awarding certificates and degrees relative to the number of students enrolled, but few students attain a bachelor's degree in a timely manner.

- Forty-eight percent of college students complete a bachelor's degree within six years.
- Forty-three percent of blacks graduate within six years, compared with 49% of whites.

LEARNING

I

2008 Grade

Like all states, Georgia 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.

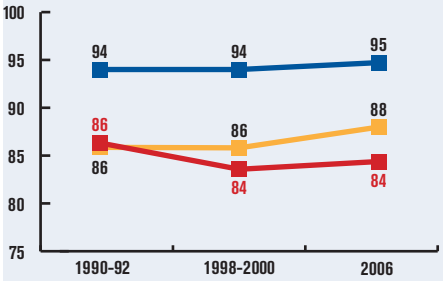
CHANGE OVER TIME: KEY INDICATORS — Georgia 2008

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

PREPARATION

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

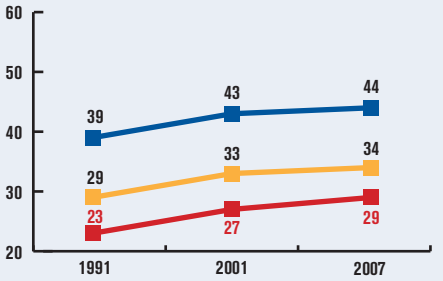
Percentage of 18–24 Year-Olds with a High School Credential*



PARTICIPATION

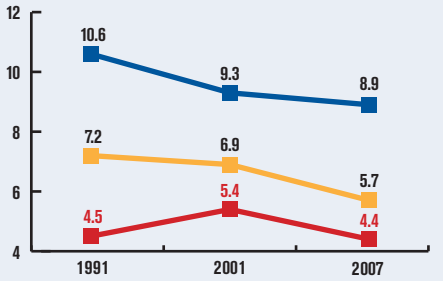
College enrollment of young adults in Georgia has improved substantially since the early 1990s. Compared with the national average and the top states, however, considerably fewer young adults are enrolled in Georgia (in percentages).

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 Georgia—but not as substantially as it has across the nation and in the best-performing states. The percentage attending college in Georgia is well below the U.S. average and the top states.

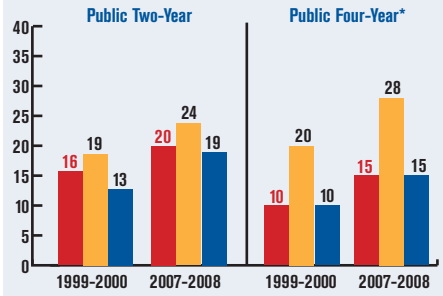
Percentage of 25–49 Year-Olds Without a Bachelor's Degree Enrolled in College



AFFORDABILITY

The share of family income, even after financial aid, needed to pay for college has risen substantially. To attend public two-year colleges in Georgia, 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 about the same as those in the best states, which is much less than the national average.

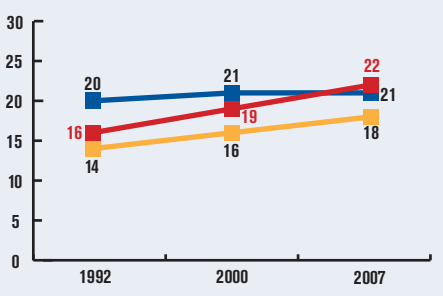
Percentage of Income Needed to Pay for Public Two- and Four-Year Colleges



COMPLETION

The number of undergraduate credentials and degrees awarded in Georgia, relative to the number of students enrolled, has increased since the early 1990s. Georgia surpasses the U.S. average and is the top state on this measure.

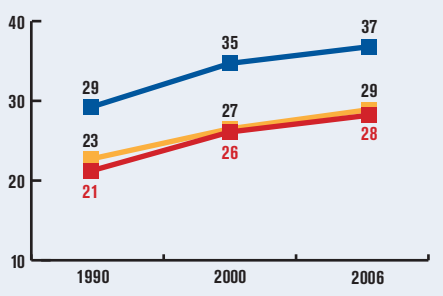
All Degree Completions per 100 Students*



BENEFITS

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

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



**Key indicator for the category.*

LEGEND:

— & ▮ = Georgia — & ▮ = United States — & ▮ = Median of Top Five States

PREPARATION Georgia 2008

C+ 2008 Grade

Change Over Time

Georgia's fairly low performance in educating its young population could limit the state's access to a competitive workforce and weaken its economy.

Graded Information

Compared with other states:

- Eighty-four percent of young adults in Georgia earn a high school diploma or General Education Development (GED) diploma by age 24, placing Georgia among the poorest-performing states on this measure.
- A large proportion (42%) of 8th graders take algebra.
- Eighth graders perform poorly on national assessments in math, science, and writing. Their performance on national assessments in reading is fairly poor.
- Low-income 8th graders perform very poorly on national assessments in math.
- Fairly small proportions of 11th and 12th graders score well on college entrance exams and on Advanced Placement tests.
- Sixty-seven percent of secondary school students are taught by qualified teachers, which compares fairly well with top-performing states.

Performance Gaps

- There is an 11% gap between whites and all minorities in the percentage of 18- to 24-year-olds with a high school credential. Among the same population, 84% of blacks and 54% of Hispanics, the largest minority populations in Georgia, have a high school credential, compared with 89% of whites.

PREPARATION	Georgia		Top States
	Early 1990s*	2008	
High School Completion (25%)			
18- to 24-year-olds with a high school credential	86%	84%	95%
K-12 Course taking (30%)			
9th to 12th graders taking at least one upper-level math course	n/a	n/a**	64%
9th to 12th graders taking at least one upper-level science course	n/a	n/a**	46%
8th grade students taking algebra	n/a	42%	47%
K-12 Student Achievement (35%)			
8th graders scoring at or above "proficient" on the national assessment exam in math	13%	25%	41%
8th graders scoring at or above "proficient" on the national assessment exam in reading	25%	26%	39%
8th graders scoring at or above "proficient" on the national assessment exam in science	21%	25%	41%
8th graders scoring at or above "proficient" on the national assessment exam in writing	23%	29%	46%
Low-income 8th graders scoring at or above "proficient" on the national assessment exam in math	3%	12%	24%
Number of scores in the top 20% nationally on SAT/ACT college entrance exam per 1,000 high school graduates	94	177	265
Number of scores that are 3 or higher on an Advanced Placement subject test per 1,000 high school juniors and seniors	68	164	237
Teacher Quality (10%)			
7th to 12th graders taught by teachers with a major in their subject	n/a	67%	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 15 years, the percentage of 8th graders performing well on national assessments in math has increased substantially. However, Georgia's current performance on this measure remains poor when compared with other states.
- The percentage of low-income 8th graders performing well on national assessments in math has quadrupled over the past decade, although the state's current performance on this measure remains very poor when compared with other states.
- The proportions of 11th and 12th graders scoring well on college entrance exams have increased substantially over the past 15 years, although the state's current performance on this measure remains fairly low when compared with other states.

Other Key Facts

- Among working-age adults (ages 25 to 49) without a high school diploma, only eight out of 1,000 earned a GED.
- About 20% 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.

PARTICIPATION Georgia 2008

D-
2008 Grade


Change Over Time

College opportunities for young and working-age adults are poor.

Graded Information

Compared with other states:

- The chance of Georgia high school students enrolling in college by age 19 is fairly low, primarily because the proportion of students who graduate from high school within four years is small. The proportion of students graduating from high school within four years is one of the smallest in the country.
- A very low percentage of working-age adults (ages 25 to 49) are enrolled in college-level education or training.

Performance Gaps

- There is a 12% gap between whites and all minorities in the percentage of 18- to 24-year-olds enrolled in college. The gap between whites and Hispanics is 28%, and the gap between whites and blacks is 11%.

PARTICIPATION	Georgia		Top States
	Early 1990s*	2008	
Young Adults (67%)			
Chance for college by age 19	35%	38%	57%
18- to 24-year-olds enrolled in college	23%	29%	44%
Working-Age Adults (33%)			
25- to 49-year-olds enrolled in any type of postsecondary education with no bachelor's degree or higher	4.5%	4.4%	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

- Georgia's population is projected to grow by 28% from 2005 to 2025, above the national increase of 18%. During approximately the same period, the number of high school graduates is projected to increase by 40%.
- About 18% of the adult population has less than a high school diploma or its equivalent, compared with 16% nationwide.
- In Georgia, 1,656 more students are leaving the state than entering to attend college. About 17% of Georgia 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.

AFFORDABILITY Georgia 2008

F

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 Georgia devote a large share of family income, even after financial aid, to attend public two- and four-year colleges and universities. These two sectors enroll 82% of college students in the state.
- Georgia's investment in need-based financial aid is very low when compared with top-performing states, and the state does not offer low-priced college opportunities.
- Undergraduate students borrowed on average $4,653 in 2007.

Other Key Facts

- In Georgia, 36% of students are enrolled in community colleges and 46% in public four-year colleges and universities.

AFFORDABILITY	Georgia		Top States in Previous Years
	Previous Years*	Current Year	
Family Ability to Pay (50%)	**2000**	**2008**	
Percent of income (average of all income groups) needed to pay for college expenses minus financial aid:			
at community colleges	16%	20%	13%
at public 4-year colleges/universities	10%	15%	10%
at private 4-year colleges/universities	57%	68%	30%
Strategies for Affordability (40%)	**1993**	**2008**	
State investment in need-based financial aid as compared to the federal investment	4%	0%	89%
At lowest-priced colleges, the share of income that the poorest families need to pay for tuition	14%	17%	7%
Reliance on Loans (10%)	**1995**	**2008**	
Average loan amount that undergraduate students borrow each year	$2,876	$4,653	$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 $18,514.

- If a student from such a family were to attend a community college in the state, their net cost to attend college would represent about 29% of their income annually.

Tuition, room, and board:	$9,016
Financial aid received:	-$3,639
Net college cost:	$5,377
Percent of income:	29%

- If the same student were to attend a public four-year college in the state, their net cost to attend college would represent about 19% of their income annually.

Tuition, room, and board:	$11,159
Financial aid received:	-$7,712
Net college cost:	$3,447
Percent of income:	19%

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

Income groups used to calculate 2008 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
20% of the population with the lowest income	$10,867	$4,071	37	$1,432	13	$18,727	172
20% of the population with lower-middle income	$26,463	$6,764	26	$5,263	20	$18,725	71
20% of the population with middle income	$44,272	$8,051	18	$8,666	20	$20,498	46
20% of the population with upper-middle income	$69,830	$8,354	12	$9,292	13	$21,703	31
20% of the population with the highest income	$122,152	$8,594	7	$9,678	8	$23,378	19
40% of the population with the lowest income	**$18,514**	**$5,377**	**29**	**$3,447**	**19**	**$18,591**	**100**

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

COMPLETION Georgia 2008

B-
2008 Grade


Change Over Time

Georgia is a top performer in awarding certificates and degrees relative to the number of students enrolled, but few students attain a bachelor's degree in a timely manner.

Graded Information

Compared with other states:

- Only a fair percentage (52%) of first-year students in community colleges return for their second year.
- However, a high percentage (72%) of freshmen at public and private four-year colleges and universities return for their sophomore year.
- Only a fair percentage (48%) of first-time, full-time college students complete a bachelor's degree within six years of enrolling in college.
- Georgia is the top-performing state in the proportion of students who complete certificates and degrees relative to the number enrolled.
- Twenty-seven postsecondary certificates and degrees were awarded for every 1,000 people in the state without a college degree.

COMPLETION	Georgia		Top States
	Early 1990s*	2008	
Persistence (20%)**			
1st year community college students returning their second year	63%	52%	66%
Freshmen at 4-year colleges/universities returning their sophomore year	73%	72%	82%
Completion (80%)			
First-time, full-time students completing a bachelor's degree within 6 years of college entrance	44%	48%	65%
Certificates, degrees, diplomas at all colleges & universities per 100 undergraduate students	16	22	21
Certificates, degrees, diplomas at all colleges & universities per 1,000 adults with no college degree	15	27	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 4% gap between whites and all minorities in college graduation rates at four-year institutions. Forty-three percent of blacks and 45% of Hispanics, the largest minority populations in Georgia, graduate from a four-year institution within six years, compared with 49% of whites.
- Among white students, 22 degrees are awarded for every 100 students. In contrast, among all minority students, 21 degrees are awarded for every 100 students. The rate of awards for both blacks and Hispanics, the largest minority populations in the state, is 21 for every 100 undergraduate enrollments and 18 for every 100 undergraduate enrollments.

Change in Graded Measures

- Since the early 1990s, Georgia has seen a substantial increase in the proportion of students completing certificates and degrees relative to the number enrolled, with the greatest growth in certificates awarded. The state improved on this measure by 34%, compared with a nationwide increase of 24%.
- During the same period, Georgia has been one of the fastest-improving states in the number of certificates and degrees completed relative to the population with no college degree, although Georgia's current performance on this measure remains low when compared with other states.

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.

BENEFITS Georgia 2008

B
2008 Grade

Change Over Time

Only a fair proportion of residents have a bachelor's degree, yet the economic benefits to the state are very high.

Graded Information

Compared with other states:

- Only a fair proportion of residents have a bachelor's degree, yet the economic benefits to the state as a result are very high.
- In addition, residents contribute substantially to the civic good, as measured by charitable giving.

Performance Gaps

- There is a 12% 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, 19% of blacks and 11% of Hispanics, the largest minority populations in Georgia, have a bachelor's degree or higher, compared with 33% 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 $24 billion higher.

Change in Graded Measures

- Since the early 1990s, the percentage of residents who a have bachelor's degree has increased substantially.

BENEFITS	Georgia		Top States
	Early 1990s*	2008	
Educational Achievement (38%)			
Adults (ages 25 to 64) with an associate's degree or higher	27%	35%	44%
Adults (ages 25 to 64) with a bachelor's degree or higher	21%	28%	37%
Economic Benefits (31%)			
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	2%	2%	3%
Increase in total personal income as a result of the percentage of population holding a bachelor's degree	8%	10%	11%
Civic Benefits (31%)			
Residents voting in national elections	48%	46%	65%
Of those who itemize on federal income taxes, the percentage declaring charitable gifts	89%	88%	90%
Increase in volunteering as a result of college education	19%	14%	20%
Adult Skill Levels (0%)**			
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, Georgia scored 65 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.

LEARNING

Georgia **2008**

I

2008 Grade

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

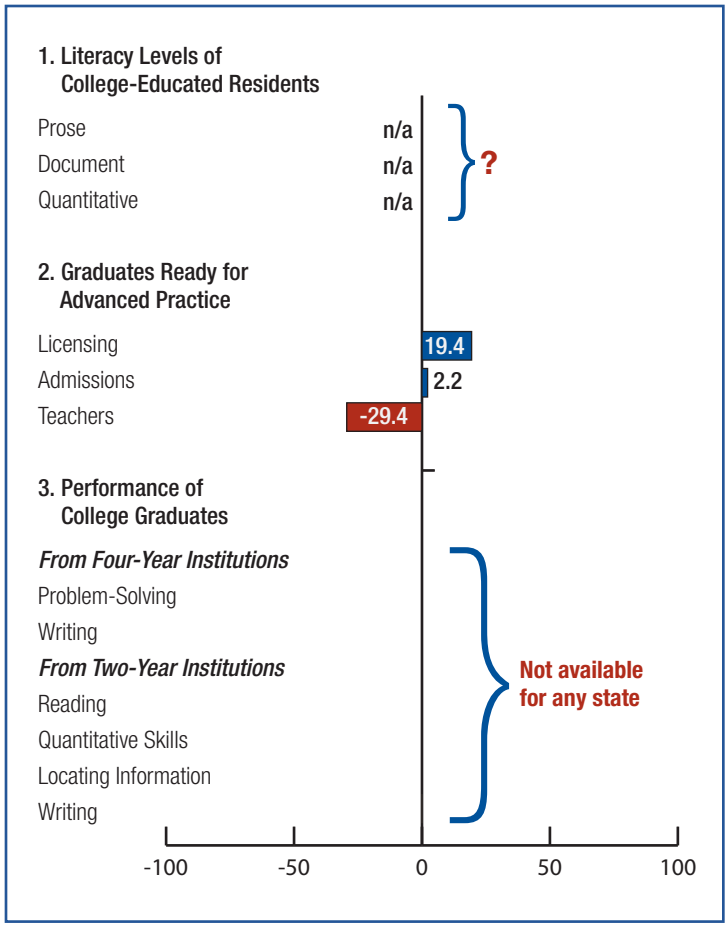
Measuring Up 2004 for the first time provided state-level results in Learning because five states (Illinois, Kentucky, Nevada, Oklahoma, and South Carolina) participated in a groundbreaking effort to pilot comparable measures in this category. The National Forum on College-Level Learning conducted this project, which was funded by the Pew Charitable Trusts.[1] 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.



Georgia Results

Georgia is more than 19 percentage points above the national benchmark in workforce preparation as reflected in professional licensure examinations. Nine percent more of the state's graduates take such examinations than do graduates on average nationwide, and their pass rates are slightly above the national average. Georgia is just above the national benchmark in preparing students for graduate study as reflected in graduate admissions examinations. Twenty-eight percent more of its graduates take such examinations than do graduates on average nationwide, but 20% fewer earn competitive scores. Finally, Georgia is almost 30 percentage points below the national benchmark with respect to pass rates on teacher examinations.

Georgia 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.

How Georgia Measures Up Internationally

Participation

About 29% of young adults, ages 18 to 24, in Georgia are currently enrolled in college. When compared internationally, Georgia's enrollment rate is 24% less than the rate in Korea, the top-performing nation on this measure. Georgia is also surpassed by Greece, Poland, Ireland, Belgium, Hungary, New Zealand, Finland, Australia, France, Canada, and Spain.

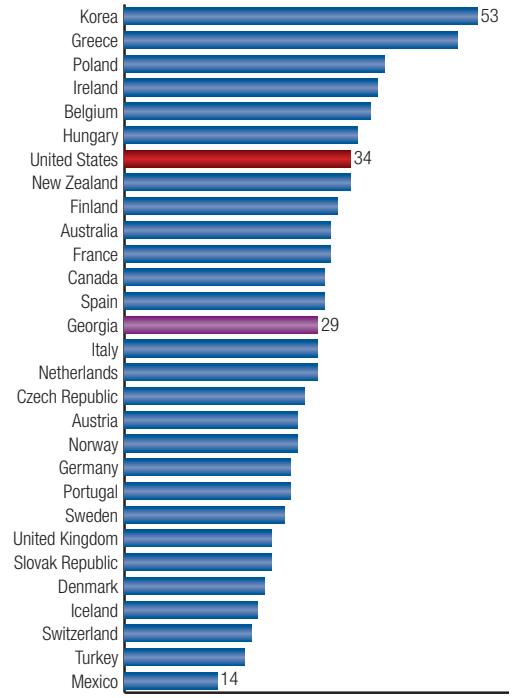
Completion

Although Georgia is the best-performing state in the proportion of students who complete certificates or degrees, it is surpassed by several countries on this measure. In Australia, the top-performing nation, 26 out of 100 students enrolled complete a degree or certificate, compared with 22 out of 100 students in Georgia. The state is also behind Japan, Switzerland, Ireland, the United Kingdom, New Zealand, France, and Iceland.

Educational Level of Adult Population

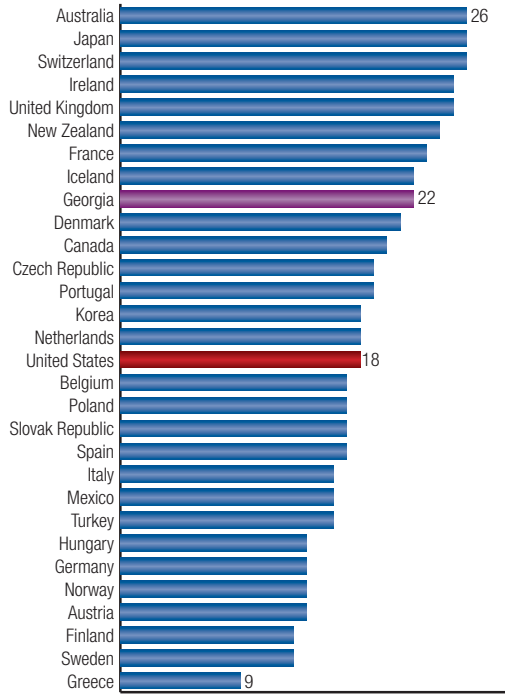
Georgia's younger adults, ages 25 to 34, are falling behind older adults, ages 35 to 64, in attaining a college degree. When compared internationally, the proportion of younger adults with a college degree in Georgia is 21% less than the proportion in Canada, the top-performing nation on this measure. Georgia is also surpassed by Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Norway, Belgium, Ireland, Denmark, France, Australia, Sweden, Spain, Finland, the United Kingdom, and the Netherlands.

Percent of Young Adults (Ages 18–24) Enrolled in College



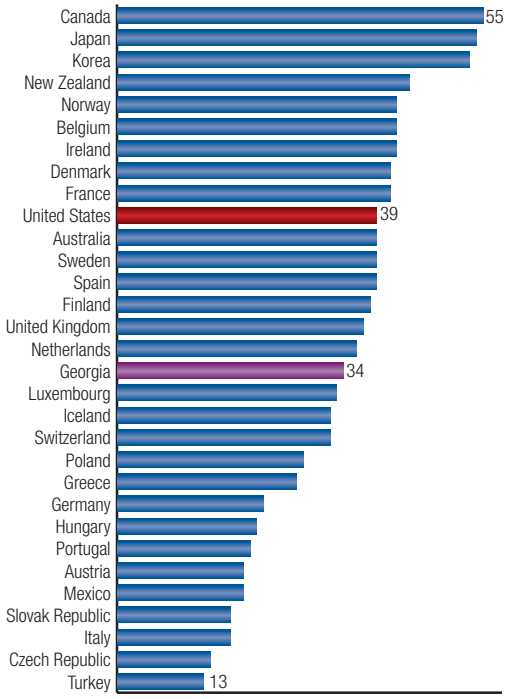
Source: OECD database, Data provided by Alan Wagner

Number of Certificates and Degrees Awarded per 100 Students Enrolled



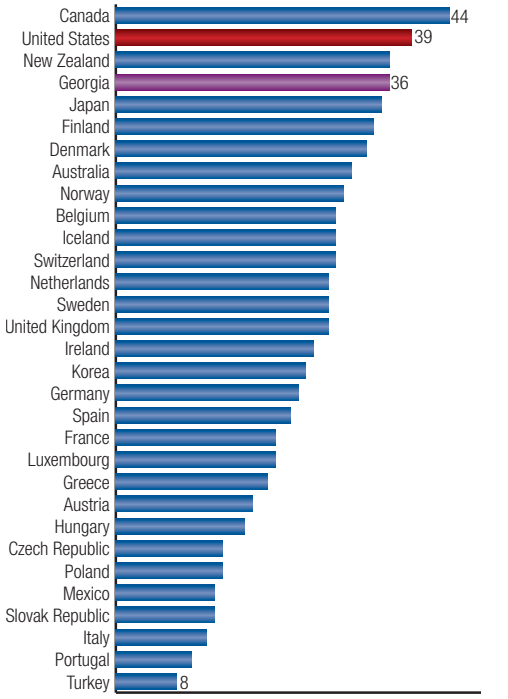
Source: OECD database, Data provided by Alan Wagner

Percent of Adults (Ages 25–34) Holding an Associate's Degree or Higher



Source: OECD database, Data provided by Alan Wagner

Percent of Adults (35–64) Holding an Associate's Degree or Higher



Source: OECD database, Data provided by Alan Wagner

Additional Information Georgia 2008

State Context	Georgia	State Rank
Population (2007)	9,544,750	9
Gross State Product (2007, in millions)	$396,504	10
Leading Indicators	**Georgia**	**U.S.**
Projected % change in population (2005-2025)	28%	18%
Projected % change in number of all high school graduates (2005-2022)	40%	9%
Projected budget surplus/shortfall by 2013	-5%	-6%
Median income of poorest 20% of population (2006)	$10,867	$11,169
Children in poverty (2006)	20%	18%
Percent of adult population with less than a high school diploma or equivalent (2006)	18%	16%
GEDs awarded to 25- to 49-year-olds with no high school diploma (2006)	8	8
New Economy Index (2007)*	65	62

Facts and Figures	Georgia	
	Number/Amount	Percent
Institutions of Postsecondary Education (2007-08)		
Public 4-Year	24	18%
Public 2-Year	50	37%
Private 4-Year	49	36%
Private 2-Year	12	9%
Students Enrolled by Institution Type (2006)		
Public 4-Year	173,714	46%
Public 2-Year	137,354	36%
Private 4-Year	62,950	17%
Private 2-Year	4,929	1%
Students Enrolled by Level (2006)		
Undergraduate	378,947	87%
Graduate	47,441	11%
Professional	9,015	2%
Enrollment Status of Students (2006)		
Full-time	289,901	67%
Part-time	145,502	33%
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.	-1,656	
Average Tuition (2007-08)		
Public 4-year institutions	$4,087	
Public 2-year institutions	$1,944	
Private 4-year institutions	$21,858	
State and Local Appropriations for Higher Education		
Per $1,000 of personal income, FY 2008	$11	
Per capita, FY 2008	$432	
% change, FY 1998-2008		52%

* This 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. 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**

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

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

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