

MEASURING UP

2006

**THE STATE REPORT CARD
ON HIGHER EDUCATION**

MISSOURI



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

WHAT IS MEASURING UP?

The purpose of this 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 2006* is the fourth in a series of biennial report cards.

Measuring Up 2006 evaluates states on their performance in higher education because it is the states that are primarily responsible for educational access and quality in the United States. In this report card, “higher education” refers to all education and training beyond high school, including all public and private, two- and four-year, 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.

Measuring Up 2006 is the first edition that includes data in the Learning category for all 50 states on the extent to which colleges and universities prepare students to contribute to the workforce.

As in *Measuring Up 2004*, most states in 2006 receive an “Incomplete” in Learning due to the lack of reported information.

This year, however, nine states (Illinois, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Missouri, Nevada, New York, Oklahoma, and South Carolina) receive a “Plus.” For more information on these states and the Learning category, see page 12 of this state report card.

In four of the performance categories—Preparation, Participation, Completion, and Benefits—grades are calculated by comparing each state’s current performance to that of the best-performing states. This comparison provides a basis for evaluating each state’s performance within a national context and encourages each state to “measure up” to the highest-performing states.

In the Affordability category, however, the United States as a whole is “measuring down.” That is, even in the best-performing states, higher education has become *less* rather than *more* affordable when the costs of attending college are considered relative to family income. As a result, state grades in the Affordability category are calculated by comparing each state’s current performance with the performance of the best states in the early 1990s. This comparison allows policymakers to examine their state’s results relative to other states, while also encouraging improved performance over time. The Affordability category is the only one in which no state receives an A—the highest grade is a C–.

Measuring Up 2006 also compares each state’s current performance with its own performance in the early 1990s. Although this historical comparison is not graded, it is offered so that states can examine their trends in performance—both improvements and declines—over time. All data are drawn from reliable national sources. (For more information, please see the *Technical Guide for Measuring Up 2006* at www.highereducation.org.)

Measuring Up 2006 is the first edition that offers international comparisons that provide essential information on how well the United States and each of the 50 states are preparing residents with the knowledge and skills necessary to compete effectively in a global economy. Every state is compared with nations associated with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

A Snapshot of Change Over Time

Academic preparation for college has continued to improve since the early 1990s, which is approximately when the most reliable data became available for meaningful comparisons. High school graduates are, in general, better prepared for college today than their peers were about a decade ago, as indicated by a greater proportion of high school students enrolled in a college-preparatory curriculum and scoring higher on national assessment examinations. Most states, however, and the United States as a whole, continue to show little progress in translating these gains into improvements at the college level.

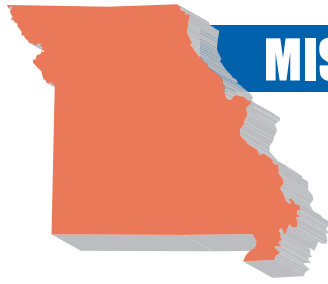
Preparation: 45 states improved on more than half of the indicators; 5 improved on some of the indicators.

Participation: 8 states improved on more than half of the indicators; 28 improved on some of the indicators; 14 declined on most or all of the indicators.

Affordability: 1 state improved on more than half of the indicators; 32 improved on some of the indicators; 17 declined on most or all of the indicators.

Completion: 35 states improved on more than half of the indicators; 13 improved on some of the indicators; 2 declined on most or all of the indicators.

Benefits: 40 states improved on more than half of the indicators; 8 improved on some of the indicators; 2 declined on most or all of the indicators.



MISSOURI

Missouri's underperformance in educating its young population could limit the state's access to a competitive workforce and weaken its economy over time. Missouri continues to trail leading states in preparing students for higher education and enrolling them in college directly after high school. In addition, there are substantial disparities in educational achievement by ethnicity. Since the early 1990s, colleges and universities in Missouri have become less affordable for students and their families. If these trends are not addressed, they could undermine the state's ability to compete successfully in a global economy.

Strengths

Preparation

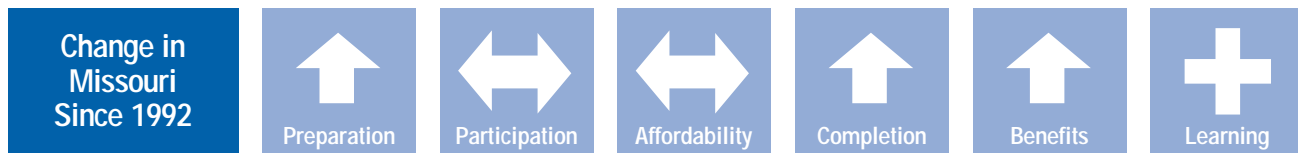
■ A large proportion of high school students enroll in upper-level math courses. Over the past 12 years, Missouri's performance on this measure has improved substantially.

Participation

■ The chance that a 9th grader will graduate from high school and enroll directly in college has increased over the past decade, in contrast to a national decline. The percentage of students graduating from high school within four years has remained the same, but more of those who do graduate enroll in college.

Completion

■ A high percentage of freshmen at four-year colleges and universities return for their sophomore year.



What do the arrows mean?

↑ The state has improved on more than half of the indicators in the category.

↔ The state has improved on some, but no more than half, of the indicators in the category.

↓ The state has declined on most or all indicators.

- A large proportion of students complete certificates and degrees relative to the number enrolled. Missouri has surpassed the nationwide increase on this measure over the past 12 years.

Benefits

- The percentage of residents with a bachelor's degree has increased substantially over the past 12 years, and Missouri has shown some of the greatest improvement among the states on this measure.

Weaknesses

Preparation

- A small percentage of 8th graders take algebra, even though this percentage has more than doubled over the past 12 years. Missouri has shown some of the greatest improvement among the states on this measure.

- Eighth graders perform poorly on national assessments in writing, despite substantial improvement on this measure.

- Low-income 8th graders perform very poorly on national assessments in math.

- Very small proportions of 11th and 12th graders take and score well on Advanced Placement tests.

Participation

- Only a fair proportion of working-age adults are enrolled part-time in college-level education or training, and this proportion has declined over the past decade.

- Among 18- to 24-year-olds, the gap in college participation between whites and non-whites is substantial.

Affordability

- Net college costs for low- and middle-income students to attend public two- and four-year colleges and universities represent 34% and 46% of their annual family income, respectively. (Net college costs equal tuition, room, and board after financial aid.) Sixty-five percent of college students in Missouri enroll in these institutions.

- The state makes a very low investment in need-based financial aid compared with leading states, and Missouri offers no low-tuition college opportunities.

Benefits

- Over the past 12 years, the gap has widened between whites and non-whites in the percentage who have a bachelor's degree.

2006
Grade

Change
Over Time



Missouri has made gains in preparing students to succeed in college. This year Missouri receives a C in preparation.

Graded Information

Compared with other states:

- Large proportions of high school students in Missouri are enrolled in upper-level math (54%) and upper-level science (35%).

- A small proportion (23%) of 8th graders take algebra.

- Eighth graders perform fairly well on national assessments in science and reading, but fairly poorly on national assessments in math, and poorly on national assessments in writing.

- Low-income 8th graders perform very poorly on national math assessments.

- Very small proportions of 11th and 12th graders score well on Advanced Placement tests, but fair proportions score well on college entrance exams.

- Two-thirds of secondary school students are taught by qualified teachers, which compares fairly well with top-performing states.

Change in Graded Measures

- Over the past 12 years, the proportion of high school students enrolled in upper-level math has increased substantially.

- During the same period, the proportion of 8th graders taking algebra has more than doubled, placing Missouri among the fastest-improving states on this measure. However, the state's current performance on this measure is low compared with other states.

PREPARATION	MISSOURI		Top States 2006
	1992*	2006	
High School Completion (20%)			
18- to 24-year-olds with a high school credential	88%	88%†	94%
K–12 Course Taking (35%)			
9th to 12th graders taking at least one upper-level math course	37%	54%	64%
9th to 12th graders taking at least one upper-level science course	31%	35%	40%
8th grade students taking algebra	10%	23%	35%
12th graders taking at least one upper-level math course	n/a	12%	66%
K–12 Student Achievement (35%)			
8th graders scoring at or above “proficient” on the national assessment exam:			
in math	20%	26%	38%
in reading	29%	31%	38%
in science	28%	33%	41%
in writing	17%	27%	41%
Low-income 8th graders scoring at or above “proficient” on the national assessment exam in math	9%	13%	22%
Number of scores in the top 20% nationally on SAT/ACT college entrance exam per 1,000 high school graduates	155	182	237
Number of scores that are 3 or higher on an Advanced Placement subject test per 1,000 high school juniors and seniors	32	79	217
Teacher Quality (10%)			
7th to 12th graders taught by teachers with a major in their subject	65%	66%	81%

*The indicators report data beginning in 1992 or the closest year for which reliable data are available. See the *Technical Guide for Measuring Up 2006*.

†Eighty-four percent of 18-24-year-olds have a regular high school diploma; 4% have a GED. The numbers shown for a regular high school diploma and a GED may not exactly equal the number for a high school credential due to rounding.

- The percentage of 8th graders performing well on national assessments in writing has increased substantially.

Other Key Facts

- About 16% of children under age 18 live in poverty, compared with a national rate of 18%.

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.

2006
Grade

Change
Over Time

B



Missouri continues its consistently good performance in the number of students enrolling in higher education. Missouri continues that performance this year, earning a B in participation.

Graded Information

Compared with other states:

- The chance of Missouri high school students enrolling in college by age 19 is only fair, because few graduates go on to college immediately after high school.
- In addition, only a fair percentage of working-age adults (ages 25 to 49) are enrolled part-time in college-level education or training.

Change in Graded Measures

Over the past decade:

- The chance of enrolling in college by age 19 has increased by 8%, in contrast to a nationwide decline of 2%. Although the percentage of students graduating from high school within four years has remained the same, more of those who graduate enroll in college.
- The percentage of working-age adults who are enrolled part-time in college-level education or training has declined by 7%, compared with a nationwide decline of 12%.

PARTICIPATION	MISSOURI		Top States 2006
	1992*	2006	
Young Adults (60%)			
Chance for college by age 19	36%	39%	53%
18- to 24-year-olds enrolled in college	36%	33%	41%
Working-Age Adults (40%)			
25- to 49-year-olds enrolled part-time in any type of postsecondary education	4.3%	4.0%	5.1%

*The indicators report data beginning in 1992 or the closest year for which reliable data are available. See the *Technical Guide for Measuring Up 2006*.

Other Key Facts

- Among the young adult population (ages 18 to 24), the gap in college participation between whites and other ethnic groups is substantial. Currently, 36 out of 100 white young adults are enrolled in college, compared to 26 out of 100 young adults from other ethnic groups.
- The state's population is projected to grow by 8% from 2005 to 2020, below the national rate of 14%. During approximately the same period, the number of high school graduates is projected to decrease by 2%.
- About 12% of the adult population has less than a high school diploma or its equivalent, compared with 14% of adults nationwide.
- In Missouri, 2,248 more students are entering the state than are leaving to attend college. About 16% of Missouri 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.

2006
Grade

Change
Over Time



Missouri has made no notable progress in providing affordable higher education. Missouri receives an F in affordability this year.

Graded Information

■ Compared with top-performing states, families in Missouri devote a large share of family income, even after financial aid, to attend public two-year colleges, and they devote a very large share of family income to attend public four-year colleges and universities in the state. These two sectors enroll 65% of Missouri's college students. In addition, families devote a large share of family income to attend private colleges and universities in Missouri.

■ The state's investment in need-based financial aid is very low when compared with top-performing states, and Missouri does not offer low-priced college opportunities.

■ Undergraduate students borrowed on average \$3,407 in 2005.

Change in Graded Measures

■ Over the past several years, the share of family income, even after financial aid, needed to pay for college expenses at public four-year institutions has increased from 24% to 31%.

Other Key Facts

■ In Missouri, 29% of students are enrolled in community colleges, 36% in public four-year colleges and universities, and 33% in private four-year institutions.

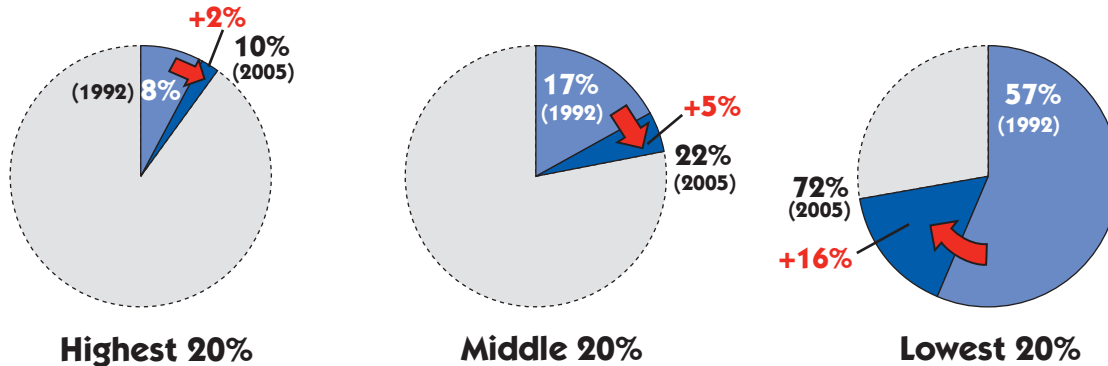
AFFORDABILITY	MISSOURI		Top States In Early 1990s
	1992*	2006	
Family Ability to Pay (50%)			
Percent of income (average of all income groups) needed to pay for college expenses minus financial aid:			
at community colleges	21%	23%	15%
at public 4-year colleges/universities	24%	31%	16%
at private 4-year colleges/universities	55%	54%	32%
Strategies for Affordability (40%)			
State investment in need-based financial aid as compared to the federal investment	8%	10%	89%
At lowest-priced colleges, the share of income that the poorest families need to pay for tuition	15%	18%	7%
Reliance on Loans (10%)			
Average loan amount that undergraduate students borrow each year	\$2,982	\$3,407	\$2,619

*The indicators report data beginning in 1992 or the closest year for which reliable data are available. See the *Technical Guide for Measuring Up 2006*.

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.

College in Missouri Has Become Less Affordable, Particularly for Low-Income Families (1992–2005)



Net costs to attend public 4-year colleges as a share of income for different income families.

Financial Burden to Pay for College Varies Widely Among Different Income Families in the State

Those who are striving to reach or stay in the middle class—the 40% of the population with the lowest incomes—earn on average \$21,049 each year.

■ 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 34% of their income annually:

Tuition, room, and board:	\$8,150
Financial aid received:	−\$ 933
Net college cost:	\$7,217
Percent of income:	34%

■ If the same student were to attend a public four-year college in the state, their net cost to attend college would represent about 46% of their income annually:

Tuition, room, and board:	\$11,736
Financial aid received:	−\$ 2,133
Net college cost:	\$ 9,603
Percent of income:	46%

Note

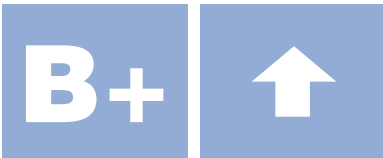
The numbers shown for tuition, room, and board minus financial aid may not exactly equal net college cost due to rounding.

A CLOSER LOOK AT FAMILY ABILITY TO PAY	Average family income	Community colleges		Public 4-year colleges/universities		Private 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
Income groups used to calculate 2006 family ability to pay							
20% of the population with the lowest income	\$12,799	\$6,963	54%	\$9,230	72%	\$17,370	136%
20% of the population with lower-middle income	\$29,298	\$7,472	26%	\$9,977	34%	\$17,591	60%
20% of the population with middle income	\$48,760	\$7,912	16%	\$10,873	22%	\$17,655	36%
20% of the population with upper-middle income	\$72,395	\$8,041	11%	\$10,971	15%	\$17,666	24%
20% of the population with the highest income	\$115,265	\$8,072	7%	\$11,034	10%	\$18,039	16%
40% of the population with the lowest income	\$21,049	\$7,217	34%	\$9,603	46%	\$17,481	83%

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

2006
Grade

Change
Over Time



Missouri has shown substantial improvement in the proportion of students earning their certificates or degrees in a timely manner. This year Missouri receives a B+ in completion.

Graded Information

Compared with other states:

- A fairly large percentage (51%) of first-year students in community colleges return for their second year.

- In addition, the percentage of freshmen at four-year colleges and universities who return for their sophomore year is large (73%).

- A large percentage (56%) of first-time, full-time college students complete a bachelor's degree within six years of enrolling in college.

- Likewise, a large proportion of students complete certificates and degrees relative to the number enrolled.

Change in Graded Measures

- Over the past seven years, the percentage of first-time, full-time college students earning a bachelor's degree within six years of enrolling in college has increased by 18%, compared with a nationwide increase of 6%.

- Over the past 12 years, the proportion of students completing certificates and degrees relative to the number enrolled has increased.

COMPLETION	MISSOURI		Top States 2006
	1992*	2006	
Persistence (20%)[†]			
1st year community college students returning their second year	54%	51%	62%
Freshmen at 4-year colleges/universities returning their sophomore year	71%	73%	82%
Completion (80%)			
First-time, full-time students completing a bachelor's degree within 6 years of college entrance	47%	56%	64%
Certificates, degrees, and diplomas awarded at all colleges and universities per 100 undergraduate students	15	18	20

*The indicators report data beginning in 1992 or the closest year for which reliable data are available.

†2006 data may not be entirely comparable with data from previous years.

See the *Technical Guide for Measuring Up 2006*.

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.

2006
Grade

Change
Over Time

A



Missouri has made substantial gains in the benefits the state receives from having a highly educated population. This year Missouri earns an A in benefits.

Graded Information

Compared with other states:

- A high proportion of residents have a bachelor's degree.

- In addition, residents contribute substantially to the civic good, as measured by charitable giving, volunteerism, and voting.

Change in Graded Measures

Over the past 12 years:

- Missouri has been one of the fastest-improving states in the percentage of residents who have a bachelor's degree.

- The percentage of residents voting has increased substantially, in contrast to a nationwide decline of 5%.

Other Key Facts

- If all ethnic groups had the same educational attainment and earnings as whites, total personal income in the state would be about \$1.4 billion higher.

- Over the past 12 years, Missouri has widened the gap between whites and other ethnic groups in the percentage who have a bachelor's degree. Currently, 32 out of 100 white adults have a bachelor's degree, compared to 26 out of 100 adults from other ethnic groups.

- In 2002, Missouri scored 59 on the New Economy Index, compared to a nationwide score of 60. The New

BENEFITS	MISSOURI		Top States 2006
	1992*	2006	
Educational Achievement (37.5%)			
Population aged 25 to 65 with a bachelor's degree or higher	23%	31%	37%
Economic Benefits (31.25%)			
Increase in total personal income as a result of the percentage of the population holding a bachelor's degree	8%	9%	12%
Increase in total personal income as a result of the percentage of the population with some college (including an associate's degree), but not a bachelor's degree	1%	3%	3%
Civic Benefits (31.25%)			
Residents voting in national elections	54%	59%	64%
Of those who itemize on federal income taxes, the percentage declaring charitable gifts	88%	86%	91%
Increase in volunteering rate as a result of college education	n/a	19%	22%
Adult Skill Levels (0%)*			
Adults demonstrating high-level literacy skills:			
quantitative	22%	27%	33%
prose	20%	25%	33%
document	18%	22%	28%

*The indicators report data beginning in 1992 or the closest year for which reliable data are available. See the *Technical Guide for Measuring Up 2006*.

†These are estimates from *Measuring Up 2004* and are not used to calculate grades. New data will be available in fall 2006.

Economy Index, developed by the Progressive Policy Institute, measures the extent to which states are participating in knowledge-based industries.

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

How Missouri Measures Up Internationally

Participation*

■ About 37% of young adults, ages 18 to 24, in Missouri are currently enrolled in college. Although Missouri's enrollment rate compares favorably with that of many countries, it represents only 77% of the rate in Korea, the best-performing nation on this measure. Missouri is also surpassed by Greece.

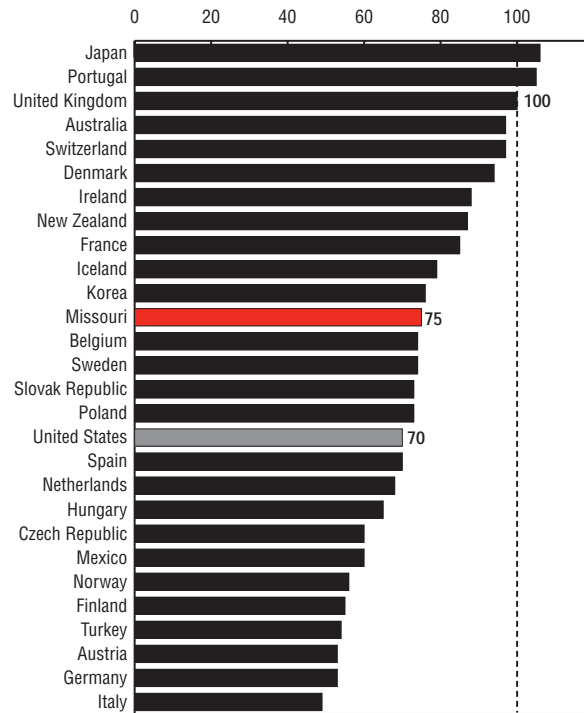
Completion

■ When compared internationally, Missouri is surpassed by many countries in the proportion of students who complete certificates or degrees. With 18 out of 100 students enrolled completing a degree or certificate, Missouri's completion rate is only 75% of the rate in the United Kingdom, the top-performing country on this measure, where 24 out of 100 students complete certificates or degrees. Missouri also lags Japan, Portugal, Australia, Switzerland, Denmark, Ireland, New Zealand, France, Iceland, and Korea (see figure 1).

Educational Level of Adult Population

■ Missouri's younger adults, ages 25 to 34, are ahead of older adults, ages 35 to 64, in attaining a college degree. Internationally, however, the proportion of younger adults with a college degree in Missouri is only 79% of the proportion in Japan, the top-performing nation on this measure. Missouri is also surpassed by Canada and Korea.

Figure 1. Total Degrees/Certificates Awarded Per 100 Students Enrolled, 2004



*This measure includes both undergraduate and graduate enrollment, whereas the similar indicator in the graded category only reports undergraduate enrollment.

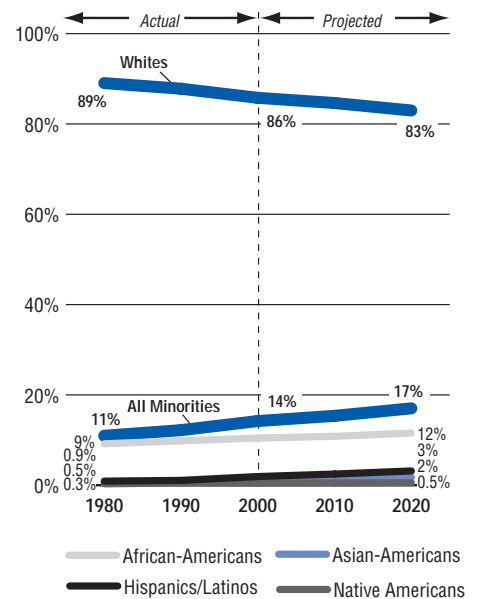
Note: The chart shows index scores, as measured against the top performance. The top performance, defined as the median value of the top five performers, receives a score of 100. The top performer can be a nation or a U.S. state. For more international comparison information, go to www.highereducation.org.

State Context	Missouri	State Rank
Population (2005)	5,800,310	18
Gross state product (2004, in millions)	\$205,847	20
Leading Indicators	Missouri	U.S.
Projected % change in population, 2005-2020	8%	14%
Projected % change in number of all high school graduates, 2002-2017	-2%	8%
Projected budget surplus/shortfall by 2013	-7%	-6%
Average income of poorest 20% of population (2004)	\$12,799	\$12,168
Children in poverty (2004)	16%	18%
Percent of adult population with less than a high school diploma or equivalent (2004)	12%	14%
New economy index (2002)*	59	60
Facts and Figures	Missouri	
	Number/Amount	Percent
Institutions of Postsecondary Education (2004-05)		
Public 4-year	13	
Public 2-year	20	
Private 4-year	70	
Private 2-year	22	
Students Enrolled by Institution Type (2004)		
Public 4-year	105,792	36%
Public 2-year	86,241	29%
Private 4-year	97,248	33%
Private 2-year	7,688	3%
Students Enrolled by Level (2004)		
Undergraduate	296,969	81%
Graduate	56,676	16%
Professional	11,559	3%
Enrollment Status of Students (2004)		
Full-time	220,236	60%
Part-time	144,968	40%
Net Migration of Students (2004)		
Positive numbers for net migration mean that more students are entering than leaving the state to attend college. Negative numbers reveal the reverse.	2,248	
Average Tuition (2005-06)		
Public 4-year institutions	\$5,835	
Public 2-year institutions	\$2,249	
Private 4-year institutions	\$15,881	
State and Local Appropriations for Higher Education		
Per \$1,000 of personal income, FY 2004	\$5	
Per capita, FY 2004	\$148	
% change, FY 1996-2004		19%

* This index, created by the Progressive Policy Institute, measures the extent to which a state is participating in knowledge-based industries. A higher score means increased participation.

Note: Percentages might not add to 100 due to rounding.

Working-Age Population (ages 25-64) by Race/Ethnicity, 1980-2020



Racial and Ethnic Gaps in Educational Levels of Working-Age Population (ages 25-64), 2000

	Whites	African-Americans
Less than a high school credential	12%	21%
Associate's degree or higher	31%	20%

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q: What is being graded in this report card, and why?

A: *Measuring Up 2006* grades states, not 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—\$72 billion currently—for colleges and universities. Through their oversight of public colleges and universities, state leaders affect the types and number of 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 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.

Q: How are states graded?

A: *Measuring Up 2006* grades states in six performance categories: Preparation, Participation, Affordability, Completion, Benefits, and Learning. Each category is made up of several indicators, or quantitative measures—a total of 35 in the first five categories. Grades are calculated based on each state’s performance on these indicators, relative to the best-performing states. As in earlier editions, state data are drawn from the most recent public information available, and the grades in *Measuring Up 2006* reflect state performance in 2004 or 2005.

In the Affordability category, *Measuring Up 2006* reflects the major changes in tuition and financial aid that occurred in 2005. In addition, each state’s performance is calculated relative to the performance of top states in the early 1990s—rather than relative to the current performance of top states, as is the case with other graded categories. This difference in comparison, first introduced in *Measuring Up 2004*, creates a more stable basis for states to assess their performance in Affordability, which is the most volatile of the graded categories.

Measuring Up 2006 is the first edition that includes data in the Learning category for all 50 states on the extent to which colleges and universities prepare students to contribute to the workforce (see the “Graduates Ready for Advanced Practice” indicators). As in *Measuring Up 2004*, most states in 2006 receive an “Incomplete” in Learning due to the lack of reported information. This year, however, nine states receive a “Plus”: Illinois, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Missouri, Nevada, New York, Oklahoma, and South Carolina. These nine states reported adequate data in more than

one of the indicator groups either through their participation in a pilot project, or by collecting additional state data for the state version of the National Assessment of Adult Literacy (NAAL) conducted in 2003.

All data used to grade states in *Measuring Up 2006* were collected from reliable national sources, including the U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Department of Education. All data are the most current available for state comparisons, are in the public domain, and were collected in ways that allow meaningful comparisons among states. Please see the *Technical Guide for Measuring Up 2006* (available at www.highereducation.org) for more information regarding data sources used in *Measuring Up 2006*.

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, and they identify improvements and setbacks in each state’s performance over time. Each report card also presents important contextual information, such as demographic trends, student migration data, and state funding levels for higher education. International comparisons provide new contextual information for states.

Q: Why does *Measuring Up 2006* include international indicators?

A: *Measuring Up 2006* is the first edition to draw on international indicators, at both the state and national levels. In a 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 2006* provides essential information on how well the nation and each of the 50 states are preparing residents with the knowledge and skills necessary to compete effectively in the global economy. As with other data in *Measuring Up*, 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 attainment of their populations.

For more information on international comparisons, see *Measuring Up Internationally: Developing Skills and Knowledge for the Global Knowledge Economy* by Alan Wagner. For more information on available data sources, see the *Technical Guide for Measuring Up 2006* (available at www.highereducation.org).

STATE GRADES

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