

# MEASURING UP 2008

THE STATE REPORT CARD  
ON HIGHER EDUCATION

# South Carolina



## PREPARATION

**C+**



2008 Grade Change Over Time

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

- Despite improvement over the decade, the performance of 8th graders in math, science, and writing remains poor.
- Only 83% of blacks have a high school credential, compared with 90% of whites.

## REPORT CARD

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

### 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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## 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-nine percent of black young adults are enrolled in college, compared with 40% 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 34% of their income, even after aid, to pay for costs at public four-year colleges.
- Financial aid to low-income students is low. For every dollar in Pell Grant aid to students, the state spends only 36 cents.

### 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.

## COMPLETION

**C+**



2008 Grade Change Over Time

South Carolina performs fairly well in awarding certificates and degrees.

- Fifty-six percent of college students complete a bachelor's degree within six years.
- However, only 44% of blacks graduate within six years, compared with 61% of whites.

## BENEFITS

**C**



2008 Grade Change Over Time

A small proportion of residents have a bachelor's degree, and this weakens the state economy.

- Eleven percent of blacks have a bachelor's degree, compared with 29% 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 \$16 billion higher.

## LEARNING

**I**

2008 Grade

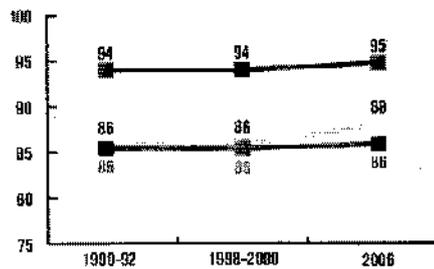
Like all states, South Carolina receives an "incomplete" in Learning because there is not sufficient data to allow meaningful state-by-state comparisons.

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

## PREPARATION

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

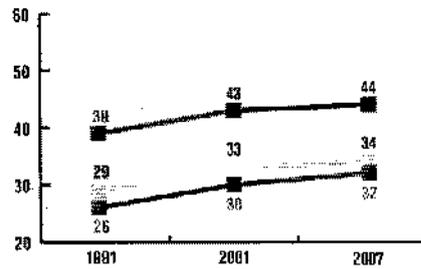
Percentage of 18-24 Year-Olds with a High School Credential\*



## PARTICIPATION

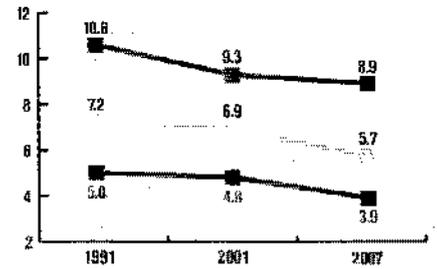
College enrollment of young adults in South Carolina has improved substantially since the early 1990s. The state is slightly below the national average and well below the top states in the percentage of young adults enrolled.

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

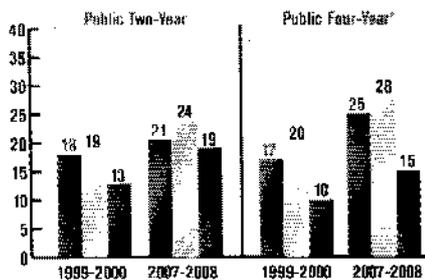
Percentage of 25-49 Year-Olds Without a Bachelor's Degree Enrolled in College



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

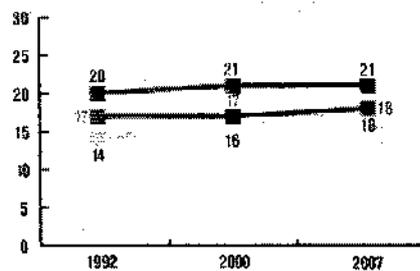
Percentage of Income Needed to Pay for Public Two- and Four-Year Colleges



## COMPLETION

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

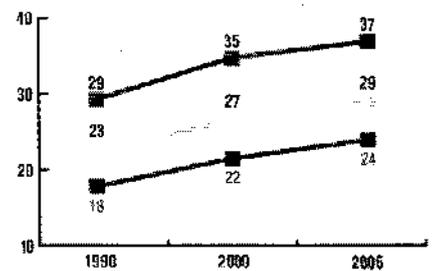
All Degree Completions per 100 Students\*



## BENEFITS

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

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



\*Key indicator for the category.

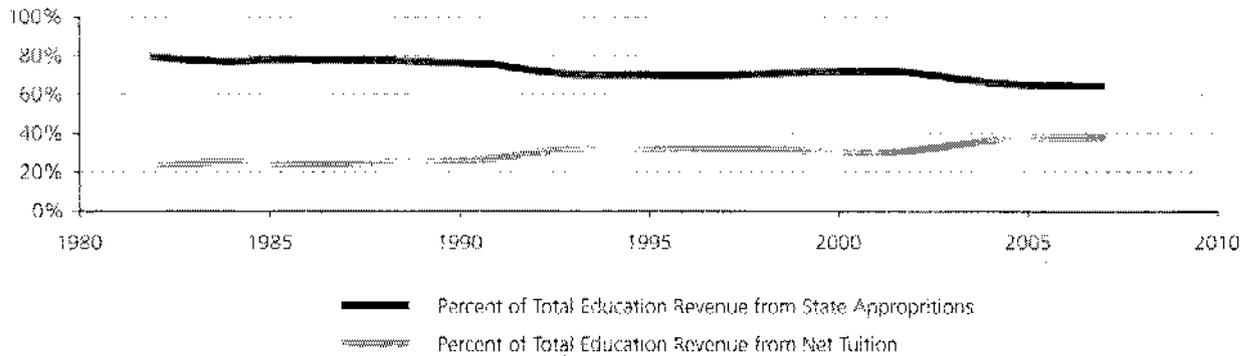
### LEGEND:

- & ■ = South Carolina
- & ▽ = United States
- & ■ = Median of Top Five States



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**FIGURE 15: Proportion of Public Higher Education Revenue from State Appropriation and Net Tuition Revenue**



SOURCE: State Higher Education Executives Organization (SHEEO)

The private benefit of higher education exists and is growing. Sandy Baum and Jennifer Ma's book, *Education Pays: The Benefits of Higher Education for Individuals and Society*, demonstrates not only the existence of the earnings premium associated with various levels of higher education but the dramatic growth of those earning premiums over the last decades. (Appendix I particularizes those benefits to the costs and returns from attending a public research university.) Those with degrees are more likely to have pensions and health insurance and are more likely to be employed. New research has found that, in recent years, even the ultimate private benefit, increased lifespan, has come only to those who obtain college degrees.<sup>88</sup>

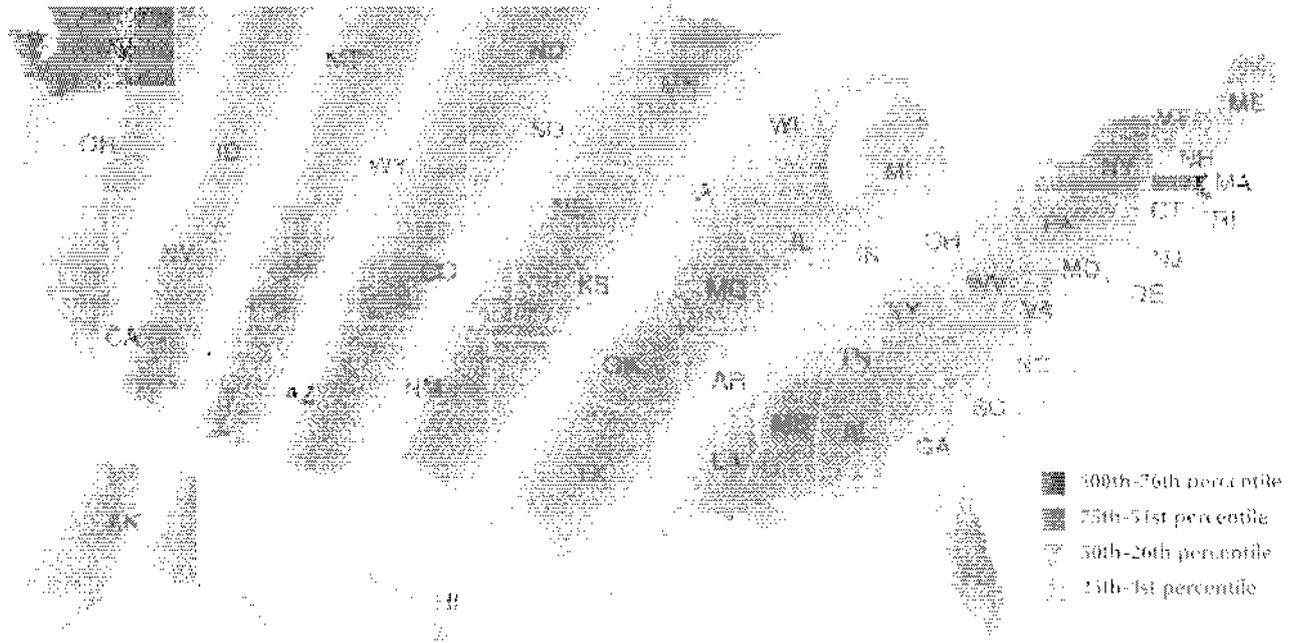
But the impact of a college degree has significant neighborhood effects that Baum and Ma also identify. Important among them are Enrico Moretti's research findings that increases in the proportion of college degree holders in a population leads to significant wage increases for those who do not hold college degrees.<sup>89</sup> In Thomas Friedman's *The World Is Flat*, which explores why we cannot insulate ourselves from international competition, Moretti's findings illustrate why public subsidies to increase the proportion of the population with college degrees is good for all of society and therefore worthy of government support. Baum and Ma continue with a data-rich catalogue of public benefit: reduced poverty, reduced public assistance expenditure, improved health (including a reduced propensity to smoke), greater cognitive skill development of children living with educated parents, and increased willingness to volunteer, to give blood, to vote and even to understand the opinions of others.

The private benefits of higher education are not distributed evenly; some benefit more from obtaining it than others. Across gender and race/ethnic groups, however, the benefits from

88. Ellen Meira, Seth Richards, and David Cutler, "The Gap Gets 3,000 Changes in Mortality and Life Expectancy by Education, 1981-2007," *Health Affairs*, March/April, 2008: 277.

89. Baum and Ma, p. 17.

# OVERALL SCORES



2008 Rank	2008 Score	State	1999 Rank	2002 Rank	2007 Rank	Change from 2002*	Change from 2007*
1	97	Massachusetts	1	1	1	0	0
2	91.9	Washington	4	4	4	0	0
3	89	Maryland	11	5	3	2	0
4	79.3	Delaware	9	9	7	0	1
5	77	New Jersey	8	6	2	1	-1
6	76.1	Connecticut	5	7	4	1	0
7	75.6	Virginia	12	8	3	1	1
8	73	California	2	2	7	-6	-1
9	72.4	New York	16	11	10	2	1
10	70.4	Colorado	3	3	9	7	-1
11	67.7	Rhode Island	29	23	15	12	-4
12	67.7	Utah	6	16	12	1	0
13	67.2	New Hampshire	7	12	13	-1	0
14	66	Minnesota	14	11	1	0	1
15	63.8	Oregon	15	13	17	2	2
16	62.4	Illinois	12	19	16	1	0
17	62.2	Michigan	14	21	19	1	3
18	61.1	Texas	17	9	13	-2	-1
19	60.5	Vermont	18	26	10	7	1
20	60	Arizona	13	15	21	-5	2
21	60	Georgia	25	18	10	-3	1
22	59.2	Pennsylvania	14	21	21	-1	-1
23	58.1	Florida	20	17	23	6	0
24	57.4	North Carolina	30	24	26	0	2
25	56.7	Nevada	21	31	27	6	2

2008 Rank	2008 Score	State	1999 Rank	2002 Rank	2007 Rank	Change from 2002*	Change from 2007*
26	55.6	Idaho	25	20	14	-6	-2
27	55.1	Nebraska	36	36	28	0	1
28	53.9	Maine	28	29	12	3	4
29	53.3	New Mexico	19	21	13	-4	4
30	53	Ohio	11	27	29	-3	1
31	52.9	Kansas	27	30	31	1	1
32	50.8	Alaska	11	19	25	7	7
33	50.6	Wisconsin	11	37	30	1	1
34	48.7	South Carolina	18	35	39	1	5
35	47.7	Hawaii	26	38	41	1	6
36	47.4	Indiana	17	32	11	-4	-5
37	46.9	Missouri	35	28	7	7	-2
38	46.7	ennessee	31	34	6	-4	-1
39	46.5	North Dakota	45	47	17	3	-1
40	46	Montana	48	41	42	1	2
41	44.7	Louisiana	47	44	44	1	1
42	44.5	Iowa	11	40	33	2	4
43	43.7	Oklahoma	40	53	40	10	1
44	43.9	South Dakota	43	46	48	2	4
45	41.3	Kentucky	39	42	15	1	0
46	40.1	Wyoming	41	43	41	-1	-3
47	37.4	Alabama	44	45	16	-2	-1
48	35.1	Arkansas	49	39	47	1	-1
49	31.9	West Virginia	48	48	30	-1	1
50	29.9	Mississippi	50	50	49	0	1

\* Because of data availability issues, not all states measured change in rank's position in 2002. 2002 and 2007 cannot all be attributed to changes in annual composite rankings by the state.