

New Hampshire improved in four education indicators in 2002 compared to 2000

The Granite State recently received higher grades in two education indicators, although it actually improved in four of them. *Measuring Up 2002*, a report from the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, surveys how states perform when it comes to higher education. States' performance is measured in preparation, participation, affordability, completion, and benefits. A state's improvement is based on its own performance from the previous report, while its grade is based on how it did relative to other states.

The state scored higher grades in *Participation* and *Benefits*. Scores in *Participation* reflected a higher portion of high schools students attending college immediately after completing high school. New Hampshire had 44 percent of high school freshmen enrolling in college within four years, an increase of one percent from the state's 2000 score, compared to 54 percent in the top states.

Improvements in *Benefits* scores included educational achievement, economic benefits, civic benefits, and adult skill levels. Increased scores obtained in 2002 were in adults aged 25 to 65 with bachelor's degree or higher, to 31 percent, and increased income from education (bachelor), to eight percent. These increases of one percent in each category supported New Hampshire's overall grade promotion.

Two other indicators that New Hampshire improved upon, but didn't score a higher grade in, were *Completion* and *Affordability*. Results from the 2002 *Completion* indicator maintained New Hampshire's high score from 2000. New Hampshire either outperformed or matched scores of top performing states in four of the five measured sections of this indicator. Increases from the state's 2000 score ranged from one to three percent in these sections. *Affordability* did show that New Hampshire students and families were paying a lower share of their income, after financial aid, to attend post-secondary schools than results from 2000.

Additional educational facts about the states, not used in the grading, were also obtained by the survey. Most recent information (1998) showed that New Hampshire had 672 more students entering the state to attend college than leaving. It also put the number of GED (General Education Development) diplomas issued to young adults, ages 16 to 24, per 1,000 high school graduates in 2001 at 134, compared to the national level of 154.

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*Measuring Up 2002: The State-by-State Report Card for Higher Education*, National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, Accessed December 13, 2002 <<http://measuringup.highereducation.org/2002/reporhome.htm>>

Measuring Up 2002

	CT		MA		ME		NH		RI		VT	
	2000	2002	2000	2002	2000	2002	2000	2002	2000	2002	2000	2002
Preparation	A	A	A	A	B+	B+	<b>B</b>	<b>B</b>	C	C	B -	B -
Participation	B+	A -	A -	A	C+	C+	<b>C+</b>	<b>B -</b>	A	A	C -	C +
Affordability	C	C -	D	D -	F	F	<b>F</b>	<b>F</b>	F	F	D -	F
Completion	B+	B+	A -	A -	B+	B	<b>A</b>	<b>A</b>	A	A	A	A
Benefits	A	A -	A -	A -	C+	D+	<b>B -</b>	<b>B</b>	A	A -	B -	B -

\* Information for Learning indicator was incomplete for all states