Higher Education in Focus 2017

Selected Performance Indicators
ABOUT THE MIDWESTERN HIGHER EDUCATION COMPACT

The Midwestern Higher Education Compact is a nonprofit regional organization, established by compact statute, to assist Midwestern states in advancing higher education through interstate cooperation and resource sharing. Member states are Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. Collectively, the Compact creates solutions that build higher education’s capacity to better serve individuals, institutions, and states by leveraging the region’s expertise, ideas, and experiences through multi-state convening, programs, contracts, and research.

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Correspondence concerning this report should be sent to Aaron Horn, Director for Policy Research, aaronh@mhec.org.

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Increasing Educational Attainment in Wisconsin: An Imperative for Future Prosperity

In the United States, approximately 65 percent of all jobs in 2020 will require some level of postsecondary education, and the demand will reach 62 percent in Wisconsin. The projected demand for postsecondary education in Wisconsin spans all occupational categories, including managerial, STEM, social sciences, community service, education, healthcare, and “blue collar” industries (see Figure 1). Figure 2 indicates that 64 percent of adults in Wisconsin have completed some college coursework or a postsecondary credential.

In order to meet future workforce demands, many states have set ambitious goals to improve the educational attainment of their residents, such as a goal to raise the proportion of adults with a postsecondary certificate or degree to 60 percent by 2025. The University of Wisconsin System, the Wisconsin Technical College Systems, and the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities adopted a joint resolution to realize a “60 percent” attainment goal by 2027. Figure 2 shows that progress has been made towards raising educational attainment in Wisconsin, as the percentage of adults with at least an associate degree increased from 28 percent in 1990 to 43 percent in 2016. (Data on postsecondary certificate attainment are currently limited, but some analyses indicate that accounting for educational certificates would increase the postsecondary attainment rate by two to five percentage points.)

The ability of policymakers to reach a “60 percent” attainment goal carries significant implications for state revenue. If the current rate of degree production remains constant, state revenue in 2025 is projected to be nearly $48 million less than it is today. Conversely, projections suggest that if the attainment goal were fulfilled by 2025, over $1 billion in additional revenue would be generated through income tax, sales tax, property tax, Medicaid savings, and corrections savings. Moreover, policies that effectively raise levels of educational attainment will yield important civic and health benefits, including higher rates of voting, volunteerism, and healthful prenatal care. For example, health risk factors such as smoking are less prevalent among individuals who have a bachelor’s degree or higher. Residents of Wisconsin also benefit from higher education in terms of higher earnings and lower unemployment, compared to those with only a high school diploma.

This report seeks to inform public discourse on higher education by providing key performance indicators relevant to the goal of improving educational attainment in Wisconsin. Performance indicators are categorized within six dimensions: Preparation, Participation, Affordability, Completion, Equity, and Finance. Most indicators provide the MHEC regional average and U.S. average or population proportion as lower performance benchmarks as well as the median of the top five states in the nation as an aspirational benchmark.
Figure 1. Wisconsin Job Openings by Occupation and Education Level between 2010 and 2020 (in thousands)


Figure 2. Percentage of Adults Aged 25-64 in Wisconsin who have Attained a Postsecondary Credential

Preparation

ABOUT THESE METRICS

Academic preparation constitutes a key leverage point for improving postsecondary outcomes. The extent to which students are academically prepared for college predicts bachelor’s degree completion beyond the effects of race and ethnicity, socioeconomic status, institutional selectivity, attendance patterns, and academic performance during college.\(^9\) The cumulative nature of both academic competencies and deficits necessitates an assessment of academic preparedness that spans pre-K education, middle school, and high school.

**Preschool enrollment.** An early indicator of academic preparation is defined by the percentage of children ages 3 to 4 enrolled in preschool. Early childhood education provides a critical foundation for successfully managing subsequent academic challenges. Relative to children in control groups, participants in high-quality, educationally-focused programs have exhibited greater long-term gains in IQ, lower rates of grade repetition and special education placements, and higher rates of high school graduation and college attendance.\(^10\) Moreover, cost-benefit analyses of such programs have shown that benefits are 2.5 to 16.2 times greater than costs when accounting for such factors as adult earnings and cost savings in K-12 education, corrections, welfare, and healthcare.

**Academic proficiency of 8th grade students.** The percentage of students in grade 8 scoring at or above proficiency on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) provides a measure of whether students enter high school with foundational skills and knowledge in such areas as math, reading, and science. In fact, 8th grade academic achievement has been found to be a highly significant predictor of college readiness among 12th grade students.\(^11\)

**High school completion.** Graduation rates are based on the number of students who graduate in four years with a regular high school diploma.\(^12\) The completion of high school or its equivalent is typically required for college admission.

**College readiness.** The proportion of students taking the ACT who meet college readiness benchmarks provides one measure of the academic preparation of college-bound students. Benchmark scores in English, mathematics, reading, and science delineate a 75 percent likelihood of attaining at least a “C” in first-year college-level courses.\(^13\)
Figure 3. Percentage of Children Ages 3 to 4 Enrolled in Preschool

Preschool enrollment. Figure 3 shows that the rate of enrollment in preschool among children ages 3 to 4 has increased slightly over time but remains below the regional and national levels.


Figure 4. Percentage of Students in Grade 8 Scoring At or Above Proficiency on the National Assessment of Educational Progress in Math, Reading, and Science

Academic proficiency of 8th grade students. As indicated in Figure 4, less than half of 8th grade students scored at or above the proficiency level in math, reading, or science. However, performance is above the regional and national benchmarks.

Figure 5. Public High School Graduation Rate Over Time

High school completion. Figure 5 shows that the percentage of 9th grade students who graduate from high school four years later has increased since 2010-11, and the current rate is above the regional and national benchmarks.


Figure 6a. Percentage of High School Graduates Taking the ACT during 2013 and 2016

College readiness. Figure 6a indicates that 100 percent of high school graduates in Wisconsin took the ACT.

Figure 6b. Percentage of ACT-Tested High School Graduates Who Met or Exceeded College Readiness Benchmark Scores

**College readiness.** Figure 6b shows the percentage of ACT-tested high school graduates whose performance met or exceeded benchmark scores in English, mathematics, reading, and science. Wisconsin approximated or exceeded average performance levels of states that require all high school students to take the ACT, though many students did not meet the performance benchmarks.

Source: ACT. (2016). *The Condition of College & Career Readiness*, 2016. The 100% participation average reflects performance in MHEC states that require all students to take the ACT. The median of the top 5 states includes only states that have a minimum of 65% of students taking the ACT. Top states (includes ties): 2016 English: IA, KS, NE, OH, SD; 2016 Reading: IA, KS, NE, OH, SD; 2016 Math: IA, KS, MN, OH, SD; 2016 Science: IA, KS, MN, NE, OH, SD.
Participation

ABOUT THESE METRICS

A critical challenge for policymakers is to ensure that residents can access a college education compatible with their aspirations and abilities. Postsecondary participation rates provide a general indication of whether opportunities for higher education need to be improved for both younger and older adults.

**Direct enrollment.** The direct enrollment rate is defined as the percentage of high school graduates who enroll in a postsecondary institution during the fall immediately following high school completion. Postponed enrollment may lead to future obstacles to degree completion, such as the decay of academic skills and knowledge as well as the adoption of competing roles and obligations (e.g., work, family). Research has indicated that the odds of obtaining a bachelor’s degree decrease by 5 percent for every month that a student delays postsecondary enrollment after graduating from high school.

**Traditional age enrollment.** Participation among traditional-age students is defined as the percentage of all 18- to 24-year-old adults in the state who are currently enrolled in college or have completed some college.

**Older adult enrollment.** Participation among older adults is defined as the rate of enrollment among adults aged 25 to 49 who have not yet earned an associate degree.
**Figure 7. Percentage of High School Graduates Going Directly to College**

**Direct enrollment.** As indicated in Figure 7, approximately 64 percent of high school graduates in Wisconsin directly enroll in college, a rate that has increased over time and but is below the regional and national levels.


**Figure 8. Percentage of Persons Aged 18-24 who are Currently Enrolled or Have Completed Some College**

**Traditional age enrollment.** Figure 8 shows that 70 percent of adults aged 18 to 24 have enrolled in college, which is above the regional and national benchmarks.

Figure 9. Percentage of Persons Aged 25-49 without an Associate Degree or Higher who are Currently Enrolled in College

**Older adult enrollment.** Figure 9 shows that Wisconsin meets the regional and national benchmarks in the proportion of older residents enrolled in college.

Affordability

ABOUT THESE METRICS

Over the past few decades, college tuition and fees have increased at more than four times the rate of consumer prices, partly in response to reductions in state and local funding. Such precipitous increases in tuition have occurred while the incomes of many low- and middle-class families have stagnated or declined. This is potentially problematic since a higher net price of college has been associated with lower rates of college enrollment and completion, particularly among students from low-income families.37

Ability to pay. College affordability is measured by the percentage of family income needed to pay the net price of full-time enrollment at public two- and four-year institutions. The average net price is calculated as the total cost of attendance (tuition and fees, books, supplies, and room and board) minus the average institutional, local, state, and federal grant aid. In order to assess the degree of affordability for students of different income levels, this indicator is presented for families with median income and families in the lowest income quintile.
Figure 10a. Percentage of Family Income Needed to Pay for Full-Time Enrollment at Public Two- and Four-Year Institutions: Families with Median Incomes

**Ability to pay: Median income.** Figure 10a shows that the net price of college as a percentage of median family income recently decreased for public two- and four-year enrollment.

Ability to pay: Low income. A comparison of Figures 10a and 10b indicates that college affordability in Wisconsin is highly contingent on family income. Families with median incomes in Wisconsin would need to allocate 20 percent of their incomes to pay for enrollment at a four-year college. In contrast, four-year college attendance for low-income students requires 39 percent of family income. However, college affordability for low-income students has recently improved, and affordability at four-year colleges exceeds the regional and national benchmarks.

Completion

ABOUT THESE METRICS

While many states have made significant gains in postsecondary enrollment, rates of degree completion across the nation remain below expected levels. The failure to complete a degree program has negative consequences for both students and states. Since employers are more likely to demand an educational credential than a specific number of postsecondary credits, a premature departure from college can severely curb one’s prospects for future employment and earnings. For example, individuals who have attained a bachelor’s degree earn 26 percent more than those who have completed 16 years of schooling without graduating from college. In addition, when students fail to graduate, the state fails to optimize its investment in higher education through lost institutional appropriations and student grant aid as well as lost revenue from state income tax.

Traditional on-time graduation. The traditional on-time graduation rate represents completion of a bachelor’s degree within four years at four-year institutions. It accounts for first-time, full-time, baccalaureate-seeking students who enter during the fall and graduate from their first institution.

Transfer-adjusted completion. Transfer-adjusted completion rates are defined by the proportion of first-time, certificate/degree-seeking students in the fall 2010 cohort who completed a certificate or degree within six years, while accounting for students who enroll part- or full-time and graduate from their first institution or elsewhere.

Institutional effectiveness. A major shortcoming of raw completion rates is that they do not necessarily gauge the performance of particular postsecondary institutions but rather constitute an outcome of the totality of performances across the PK-16 educational system as well as the broader system of public policies that shape postsecondary opportunities. In order to better assess the value that institutions add to completion outcomes, an effectiveness indicator is defined as the difference between the actual graduation rate and the rate that would be expected given the institution’s structural, demographic, financial, and contextual characteristics. Scores that approximate or exceed zero indicate that, on average, institutional conditions are conducive to timely completion.
**Figure 11a. Percentage of First-Time, Full-Time, Baccalaureate-Seeking Students who Graduated within Four Years at Public Four-Year Institutions**

*Traditional on-time graduation.* Figure 11a shows that 30 percent of first-time, full-time, baccalaureate-seeking students graduated within four years at public institutions in Wisconsin in 2015, which was lower than the regional and national benchmarks.

Source: NCES IPEDS. (2005, 2015). *Graduation Rate. Top 5 States (includes ties), 2015: DE, CT, MD, NH, VA, VT.*

**Figure 11b. Percentage of First-Time, Full-Time, Baccalaureate-Seeking Students who Graduated within Four Years at Private Not-for-Profit Four-Year Institutions**

*Traditional on-time graduation.* Figure 11b demonstrates that the four-year graduation rate of private not-for-profit colleges and universities in Wisconsin (48 percent) met the regional benchmark but was below the national level.

According to Figure 12a, 50 percent of all students who started at a public two-year institution in Wisconsin completed a certificate or degree within six years, which is above the regional and national benchmarks. The transfer-adjusted completion rate for students at public four-year institutions was 68 percent, which equaled the regional level and exceeded the national benchmark. The transfer-adjusted completion rate for students at private not-for-profit institutions (76 percent) is above the regional and national benchmarks.

![Graph showing transfer-adjusted completion rates](image-url)

Transfer-adjusted completion: Full-time students. A much larger percentage of students complete a certificate or degree within six years after accounting for enrollment intensity. A comparison of Figures 12a and 12b demonstrates that completion rates are highest among students who enroll full-time.

**Institutional effectiveness.** Figure 13 indicates that the institutional effectiveness of public 2-year institutions in Wisconsin is above the regional and national levels. But public 4-year institutions have a more limited impact on timely degree completion, as graduation rates are lower than expected.

Equity

ABOUT THESE METRICS

Equity in postsecondary education is partly assessed by the extent to which academic preparedness, college enrollment, and completion are contingent on family income.\(^{21}\) Nationally, lower-income students constitute 51 percent of public PK-12 enrollment,\(^{22}\) but they have been historically underrepresented in higher education. Moreover, many states will need to improve the college preparation and participation of low-income students to significantly raise postsecondary attainment rates.

8th grade achievement gap. The academic preparedness gap is measured by 8th grade proficiency levels in math, reading, and science on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) among low-income students who qualified for free- or reduced-price lunch and “higher”-income students who were not eligible to participate in the National School Lunch Program.\(^{23}\)

High school completion gap. Graduation rates are based on the number of students who graduate in four years with a regular high school diploma.\(^{24}\) The completion gap is measured by graduation rates among low-income students who qualified for free- or reduced-price lunch and “higher”-income students who were not eligible to participate in the National School Lunch Program.

College enrollment gap. The postsecondary enrollment gap is gauged by comparing college enrollment rates among dependent 18- to 24-year-old residents by family income in Wisconsin.\(^{25}\)

College completion gap. The completion gap is estimated by comparing six-year graduation rates among Pell grant recipients and non-Pell recipients at public four-year institutions.\(^{26}\) The six-year graduation rate accounts for first-time, full-time, bachelor’s degree-seeking students who entered during the fall of 2007 and graduated from their first institution within six years.
Figure 14. Percentage of Low- and Higher-Income Students in Grade 8 Scoring At or Above Proficiency on the National Assessment of Educational Progress in Math, Reading, and Science

8th grade achievement gap. Figure 14 shows that fewer than 30 percent of low-income students in Wisconsin scored at or above the proficiency level in math, reading, or science on the National Assessment of Educational Progress, which is well below the achievement levels of higher-income students.

Figure 15. Public High School Graduation Rates among Low- and Higher-Income Students

High school completion gap. Figure 15 indicates that the high school graduation rate of low-income students has increased over time but was 17 percentage points below the graduation rate of higher-income students in 2014-15, compared to the regional gap of 16 percentage points and the national gap of 14 percentage points.

Source: U.S. Department of Education. (2011, 2015). ED Data Express, ACGR. Data for higher-income students were not available in 2010-11.

Figure 16. Percentage of Dependent 18- to 24-Year-Old Residents Who Have Enrolled in or Have Completed Some College by Family Income

College enrollment gap. According to Figure 16, the rates of college enrollment among low- and middle-income 18- to 24-year-old residents in Wisconsin are considerably lower than the enrollment rate for 18- to 24-year-old residents from high-income families.

Figure 17. Percentage of First-Time, Full-Time, Baccalaureate-Seeking Students in the Fall 2007 Cohort who Graduated within Six Years at Public Four-Year Institutions: Pell Grant Recipients vs. Non-Pell Recipients

College completion gap. Similarly, the graduation rate of low-income students (i.e., Pell grant recipients) lags behind the graduation rate of higher-income students at public four-year institutions. However, the graduation rate of low-income students in Wisconsin is higher than the regional benchmark (see Figure 17).


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>IL</th>
<th>IN</th>
<th>IA</th>
<th>KS</th>
<th>MN</th>
<th>MO</th>
<th>NE</th>
<th>ND</th>
<th>OH</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>WI</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percent of undergraduate students enrolled in 2007 who received a Pell grant during 2007-08</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percent of undergraduate students enrolled in 2007 who received a Pell grant during 2007-08
ABOUT THESE METRICS

Substantial financial investments are required to create and sustain a PK-16 educational system that meets state needs for economic and social development. States allocated 13 percent of their budgets to higher education in 2016, including general operating expenses (78 percent); research, agricultural extension, and medical education (11 percent); and student financial aid (10 percent). Various factors influence funding for education within any particular state, including the tax base and structure, enrollment, and state expenditures for other public services. Moreover, states differ in the strategies used to ensure that postsecondary education remains affordable. For instance, some concentrate funds into direct institutional appropriations, while others may focus more on need-based student aid.

**Funding commitment.** Two indicators portray the state’s overall commitment to funding higher education: state and local educational appropriations for higher education per FTE student and state fiscal support for higher education per $1,000 of personal income.

**State and student cost share.** The relative share of the cost of higher education is represented by comparing educational appropriations and net tuition revenue as a percent of total educational revenue for public postsecondary institutions.

**Institutional funding.** State and local appropriations are examined for public two- and four-year institutions in relation to education and related expenditures, which reflect the total amount spent on instruction, student services, and academic support. State appropriations may influence the effectiveness and competitiveness of institutions as well as tuition rates.

**Need-based aid.** State funding for grant aid based on financial need is measured by (a) the amount of need-based grant aid per FTE student and (b) need-based aid as a percent of total grant aid allocations. The receipt of grant aid has been linked with higher rates of college enrollment and degree completion.
Figure 18a. State and Local Educational Appropriations for Higher Education per FTE Student

**Funding commitment.** Figure 18a shows that public funding for higher education in Wisconsin was below the regional and national levels in 2016.

Source: SHEEO. (2017). *State higher education finance: FY 16.* Estimates have been adjusted for inflation.

Figure 18b. State Fiscal Support for Higher Education per $1,000 of Personal Income

**Funding commitment.** According to Figure 18b, state commitment defined as funding per $1,000 of personal income was slightly above the regional and national benchmarks in 2015.

Source: SHEEO. (2017). *State higher education finance: FY 16.* Estimates have been adjusted for inflation.
**State and student cost share.** The student’s share of the cost of enrollment currently exceeds the state’s share, as net tuition revenue constitutes a relatively larger proportion of revenue among public colleges and universities (see Figure 19).

![Graph showing State and Local Educational Appropriations and Net Tuition Revenue as a Percentage of Total Educational Revenue for Public Postsecondary Institutions in Wisconsin (per FTE Student)](image)

Source: SHEEO. (2017). *State higher education finance: FY 16.* Estimates have been adjusted for inflation.
Figure 20a. Public Doctoral Universities: State and Local Appropriations Relative to Educational Expenditures per FTE Student during 2014-15

Institutional funding. Figures 20a-c depict state and local appropriations relative to educational expenditures for each type of institution in the MHEC states during 2014-15. State and local appropriations in Wisconsin constitute 43 percent of education and related expenditures at public doctoral universities, which is above the national level of 42 percent.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>State and Local Appropriations per FTE Student</th>
<th>Education and Related Expenditures per FTE Student</th>
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<td>Wisconsin</td>
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<td>$7,447</td>
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Appropriations as Percentage of Expenditures

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>%</td>
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<td>27</td>
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2017 Higher Education in Focus: WISCONSIN
Institutional funding. At master’s universities, state and local appropriations reflect 26 percent of educational expenditures, which is below the national level of 45 percent.


Appropriations as Percentage of Expenditures

<table>
<thead>
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<th>State and Local Appropriations per FTE Student</th>
<th>Education and Related Expenditures per FTE Student</th>
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<td>$5,358</td>
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Institutional funding. At two-year colleges, state and local appropriations are equivalent to 84 percent of educational expenditures, which is above the national level of 70 percent.


Appropriations as Percentage of Expenditures

<table>
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<th>State and Local Appropriations per FTE Student</th>
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<tr>
<td>U.S.</td>
<td>$5,600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 21. State Need-Based Grant Aid per FTE Undergraduate Student and Percent of Aid Defined as Need-Based

Need-based aid. Figure 21 indicates that state need-based grant aid per FTE student in Wisconsin increased over the past decade and was above the regional benchmark in 2014-15. Wisconsin allocates 98 percent of its grant aid based on financial need, which places Wisconsin among the top states in the nation.

Endnotes


2 Job categories were defined by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce: Managerial and Professional (e.g., management, business operations, finance, and legal); STEM (e.g., computer and mathematical science, architecture and engineers, engineers and computer technicians, life and physical scientists); Social Sciences (psychologists, market research analysts, urban planners, survey researchers, economists, anthropologists, sociologists, political scientists, historians, geographers); Community Service and Arts (e.g., social services, arts, design, sports, entertainment, media); Education; Healthcare (professionals and support); Food and Personal Services (e.g., protective services, food preparation and serving, personal care); Sales and Office Support; and Blue Collar (e.g., farming, fishing and forestry, construction and extraction, installation, maintenance and equipment repair, production, transportation and material moving). The Georgetown Center describes “Some College, No Degree” as an amorphous category in which some people with high school diplomas self-report their highest level of education in the “Some College” category. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics defines “Some College, No Degree” as the “achievement of a high school diploma or equivalent plus the completion of one or more postsecondary courses that did not result in a degree or award.” It is generally accepted that this category includes completion of 1- and 2-year certificates.


10 Pianta, R. C., Barnett, W. S., Burchinal, M., & Thornburg, K. R. (2009). The effects of preschool education: What we know, how public policy is or is not aligned with the evidence base, and what we need to know. Psychological Science in the Public Interest, 10(2), 49-88.


12 This report uses the four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate, which is defined as “the number of students who graduate in four years with a regular high school diploma divided by the number of students who form the adjusted cohort for the graduating class. From the beginning of 9th grade (or the earliest high school grade), students who are entering that grade for the first time form a cohort that is “adjusted” by adding any students who subsequently transfer into the cohort and subtracting any students who subsequently transfer out, emigrate to another country, or die” (U.S. Department of Education, 2012). Retrieved from http://eddataexpress.ed.gov/dataelementoverlay.cfm/deid/127/states/XX/


14 The percentage of high school graduates taking the ACT is calculated from the actual number of ACT takers and the projected number of high school graduates.

15 The number of graduates from private high schools in 2014 was estimated as the average of 2011 graduates and the projected number of graduates estimated by WICHE. The Private School Universe Survey does not provide data beyond 2011.


In the case of four-year institutions, overall institutional effectiveness scores were computed as the average of scores based on the four- and six-year graduation rate models. The graduation rate is based on the percentage of full-time, first-time bachelor’s degree-seeking students who graduate within four or six years (2004, 2005, and 2006 cohorts). Overall effectiveness for two-year colleges was computed as the average of scores based on models for graduation within 150% of program time and graduation or transfer within 150% of program time. In addition, the average performance scores of public institutions weighted by FTE undergraduate enrollment were calculated for each state. A state’s institutional effectiveness score reflects the average standardized difference between actual and predicted completion rates at public institutions (rates predicted from institutional and state attributes). See Horn, A. S., & Lee, G. (2016). The reliability and validity of using regression residuals to measure institutional effectiveness in promoting degree completion. Research in Higher Education, 57(4), 469-496. See also Horn, A. S., Horner, O. G., & Lee, G. (2017). Measuring the effectiveness of two-year colleges: a comparison of raw and value-added performance indicators. Studies in Higher Education, 1-19.

Family income and race and ethnicity are highly correlated, but they also form unique sources of advantage and disadvantage in educational opportunity and attainment. Additional equity indicators by race and ethnicity will be available at http://www.mhec.org/research

See endnote 12.

Dependent is defined as age less than 25, not married with spouse present, with the household role of sibling, child, step child, family other, foster child or grandchild. The sample excludes individuals currently enrolled in high school but includes individuals without a high school diploma or certificate who are not currently enrolled in high school. Family income quartiles are based on all households in the state: low income is delineated by the bottom quartile; middle income is delineated by the middle quartiles; and high income is delineated by the top quartile. College enrollment is defined as current postsecondary enrollment or any level of college attainment, including some college or a specific credential. Sample sizes are too small to produce single-year estimates.

Not all institutions in all states are accounted for as many did not report Pell data, which affects the U.S. and MHEC averages. Coverage for MHEC states is as follows: IL (100%), IN (91%), IA (100%), KS (92%), MI (100%), MN (74%), MO (84%), NE (100%), ND (100%), OH (95%), SD (95%), and WI (100%). Graduation rates for private institutions were not calculated due to excessive missing data.


State and local educational appropriations refer to “state and local support available for public higher education operating expenses, defined to exclude spending for research, agricultural extension, and medical education, as well as support for independent institutions or students attending them” (SHEEO, 2015, p. 11). State and local support refer to “state tax appropriations and local tax support plus additional nontax funds (e.g., lottery revenue) that support or benefit higher education, and funds appropriated to other state entities for specific higher education expenditures or benefits (e.g., employee fringe benefits disbursed by the state treasurer)” (SHEEO, 2015, p. 11).

State fiscal support is defined as “state and local tax and non-tax support for public and independent higher education, including special purpose appropriations for research-agricultural-medical” (SHEEO, 2017, p. 55).


See endnote 17.