2018 State Performance Update
Supplement to Higher Education in Focus 2017

SOUTH DAKOTA
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Correspondence concerning this report should be sent to Aaron Horn, Vice President of Policy Research, aaronh@mhec.org.

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About this Report

This supplement to Higher Education in Focus 2017 provides the latest data on a subset of indicators relevant to the goal of improving educational attainment in South Dakota. Performance indicators are categorized within five areas: Preparation, Participation, Affordability, Completion, and Finance. Most indicators provide the national and MHEC regional values as well as the median of the top five states in the nation as possible benchmarks.

See MHEC.ORG/RESEARCH for the full report.

Selected Performance Indicators

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Academic proficiency of 8th grade students by race and ethnicity. 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. As indicated in Figure 1, less than half of 8th grade students in South Dakota across all groups scored at or above the proficiency level in math, reading, or science. Proficiency in these subject areas was less common among American Indian, Black, and Hispanic students relative to White students.

Figure 1: Percentage of Students in Grade 8 Scoring at or Above Proficiency on the National Assessment of Educational Progress in Math, Reading, and Science by Race and Ethnicity, 2017

Note: Estimates for math and reading proficiency were derived from the 2017 assessment; estimates for science proficiency were only available for 2015.

Proficiency in math, reading, and science was more common among White students relative to American Indian, Black, and Hispanic students.
Academic proficiency of 8th grade students by family income. As indicated in Figure 2, proficiency rates in math, reading, and science were below 50 percent for both income groups. In addition, a much larger percentage of students from higher-income families were proficient in these subject areas than were students from low-income families. Nonetheless, the proficiency rates of lower-income students in South Dakota exceed the regional and national benchmarks.

Figure 2: Percentage of Students in Grade 8 Scoring at or Above Proficiency on the National Assessment of Educational Progress in Math, Reading, and Science by Income, 2017


Note: Estimates for math and reading proficiency were derived from the 2017 assessment; estimates for science proficiency were only available for 2015.

Proficiency rates among students from higher-income families were well above those of students from lower-income families.
Participation

College enrollment by race and ethnicity. The postsecondary enrollment of traditionally under-represented students has been a priority in states committed to promoting equal opportunity and economic growth, particularly as state populations become more racially and ethnically diverse.

Figures 3 and 4 provide a comparison of the demographic composition of state populations aged 18-24 to current postsecondary enrollment in public two- and four-year institutions, respectively.

Figure 3: Percentage of State Population Aged 18-24 and Percentage of First-Time, Full-Time, Degree-Seeking Students Enrolled in South Dakota Public Two-Year Institutions by Race and Ethnicity, 2016


Under-represented students tend to enroll at relatively lower rates at two-year institutions than do White students.
The figures demonstrate that students of under-represented ethnic and racial backgrounds tend to enroll at relatively lower rates at both two-year and four-year institutions than do White students. For example, Figures 3 and 4 indicate that while residents aged 18-24 from under-represented racial and ethnic groups comprise 17 percent of the population in South Dakota, less than 10 percent of full-time undergraduate students (any age) at public two- and four-year institutions are American Indian, Black, or Hispanic.

**Figure 4: Percentage of State Population Aged 18-24 and Percentage of First-Time, Full-Time, Degree-Seeking Students Enrolled in South Dakota Public Four-Year Institutions by Race and Ethnicity, 2016**

Under-represented students tend to enroll at relatively lower rates at four-year institutions than do White students.
Affordability

**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 ($72,364 for South Dakota in 2016) and families in the lowest income quintile (median of $22,368 for South Dakota in 2016). State policymakers can influence affordability through such means as financial aid and institutional appropriations.

Figure 5 shows that the net price of college as a percentage of median family income for public two- and four-year enrollment is higher than the regional and national benchmarks.

**Figure 5. Percentage of Family Income Needed to Pay for Full-Time Enrollment at Public Two- and Four-Year Institutions: Families with Median Incomes ($72,364)**

A comparison of Figures 5 and 6 indicates that college affordability in South Dakota is highly contingent on family income. Families with median incomes in South Dakota would need to allocate 25 percent of their incomes to pay for enrollment at a four-year college. In contrast, four-year college attendance for low-income students requires 64 percent of family income.

Figure 6. Percentage of Family Income Needed to Pay for Full-Time Enrollment at Public Two- and Four-Year Institutions: Families in the Lowest Income Quintile ($22,368)


The affordability of full-time enrollment in South Dakota is highly contingent on family income.
Completion

**Transfer-adjusted completion.** Transfer-adjusted completion rates are defined by the proportion of first-time, certificate/degree-seeking students in the fall 2011 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.

According to Figure 7, South Dakota’s completion rate for part-time students who started at public four-year institutions is above the regional and national benchmarks. A comparison of Figures 7 and 8 demonstrates that completion rates are highest among students who enroll full-time.

**Figure 7. Part-Time Students: Transfer-Adjusted Percentage of First-Time, Certificate/Degree-Seeking Students in the Fall 2011 Cohort who Completed a Certificate or Degree within Six Years by Starting Institution**

![Bar chart showing completion rates for part-time students.](chart)


* Estimate was not available due to low historical coverage rate for sector in National Student Clearinghouse data.

Less than one third of part-time students at four-year institutions complete within six years.
Figure 8. Full-Time Students: Transfer-Adjusted Percentage of First-Time, Certificate/Degree-Seeking Students in the Fall 2011 Cohort who Completed a Certificate or Degree within Six Years by Starting Institution


* Estimate was not available due to low historical coverage rate for sector in National Student Clearinghouse data.

Completion rates are highest among full-time students.
Completion

Two-year college success rates. Timely success at two-year colleges is defined by the proportion of first-time, full-time certificate/degree-seeking students in the fall 2014 cohort who transferred or completed an associate degree or certificate at a public two-year college within three years.

According to Figure 9, success rates at public two-year colleges in South Dakota are among the highest in the country.

Figure 9. Percentage of First-Time, Full-Time Certificate/Degree-Seeking Students in the Fall 2014 Cohort who Completed a Certificate/Degree or Transferred within Three Years at Public Two-Year Colleges

Source. NCES IPEDS. (2017). Graduation rate. Top 5 States (includes ties), 2016-17: SD, WY, KS, UT, MN.

Three-year success rates at public two-year colleges are among the highest in the nation.
Completion

Graduation rates by race and ethnicity. Graduation rates by race and ethnicity are defined by the proportion of first-time, full-time certificate/degree-seeking students in the fall 2010 cohort who transferred or completed an associate degree or certificate at a public two-year college within three years or completed a bachelor’s degree at a public four-year university within six years (without accounting for transfer to another institution).

According to Figure 10, graduation rates among under-represented students are below the graduation rates of White students.

Figure 10. Percentage of First-Time, Full-Time, Degree/Certificate-Seeking Students from Fall 2010 Cohort who Graduated within 150% Completion Time at South Dakota Public Two-Year and Public Four-Year Institutions by Race and Ethnicity


Under-represented students graduate at lower rates than do White students.
**Finance**

**Institutional funding.** 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, including four-year, two-year, and less-than-two-year institutions. The state assumes a smaller share of the cost of enrollment compared to the student's share, as net tuition revenue constitutes a relatively larger proportion of revenue among public colleges and universities (see Figure 11).

![Figure 11. State and Local Educational Appropriations and Net Tuition Revenue as a Percentage of Total Educational Revenue for Public Postsecondary Institutions in South Dakota (per FTE Student)](image)

**The state’s share of the cost of enrollment has decreased over time and is below the national benchmark.**

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1State 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 benefit (e.g., employee fringe benefit disbursed by the state treasurer)” (SHEEO, p. 11).
**Finance**

**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 12 indicates that state need-based grant aid per FTE student in South Dakota was well below the regional and national benchmarks in 2016-17. South Dakota allocates 4 percent of its grant aid based on financial need, which is below the regional and national levels.

*Figure 12. State Need-based Grant Aid per FTE Undergraduate Student and Percent of Aid Defined as Need-Based*


*Need-based grant aid in South Dakota is below the regional and national benchmarks.*
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