

APPENDIX B-6: EDUCATION

Some states appear on both lists in this section. In many instances, either the higher education system or the K-12 system is weak while the other remains strong.

Leading States

Wisconsin

Wisconsin is ranked 11th in percentage of population over 25 that graduated from high school, 14th in percentage of fourth-grade students testing at or above proficient math levels and 19th in percentage of population enrolled in degree-granting institutions.¹ This last ranking reflects the general consensus that Wisconsin has a strong secondary education system.

New York

New York is home to a number of leading universities and research institutions that produce a significant number of patents and publications. In 2005, the state was ranked 2nd in the nation in terms of educational resources and degrees conferred.² The state's 271 colleges and universities conferred more than 250,000 degrees. Six New York universities are ranked in the top 50 nationwide.

California

California offers a three-tiered system of affordable national public universities, state universities, and community colleges geared to make higher education available to those who want to pursue an advanced degree. The state is home to a number of leading universities and research institutions that produce a significant number of patents and publications.³

Connecticut

Connecticut's expenditures per pupil in elementary and secondary schools outpace New England and the U.S. Connecticut has the second highest percentage of its population with a bachelor's degree or higher.⁴ Connecticut also has a solid higher education system, including UCONN, which places in the top 100 colleges and universities.

¹ Tureck, David; Houghton, Jonathan; Conte, Frank; Doyon, Christopher. *State Competitiveness Report 2007*. Boston: Beacon Hill Institute for Public Policy Research at Suffolk University, 2007. 64. <http://www.beaconhill.org/Compete07/Compete2007State.pdf>.

² New York State Department of Education. <http://www.nysed.gov/>

³ "Schwarzenegger Proposes \$95 Million For Tech Initiative". 5 Jan. 2007. HPCWire. <http://www.hpcwire.com/hpc/1181200.html>

⁴ National Center for Education Statistics. "Expenditure Per Student By State and Local Governments". 1. <http://www.ct.gov/eecd/lib/eecd/20/14/md9910-1.xls>

Florida

Florida earned an A in “Return on Investment” according to a US Chamber of Commerce report.⁵ Student achievement in Florida is very strong relative to state education spending (after controlling for student poverty, the percentage of students with special needs, and cost of living).

Florida ranks 4th in the nation in total community college enrollment, with over 500,000 students enrolled in a given year.

Additionally, in 2005, Florida universities performed more than \$1.5 billion in sponsored research, working closely with business and industry to create cutting-edge technology. These educational institutions also work closely with the business community to build programs that reflect the needs of Florida’s workforce.

Washington

In 2006, a survey by the U.S. Bureau of the Census reported that 91.1% of Washington’s population aged 25 years or older completed four or more years of high school, a slight decrease from 2005’s value of 91.5%. The state’s 2006 rank, however, remained constant at 6th. The state’s five-year average value of 90.4%, ranked 8th among the states. Washington has consistently ranked well above the U.S. average in this measure.

Texas

There are more than 100 colleges and universities and dozens of institutions engaged in research and development in Texas. The state is also home to Rice University—one of the country’s leading teaching and research universities—ranked the 17th- best university overall in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report*.

Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania has shown good improvement in bachelor degree attainment, but remains only in the middle of all states and below the average of its peers

North Carolina

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce report gave North Carolina “A’s” for return on educational investment and for making sure teachers are well qualified.⁶ North Carolina’s performance in education has continued to stay above the majority of U.S. states, earning a rank of 10th and four stars in the NC Chamber Index. Virginia was 7th with four

⁵ The Institute for a Competitive Workforce. [Leaders and Laggards: A State By State Report Card on Educational Effectiveness](http://www.uschamber.com/NR/rdonlyres/e6vj565iidmycznvk4ikm3mryxo5nslm7iq2uyrta5vrqdxsagjvkxafxz6r3buzaopo4uxv4o4ep4nvhmc3ppc7drjd/USChamberLeadersandLaggards.pdf). Institute for a Competitive Workforce, an affiliate of The US Chamber of Commerce, Feb. 2007.21

⁶ Institute for a Competitive Workforce.

stars, Florida 34th with three stars, Georgia 35th with three stars, and South Carolina 44th with two stars.⁷

New Jersey

Earned an “A” in “Academic Achievement”. The state earned a “B” in the academic achievement of low-income and minority students from the US Chamber of Commerce.

Massachusetts

The state has 15 public colleges and universities in addition to the numerous private higher education institutions, while the Massachusetts Board of Regional Community Colleges has 16 campuses. With outstanding higher-education institutions in the Commonwealth, businesses located within the state have a well-educated workforce from which to draw.

Maryland

Maryland has a very strong university system, as has been demonstrated by its rate of Academic R&D and Science and Engineering Graduate Students, among other factors.

Virginia

The education system in Virginia creates a large pool of well-educated individuals who support industry needs. Their workforce is cited as a key factor for companies expanding or relocating to the Commonwealth. Virginia’s schools exhibit excellence at all levels, from elementary and secondary schools to community colleges, universities, and graduate schools.

Challenged States

California

Although California’s higher education programs remain among the best in the nation, it received mixed results for lower levels of education. According to the US Chamber of Commerce’s “Leaders and Laggards” study, young California students perform especially poorly on academic proficiency tests which have led to the state’s overall ranking of a “D” for a return on its spending on educational programs.⁸

Florida

The US Department of Commerce report graded each state in nine specific categories. In the first category, “Academic Achievement”, Florida earned a “D”.⁹ Student performance in Florida is lower than average. Eighth graders stand 4 percentage points

⁷ North Carolina Chamber “The State of the State” Sustaining Success Breaking Away: A Special Report from the North Carolina. 2007. 17
http://www.ncchamber.net/docs/NCBusiness/state_of_nc_business.htm

⁸ The Institute for a Competitive Workforce, 21.

⁹ The Institute for a Competitive Workforce, 21.

below the national average on the NAEP reading exam. The state earned an “A”, however, in the academic achievement of low-income and minority students.

Georgia

Georgia is ranked average to minimally below average in areas of education. The state does most poorly in percentage of adults aged 25+ with a high school diploma (37th)¹⁰. It is also ranked 24th in workforce education, 25th in technology in schools and 36th in scientists and engineers¹¹.

In “Academic Achievement”, Georgia earned a “D” from the US Chamber of Commerce. This was due to below average scores that fourth and eighth graders achieved in math proficiency tests in the state. The state also earned a “D” in the academic achievement of low-income and minority students, because only 9% of eighth graders in this category scored at or above the proficient level on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) math exam. Georgia earned another “D”, for “Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness”, because only 56% of its ninth grade students receive a diploma within four years compared with the national average of 70%.

Maryland

K-12 public education quality varies county by county, and overall needs much improvement. Maryland earned a “C” in academic achievement from the US Chamber of Commerce’s *Leaders and Laggards: A State-by-State Report Card on Educational Effectiveness* study.

New Jersey

New Jersey only earned “D” in “Return on Investment” from the aforementioned US Chamber of Commerce. Student achievement in New Jersey is poor relative to state education spending (after controlling for student poverty, the percentage of students with special needs, and cost of living).

Pennsylvania

Although Pennsylvania performed well in the baseline metric of Physical Science and Engineering Degrees Granted in 2005 ranking 10th, over the years its above average score has not translated into a high workforce share in these fields. Pennsylvania still ranks above average (at 19th) in Physical Science and Engineering Workers, but has not shown any signs of improving its competitive position over the last seven years. Recently, its growth rate has fallen below the U.S. average, which might endanger its competitive position in future years.

¹⁰ Tureck, 25.

¹¹ Atkinson, Robert D. and Correa, Daniel K. *The 2007 State New Economy Index*. Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation Kansas, 2007.14. http://www.kauffman.org/pdf/2007_State_Index.pdf.

Rhode Island

Possibly due to that lack of local control over the quality of instruction, the state receives very low marks on aligning their graduation requirements with college expectations. As a result, students perform poorly on advanced placement tests and are unprepared for college. Although the state has an abundance of personal and corporate taxes, the low school rankings suggest that Rhode Islanders are not getting much of a return on their investment.¹²

Tennessee

US Department of Commerce gave Tennessee a “D” in the “Academic Achievement” category. For “Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness” Tennessee earns a poor grade of “F” in this category. Tennessee earned a “C” in “Return on Investment”.¹³ However, Tennessee’s government is attempting to make education a top priority in Tennessee. Government leaders, residents and educators are committed to improving and expanding educational opportunities available to individuals of all ages and backgrounds.

West Virginia

West Virginia has one of the worst educational systems in the US. The US Chamber of Commerce report gave the state an “F” in Academic Achievement.

¹² Institute for a Competitive Workforce, 21.

¹³ The Institute for a Competitive Workforce, 21.