

Benchmarking Performance: The Global Challenge States

The public research universities in the “Global Challenge States” are the official peer group against which the UW will now measure its progress in per-student funding, academic programs, and other aspects of the student experience. The per-student funding goal for the UW is the 60th percentile of the major public research institutions with medical schools in the Global Challenge States. In 2006, investments in the UW fell about \$4,000 short of that goal, per student, per year. However, the state investments made in the 2007-2009 biennial budget have narrowed this gap and set the UW on a trajectory to completely close the gap within 10 years.

While 2007 saw a significant new commitment of resources to higher education institutions in the state of Washington, some of the Global Challenge States are making new investments as well. The changing fiscal and political environments of the other Global Challenge States directly affect Washington and the UW, often increasing the standards we must attain to ensure our students are able to compete in the global economy.

It's important to track higher education trends occurring in the Global Challenge States and benchmark performance – not only in the number of dollars spent but in the quality of education that's delivered to students. The state of Washington is directly competing with these states, not only for knowledge-economy jobs but also for talented people. Talent is the 21st century's most valuable commodity. Providing our citizens with a world-class, in-state, public research university education will ensure that our children can be valued participants in this knowledge-economy workforce.



WHAT'S HAPPENED IN THE OTHER GLOBAL CHALLENGE STATES ?

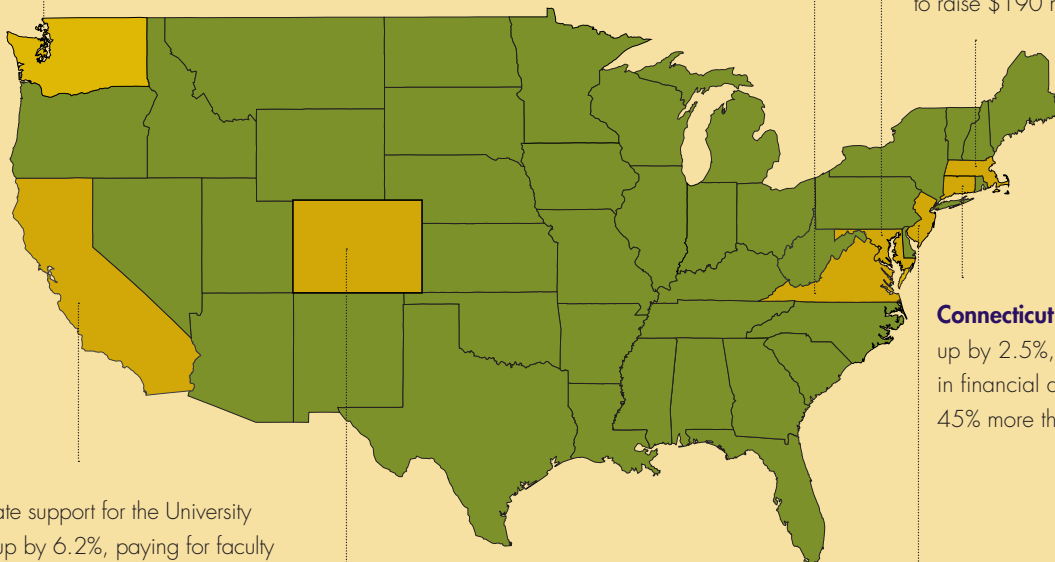
The Washington Learns initiative measures the state's educational success by comparing it to other states that score high in the size of their knowledge economies, presence of global trade and economic dynamism.

Maryland budget cuts in the face of a projected \$1.4 billion revenue shortfall in FY2009; University of Maryland system got a 5.8% net increase general fund budget, but must reduce spending by 1% (\$12 million).

Virginia state support to UVA up by 6% per year, but state budget shortfall is requiring the state's universities to reduce 2008 spending by 7.5%.

Massachusetts increases in state appropriations for the UMass system by 4%; new capital investments of \$60 million, with UMass pledging to raise \$190 million in return.

Washington



California state support for the University of California up by 6.2%, paying for faculty salaries and 5,000 more full-time equivalent student enrollments; fees up by 7%.

Connecticut funding to UConn up by 2.5%, and big increases in financial aid investments – 45% more than current levels.

New Jersey 4% more state appropriations to Rutgers and tuition up by 8%, but funding remains well below pre-2006 levels; citizens rejected a \$450 million bond measure for stem cell research in November 2007.

Colorado increased general fund investment for the first time in years, permission for CU to increase tuition by 7%; state is studying how to support \$3 billion of needed campus repairs and improvements.