Based on 2008 data, out of 100 ninth graders in the West, 29 do not finish high school and an additional 30 do not go on to college. Only 18 graduate on time from college. Nationally, about 31 out of 100 ninth graders do not finish high school and 26 more do not go on to college. About 21 graduate on time from college.

Note: Data are approximate in order to ensure that each state’s sum equals 100.
Figure 2. Adult Enrollment

The Western region consistently surpasses the U.S. on the enrollment of adult students as undergraduates as a percent of the total adult population. After recent upticks presumably related to the reduced opportunity cost of college attendance in a recessionary economy, the ratios were down slightly in 2011.

Notes: Data are undergraduate students age 25-49 enrolled for credit at degree-granting, non-profit, Title IV-eligible, public and private two- and four-year institutions. Enrollment by age is mandatory for reporting only in odd-year IPEDS collection cycles.

Figure 3. Progression from 9th Grade to HS Graduation

In the West, successfully progressing from ninth grade to high school graduation varies starkly by race/ethnicity. The most recent data shows small upticks for all races/ethnicities, but American Indians/Alaska Natives, Black non-Hispanics and Hispanics lag substantially.

Notes: Completers are those who received a high school diploma; GED recipients are not included. Detailed information about the data used is available at www.wiche.edu/knocking-8th/technicalNotes.
The West in 2011 enrolled slightly higher proportions of students of Asian/Pacific Islander, Black non-Hispanic and White non-Hispanic origin than their proportional share of the general population, with improvement over 2001 for Black non-Hispanics and Hispanics.

Notes: Each cell in the table is calculated as the ratio of the proportion of full-time undergraduates of each race/ethnic group among all full-time undergraduates, to the proportion of members of each race/ethnic group in the total population. Students from the unknown race/ethnic group and nonresident aliens are not counted in the population of full-time undergraduate students. Members of two or more races and “other” races are counted in the total population.

Figure 5. Bachelor’s Completion

In 2011-12, the West awarded proportionately fewer bachelor’s degrees to students from Black non-Hispanic and Hispanic backgrounds, as measured against each group’s share of the general population.

Notes: Each cell in the table is calculated as the ratio of the proportion of bachelor’s degrees awarded to members of each race/ethnic group among all bachelor’s degrees awarded to the proportion of members of each race/ethnic group in the total population. Students from unknown race/ethnic groups and nonresident aliens are not counted in the population of full-time undergraduate students. Members of two or more races and “other” races are counted in the total population.

The nation outperforms the West when comparing the share of Pell recipients among undergraduates, even though the West has slightly higher poverty rates among individuals approaching traditional college age. Both indicators are up significantly in the current economic climate.

Notes: Total undergraduate enrollment at degree-granting, Title IV-eligible, non-profit two- and four-year institutions, excluding U.S. service academies. Pell data are available for Northern Marianas College, the Commonwealth’s only public institution, but ACS data are not; therefore, the WICHE averages do not include the Northern Mariana Islands.
Sources: National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), Fall Enrollment Survey; Pell data from the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Postsecondary Education; U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2011, Table B17001: “Poverty status in the past 12 months by sex by age”, 1 year estimates.
Figure 7. Public Undergraduate Tuition & Fees

In the past decade, the average tuition and fees published price at public four-year institutions in the West has increased 150% and almost doubled at public two-year colleges (116% increase when California community colleges are included).

Sources: Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, *Tuition and Fees in Public Higher Education in the West.*
Figure 8. Ratio of Tuition & Fees to Household Income

The ratio of household income to average published tuition and fees at public institutions has increased dramatically over the past decade at all institutional types.

Notes: Tuition and fees amounts are the simple average of the amounts charged to resident undergraduates at institutions within each state, by institution type. The WICHE average median household income was calculated as a simple average of the 15 member states. The WICHE regional ratio of tuition and fees at public two-year institutions to median household income was calculated with and without California two-year colleges because the large number of two-year institutions and the historically low matriculation fee structure distort regional patterns.

The amount of total grant financial aid per FTE in the region’s public institutions increased almost 70 percent over the five academic years between 2006-07 to 2010-11.

Notes: Data are for grant aid expenditures, not including discounts and allowances, from all sources at public institutions only. Data not available for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.
In the West, state need-based grant aid to undergraduates per FTE has risen almost 50 percent since 2009-10 (and 60 percent above the level in 2008-09), while the amount for the U.S. as a whole has risen about 30 percent over the same time period.

*Notes:* FTE data are for Title IV-participating, degree-granting, public and independent two- and four-year institutions only and are calculated full-time undergraduate enrollment plus 1/3 part-time undergraduate enrollment.

*Source:* National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs. National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), IPEDS *Fall Enrollment Survey.* WICHE calculations.
The share of the full-time entering cohort of students in the West receiving federal financial aid (mainly Pell grants) climbed dramatically since the outset of the recession.

Notes: Data are for public institutions, excluding U.S. service academies. Federal grant aid includes grants awarded principally through the Pell Grant and SEOG programs, but also includes educational assistance grants awarded through the Veteran’s Administration, Department of Labor, and other federal agencies. The WICHE average includes the data for the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas (“Northern Mariana”), which is for its sole public institution of higher education, Northern Marianas College.

Source: National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), Student Financial Aid Survey.
Savings to families and/or students through participation in WICHE’s Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) program have grown substantially in the last several years.

Source: Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education
State appropriations per FTE in the region and nation have fallen substantially since the beginning of the economic recession, and were lower again in FY2012.

Notes: Data are adjusted for enrollment mix, cost of living, and inflation. Inflation-adjusted using the Higher Education Cost Adjustment (HECA, 2012 Dollars).
Net tuition and fees in the West accounted for 37.8% of total revenue from appropriations and tuition and fees in FY 2012, compared to 24.6% in FY 2008.

Notes: Data are adjusted for enrollment mix, cost of living, and inflation. Inflation-adjusted using the Higher Education Cost Adjustment (HECA, 2012 Dollars). "State and Local Net Educational Appropriations" are state tax and non-tax support not including support to independent institutions. "Net Tuition and Fees Revenues" do not include discounts or waivers, state-funded student financial aid, and medical student tuition revenues. FTEs do not include medical students. WICHE values are calculated as the average of the member states.

Figure 15. State Tax Revenues

The regional average state tax revenue per capita, adjusted for inflation, fell substantially between 2008 and 2010, but improved significantly over the last two years. The West’s rate remains well above the national figure.

Note: Inflation-adjusted using the CPI-U series from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (2012 Dollars). The value for the WICHE region is a simple average of the member states. As defined by the Census Bureau, “taxes” include “all compulsory contributions exacted by a government for public purposes, except employer and employee assessments for retirement and social insurance purposes, which are classified as insurance trust revenue. Outside the scope of this report, accordingly, are collections for the unemployment compensation “taxes” imposed by each of the state governments and the District of Columbia. Included, however, are all receipts from licenses and compulsory fees, including those that are imposed for regulatory purposes, as well as those designated to provide revenue. Tax revenue is further defined to include related penalty and interest receipts of a government, but to exclude protested amounts and refunds. The deduction from gross collections of amounts refunded is particularly significant with respect to motor fuel sales taxes (“gasoline” taxes) and individual income taxes.” Beginning in 2006, the source report no longer separately provided per capita tax revenues; these were calculated using the Census Bureau’s state population estimates.