GOAL 5: Mathematics and Science

State Indicator 20c. Mathematics and Science Degrees — Female Students

Have states\(^1\) increased the percentage of degrees earned by female students that were awarded in mathematics or science?

- **Better**: 51 states and the U.S.
- **No Change**: 1 state
- **Worse**: 2 states

## Improvement over time

Between 1991 and 1996, the U.S. and 51 states (out of 54) significantly increased the percentage of degrees earned by female students that were awarded in mathematics or science:

1. Alabama
2. Alaska
3. Arizona
4. Arkansas
5. California
6. Colorado
7. Connecticut
8. District of Columbia
9. Florida
10. Georgia
11. Idaho
12. Illinois
13. Indiana
14. Iowa
15. Kansas
16. Kentucky
17. Louisiana
18. Maine
19. Maryland
20. Massachusetts
21. Michigan
22. Minnesota
23. Mississippi
24. Missouri
25. Montana
26. Nebraska
27. Nevada
28. New Hampshire
29. New Jersey
30. New Mexico
31. New York
32. North Carolina
33. North Dakota
34. Ohio
35. Oklahoma
36. Oregon
37. Pennsylvania
38. Rhode Island
39. South Carolina
40. South Dakota
41. Tennessee
42. Texas
43. Utah
44. Vermont
45. Virginia
46. Washington
47. West Virginia
48. Wisconsin
49. Wyoming
50. Puerto Rico
51. Virgin Islands

## Highest-performing states\(^*\)

States with the highest percentages of degrees earned by female students that were awarded in mathematics or science:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District of Columbia</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massachusetts</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maine</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

U.S. 41%

\(^*\) Top 5 states (out of 54).

## Most-improved states

States that made the greatest gains in the percentages of degrees earned by female students that were awarded in mathematics or science:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Connecticut</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>+11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Virginia</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>+10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mississippi</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>+9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montana</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>+9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>+9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^*\) Differences between the first two columns may differ slightly from the figures reported in the "change" column due to rounding.

\(^1\) The term "state" is used to refer to the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the outlying areas.

See Appendix B for definitions, sources, and technical notes.