

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM: 5 – G

DATE: April 22, 2020

SUBJECT

Freshman Migration Analysis

CONTROLLING STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY

[Freshman Migration Dashboard](#)

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

The biennial freshman migration analysis updates previous reporting by examining high school graduates who entered college in Fall 2018. This analysis uses data acquired from the US Department of Education to draw comparisons between two groups:

- 1) first-time freshmen from other states who enroll in postsecondary institutions in South Dakota, and
- 2) first-time freshmen from South Dakota who enroll in postsecondary institutions in other states.

IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATION

The report identifies or affirms several trends in student migration, including:

- **The state exported 1,443 college freshmen in Fall 2018.** South Dakota produced 5,907 high school graduates who enrolled in a degree-granting postsecondary institution in Fall 2018. Of these, 75.6 percent (4,464) enrolled in an in-state institution, while 24.4 percent (1,443) enrolled in an out-of-state institution.
- **The state imported 3,091 college freshmen in Fall 2018.** Of the 7,555 college freshmen who enrolled in South Dakota postsecondary institutions in Fall 2018, 4,464 (59.1 percent) were South Dakota residents and 3,091 (40.9 percent) were residents of another state.
- Expressed as a ratio, South Dakota imported more than two students (act. 2.14) for every one student exported.
- In 2000, South Dakota was a net exporter of college students, sending 68 more students out-of-state than entered the state. By 2018, South Dakota imported 1,648, more out-of-state students than left the state, the highest number since the system began tracking freshman migration.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment I – Special Analysis: Interstate Migration of College Freshmen

INFORMATIONAL ITEM



*** Special Data Analysis ***

Interstate Migration of College Freshmen

Hundreds of thousands of first-time college students leave their homes each year to attend college in another state. However, not all states gain equally in this exchange. Some states attract more students than they send away, while others send away more students than they attract. Because the ability to attract and retain college-educated workers may bring lasting economic and social benefits, states typically aspire to be “in the black” with respect to the interstate exchange of college students. This topic begs an important question: How does South Dakota fare as a destination for college students? This report offers updated findings from SDBOR’s biennial analysis of federal migration data, and suggests that South Dakota has continued to sustain its status as a net importer of college students.

Data Notes

Information presented in this report is sourced from an original analysis of IPEDS residence and migration survey files, which are populated for all IPEDS institutions on a biennial basis.¹ In this report, data reflect fall enrollments of first-time, degree/certificate-seeking students graduating from high school in the last twelve months.² Enrollments are analyzed for four-year and two-year degree-granting, Title IV postsecondary institutions only. The current analysis is based on data from Fall 2018, which were released by IPEDS in 2019.

Analysis

Was South Dakota a “net importer” of college freshmen in Fall 2018? The answer to this question flows from two basic observations:

- **The state exported 1,443 college freshmen in Fall 2018.** South Dakota produced 5,907 high school graduates who enrolled in a degree-granting postsecondary institution in Fall 2018. Of these, 75.6 percent (4,464) enrolled in an in-state institution, while 24.4 percent (1,443) enrolled in an out-of-state institution.
- **The state imported 3,091 college freshmen in Fall 2018.** Of the 7,555 college freshmen who enrolled in South Dakota postsecondary institutions in Fall 2018, 4,464 (59.1 percent) were South Dakota residents and 3,091 (40.9 percent) were residents of another state.

¹ Residency and migration data submissions (from postsecondary institutions to IPEDS) are mandatory in even-numbered years and optional in odd-numbered years.

² Students enrolling in multiple states will be double-counted.

Combined, these observations confirm that South Dakota was a net importer of college freshmen in Fall 2018. A total of 1,443 South Dakota residents were lost to out-of-state colleges and universities, while 3,091 non-residents were drawn to South Dakota institutions during the same term. On the whole, these totals amount to a net gain of 1,648 college freshmen in Fall 2018. Expressed as a ratio, South Dakota imported more than two students (act. 2.14) for every one student exported.

$$\begin{array}{r}
 3,091 \text{ students "imported"} \\
 - 1,443 \text{ students "exported"} \\
 \hline
 +1,648 \text{ net gain}
 \end{array}$$

The following figures provide a closer look at historical migration trends. As seen in Table 1, the state's migration differentials (shown as both integers and ratios) have shown consistent and dramatic improvement over the last two decades. In 2000, the state's migration ratio of 0.96 reflected a net loss of 68 freshmen; by 2018, this ratio had improved to 2.14, nearly an all-time high. These data suggest that South Dakota has solidified its transformation from a net exporter of college freshmen to a net importer.

Table 1
Freshmen Migration to SD, 2000-2018

	2000	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010	2012	2014	2016	2018
Freshmen Imported	1,776	1,751	1,948	2,003	2,128	2,288	2,693	2,658	2,952	3,091
Freshmen Exported	1,844	1,851	1,819	1,513	1,563	1,447	1,382	1,433	1,375	1,443
Net Migration	-68	-100	129	490	565	841	1,311	1,225	1,577	1,648
Ratio	0.96	0.95	1.07	1.32	1.36	1.58	1.95	1.85	2.15	2.14

Segmenting by sector, a closer inspection of migration data shows that the regental system itself has been a key leader in this growth movement. Figure 1 (next page) indicates that the state's four-year public institutions generated a sector-leading migration differential of +1,475, a figure that corresponds to a migration ratio of 2.84. This means that for every student leaving South Dakota in 2018 to study at a four-year public institution in another state, 2.84 out-of-state students entered the state to study at one of South Dakota's four-year public institutions. In terms of raw numbers, the next closest sector was the four-year private sector, which generated a net gain of only 103 students. The state's two-year sector accounted for a net gain of 70 students in Fall 2018.

Figure 1
Net Migration to SD by Sector, 2000-2018

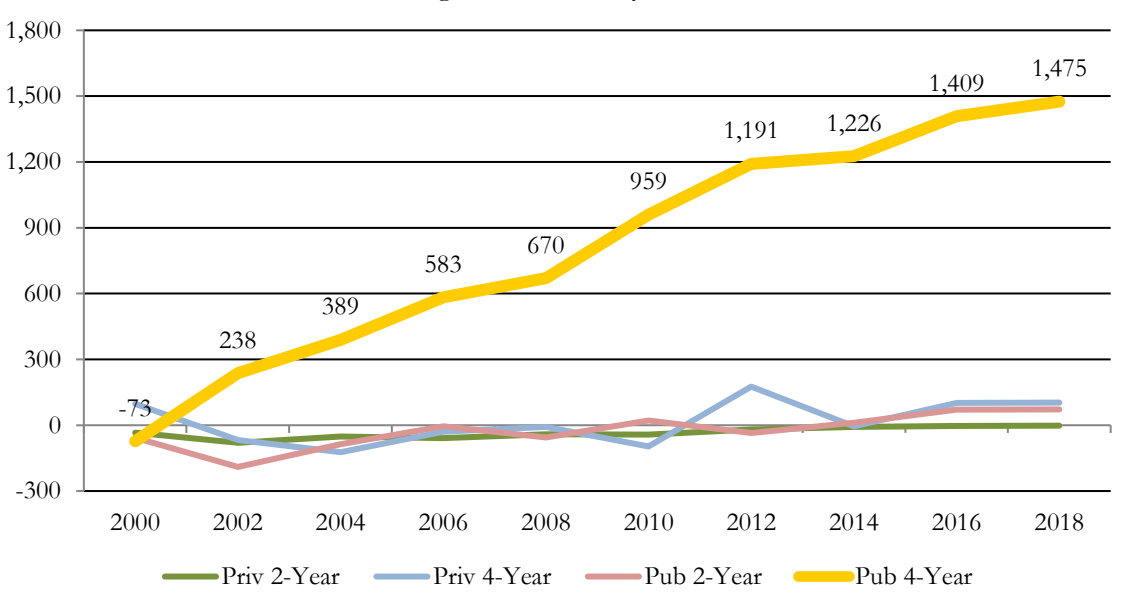


Table 2 provides national context for South Dakota’s 2018 net migration figures.³ South Dakota’s net gain of 1,648 students constitutes the 27th highest figure among all US states. It can be noted that South Dakota outperformed several neighboring states, including Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, and Wyoming.

Table 2
Net Migration by State, 2018

PA	14,737	OK	3,882	SD	1,648	WA	-1,228
IN	10,504	KS	3,658	MI	1,593	AK	-1,267
AL	7,900	WV	3,619	MO	1,557	NV	-1,294
AZ	7,428	AR	3,509	MT	1,497	HI	-1,907
IA	7,421	WI	3,281	NE	1,381	CT	-4,151
NY	7,273	VA	3,211	DE	1,350	MN	-5,056
OH	6,695	OR	3,090	NH	1,268	MD	-6,414
MA	6,592	KY	2,951	ME	1,259	CA	-10,737
SC	6,460	ND	2,626	CO	958	TX	-12,576
UT	6,003	TN	2,556	WY	759	IL	-19,926
RI	5,944	VT	2,525	FL	678	NJ	-26,627
NC	5,572	ID	2,362	NM	-101		
MS	4,585	LA	1,997	GA	-252		
<i>cont.</i> →		<i>cont.</i> →		<i>cont.</i> →			

³ Table values will not sum to zero due to the presence of foreign students and students from an unknown state of origin.

Finally, Figures 2 and 3 help to clarify the flow of students between South Dakota and its neighboring states. Figures presented here show the number of students gained from (or lost to) institutions in South Dakota’s six neighboring states since 2000. As seen below, South Dakota’s postsecondary institutions (and its public four-year institutions in particular) have attracted an increasing number of students from most neighboring states, particularly Minnesota and Iowa.

Figure 2
Net Migration to SD, All Sectors

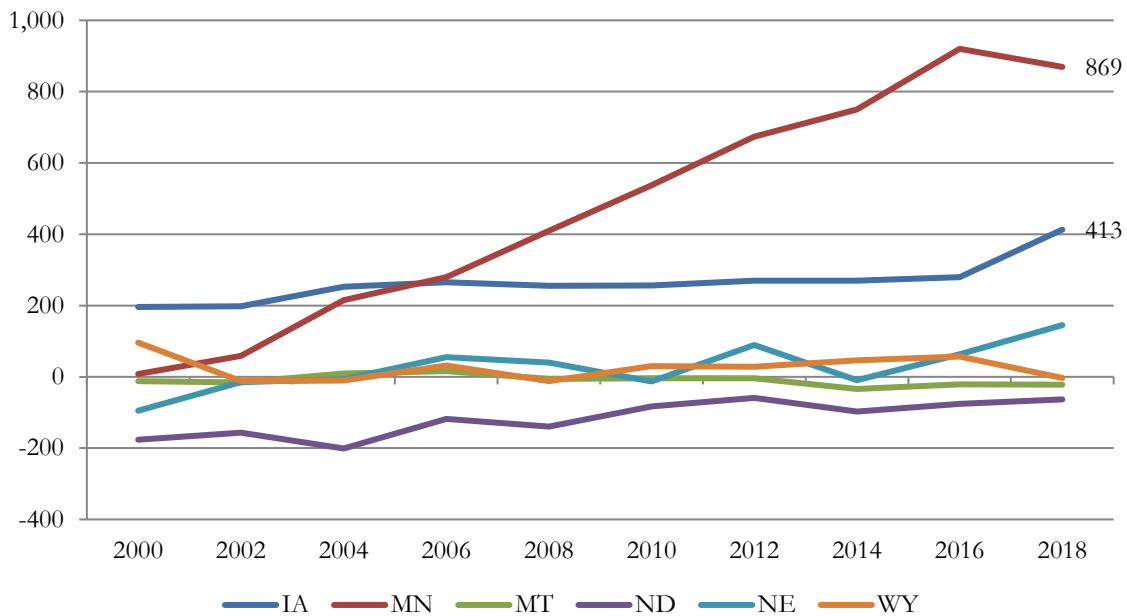


Figure 3
Net Migration to SD, Four-Year Public Institutions

