



Monthly Themes

Each month of the #Together4PASSHE Advocacy Campaign, we will share messages and data around an important theme that helps promote the impact and value of a State System Education. Use your social networks to share these messages, data, and your own stories with state legislators.

- October 2021: **Contributions to the State**
- November 2021: **Student Affordability**
- December 2021: **Student Progression and Completion**
- January 2022: **Workforce Alignment**
- February 2022: **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**
- March 2022: **Student Access and Enrollment**
- April 2022: **Economic and Social Mobility**

November 2021: Student Affordability

The State System’s mission is to provide the most affordable, high quality education possible. Unfortunately, a State System education is drifting beyond the reach of the students we were born to serve. Here’s how much and why costs have increased:

- Over the last decade, the average price students pay to attend a State System university has increased by 33%.
- The proportion of education costs paid by students at 4-year public institutions in Pennsylvania was 71.9% in 2020, ranking Pennsylvania as the 11th highest in the country for percentage of costs borne by students.
- For low- and middle-income families (income less than \$110,000), almost 40 cents of every dollar earned goes to paying for a State System education, compared to just 20 cents of every dollar for high-income families.
- The proportion of enrolled students from lower- and middle-income families has declined from 80% in 2011 to 70% in 2019.
- Although Pennsylvania has increased funding for public education in recent years, and federal relief funding has been helpful, the State System’s current state funding, when adjusted for inflation, is only between FY 2010-11 and FY 2011-12 levels.

Supporting messages

- A student’s share of cost may continue to rise substantially absent significant recurring state investment.
- State investment can reduce the share of low and middle-income students’ cost of a State System education; an additional \$1,000 per student increases retention by 3-4% and also supports increased recruitment and graduation.
- State support is crucial if the State System is to recapture its affordability advantage and bring down costs for State System students.
- The State System’s FY 2022-23 appropriation request of \$550 million and at least \$201 million in direct funds to students will have measurable benefits including:
 - providing a high-quality education at the lowest possible price for those who can least afford it,
 - reducing the financial burden on students and their families,
 - ensuring students have the resources necessary to complete their degree, and
 - improving pathways for community college and nontraditional students to advance toward a bachelor’s degree.

November 2021 Poster Graphic

STATE SYSTEM EDUCATION COST PER DOLLAR EARNED

State System degrees are drifting beyond the reach of Pennsylvania’s low- and middle-income families. Students from low- and middle-income families pay **almost 40 cents of every dollar earned for a State System education**, compared to students from high-income families who spend only 20 cents of every dollar earned.



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