

Young Invincibles
Student Impact Project

2016 State Report Cards



January 2016

Acknowledgements

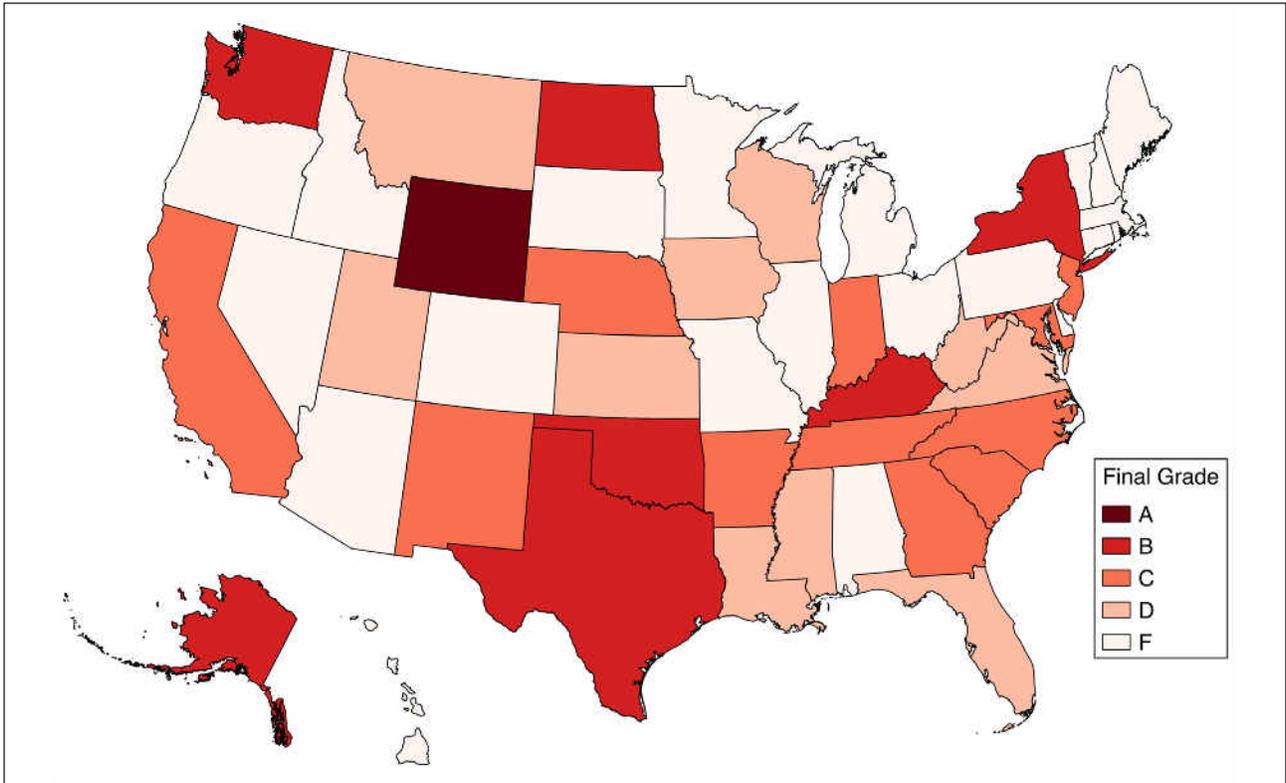
The Student Impact Report Cards would not be possible without the thoughtful comments and dedicated efforts from Young Invincibles' organizing, communications, and policy teams. Special thanks are due to the following staff who assisted in assembling the cards:

Rebecca Fowler, Gustavo Herrera, Jasmine Hicks, Kristin McGuire, Christina Postolowski, Krieg Rajaram, Eve Rips, Cristina Rivera, Michelle Castillo, Elena Sakopoulos, José Sanchez, Reid Setzer, Kevin Stump, and Jennifer Wang.

Special thanks is also due to Konrad Mugglestone, for his sharp insight, inspired problem solving, and vigilant fact-checking. We also thank the State Higher Education Executive Officer's Association, the College Board, the National Association of State Budget Officers, and the National Association of State Student Grant & Aid Programs for their assembly and dissemination of their fifty state data sets, without which this analysis would not be possible.

*Tom Allison
Deputy Policy & Research Director*

State Support for Public Higher Education



Young Invincibles indexed over 40 variables for each state, including per student spending, average tuitions, state financial aid programs, and attainment equity.

Executive Summary

The Student Impact Project, a Young Invincibles initiative, presents our third iteration of fifty state report cards, grading each state on its support for public higher education. The report cards provide guidance and context for students, advocates, policymakers, and the media to better understand how states stack up supporting public higher education.

Three-quarters of all college students attend public institutions, and the budget and policy decisions made by state and local policymakers drive the access, affordability, and value of our higher education system. While the federal government provides financial aid and loan programs, and facilitates important regulatory policy, public colleges and universities are funded by two primary sources: state budget support and tuition and fees from students and families. Typically the less funding a school gets from their state, the more students will have to pay in tuition to make up the difference. In the aftermath of the Great Recession, facing significant budget deficits due to revenue shortfalls, states broadly cut their support for public higher education, generally forcing colleges to raise tuition.

Every state confronts its own unique political and budgetary situation, and this presents challenges in understanding the context in which a state operates. That is why Young Invincibles assessed each state on a range of factors and indexed the raw data to provide a better understanding of a state's support for public higher education.

A full methodology is included in the back of this report, but in summary, our grading system incorporates the following values and priorities:

- States should be evaluated in relation to baseline findings across all other states, but also on their own progress through time.
- Given the deep cuts made since the Great Recession, comparing fiscal years 2008 to 2014, gives a more holistic picture instead of comparing year-over-year or five-year changes.
- States should enact policies that help all students access and complete affordable and quality higher education, but particularly for disadvantaged groups.
- State financial aid programs should prioritize students with financial need, rather than merit requirements, as need-based aid is more successful in enrolling and graduating students.

For Millennials, higher education funding is not a partisan issue. A recent poll conducted by Young Invincibles found that **Millennial voters overwhelmingly support increasing state funding for public colleges by an 81 to 17 percent margin.** Moreover, the poll found that the support among Millennials does not discriminate by party -- 92 percent of Democrats, 82 percent of Independents, and 67 percent of Republicans support increased state funding for higher education.

National Trends

Our analysis shows that **states have cut per student spending by 21 percent between fiscal years 2008 through 2014**. While many states have begun to reinvest in the past few years, **only two states spend as much as they did before the recession** (Alaska and North Dakota).¹ There is of course significant variability and range between the states: Louisiana has cut their higher education budgets by 41 percent. Meanwhile, states like New York, Indiana, and Nebraska have cut less than ten percent.

TABLE 1

Largest Cuts to Higher Education Since Recession (FY 08-14)	
Louisiana	-41%
Alabama	-39%
Pennsylvania	-37%
South Carolina	-36%
Arizona	-36%
Idaho	-33%
New Hampshire	-33%
Florida	-32%
Nevada	-31%
Oregon	-29%

Young Invincibles' Analysis of State Higher Education Executive Officers' SHEF Report

TABLE 2

Smallest Cuts to Higher Education Since Recession (FY 08-14)	
North Dakota	38%
Alaska	6%
Indiana	-4%
New York	-5%
Montana	-5%
Wyoming	-5%
Nebraska	-6%
Arkansas	-6%
Illinois	-9%
Vermont	-11%

Young Invincibles' Analysis of State Higher Education Executive Officers' SHEF Report

1. Illinois technically spends more money per student since 2014, but this is largely due to pension investments, and direct aid to institutions has decreased. See Young Invincibles' report here: <http://younginvincibles.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/IL-budget-2015-FINAL.pdf>

In turn, **tuition and fees at both 4-year and 2-year institutions rose 28 percent since the last recession.** While no state has seen inflation-adjusted tuition decline since 2008, states like Ohio, Missouri and Maryland have kept tuition increases at or below ten percent (inflation for this time period is 14 percent). The states with the steepest tuition increases at 4-year institutions are Arizona (72 percent), Georgia (68 percent), and Louisiana (66 percent).

TABLE 3

Highest Tuition Hikes Since Recession (FY 08-14)	
Arizona	72%
Georgia	68%
Louisiana	66%
California	56%
Washington	56%
Hawaii	54%
Florida	53%
Colorado	51%
Alabama	46%
North Carolina	40%
<i>Young Invincibles' Analysis of College Board's Trends in College Pricing</i>	

TABLE 4

Lowest Tuition Hikes Since Recession (FY 08-14)	
Missouri	7%
Maine	8%
Montana	9%
Maryland	9%
Ohio	10%
New Jersey	12%
Iowa	13%
Oklahoma	13%
North Dakota	14%
Nebraska	15%
<i>Young Invincibles' Analysis of College Board's Trends in College Pricing</i>	

The combination of budget cuts and tuition hikes results in a shift of burden away from the states and toward students and families. **In 2008, students and families paid**

approximately 36 percent of the cost of public college; in 2014 that percentage increased to half. Again, these averages only take us so far; below are the states with the top and bottom “family shares” – percent of total college costs paid by individuals or families – a strong measure of just how “public” our public institutions are.

TABLE 5

Highest Family Share	
Vermont	82%
New Hampshire	81%
Delaware	73%
Colorado	73%
Pennsylvania	72%
Rhode Island	70%
Michigan	70%
Alabama	64%
South Carolina	63%
Ohio	63%

Young Invincibles' Analysis of State Higher Education Executive Officers' SHEF Report

TABLE 6

Lowest Family Share	
Wyoming	15%
California	22%
Alaska	26%
New Mexico	32%
North Carolina	34%
Hawaii	34%
Florida	35%
New York	36%
Nevada	36%
Idaho	38%

Young Invincibles' Analysis of State Higher Education Executive Officers' SHEF Report

New in 2016: Attainment Equity

New in 2016, we graded states on “Attainment Equity”, measuring the gap in the postsecondary attainment rate between white non-Hispanics and two demographics, African Americans and Latinos.

This metric measures a state’s current population, and does not take into account any recent efforts a state might be taking to address equity problems. Furthermore, the metric doesn’t specify in which state the degree was earned, but rather where the college graduate lives today. While these factors may impact a state’s minority attainment rates, the pattern we see nationally reflects the work we all have to do as a nation to even the economic playing field and expand opportunity for all.

Disturbingly, **the gap between white non-Hispanic adults and Latino adults with postsecondary degrees grew by 2.2 percentage points between 2007 and 2015.** Similarly, the attainment gap between white non-Hispanic adults and African American or black adults widened by 0.4 percentage points between 2007 and 2015.

This is not to say that fewer African Americans or Latinos earned postsecondary degrees; the rate has gone up for both groups. However, the attainment rate for white adults has grown at a faster rate, causing the gap to increase.

TABLE 7

National Postsecondary Attainment Rates			
	2007	2015	Change
White Non-Hispanic Adults	41.0%	46.9%	5.9%
African American / Black Adults	27.7%	33.3%	5.5%
Hispanic / Latino Adults	18.9%	22.6%	3.7%

Source: U.S. Census

These trends vary dramatically from state to state. States like Ohio and Oregon narrowed the gap between African Americans and whites by six and seven points, respectively, while Maryland and Illinois saw an increase in the gap of twelve points and seven points respectively. In the end, only ten states saw the African American gap narrow since 2007 (six other states had insufficient sample sizes for an accurate estimate). Twelve states saw the Latino gap narrow in the same time period (six states also had insufficient sample sizes).

TABLE 8

States with Widest Attainment Gaps (Black / African American)			
	Black/African American	White Non-Hispanic	Gap
West Virginia	24%	48%	24%
Wisconsin	22%	45%	23%
North Carolina	28%	50%	22%
Connecticut	29%	50%	21%
Massachusetts	32%	53%	21%
Minnesota	27%	47%	20%
Colorado	34%	53%	19%
Ohio	24%	42%	18%
Nevada	24%	42%	18%
California	33%	51%	18%

Source: U.S. Census

TABLE 9

States with Widest Attainment Gaps (Latino / Hispanic)			
	Latino / Hispanic	White Non-Hispanic	Gap
California	17%	51%	34%
Colorado	20%	53%	33%
Massachusetts	22%	53%	30%
Nevada	14%	42%	29%
Connecticut	22%	50%	28%
New York	21%	48%	27%
Illinois	19%	45%	26%
Virginia	18%	44%	26%
North Carolina	24%	50%	26%
Vermont	18%	44%	26%

Source: U.S. Census

States with large attainment gaps or lack of recent progress should redouble their efforts to increase accessibility, affordability, and quality of their postsecondary programs for all students, but particularly students of color.

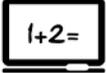
Why We Do This

At the core of Young Invincibles' mission and work is a dedicated team of organizers and outreach coordinators who empower students on the ground to get involved in public higher education budget and policy discussions. We disseminate resources and tools, generate student feedback, conduct workshops and trainings, and facilitate dialogue with their state policymakers. As part of the Student Impact Project, our organizing team will train students on the criteria that determine their states' grades, and elevate their voices in the public dialogue.

While these metrics and grades are important in understanding the broader context of state higher education financing, our offices in Los Angeles, Houston, Chicago, New York, and Washington D.C. will identify state-specific opportunities to involve students and expand opportunity through state support for higher education. Too often students, the primary customers and stakeholders in public higher education, are left out of the policymaking process. We hope this project and these report cards lead to pragmatic and productive public debates about the role state government plays in supporting higher education, and reinvigorates a commitment to affordable and quality public higher education.

2016 Report Card

Alabama Budget Support For Public Higher Education

	Subject	Grade	Comments
	Tuition	F	Tuition at a four-year university in Alabama has increased by 46% since the recession. Two-year college tuition has followed suit with a 38% increase.
	Spending per Student	F	Alabama's per student spending of \$5,673 is below the national average of \$6,311. This represents a decrease of 39% since the recession.
	Burden on Families	F	Students and families pay 64% of the cost of college in Alabama. Families share of responsibility for college has grown by 57% since the recession.
	State Aid to Students	F	Alabama has one of the worst state aid averages to students with the highest economic need, awarding an average of \$31 per student.
	Education as a State Priority	A	Alabama spends 20% of its entire state budget on higher education, far above the national average of 12%. However, the state has decreased that share by 7%.
	Attainment Equity	C	Although the attainment gap for African American and Latinos are below the national averages at 10% and 12%, respectively, Alabama has not made improvements in closing the gaps since 2007.
	Final Grade	F	From increased tuition rates, to state divestment in supporting higher education degree-seeking students and their families, Alabama must do better for its students.

The average student debt load in Alabama is: **\$28,895**

Opportunities for Extra Credit:

Present this card to a legislator or policymaker for their signature:

I _____ have seen this report card, and commit to supporting public higher education in Alabama by making college accessible, affordable, and of the highest quality possible.

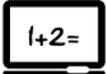


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2016 Report Card

Alaska Budget Support For Public Higher Education

	Subject	Grade	Comments
	Tuition	B-	Alaska's tuition at four-year public colleges is \$6,138, lower than the national average, but has increased by 21% since the recession.
	Spending per Student	A+	The state's per student appropriations increased by 6% since the recession, and is nearly double the national average.
	Burden on Families	A+	AK families bear a much lower burden of college costs (26%) than the national average (51%).
	State Aid to Students	F	AK spends very little on need-based aid: only \$117 per full-time student as opposed to the national average, \$374.
	Education as a State Priority	C-	Education expenditures made up just 9% of total state expenditures in 2014, less than the national average.
	Attainment Equity	C	The postsecondary attainment gaps between white, non-hispanic students and African Americans (15%) is larger, and smaller for Latinos (14%), when compared to the national averages.
	Final Grade	B	Alaska should be proud of its investment in higher ed, but could do more to support low-income students.

The average student debt load in Alaska is: **\$28,570**

Opportunities for Extra Credit:

Present this card to a legislator or policymaker for their signature:

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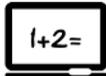
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2016 Report Card

Arizona Budget Support For Public Higher Education

	Subject	Grade	Comments
	Tuition	F	Four-year tuition in Arizona is \$10,398. This is \$1,300+ higher than the national average. This cost has risen a staggering 72% (4-year) and 24% (2-year) since the great recession.
	Spending per Student	F	The per student spending is \$5,171, and decreased 36% since the recession.
	Burden on Families	F	Family and Students are responsible for 56% of the cost of college. This is higher than the national average and a 57% increase since the recession.
	State Aid to Students	F	AZ gives a pitiful \$46 in grants per FTE (national average is \$589), making up only 2% of the higher ed budget.
	Education as a State Priority	A	Higher Education expenditures make up 17% of total state expenditures in 2014, which is higher than the national average of 12%.
	Attainment Equity	D	African American postsecondary attainment is 9 points below white rates. Latino rates are 25 points below whites. Little progress has been made in recent years.
	Final Grade	F	Arizona has significantly divested from higher education since the recession and has a lot of work to do to get back on track.

The average student debt load in Arizona is: **\$22,253**

Opportunities for Extra Credit:

Present this card to a legislator or policymaker for their signature:

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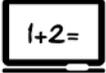


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2016 Report Card

Arkansas Budget Support For Public Higher Education

	Subject	Grade	Comments
	Tuition	B-	Tuition at a four-year university in Arkansas is \$7,567, below the national average, though it has increased by 18% since the recession. Two-year college tuition has followed suit with a 25% increase.
	Spending per Student	B-	Arkansas's per student spending of \$7,653 is above the national average of \$6,311. However, the state has decreased its investment on students by 6% since the recession.
	Burden on Families	C+	The proportion of the cost of college that students and families pay in Arkansas is 39%. Families share of responsibility for college has grown by 16% since the recession.
	State Aid to Students	D-	Arkansas has one of the lowest state aid averages to students with financial need, awarding an average of \$66 per student.
	Education as a State Priority	A-	Arkansas spends 16% of its entire state budget on higher education, above the national average of 12%. The state has increased that by 2% since 2010.
	Attainment Equity	D+	Arkansas's attainment gap for African Americans and Latinos is 9% and 18%, respectively. Though it is below the national average, it hasn't changed much since 2007.
	Final Grade	C+	Although Arkansas outperforms many states in its support for higher education, it should continue to do more to lessen the burden of costs on students and families.

The average student debt load in Arkansas is: **\$25,375**

Opportunities for Extra Credit:

Present this card to a legislator or policymaker for their signature:

I _____ have seen this report card, and commit to supporting public higher education in Arkansas by making college accessible, affordable, and of the highest quality possible.

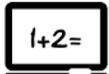


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2016 Report Card

California Budget Support For Public Higher Education

	Subject	Grade	Comments
	Tuition	F	California's 4-year tuition and 2-year tuition has increased by 56% and 108% respectively, since the recession.
	Spending per Student	C	While California exceeds the national average in per student spending, it has dropped 15% since the recession.
	Burden on Families	A	California families, on average, contribute 22% of the cost of college, well below the national average.
	State Aid to Students	A	The Golden State's \$989 in average grant aid, per student, almost all need-based, is well above the national average.
	Education as a State Priority	F	Education expenditures made up just 7% of total state expenditures in 2014, and that share is down 17% since 2010.
	Attainment Equity	F	California has the widest attainment gap between Latino and White citizens in the country (34 percentage points).
	Final Grade	C	California can improve its score by prioritizing higher education in the state budget and addressing its serious attainment gaps.

The average student debt load in The Golden State is: **\$20,340**

Opportunities for Extra Credit:

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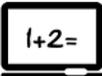


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2016 Report Card

Colorado Budget Support For Public Higher Education

	Subject	Grade	Comments
	Tuition	F	Average 4-year tuition in Colorado is \$9,487 and has gone up nearly 50% since the recession.
	Spending per Student	F	The Centennial State only spends about \$3,000 per student, the third lowest in the nation.
	Burden on Families	D-	Colorado families pay 73% of the cost of higher education, an increase of 28% since the recession.
	State Aid to Students	F	The state provides an average of \$320 in financial aid per student. The national average is \$529.
	Education as a State Priority	F	Education expenditures made up just 6% of total state expenditures in 2013, less than the national average.
	Attainment Equity	F	There are sizable attainment gaps between white, non-hispanic students and African American and Latino students in the state, 19% and 33% respectively.
	Final Grade	F	Colorado ranks third to last in the country when it comes to state support for higher education.

The average student debt load in Colorado is: **\$24,520**

Opportunities for Extra Credit:

Present this card to a legislator or policymaker for their signature:

I _____ have seen this report card, and commit to supporting public higher education in Colorado by making college accessible, affordable, and of the highest quality possible.

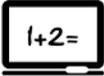


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2016 Report Card

Connecticut Budget Support For Public Higher Education

	Subject	Grade	Comments
	Tuition	D	CT's average 4-year tuition of \$10,620 is higher than the national average and has increased 22% since the great recession.
	Spending per Student	D-	While CT's \$7,192 allocation per student is above the national average, that's a cut of 26% since the great recession.
	Burden on Families	C+	Families and students pay about half the cost of a college degree. This has increased a whopping 32% since the great recession.
	State Aid to Students	F	CT contributed less than 4% of its higher ed budget to student aid, and only provides \$288 in need-based aid per student.
	Education as a State Priority	C-	The state legislature spends about 11% of its budget on higher education, which is reflected in the state's high tuition and low need-based aid.
	Attainment Equity	F	CT continues to fail to close the 21% and 28% postsecondary attainment gaps between white, non-hispanic students and African Americans and Latinos, respectively.
	Final Grade	D-	CT's low spending per student, high tuition, and low need-based aid is continuing to burden families and drive up student loan debt.

The average student debt load in Connecticut is: **\$30,191**

Opportunities for Extra Credit:

Present this card to a legislator or policymaker for their signature:

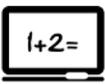
I _____ have seen this report card, and commit to supporting public higher education in Connecticut by making college accessible, affordable, and of the highest quality possible.

Signature _____



2016 Report Card

Delaware Budget Support For Public Higher Education

	Subject	Grade	Comments
	Tuition	D	Average tuition at 4-year colleges is nearly \$11,500, well above the national average. That's also an increase of 27% since 2008.
	Spending per Student	F	State spending per student has dropped by 24% of pre-recession spending numbers.
	Burden on Families	F	There has been a 21% increase in the expected family contribution since the recession. Families are now accountable for 73% of the cost of college, the 3rd highest percentage in the country.
	State Aid to Students	F	Grants make up ten percent of Delaware's higher education budget, and the average grant is below the national average.
	Education as a State Priority	F	In 2014, higher education made up only 5% of the entire state budget. This places Delaware below the national average of 12%.
	Attainment Equity	C-	African Americans in Delaware have a postsecondary attainment rate 10 points below their white peers. For Latinos, it's 18 points. Both are close to the national average.
	Final Grade	F	Deep spending cuts have led to steep tuition hikes - Delaware needs to turn its higher ed system around.

The average student debt load in Delaware is: **\$32,571**

Opportunities for Extra Credit:

Present this card to a legislator or policymaker for their signature:

I _____ have seen this report card, and commit to supporting public higher education in Delaware by making college accessible, affordable, and of the highest quality possible.

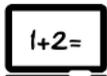
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2016 Report Card

Florida Budget Support For Public Higher Education

	Subject	Grade	Comments
	Tuition	C	The average tuition at 4-year schools is \$6,351 and \$3,174 at 2-year schools. While tuition is lower than the national average, it increased 53% for 4-year institutions since the recession.
	Spending per Student	F	FL has cut it's spending per student by 32% (\$5,798/FTE), more than the national average of 21% (\$6,311/FTE).
	Burden on Families	B-	Families and students pay 35% of college costs, up 57% since the recession. The cost of tuition takes up 13% of the average median income in FL.
	State Aid to Students	F	The Sunshine State provides \$577 in grants per FTE student, slightly less than the national average (\$589). FL only allocates \$184 in need-based aid (\$374 is the national average).
	Education as a State Priority	C-	Education expenditures made up just 9% of total state expenditures in 2014, less than the national average at 12%.
	Attainment Equity	D+	A 14% and 10% degree attainment gap exists between white students and their African American and Latino counterparts, respectively, in Florida.
	Final Grade	D	While tuition in Florida is below the national average, budget cuts and tuition hikes have hit students hard.

The average student debt load in Florida is: **\$24,017**

Opportunities for Extra Credit:

Present this card to a legislator or policymaker for their signature:

I _____ have seen this report card, and commit to supporting public higher education in Florida by making college accessible, affordable, and of the highest quality possible.



Signature _____



2016 Report Card

Georgia Budget Support For Public Higher Education

	Subject	Grade	Comments
	Tuition	F	Tuition in GA has increased 68% at 4-year institutions since the recession, the second steepest hikes in the country.
	Spending per Student	D	GA has cut its funding for higher education by 23% since the recession.
	Burden on Families	D-	GA students and families fork out 38% of college costs. While this is below the national average of 51%, the family share has increased a whopping 91% since the recession.
	State Aid to Students	B-	The Peach State contributes 20% of its higher ed budget to student aid, well above the national average of 11%. GA, however, does not allocate any money towards need-based aid.
	Education as a State Priority	A+	Education expenditures made up 20% of total state expenditures in 2014, well above the national average.
	Attainment Equity	D+	A 11% and 20% attainment degree attainment gap exists between white students African American and Latinos students in GA. That's remained stable since 2007.
	Final Grade	C	Despite a strong state aid program, Georgia needs to reinvest to make college more affordable overall.

The average student debt load in STATE is: **\$24,157**

Opportunities for Extra Credit:

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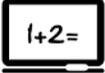
I _____ have seen this report card, and commit to supporting public higher education in Georgia by making college accessible, affordable, and of the highest quality possible.

Signature _____



2016 Report Card

Hawaii Budget Support For Public Higher Education

	Subject	Grade	Comments
	Tuition	F	Hawaii's tuition at four-year public colleges is \$9,740, higher than the national average and has increased by 54% since the recession.
	Spending per Student	D	The state's per student appropriations declined by 25% since the recession. HI spent \$7,618 per student in 2014.
	Burden on Families	B	HI families bear a lower burden of college costs (34%) than the national average (51%). Four-year tuition as a percent of state median income is 14%, lower than the national average (17%).
	State Aid to Students	F	HI spends very little on need-based aid: only \$75 per full-time student as opposed to the national average, \$589.
	Education as a State Priority	C	Education expenditures made up just 10% of total state expenditures in 2014, less than the national average, but that share has also increased 11% since the recession.
	Attainment Equity	D	The postsecondary attainment gaps between white, non-hispanic students and African Americans (12%) and Latinos (23%) are larger in HI than the national averages.
	Final Grade	F	Hawaii should reinvest in its higher ed system to prepare students for the jobs of tomorrow.

The average student debt load in Hawaii is: **\$22,785**

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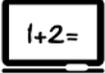


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2016 Report Card

Idaho Budget Support For Public Higher Education

	Subject	Grade	Comments
	Tuition	D+	2-year public tuition rose 56% in Idaho since the recession, and 4-year public tuition rose 32% during that time. The rise in 2-year tuition was the 5th highest increase in America.
	Spending per Student	F	Idaho is spending 33% less per full-time student than it was before the Great Recession.
	Burden on Families	D	The share of college costs paid by families has gone up 95% in the Potato State since the recession, the second highest increase nationwide.
	State Aid to Students	F	Idaho spends \$19 per full-time student in need-based financial aid, the 5th-lowest amount in America.
	Education as a State Priority	C	Education expenditures made up just 9% of the Gem State's total state expenditures in FY2014, 3% less than the national average.
	Attainment Equity	N/A	Due to a small sample size, we can not accurately estimate the attainment rate for minority groups in this state.
	Final Grade	F	Idaho has seen large tuition increases since the recession and needs to reinvest in higher education to decrease the financial burden on its students and families.

The average student debt load in Idaho is: **\$26,622**

Opportunities for Extra Credit:

Present this card to a legislator or policymaker for their signature:

I _____ have seen this report card, and commit to supporting public higher education in Idaho by making college accessible, affordable, and of the highest quality possible.

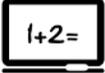


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2016 Report Card

Illinois Budget Support For Public Higher Education

	Subject	Grade	Comments
	Tuition	F	Illinois has the 5th highest in-state tuition at 4-year public colleges in the country. Community college tuition has also gone up by 25% since the recession.
	Spending per Student	C	Illinois spends a relatively high \$7,411 per student each year to offset its expensive tuition. However, its spending per student has gone down 9% since the recession.
	Burden on Families	F	Almost half of the cost of college falls on students and their families, and that's gone up 57% since the recession. Tuition makes up 22% of Illinois' median income at 4-year schools.
	State Aid to Students	B	Illinois awards over \$700 in aid per student each year (national average is only \$589). Yet with such high tuition, Illinois tuition's net price is still much higher than average.
	Education as a State Priority	F	Higher education makes up only 3% of Illinois' budget, about a quarter of the national average.
	Attainment Equity	F	A 16% and 26% degree attainment gap exists between white students and their African-American and Latino counterparts, respectively. Both gaps grew 7 points since 2007.
	Final Grade	IC	Incomplete: The calculations above are based on Illinois' FY 2014 budget - but at the time of grading, the state has failed to pass a new budget. Lawmakers must pass a budget that invests in the state's higher education system as soon as possible.

The average student debt load in Illinois is: **\$28,543**

Opportunities for Extra Credit:

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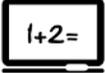


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 **YOUNGINVINCIBLES**

2016 Report Card

Indiana Budget Support For Public Higher Education

	Subject	Grade	Comments
	Tuition	C-	At \$9,023, 4-year tuition in Indiana comes in at just over the national average. 2-year tuition, \$4,152, is significantly greater than the average and has increased 22% since the recession.
	Spending per Student	D-	Indiana spends just \$5,005 per student, less than the national average of \$6,311. Spending per student dropped only 4% after the recession.
	Burden on Families	D	In Indiana, families pay for 57% of the cost of college, over the national average of 51%. A 4-year degree represents 18% of Indiana's median income.
	State Aid to Students	A-	The state awards \$890 in grants per student, almost all of which are awarded based on need. Indiana spends more on student aid than most states.
	Education as a State Priority	F	Higher education expenditures made up just 7% of Indiana's total expenditures in 2014, less than the national average of 12%.
	Attainment Equity	C+	A 10% and 16% degree attainment gap exists between white students and their African-American and Latino counterparts, respectively, in Indiana.
	Final Grade	C	Although tuition is somewhat under control, Indiana needs to invest more in higher education so that less of a burden falls on students and their families.

The average student debt load in Indiana is: **\$28,466**

Opportunities for Extra Credit:

Present this card to a legislator or policymaker for their signature:

I _____ have seen this report card, and commit to supporting public higher education in Indiana by making college accessible, affordable, and of the highest quality possible.

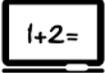


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2016 Report Card

Iowa Budget Support For Public Higher Education

	Subject	Grade	Comments
	Tuition	C	Tuition is cheaper than the national average in Iowa. Since the recession, 2-year tuition has increased by only 19%, less than the national average of 28%.
	Spending per Student	F	Iowa spends \$5,335 per full-time student, 21% percent less than what it spent before the recession and less than the national average.
	Burden on Families	D	Families pay for 60% of the cost of college, significantly more than the national average of 51%. 4-year tuition comprises 15% of Iowa's median income.
	State Aid to Students	F	Iowa awards a meager \$276 in grants per student. Grants account for only 7.8% of total higher education spending in Iowa.
	Education as a State Priority	A	Higher education expenditures made up over 25% of Iowa's total expenditures in 2013, significantly greater than the national average of 11.8%.
	Attainment Equity	D-	There is a 11% and 20% degree attainment gap between white Iowans and their African-American and Latino counterparts, respectively. Both gaps have grown since 2007.
	Final Grade	D+	Even though Iowa's tuition is not the most expensive, the meager amounts that the state contributes to financial aid means that higher education remains unattainable to many.

The average student debt load in Iowa is: **\$29,370**

Opportunities for Extra Credit:

Present this card to a legislator or policymaker for their signature:

I _____ have seen this report card, and commit to supporting public higher education in Iowa by making college accessible, affordable, and of the highest quality possible.

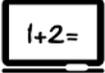
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 **YOUNGINVINCIBLES**

2016 Report Card

Kansas Budget Support For Public Higher Education

	Subject	Grade	Comments
	Tuition	B-	In-state tuition at 2-year public schools has gone up 22% since the recession, while tuition at 4-year schools has increased 20%. Both tuitions are below the national average though.
	Spending per Student	F	State spending per student has decreased 18% since the recession.
	Burden on Families	B-	Families cover about half of college costs in the Sunflower State.
	State Aid to Students	F	Financial aid to students only makes up 2% of education expenditures in Kansas. The state's \$125 per student is well below the national average of \$589.
	Education as a State Priority	A	Kansas ranks 11th highest in the nation in the percent of the state budget spent on higher education.
	Attainment Equity	F	Kansas needs to do more to close postsecondary attainment gaps between white, non-hispanic students and African American and Latino students (14% and 23% respectively).
	Final Grade	D	Kansas should target its state spending on higher education to better invest in low-income students and students of color.

The average student debt load in Kansas is: **\$26,229**

Opportunities for Extra Credit:

Present this card to a legislator or policymaker for their signature:

I _____ have seen this report card, and commit to supporting public higher education in Kansas by making college accessible, affordable, and of the highest quality possible.

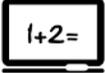


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2016 Report Card

Kentucky Budget Support For Public Higher Education

	Subject	Grade	Comments
	Tuition	D+	Tuition in Kentucky for both 2 and 4-year institutions currently sit above the national average. Those rates increased by 25% and 12% respectively.
	Spending per Student	D-	State spending per student dropped 24% from pre-recession spending numbers. This change is greater than the neighboring states of IN, IL, NC and OH.
	Burden on Families	F	The percentage of college costs families are expected to contribute is 48%, which is less than the national average, but has increased 31% since the recession.
	State Aid to Students	A	Kentucky ranks 6th amongst states in state aid. Grants make up 17% of Kentucky's higher education budget, the 2nd highest percentage in the nation.
	Education as a State Priority	A	Nearly a quarter of Kentucky's overall budget is dedicated to higher education. Impressive!
	Attainment Equity	A	Latinos and African Americans lag 7 points behind their white peers, better than the national average. Kentucky slashed those gaps by 16 and 12 points respectively. Wow!
	Final Grade	B-	While costs have shifted towards students and families, it's impressive to see the equity gap close so significantly.

The average student debt load in Kentucky is: **\$24,693**

Opportunities for Extra Credit:

Present this card to a legislator or policymaker for their signature:

I _____ have seen this report card, and commit to supporting public higher education in Kentucky by making college accessible, affordable, and of the highest quality possible.

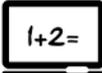
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 **YOUNGINVINCIBLES**

2016 Report Card

Louisiana Budget Support For Public Higher Education

	Subject	Grade	Comments
	Tuition	F	Tuition at 4-year universities in Louisiana increased by 66% since the recession. Two-year college tuition has followed suit with a 75% increase.
	Spending per Student	F	Louisiana's per student spending of \$5,606 is below the national average of \$6,311. This represents a decrease of 41% since the recession.
	Burden on Families	F	The proportion of the cost of college that students and families pay in Louisiana accounts for 45%. Families share of responsibility for college has grown by 85% since the recession.
	State Aid to Students	B	Louisiana awarded an average of \$1,360 per student last fiscal year. The percentage of Louisiana's higher education budget allocated for grants is 22%, double the national average.
	Education as a State Priority	B	Louisiana spends 10% of its entire state budget on higher education, above the national average of 12%. The state has increased that proportion by 34% since 2010.
	Attainment Equity	D+	The attainment gap for African Americans is the same as the national average of 13%. Gaps for Latinos and African Americans has increased since 2007 though.
	Final Grade	D-	Louisiana is heading in the wrong direction and should reinvest to prepare the state for the future.

The average student debt load in Louisiana is: **\$23,358**

Opportunities for Extra Credit:

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I _____ have seen this report card, and commit to supporting public higher education in Louisiana by making college accessible, affordable, and of the highest quality possible.

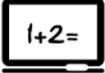


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2016 Report Card

Maine Budget Support For Public Higher Education

	Subject	Grade	Comments
	Tuition	B-	Average in-state tuition at 4-year public schools is \$9,422 but has generally held the line on tuition hikes (8% since the recession).
	Spending per Student	D	State spending per student has decreased 13% since the recession.
	Burden on Families	D	Families cover 57% of tuition costs in the Pine Tree State. That's above the national average.
	State Aid to Students	F	Financial aid to students only makes up 4.4% of education expenditures in Maine, providing only an average of only \$242 per student.
	Education as a State Priority	F	Maine ranks 5th lowest in the nation in terms of the percent of the state budget spent on higher education (4%).
	Attainment Equity	C	While zero is the goal, Maine's attainment gaps between white, non-hispanic students and African American and Latino students could be worse (8% and 3% respectively).
	Final Grade	D-	Maine should increase its state investment in higher education.

The average student debt load in Maine is: **\$29,934**

Opportunities for Extra Credit:

Present this card to a legislator or policymaker for their signature:

I _____ have seen this report card, and commit to supporting public higher education in Maine by making college accessible, affordable, and of the highest quality possible.

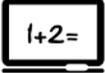


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 **YOUNGINVINCIBLES**

2016 Report Card

Maryland Budget Support For Public Higher Education

	Subject	Grade	Comments
	Tuition	C	Tuition at Maryland 4-year institutions is just below the national average at \$8,724. Tuition for 2- and 4-year institutions have increased by 14 percent and 9 percent respectively, less than the national average.
	Spending per Student	C	State spending per student has dropped by 12 percent of pre-recession spending numbers. This is a minor decrease in state spending as forty other states have seen greater decreases.
	Burden on Families	B+	There has been a 12 percent increase in the expected family contribution towards higher education in the state of Maryland since the recession. Families are now accountable for 50 percent of the cost of college.
	State Aid to Students	D-	Grants make up 7% of Maryland's higher education budget, and its grant dollars per student is below the national average: 29 states currently spend more per student on financial aid.
	Education as a State Priority	B+	In 2014, higher education made up 15% of the entire state budget. This places Maryland above the national average of 12%. The percentage of higher education spending is up two percent compared to recent years.
	Attainment Equity	F	Maryland has a 16 point degree attainment gap between African Americans and their Non-hispanic white counterparts. Hispanics have a 23 point gap in degree attainment. The attainment gap in the state of Maryland has grown by 12 points for African Americans and 10 points for Hispanics since 2007.
	Final Grade	C	Maryland has held the line on budget cuts and tuition hikes, but more need-based aid could close attainment gaps

The average student debt load in Maryland is: **\$26,349**

Opportunities for Extra Credit:

Present this card to a legislator or policymaker for their signature:

I _____ have seen this report card, and commit to supporting public higher education in Maryland by making college accessible, affordable, and of the highest quality possible.

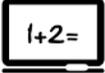


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2016 Report Card

Massachusetts Budget Support For Public Higher Education

	Subject	Grade	Comments
	Tuition	F	Tuition in the state of Massachusetts for both 2 and 4-year institutions currently sit above the national average and that's gone up 25% at 4-year schools since the recession.
	Spending per Student	F	State spending per student has taken a sharp decline, falling 23% of pre-recession spending.
	Burden on Families	C+	Families are now accountable for 45% of the cost of college in Massachusetts, below the national average.
	State Aid to Students	F	Massachusetts awards an average of \$279 per student in state aid. Grants make up 7% of the higher education budget.
	Education as a State Priority	B-	In 2014, Higher education made up 10% of the entire state budget. This places Massachusetts below the nation average of twelve percent. That share is up 26% in recent years though.
	Attainment Equity	F	African Americans have a 21 point gap in degree attainment. an increase of six points since 2007. Hispanics suffer from a 30 point gap, an increase of 11 points since 2007.
	Final Grade	F	Although Massachusetts has shifted some resources towards higher ed, budget cuts and tuition hikes have hit hard.

The average student debt load in Massachusetts is: **\$28,565**

Opportunities for Extra Credit:

Present this card to a legislator or policymaker for their signature:

I _____ have seen this report card, and commit to supporting public higher education in Massachusetts by making college accessible, affordable, and of the highest quality possible.

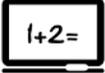


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2016 Report Card

Michigan Budget Support For Public Higher Education

	Subject	Grade	Comments
	Tuition	D	Michigan's nearly \$12,000 tuition at 4-year schools is the 6th highest in the nation, up 20% since the recession in 2008.
	Spending per Student	F	Michigan's \$4,765 per student is below the national average, and represents a 23% cut since 2008.
	Burden on Families	F	Students and their families are responsible for 70% of the cost of college. That's the 7th highest in the nation.
	State Aid to Students	F	Michigan provides a measly \$225 in grant aid per student, half the national average.
	Education as a State Priority	F	Higher education expenditures made up 4% of total state expenditures in 2014, below the national average of 12%.
	Attainment Equity	B-	The attainment gap between African Americans and whites is 12 points. For Latinos, it's 15 points. Both are below the national average and have seen the gap close since 2007.
	Final Grade	F	Michigan needs to reinvest in higher education, providing more need-based financial aid so that students can receive their degrees without accruing huge debt.

The average student debt load in Michigan is: **\$29,583**

Opportunities for Extra Credit:

Present this card to a legislator or policymaker for their signature:

I _____ have seen this report card, and commit to supporting public higher education in Michigan by making college accessible, affordable, and of the highest quality possible.

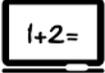


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2016 Report Card

Minnesota Budget Support For Public Higher Education

	Subject	Grade	Comments
	Tuition	D-	Tuition in Minnesota is well above the national average, especially for 2-year colleges. 4-year college tuition has increased by 17% since the recession.
	Spending per Student	F	Minnesota spends \$5,327 per full-time student, 24% less than before the recession and significantly less than the national average.
	Burden on Families	D-	Families pay for 57% of the cost of college. The family share of education spending has increased 30% since the recession.
	State Aid to Students	A-	Minnesota awards \$737 in need-based grants per student, significantly more than the national average.
	Education as a State Priority	F	Higher education expenditures made up just 4% of total state expenditures in 2014, down 59% since 2010.
	Attainment Equity	F	There is a 20% and 25% gap in degree attainment between white Minnesotans and their African-American and Latino counterparts, respectively. Both have widened since 2007.
	Final Grade	F	Generous financial aid is not enough to make up for high tuition in Minnesota. Minnesota needs to reinvest in education to decrease the financial burden on its students.

The average student debt load in Minnesota is: **\$30,894**

Opportunities for Extra Credit:

Present this card to a legislator or policymaker for their signature:

I _____ have seen this report card, and commit to supporting public higher education in Minnesota by making college accessible, affordable, and of the highest quality possible.

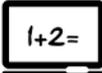
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 **YOUNGINVINCIBLES**

2016 Report Card

Mississippi Budget Support For Public Higher Education

	Subject	Grade	Comments
	Tuition	B-	Tuition at a four-year university in Mississippi has increased by 28% since the recession. Two-year college tuition has followed suit with a 32% increase.
	Spending per Student	F	Mississippi's per student spending of \$6,514 is below the national average of \$6,311. The state decreased its investment on students by 24% since the recession.
	Burden on Families	B-	The proportion of the cost of college that students and families pay in Mississippi is 40%. Families share of responsibility for college has grown by 15% since the recession.
	State Aid to Students	F	Mississippi has one of the lowest state aid averages to students with financial need, (\$62 per student). Financial aid accounts for only 3% of the higher ed budget.
	Education as a State Priority	A	Mississippi spends 16% of its entire state budget on higher education, above the national average of 12%. The state has increased that share by 34%.
	Attainment Equity	C+	The attainment gaps for African Americans and Latinos has closed by 13% and 4%, respectively.
	Final Grade	C-	Though Mississippi has increased its investment on higher education, it should continue to do more to lessen the burden of costs on students and families.

The average student debt load in Mississippi is: **\$27,571**

Opportunities for Extra Credit:

Present this card to a legislator or policymaker for their signature:

I _____ have seen this report card, and commit to supporting public higher education in Mississippi by making college accessible, affordable, and of the highest quality possible.

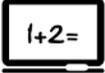


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2016 Report Card

Missouri Budget Support For Public Higher Education

	Subject	Grade	Comments
	Tuition	B	Missouri's in-state tuition at both 2- and 4-year colleges is lower than the national average. 4-year college tuition has only risen 5.4% since the recession.
	Spending per Student	F	Missouri spends only \$5,297 per full-time student, 28 percent less than before the recession and well below the national average.
	Burden on Families	C-	Students and their families are responsible for roughly half the cost of college. 4-year tuition makes up 17% of the state's median income, about the same as the national average.
	State Aid to Students	F	Missouri allocates only \$375 in grants per student. Grants comprise only 11% of the state higher education budget.
	Education as a State Priority	F	Higher education expenditures made up just 5% of total state expenditures in 2013, less than the national average of 12%.
	Attainment Equity	C	In Missouri, there is a 10% degree achievement gap between white students and their Latino and African-American counterparts.
	Final Grade	D-	Missouri needs to reinvest in higher education, providing more need-based financial aid so that students can receive their degrees without accruing huge debt.

The average student debt load in Missouri is: **\$24,957**

Opportunities for Extra Credit:

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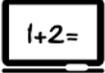
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 **YOUNGINVINCIBLES**

2016 Report Card

Montana Budget Support For Public Higher Education

	Subject	Grade	Comments
	Tuition	A-	Since the Great Recession, Montana has limited tuition increases for 4-year and 2-year schools to 9% and 2%, respectively. Both figures are well below the average increase nationwide.
	Spending per Student	D-	The Treasure State appropriated \$4,939 per full-time student in FY2014, roughly \$1,400 less than the national average.
	Burden on Families	B-	The share of tuition costs paid by families in Montana only increased 6% since the Recession, and is 53% overall, 2 points higher than the national average.
	State Aid to Students	F	Montana spent \$90 per full-time student in need-based grant aid, well below the national average of \$374 per full-time student.
	Education as a State Priority	C	Education expenditures made up just 10% of the FY2014, 2% less than the national average.
	Attainment Equity	N/A	Due to a small sample size, we can not accurately estimate the attainment rate for minority groups in this state.
	Final Grade	D	Montana has done a good job controlling tuition increases since the recession, but still needs to reinvest in higher ed to get back to pre-recession investment levels.

The average student debt load in Montana is: **\$27,568**

Opportunities for Extra Credit:

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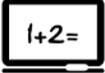


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2016 Report Card

Nebraska Budget Support For Public Higher Education

	Subject	Grade	Comments
	Tuition	B	Average 4-year tuition in Nebraska is \$7,404, below the national average of \$9,012. Average 2-year tuition is \$2,749, also below the national average of \$3,825.
	Spending per Student	B	The Cornhusker state spends \$7,840 per student, above the national average. That's a cut of 6% since the recession though.
	Burden on Families	B+	The share of tuition paid by families has gone up 24% since the recession. Nebraska's family share is still an impressive 41 percent.
	State Aid to Students	F	Nebraska only provides an average of \$191 in need-based aid to students.
	Education as a State Priority	A	Education expenditures made up almost a quarter of the state budget.
	Attainment Equity	C+	Nebraska needs to do more to narrow attainment gaps between white, non-hispanic citizens and African American and Latino citizens (7% and 13% respectively)
	Final Grade	B-	Nebraska ranks sixth highest in the nation when it comes to state support for higher education, but could do more to support low-income students and students of color.

The average student debt load in Nebraska is: **\$26,490**

Opportunities for Extra Credit:

Present this card to a legislator or policymaker for their signature:

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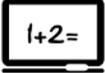


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 **YOUNGINVINCIBLES**

2016 Report Card

Nevada Budget Support For Public Higher Education

	Subject	Grade	Comments
	Tuition	B-	Although tuition in Nevada is below the national average, it has risen 35% since the great recession.
	Spending per Student	F	Nevada has disinvested significantly since the great recession; it has cut its higher education budget by nearly one-third since the great recession.
	Burden on Families	B	Students and Families are responsible for 36% of the cost of college. This is well below the national average of 51%.
	State Aid to Students	F	Nevada awards an average of \$431 per student in aid, only \$125 of which is directed at income students.
	Education as a State Priority	F	Higher Education expenditures has seen a decrease of 25% in total state expenditures in 2014. In FY14 the higher ed budget made up 9% of all expenditures.
	Attainment Equity	F	Nevada suffers from wide attainment gaps for African Americans and Latinos: 18% and 29% respectively. The Latino gap has grown by 12 points since 2007.
	Final Grade	F	Tuition is still low, but with budget cuts and small financial aid programs, Nevada is in rough shape.

The average student debt load in STATE is: **\$21,666**

Opportunities for Extra Credit:

Present this card to a legislator or policymaker for their signature:

I _____ have seen this report card, and commit to supporting public higher education in Nevada by making college accessible, affordable, and of the highest quality possible.

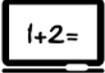


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2016 Report Card

New Hampshire Budget Support For Public Higher Education

	Subject	Grade	Comments
	Tuition	F	New Hampshire's average tuition at 4-year schools is the highest in the nation: \$14,712, up 32% since 2008.
	Spending per Student	F	No state spends less per student than New Hampshire, \$2,360. That's a 33% cut since 2008.
	Burden on Families	F	Students and their families are responsible for 81% of the cost of college. Only Vermont puts a heavier burden on their citizens.
	State Aid to Students	F	What state financial aid? New Hampshire abandoned its programs a few years ago.
	Education as a State Priority	F	Higher education expenditures made up 3% of total state expenditures in 2014, below the national average of 12%.
	Attainment Equity	C+	The attainment gap between Latinos and whites is 22 points. That's above the national average, but has closed by 3 points since 2007.
	Final Grade	F	New Hampshire has largely abandoned public higher education and ranks last in the nation.

The average student debt load in New Hampshire is: **\$32,795**

Opportunities for Extra Credit:

Present this card to a legislator or policymaker for their signature:

I _____ have seen this report card, and commit to supporting public higher education in New Hampshire by making college accessible, affordable, and of the highest quality possible.

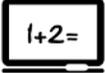


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 **YOUNGINVINCIBLES**

2016 Report Card

New Jersey Budget Support For Public Higher Education

	Subject	Grade	Comments
	Tuition	F	Average tuition at a 4-year public school in New Jersey is the 4th most expensive in the country at \$13,002.
	Spending per Student	F	New Jersey cut more than a quarter of its spending per student since the recession. It's down to \$5,520, below the national average.
	Burden on Families	D	Students and families are responsible for almost 60% of the cost of going to college. Tuition at 4-year schools almost a fifth of state median income.
	State Aid to Students	A	The Garden State definitely helps financially needy students by providing them, on average, over \$1,200 per student per year- the second highest in the country.
	Education as a State Priority	D-	New Jersey's higher education budget only accounts for 8% of the state's total expenditures.
	Attainment Equity	D-	The African American and Hispanic/Latino populations attain degrees at significantly lower rates than their white counterparts and the African American gap has grown 8% since 2007.
	Final Grade	C	Overall, New Jersey's saving grace is the significant amount of aid that it gives to students. Clearly, though, much more needs to be done.

The average student debt load in New Jersey is: **\$28,109**

Opportunities for Extra Credit:

Present this card to a legislator or policymaker for their signature:

I _____ have seen this report card, and commit to supporting public higher education in New Jersey by making college accessible, affordable, and of the highest quality possible.

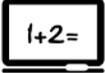


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2016 Report Card

New Mexico Budget Support For Public Higher Education

	Subject	Grade	Comments
	Tuition	B+	Average 4-year in-state tuition is \$6,190 a year, below the national average of \$9,012. Two-year college tuition however, has gone up 33% since the recession.
	Spending per Student	C-	In 2014, the Land of Enchantment allocated \$8,029 per student. Although this is more than the national average, it is a 24% cut since the recession.
	Burden on Families	F	Students and families in New Mexico pay 32% of the full cost of college. Family responsibility for college costs has grown by 216% since the recession, well above the 37% national average.
	State Aid to Students	D+	Per student spending on financial aid dollars is \$952, but funding for need-based aid drops to \$253 per student. Overall, state aid makes up 12% of the total higher education budget.
	Education as a State Priority	A	Education expenditures made up 18% of total state expenditures in 2014, more than the national average of 12%.
	Attainment Equity	F	The postsecondary attainment gaps between white, non-hispanic citizens and African Americans is 13% and 25% for Latinos.
	Final Grade	C-	New Mexico's overall tuition is low, but could do more to help low-income and minority students.

The average student debt load in New Mexico is: **\$18,656**

Opportunities for Extra Credit:

Present this card to a legislator or policymaker for their signature:

I _____ have seen this report card, and commit to supporting public higher education in New Mexico by making college accessible, affordable, and of the highest quality possible.

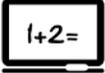


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2016 Report Card

New York Budget Support For Public Higher Education

	Subject	Grade	Comments
	Tuition	D+	While average tuition at NY 4-year schools is below the national average, it's gone up 31% since the recession. Tuition at 2-year schools is about \$1k more than the national average
	Spending per Student	B+	New York's \$8,454 budget allocation per student is impressive, and has only seen a 5% cut since the recession.
	Burden on Families	B	Students and their families are responsible for 36% of the cost of college. That's gone up 20% since 2008 though.
	State Aid to Students	A	New York provides a generous \$1,079 per student in financial aid.
	Education as a State Priority	D-	Higher education expenditures made up 8% of total state expenditures in 2014, below the national average of 12%.
	Attainment Equity	F	New York suffers from a 27 point attainment gap between Latino and white adults. For African Americans, there's a 17 point gap.
	Final Grade	B-	New York needs to reinvest in higher education, providing more need-based financial aid so that students can receive their degrees without accruing huge debt.

The average student debt load in New York is: **\$26,381**

Opportunities for Extra Credit:

Present this card to a legislator or policymaker for their signature:

I _____ have seen this report card, and commit to supporting public higher education in New York by making college accessible, affordable, and of the highest quality possible.

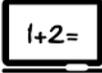


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2016 Report Card

North Carolina Budget Support For Public Higher Education

	Subject	Grade	Comments
	Tuition	C	NC's tuition for a 4-year institution is \$6,677, well below the national average of \$9,012. That represents a 40%, well above the national average of 28%.
	Spending per Student	C	NC spends \$8,562 per student, a reduction of 22% since the recession, slightly above the national average of 21%.
	Burden on Families	B+	Students and families bear a lower burden of college costs (34%) than the national average (51%).
	State Aid to Students	A+	NC allocates a generous \$842 in aid to their students, mostly to needy students.
	Education as a State Priority	C	Education expenditures made up 12% of total state expenditures in 2014.
	Attainment Equity	F	A 22% and 26% attainment gap exists between white citizens and African American and Latino counterparts. This is well above the national average of 13% and 19%.
	Final Grade	C+	North Carolina has a long history of supporting higher ed, but now is the time to address its wide attainment gaps.

The average student debt load in North Carolina is: **\$24,319**

Opportunities for Extra Credit:

Present this card to a legislator or policymaker for their signature:

I _____ have seen this report card, and commit to supporting public higher education in North Carolina by making college accessible, affordable, and of the highest quality possible.

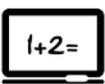


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 **YOUNGINVINCIBLES**

2016 Report Card

North Dakota Budget Support For Public Higher Education

	Subject	Grade	Comments
	Tuition	B-	4-year tuition has increased 14% in the Peace Garden State since the Recession, the 9th smallest increase overall. 2-year tuition only increased 1%, the smallest increase in America.
	Spending per Student	A+	North Dakota has increased spending per full-time student 38% since the Recession, one of only two states to increase spending per student.
	Burden on Families	A-	The share of college costs paid by North Dakota families decreased by 11% since the Recession. It is the only state where the family share has decreased.
	State Aid to Students	F	North Dakota spent \$411 on grants per full-time student in FY2014, roughly \$170 lower than the national average.
	Education as a State Priority	A+	Education expenditures made up 21% of total North Dakota expenditures in FY2014, which is 9% higher than the national average.
	Attainment Equity	N/A	Due to a small sample size, we can not accurately estimate the attainment rate for minority groups in this state.
	Final Grade	B+	By some measures, North Dakota invests more in higher education than any other state, but can also increase the amount of grant aid per student.

The average student debt load nationally is: **\$26,510**

Opportunities for Extra Credit:

Present this card to a legislator or policymaker for their signature:

I _____ have seen this report card, and commit to supporting public higher education in North Dakota by making college accessible, affordable, and of the highest quality possible.

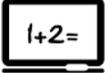


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2016 Report Card

Ohio Budget Support For Public Higher Education

	Subject	Grade	Comments
	Tuition	D+	Both 2-year and 4-year tuition in Ohio are well above the national average. 2-year college tuition has increased by 18% since the recession, but only by 10% at 4-year colleges.
	Spending per Student	F	Ohio spends \$4,314 per full-time student, 23% less than spending before the recession and almost \$2,000 less than the national average.
	Burden on Families	F	Families pay for 63% of the cost of public college, a 12 point larger burden than the national average. 4-year tuition represents 20% of the state's median income.
	State Aid to Students	F	Ohio allocates only \$244 in grants per student each year, well under half the national average. Grants comprise only 5.7% of the total higher education budget.
	Education as a State Priority	F	Education expenditures made up just 4% of Ohio's total expenditures in 2013, a third of the national average.
	Attainment Equity	D-	There is an 18 point attainment gap between black and white Ohioans, and a 25 point gaps between Latino and white Ohioans.
	Final Grade	F	It is clear that higher education is not a priority for Ohio. High tuition and minimal student aid make Ohio one of the more expensive states from which to receive a degree.

The average student debt load in Ohio is: **\$29,090**

Opportunities for Extra Credit:

Present this card to a legislator or policymaker for their signature:

I _____ have seen this report card, and commit to supporting public higher education in Ohio by making college accessible, affordable, and of the highest quality possible.

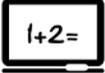
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 **YOUNGINVINCIBLES**

2016 Report Card

Oklahoma Budget Support For Public Higher Education

	Subject	Grade	Comments
	Tuition	B	Average 4-year in-state tuition is \$6,895, below the national average of \$9,012. Two-year college tuition however, has gone up 20% since the recession.
	Spending per Student	D	In 2014, the Sooner State allocated \$7,080 per student. Although this is more than the national average, it is a 21% cut since the recession.
	Burden on Families	C+	Students and families in Oklahoma pay 43% of their income towards tuition costs. Family responsibility for college costs has grown by 37% since the recession.
	State Aid to Students	D	Per student spending on financial aid is \$576. Need-based aid is \$512 per student. Overall, state aid makes up 9% of the total higher education budget, below the national average.
	Education as a State Priority	A	Education expenditures made up 24% of total state expenditures in 2014, double the national average of 12%.
	Attainment Equity	C	The postsecondary attainment gaps between white, non-hispanic adults and African Americans is 16% and 13% for Latinos. The Latino gap has decreased an impressive 9% since the recession!
	Final Grade	B	Oklahoma generally boasts strong support for public higher ed, but there's always room for improvement.

The average student debt load in Oklahoma is: **\$22,174**

Opportunities for Extra Credit:

Present this card to a legislator or policymaker for their signature:

I _____ have seen this report card, and commit to supporting public higher education in Oklahoma by making college accessible, affordable, and of the highest quality possible.

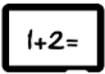


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2016 Report Card

Oregon Budget Support For Public Higher Education

	Subject	Grade	Comments
	Tuition	D	4-year tuition and 2-year tuition increased by 32% and 26%, respectively, since the recession.
	Spending per Student	F	The Beaver State dropped per student spending by 29% since the recession, which is more than the national average of 21%.
	Burden on Families	F	Oregon families are responsible for 61% of college costs. This reflects a 30% increase since the recession.
	State Aid to Students	F	Oregon awards an average of \$327 per student, well below the national average. At least most of that is for need-based students.
	Education as a State Priority	F	Education expenditures made up 2% of total Oregon's expenditures in 2014.
	Attainment Equity	B-	The attainment rate between black and white Oregonians is only 3 points, down 7 points since 2007. For Latinos, it's 12 points, but a small increase since 2007.
	Final Grade	F	With such drastic cuts to higher ed, it's no surprise tuition has skyrocketed.

The average student debt load in Oregon is: **\$25,577**

Opportunities for Extra Credit:

Present this card to a legislator or policymaker for their signature:

I _____ have seen this report card, and commit to supporting public higher education in Oregon by making college accessible, affordable, and of the highest quality possible.

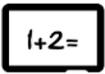


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 **YOUNGINVINCIBLES**

2016 Report Card

Pennsylvania Budget Support For Public Higher Education

	Subject	Grade	Comments
	Tuition	F	Average tuition at 4-year colleges is \$13,246, well above the national average. Tuition at 2-year schools is up 30% since the recession.
	Spending per Student	F	State spending per student has dropped by more than 1/3 of pre-recession levels. This change is far greater than any of Pennsylvania's 6 neighboring states, MD, WV, NY, NJ, DE, and OH.
	Burden on Families	F	Families on the Keystone state are now accountable for 72 percent of the cost of college, up 26% from 2008.
	State Aid to Students	A	Pennsylvania ranks 13th in providing grant funds to all students and is 5th in need-based grants. Grants make up 28% of Pennsylvania's higher education budget, the 2nd highest percentage in the nation.
	Education as a State Priority	F	In 2014, Higher education made up only 2 percent of the entire state budget, below the nation average of 12%. The percentage of higher education spending is down 33 percent in recent years.
	Attainment Equity	D	There is a 10 point attainment gap between African Americans and their non-hispanic white counterparts. Worse, Hispanics have a 20 point gap. From 2007-2014, the gap for Hispanics increased 10 points.
	Final Grade	F	Pennsylvania's aid program, while generous, has not kept up with budget cuts and tuition hikes.

The average student debt load in Pennsylvania is: **\$ 32,528**

Opportunities for Extra Credit:

Present this card to a legislator or policymaker for their signature:

I _____ have seen this report card, and commit to supporting public higher education in Pennsylvania by making college accessible, affordable, and of the highest quality possible.

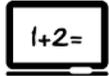


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 **YOUNGINVINCIBLES**

2016 Report Card

Rhode Island Budget Support For Public Higher Education

	Subject	Grade	Comments
	Tuition	D-	Average tuition at Rhode Island 4-year institutions costs nearly \$11,000, a 31% increase since the recession.
	Spending per Student	F	Rhode Island slashed their higher ed budget by nearly a quarter since the recession, resulting in \$4,690 per student.
	Burden on Families	F	Rhode Island families pay 70% of the cost of college, well above the national average.
	State Aid to Students	F	Rhode Island awards only \$189 per student in state grants, well below the national average.
	Education as a State Priority	B+	Education expenditures made up 14% of total Washington's expenditures in 2014, more than the national average.
	Attainment Equity	F	African Americans have a 17 point deficit in attainment rates compared to their white peers. Latinos have a 24 point deficit.
	Final Grade	F	Rhode Island needs to reinvest in its higher ed system to better prepare for the jobs of tomorrow.

The average student debt load in Rhode Island is: **\$31,561**

Opportunities for Extra Credit:

Present this card to a legislator or policymaker for their signature:

I _____ have seen this report card, and commit to supporting public higher education in Rhode Island by making college accessible, affordable, and of the highest quality possible.

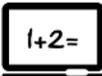
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 **YOUNGINVINCIBLES**

2016 Report Card

South Carolina Budget Support For Public Higher Education

	Subject	Grade	Comments
	Tuition	F	Tuition for a 4-year institution is \$11,449, well above the national average. It has increased 16% since the recession.
	Spending per Student	F	SC has cut its budget on student spending 36% since the recession. It spends \$4,894 per full time student, below the national average of \$6,311.
	Burden on Families	F	Families and students in the Palmetto State fork out 63% of college costs (national average is 51%). Tuition at a 4-year school is 25% of the average median income.
	State Aid to Students	A+	SC allocates 40% of its' higher ed budget to aid for students. This is significantly higher than the national average of 11%.
	Education as a State Priority	A+	Education expenditures made up 21% of total state expenditures in 2014, above the national average of 13%.
	Attainment Equity	D+	A 16% and 19% degree attainment gap exists between white students and their African American and Latino counterparts.
	Final Grade	C	A strong but unfocused state aid program is holding SC back, particularly for underrepresented minority students.

The average student debt load in South Carolina is: **\$29,092**

Opportunities for Extra Credit:

Present this card to a legislator or policymaker for their signature:

I _____ have seen this report card, and commit to supporting public higher education in South Carolina by making college accessible, affordable, and of the highest quality possible.

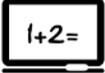


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2016 Report Card

South Dakota Budget Support For Public Higher Education

	Subject	Grade	Comments
	Tuition	D	While tuition is lower than the national average, South Dakota's tuition has gone up 24% at 4-year publics and 33% at 2-year colleges since the Great Recession.
	Spending per Student	F	The state's appropriations have declined by 19% since the recession. Now, it only spends \$4,878 per student, roughly \$1,500 less than the national average.
	Burden on Families	F	Families and students in SD pay 63% of the cost of college, compared to 51% nationally. This share has increased 29% since the Great Recession.
	State Aid to Students	F	SD only offers \$122 in grant aid for students. Nationally, states offer an average of \$589 per student.
	Education as a State Priority	A	Education expenditures made up 21% of total state expenditures in 2014, more than the national average.
	Attainment Equity	N/A	Due to a small sample size, we can not accurately estimate the attainment rate for minority groups in this state.
	Final Grade	F	While South Dakota spends a good portion of its budget on higher education, investment in students is still low compared to other states.

The average student debt load in South Dakota is: **\$25,750**

Opportunities for Extra Credit:

Present this card to a legislator or policymaker for their signature:

I _____ have seen this report card, and commit to supporting public higher education in South Dakota by making college accessible, affordable, and of the highest quality possible.

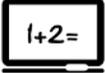
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2016 Report Card

Tennessee Budget Support For Public Higher Education

	Subject	Grade	Comments
	Tuition	D	Tuition at 4-year institutions currently sits below the national average but has increased 39% since the Great Recession. Tuition at 2-year schools has also gone up 31%.
	Spending per Student	D-	State spending per student dropped by 23% of pre-recession spending numbers, steeper than the national average.
	Burden on Families	F	Families are now accountable for 46% of the cost of college. The nineteenth highest rank among states. That's a 42% increase since the recession.
	State Aid to Students	A	Tennessee ranks 3rd in providing grant funds to all students but is 19th in providing need-based grants to low-income students.
	Education as a State Priority	B	In 2014, Higher education made up 14% of the entire state budget. This places Tennessee above the national average of 12%.
	Attainment Equity	F	African Americans and Hispanics have a 16 and 22 point gap in the rate at which they attain degrees compared to their non-hispanic white counterparts. Unfortunately both those gaps have grown since 2007.
	Final Grade	C-	Tennessee boasts a strong state aid program, but should redouble efforts to keep tuition low.

The average student debt load in Tennessee is: **\$24,585**

Opportunities for Extra Credit:

Present this card to a legislator or policymaker for their signature:

I _____ have seen this report card, and commit to supporting public higher education in Tennessee by making college accessible, affordable, and of the highest quality possible.

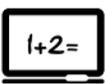


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2016 Report Card

Texas Budget Support For Public Higher Education

	Subject	Grade	Comments
	Tuition	B-	Tuition at a 4-year public college is \$8,830 a year, just below the national average. Two-year college tuition however, has gone up 27% since the recession and is now at \$2,286 per year.
	Spending per Student	C+	In 2014, the Lone Star State allocated \$8,050 per student. Although this is more than the 2013 budget, it is still a 15% cut since the recession.
	Burden on Families	A-	The cost of college in Texas accounts for 17% of state's median income. Texas continued improving on this, yet families are still responsible for a 14% larger share of college costs than they were before the recession.
	State Aid to Students	B+	State aid makes up 11% of its total higher education budget. This translates to an average of \$725 per student, all to students with financial need.
	Education as a State Priority	A	In 2013, the state legislature spend about 15% of its budget on higher education. It's a 22% increase in that share over the last 4 years!
	Attainment Equity	C	Although the attainment gap for African Americans and Latinos has dropped 3 and 7 points, respectively, significant gaps still persist.
	Final Grade	B	Texas supports higher education better than many states, but it must continue to invest in students work to close the attainment gaps.

The average student debt load in Texas is: **\$25,244**

Opportunities for Extra Credit:

Present this card to a legislator or policymaker for their signature:

I _____ have seen this report card, and commit to supporting public higher education in Texas by making college accessible, affordable, and of the highest quality possible.

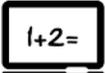


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2016 Report Card

Utah Budget Support For Public Higher Education

	Subject	Grade	Comments
	Tuition	C+	The average 4-year tuition in Utah is \$6,177 which is well below the national average. However, 4-year institutions have seen an increase of 33% since the recession.
	Spending per Student	F	In 2014, Utah allocated \$5,506 per student, cutting funding for higher education per student by 26% since the recession.
	Burden on Families	B+	Utah's relatively low sticker price results in tuition making up only 10% of the state's median income.
	State Aid to Students	F	Need-based aid accounted for only 1% of Utah's higher education budget. Utah awarded an average of only \$14 per student in need-based aid (national average is \$374).
	Education as a State Priority	C+	The state legislature spends about 11% of its total budget on higher education, and that share has gone up in recent years.
	Attainment Equity	C	The African American attainment gap increased by 3% since 2007, but the Latino attainment gap decreased by 3%.
	Final Grade	D	While tuition is still relatively low, Utah should do more help its low income students.

The average student debt load in Utah is: **\$22,418**

Opportunities for Extra Credit:

Present this card to a legislator or policymaker for their signature:

I _____ have seen this report card, and commit to supporting public higher education in Utah by making college accessible, affordable, and of the highest quality possible.

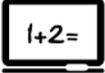


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2016 Report Card

Vermont Budget Support For Public Higher Education

	Subject	Grade	Comments
	Tuition	F	Average in-tuition for 4-year public schools in Vermont is \$14,419, the second highest in the nation.
	Spending per Student	F	Vermont only spends \$2,816 per student, the second lowest in the county after neighboring New Hampshire.
	Burden on Families	F	A whopping 82% of the cost of college is carried by Vermont families.
	State Aid to Students	C+	Financial aid to students does not make up high tuition costs in the Green Mountain State.
	Education as a State Priority	F	Higher education expenditures make up a measly 1.8% of of Vermont's state budget.
	Attainment Equity	N/A	Due to a small sample size, we can not accurately estimate the attainment rate for students of color in Vermont.
	Final Grade	F	Vermont should increase its state investment in higher education.

The average student debt load in Vermont is: **\$27,318**

Opportunities for Extra Credit:

Present this card to a legislator or policymaker for their signature:

I _____ have seen this report card, and commit to supporting public higher education in Vermont by making college accessible, affordable, and of the highest quality possible.

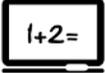


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2016 Report Card

Virginia Budget Support For Public Higher Education

	Subject	Grade	Comments
	Tuition	F	Tuition at 4-year schools in Virginia is \$10,899, well above the national average. That's up a third since the recession. Community college tuition is up 47%.
	Spending per Student	F	State spending per student dropped by 26 percent of pre-recession spending numbers. This change is greater than Virginia's neighboring states of MD, NC, KY, and DE.
	Burden on Families	D	Families are now accountable for 62 percent of the cost of college in Virginia, the 12th highest percentage in the country.
	State Aid to Students	D+	Virginia provides above-average grants per student, but falls short in aid focused on students in financial need.
	Education as a State Priority	B+	In 2014, Higher education made up 15% of the entire state budget. This place Virginia above the national average of 12 percent.
	Attainment Equity	F	Virginia has a 15 point attainment gap between African Americans and their Non-hispanic white classmates. Similarly, Hispanics have a 26 point gap. These gaps have widened by 5 points and 14 points respectively.
	Final Grade	D-	Budget cuts and tuition hikes: a recipe for higher debt and widening inequality.

The average student debt load in Virginia is: **\$25,780**

Opportunities for Extra Credit:

Present this card to a legislator or policymaker for their signature:

I _____ have seen this report card, and commit to supporting public higher education in Virginia by making college accessible, affordable, and of the highest quality possible.

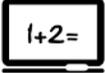


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2016 Report Card

Washington Budget Support For Public Higher Education

	Subject	Grade	Comments
	Tuition	F	4-year tuition and 2-year tuition increased by 56% and 34%, respectively, since the recession.
	Spending per Student	F	The Evergreen State dropped per student spending by 25% since the recession
	Burden on Families	D-	Washington families are responsible for 48% of college costs. This reflects a 61% increase since the recession.
	State Aid to Students	A	The Evergreen State boasts one of the most generous aid programs in the country, awarding \$1,318 in aid per student, almost all to needy students.
	Education as a State Priority	B+	Education expenditures made up 14% of total Washington's expenditures in 2014, more than the national average.
	Attainment Equity	C	While the African American and Latino attainment gaps are below the national average, the African American gap has grown by a disturbing 11 points since 2007.
	Final Grade	B-	Washington should be proud of its state financial aid program, but should still find ways to reinvest as a whole.

The average student debt load in Washington is: **\$24,418**

Opportunities for Extra Credit:

Present this card to a legislator or policymaker for their signature:

I _____ have seen this report card, and commit to supporting public higher education in Washington by making college accessible, affordable, and of the highest quality possible.

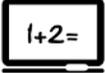
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 **YOUNGINVINCIBLES**

2016 Report Card

West Virginia Budget Support For Public Higher Education

	Subject	Grade	Comments
	Tuition	C	Tuition at West Virginia 4-year schools is well below the national average, but has gone up 31% since the recession.
	Spending per Student	F	West Virginia spends \$5,530 per student, a 26% cut since the Great Recession in 2008.
	Burden on Families	D	Students and their families are responsible for 57% of the cost of college.
	State Aid to Students	A-	West Virginia provides a generous \$1,069 per student in financial aid. Only about half of that is targeted to income students though.
	Education as a State Priority	C	Higher education expenditures made up 12% of total state expenditures in 2014, right at the national average.
	Attainment Equity	F	West Virginia's 24 point attainment gap between whites and African Americans is twice the national average. That gap has grown 6 points since 2007.
	Final Grade	D+	West Virginia needs to reinvest in higher education, providing more need-based financial aid so that students can receive their degrees without accruing huge debt.

The average student debt load in West Virginia is: **\$27,320**

Opportunities for Extra Credit:

Present this card to a legislator or policymaker for their signature:

I _____ have seen this report card, and commit to supporting public higher education in West Virginia by making college accessible, affordable, and of the highest quality possible.

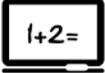


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2016 Report Card

Wisconsin Budget Support For Public Higher Education

	Subject	Grade	Comments
	Tuition	C-	Wisconsin's 4-year tuition is less expensive than the national average, but is more expensive than average at 2-year schools. Since the recession, 4-year tuition has gone up 19%.
	Spending per Student	F	Wisconsin spends \$5,786 per student, well under the national average. Since the recession, spending per student has decreased by 18%.
	Burden on Families	D+	Families pay for 48% of the cost of college. 4-year tuition represents 17% of Wisconsin's median income.
	State Aid to Students	D	Wisconsin awards \$507 in grants each year, below the national average of \$589. Tuition after grants averages out to \$8,274.
	Education as a State Priority	A-	Education expenditures made up 14% of total state expenditures in 2013, greater than the national average of 12%.
	Attainment Equity	F	There is a 23% gap in degree achievement between white students and their African-American and Latino counterparts in Wisconsin, both well above national averages.
	Final Grade	D+	Despite the fact that its tuition is relatively inexpensive, Wisconsin needs to reinvest in higher education to close attainment gaps and decrease financial burden on its students.

The average student debt load in Wisconsin is: **\$28,128**

Opportunities for Extra Credit:

Present this card to a legislator or policymaker for their signature:

I _____ have seen this report card, and commit to supporting public higher education in Wisconsin by making college accessible, affordable, and of the highest quality possible.

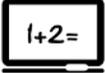
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 **YOUNGINVINCIBLES**

2016 Report Card

Wyoming Budget Support For Public Higher Education

	Subject	Grade	Comments
	Tuition	A-	Wyoming's average 4-year tuition is \$4,646, the lowest in America. Its 2-year tuition rate is \$2,719, the 9th lowest in America and roughly \$1,100 less than the national average.
	Spending per Student	A+	The Equality State spent \$15,561 per full-time student in FY2014, by far the highest amount in the nation.
	Burden on Families	A+	Tuition at 4-year schools is only 8% of the state's median income, the lowest in the nation. Wyoming also has the lowest family share of college's costs, at 15%.
	State Aid to Students	C	The Equality State spent \$623 on grant aid per full-time student in FY2014, roughly the national average.
	Education as a State Priority	F	Education expenditures made up just 4% of total Wyoming expenditures in FY2014, 8% less than the national average.
	Attainment Equity	N/A	Due to a small sample size, we can not accurately estimate the attainment rate for minority groups in this state.
	Final Grade	A	Wyoming has the highest final grade in the nation because of its success in keeping tuition affordable

The average student debt load in Wyoming is: **\$22,879**

Opportunities for Extra Credit:

Present this card to a legislator or policymaker for their signature:

I _____ have seen this report card, and commit to supporting public higher education in Wyoming by making college accessible, affordable, and of the highest quality possible.



Signature _____



Student Impact Project Grading System Methodology

States vary widely on key indicators such as per student appropriations, tuition increases, and financial aid to get a clear picture of the budgetary mechanics of public higher education. The diversity of these variables also makes it difficult to assign ordinal ranks to states, as it is difficult to prioritize one variable over another. To complicate methods further, raw statistics on state budgets' support for higher education mean little without context of where a given value stands in relation to other states or a standard of how much states should fund public colleges, not to mention how the observation relate to itself through time.

To solve this problem, Young Invincibles developed an innovative scoring system to evaluate each state's support for public higher education. The system's scale converts a variable's value into a standardized unit to evaluate a state's performance in a fifty-state context. Baked inside these metrics are Young Invincibles organizational values: encouraging lower tuition at public institutions, higher state appropriations, and more direct state support to student grants and aid. In keeping with these values, states were evaluated using the following fifteen variables, organized into five categories of state budget support for higher education:

Tuition

- Average tuition at four-year public colleges and universities
- The percent change at four-year public colleges and universities since the recession
- Average tuition at two-year public colleges and universities
- The percent change at two-year public colleges and universities since the recession

State Budget Appropriations

- Dollars per FTE appropriated to higher education
- The percent change in state appropriations to higher education since the recession

Burden on Families

- Average family share (Net tuition revenue per FTE as percentage of total revenue)
- Percent change in average family share since the recession
- Average tuition at public four-year institutions as a percentage of statewide median income
- Average tuition at public two-year institutions as a percentage of statewide median income

Direct aid to students

- Dollar amount of grants and aid awarded per FTE
- Dollar amount of need-based grant and aid awarded per FTE
- Grants as a percentage of total higher education percentages

Education as a priority

Appropriations to higher education as a percentage of total state budget

Four-year percent change in higher education appropriations as a percentage of total state budget

Attainment gap

Postsecondary attainment gap between African American and non-Hispanic whites

Postsecondary attainment gap between Latinos and non-Hispanic whites

Progress in closing postsecondary attainment gap between African American and non-Hispanic whites

Progress in closing postsecondary attainment gap between Latinos and non-Hispanic whites

Analysis

To evaluate each state within a useful context, a constant had to be generated to place the state's performance in proper context. If states were scored entirely by their deviation from the data set's mean and assigned Z-scores, the top portion of the dataset would be given top grades, regardless of their actions' impacts on students and families. In short, because the recent trend for all of these variables has been undesirable, a different constant that took into account the poor trends in state budget support for higher education had to be generated.

Young Invincibles generated a plausible baseline value for each variable. These baselines were often considered to be a 75 percent or "C" score. A brief explanation of how each baseline is listed below:

- Average tuitions were set to the national mean.
- Percent tuition increases since the recession were set to inflation for that time period, from 2007 to 2013 (14 percent).
- The value for per student state appropriations was set to the national mean.
- Percent change in state appropriations per student was set to zero.
- Family share was set to the current national mean.
- Percent change in family share since the recession was set to zero.
- Tuition as a percentage of median income was set to the national mean.
- The value for grants per FTE was set to the national mean.
- Percent of state appropriations allocated for grants was set to the national mean.
- Average amount of grants in dollars was set to the national mean.
- Education expenditures as a percent of total state expenditures was set to the national mean.
- 4-year change to education expenditures as a percentage of total state expenditures was set to zero.
- Attainment gaps were set to zero
- The maximum progress on attainment gaps was assigned a 100 percent score.

After setting the baseline, for each variable a “low” observed value (minimum or maximum depending on whether the variable was desirable like state appropriations or non-desirable such as tuition) was set to zero. This was done not only to avoid assigning negative scores, but also to provide the evaluation with a workable scale. Based on this 75 percent score and the zero score, we calculated a “unit” value, or how many dollars or percentage points were the equivalent to one percent in the grading system.

$$Unit = \frac{(Low - Baseline)}{75}$$

Once the “unit” values generated for each variable, the “one hundred percent” score was derived by extrapolating 25 “units” from the baseline. For variables where a higher value is desirable, such as state appropriations, the “one hundred ideal” value was derived from the below formula.

$$Ideal = Baseline + (25 * Unit)$$

For variables where a lower value was desirable, like tuition:

$$Ideal = Baseline - (25 * Unit)$$

Each states’ value in that variable was then judged relative to this ideal score, converted into our standard units.

$$Score = ((- (Ideal - x)) / Unit) + 100$$

For variables where a lower value was desirable, like tuition:

$$Score = ((Ideal - x) / Unit) + 100$$

As an example, take tuition changes: Between the 2007 and 2014 school years, tuition increased by an average of 28 percent. (The range of increases spread from Missouri’s 7 percent increase to Arizona’s 72 percent increase.) That 28 percent mean is not an acceptable baseline for advocates of affordable public higher education.

To solve for this, YI assumed that an “ideal” result would be for tuition increases to match the rate of inflation for that time period, or 14 percent. Therefore, states that increased tuition by 14 percent would be given a 75 percent, or a letter grade of “C”. Arizona, the state with the nation’s highest tuition increases, was assigned a zero. With these scores assigned, a standard unit of 0.8% was derived. In other words, a 1 percent increase in tuition above the 14 percent baseline resulted in a 0.8 reduction in score from the 75 percent baseline. Iowa’s 13 percent tuition increase (just below our baseline of inflation growth) generates a score of 77 percent.

The “Final Grade” for each state represents a simple average of all six categories scores.

Data Sources

Data was sourced from a variety of nonprofit and trade association groups. College Board tracks trends in tuition and their 2014 report was used for all tuition values. The State Higher Education Executive Officer's Association publishes the SHEF (State Higher Education Finances) dataset annually and state appropriations to higher education data was derived from here. The National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs' (NASSGAP) publishes state-by-state data on funding for student scholarships, grants, and financial aid. The National Association of State Budget Officers publishes data on expenditures for higher education as a percentage of total state expenditures. The American Community Survey provides premade tables on median income and attainment rates by race and ethnicity. The Institute of College Access and Success' Project on Student Debt publishes the average amount of student debt held in each state as seen on each state report card.

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