



PRESENTATION TO SENATE STUDY COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION OUTCOMES

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WHY COLLEGE?

FINANCIAL SECURITY & OPPORTUNITIES

“To build a career.”

“To increase my chances in the job market.”

“To not live paycheck to paycheck.”

“To keep up with whatever happens in the economy.”

“For better job opportunities, to earn more money.”

LEARNING & SERVICE

“To expand my knowledge and see where I can go.”

“To innovate and create something new and transformative.”

“To make a difference, to change my community.”

“To be part of something bigger than myself, to help and care for others.”

FAMILY & COMMUNITY

“So my family is proud of me.”

“For my daughter.”

“To take care of and help my family.”

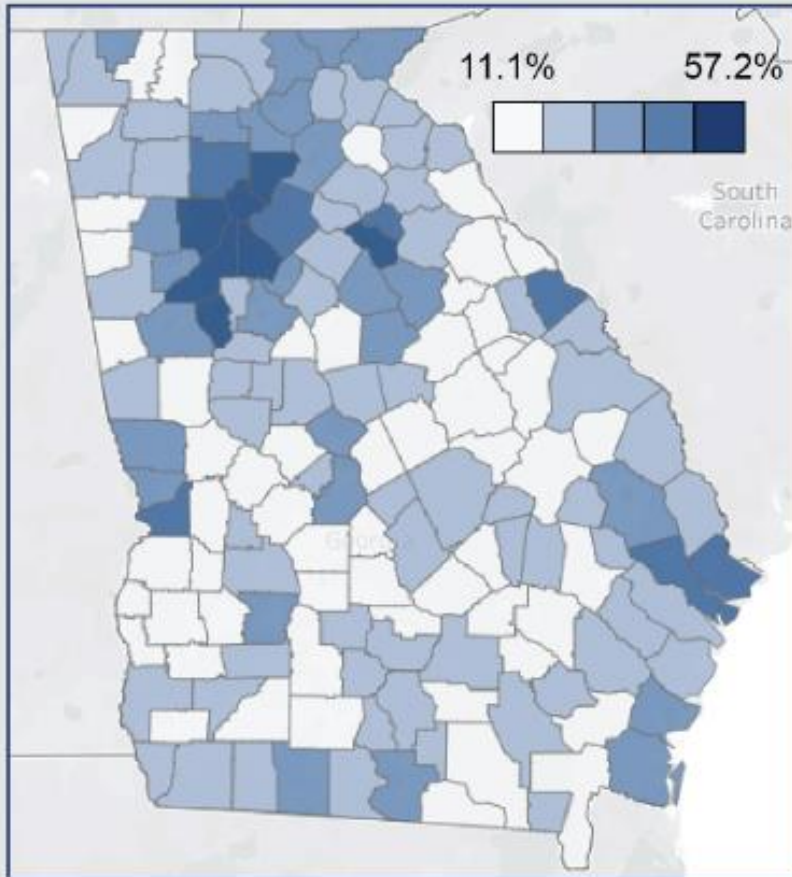
“To be able to pass something down to my kids and their kids.”

“To be a role model for family.”

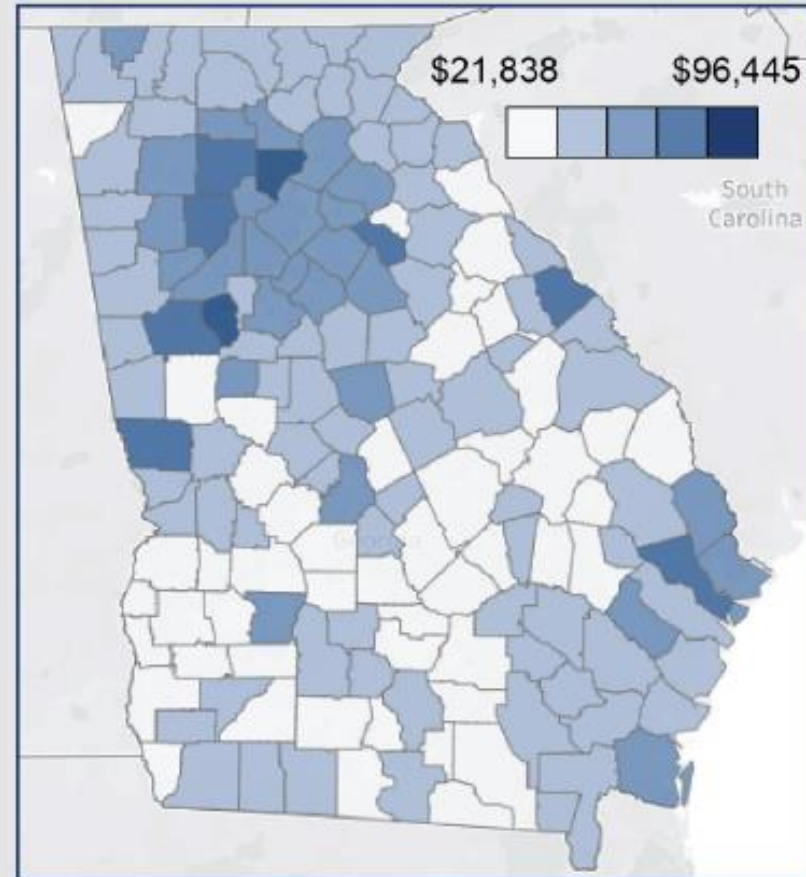
Fewer than 1 in 3 Georgia Adults Has a Bachelor's Degree

Bachelor's and associate degree attainment by county, 2017

Percent of Georgians with Associate Degree or Above



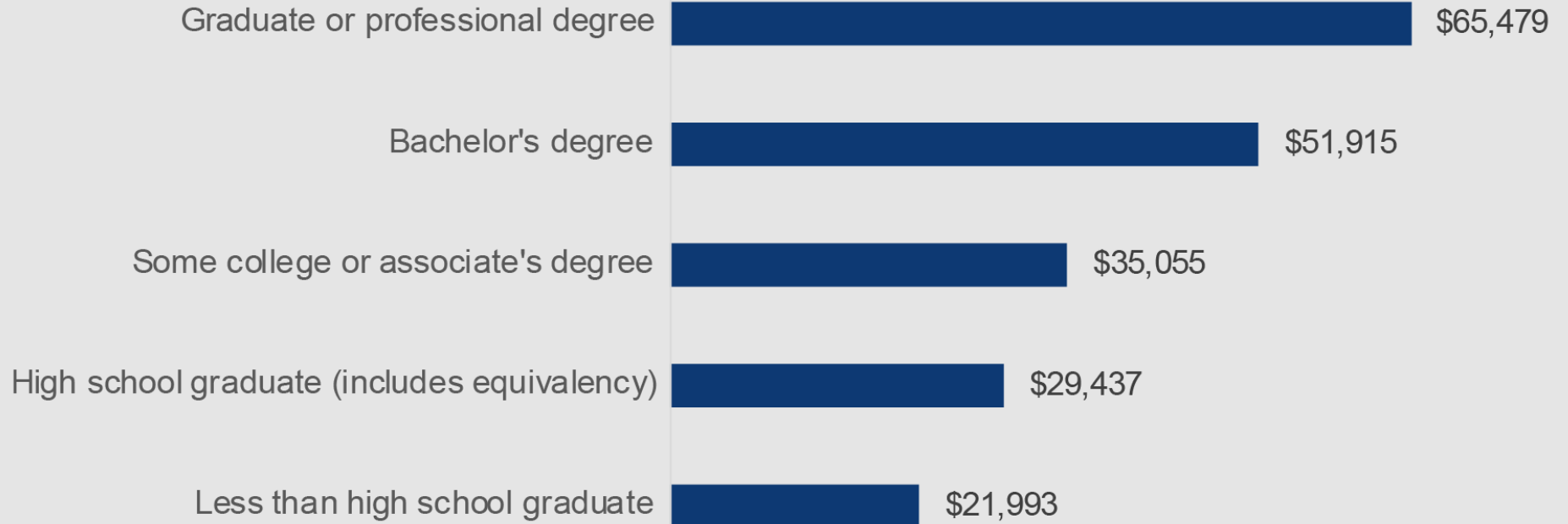
Median Household Income



Source: GBPI analysis of 2017 American Community Survey data, 5-year estimates, Table S1501.

Earnings Increase with Each Education Milestone

Georgia median annual earnings by educational attainment for population 25 years and older, 2017



Source: 2017 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Table B20004

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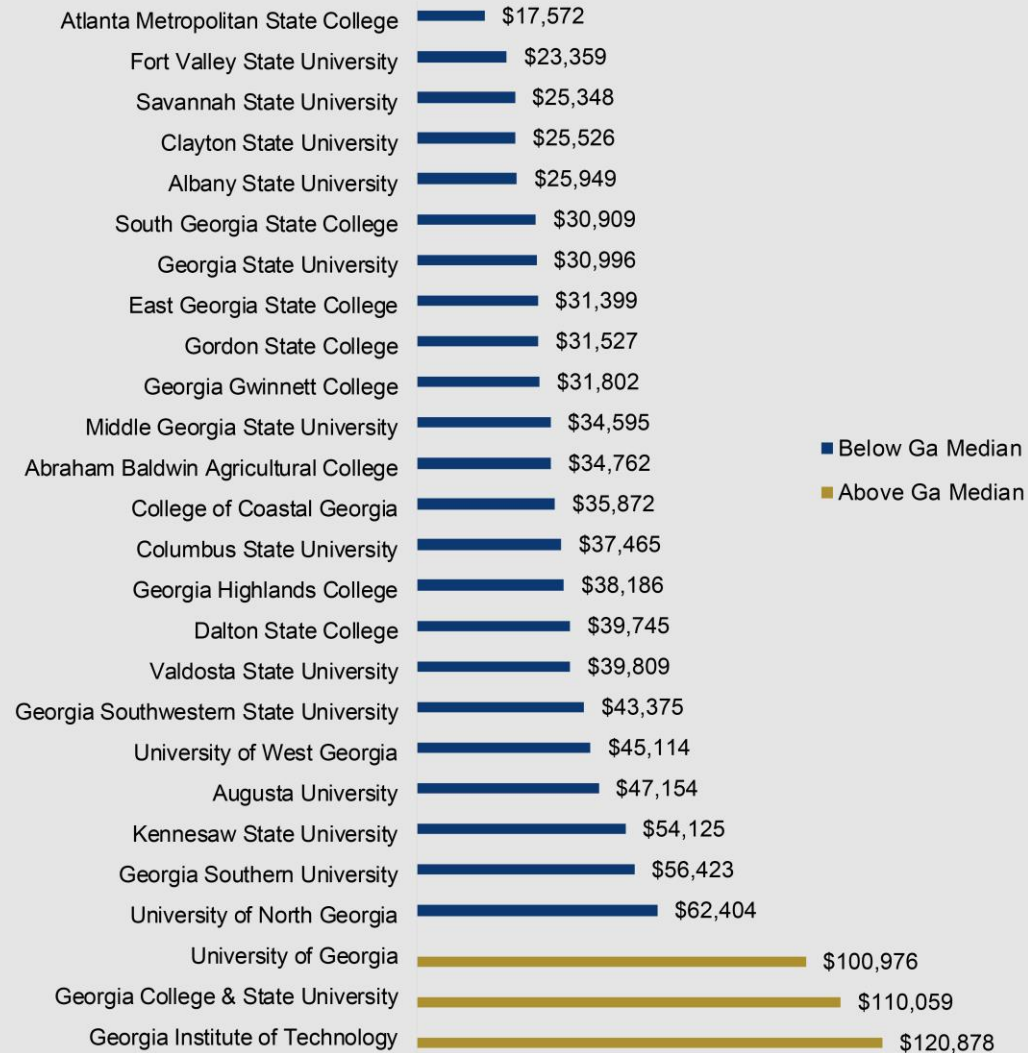


MORE LOW-INCOME STUDENTS ENROLLING IN COLLEGE

- **85%** more low-income students enroll in USG than ten years ago
- **42%** of graduating Ga high school seniors who enroll in college qualified for free/reduced lunch (GOSA)
- **42%** of Ga college students say their parents don't help them pay for college (HOPE Center)

Most Colleges Serve Students with Below Median Family Incomes

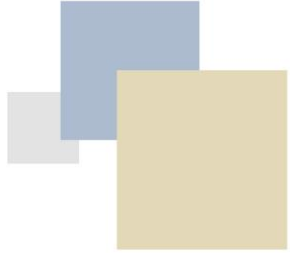
Median Family Income = \$68,000



Source: University System of Georgia, 2017–2018

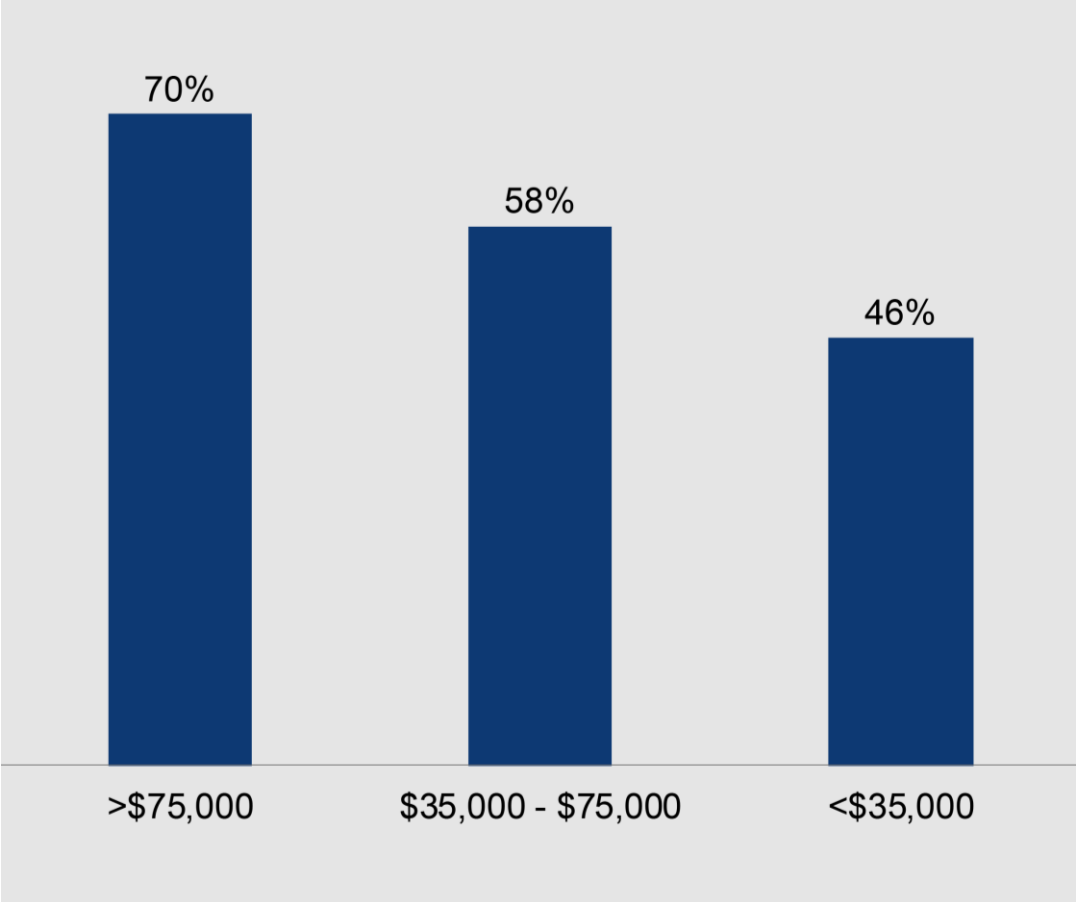
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FINANCIAL CHALLENGES POSE COMPLETION CHALLENGES

Six-year bachelor's degree graduation rates by income, 2012 cohort



Source: University System of Georgia. Graduation rates for students with unknown income are 84 percent.





BARRIERS TO COLLEGE SUCCESS

- **39%** of Georgia college students faced housing insecurity
- **37%** faced food insecurity
- **60%** are employed, working on average 24 hours per week
- The more students work, the more likely they are to be food or housing insecure





STUDENTS SPEAK ON CHALLENGES: SCARCITY OF TIME & MONEY

“I will be the first in my family to graduate from college. My family doesn’t understand how much things cost.”

“The pressure to perform is extremely high.”

“I have two jobs and am taking 18 credit hours.”

“I have five need- and merit-based scholarships, but I still need \$600 for textbooks.”

“Sometimes it’s not the money, it’s the time.”

“I am supporting myself through college.”

“I was working 29 hours a week as a pharmacy tech. Employers don’t understand the schedule demands of a student.”

“There are not enough hours in the day.”

“As an RA, I see a lot of students with depression and anxiety.”

STATE DISINVESTMENT SHIFTS COSTS ONTO STUDENTS

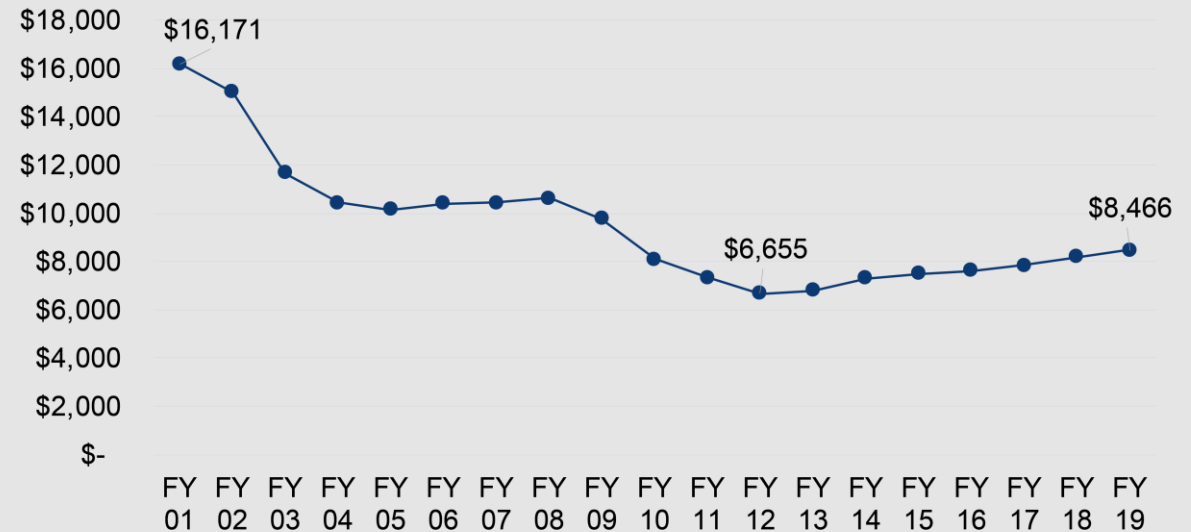
Twenty years ago:

- A student could work a summer job and pay for **two semesters** of tuition and fees.
- The state invested **twice** per-student what it does today.

Today, the same job would cover **one semester** of tuition only.

Long-Term Decline in University System Funding Exacerbated by Recessions

State funding per student for Board of Regents, by fiscal year

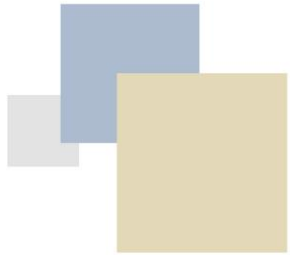


Note: "Per student" refers to Full Time Equivalent (FTE). Includes funding for other programs managed by the Board of Regents, including public libraries.

Source: Georgia's amended fiscal year budgets 2001-2019; Georgia's FY 2020 budget (HB 31); Board of Regents, University System of Georgia, fall semester enrollment reports 2001-2018, GBPI estimate of fall 2020 enrollment assuming 1 percent growth. Adjusted for inflation

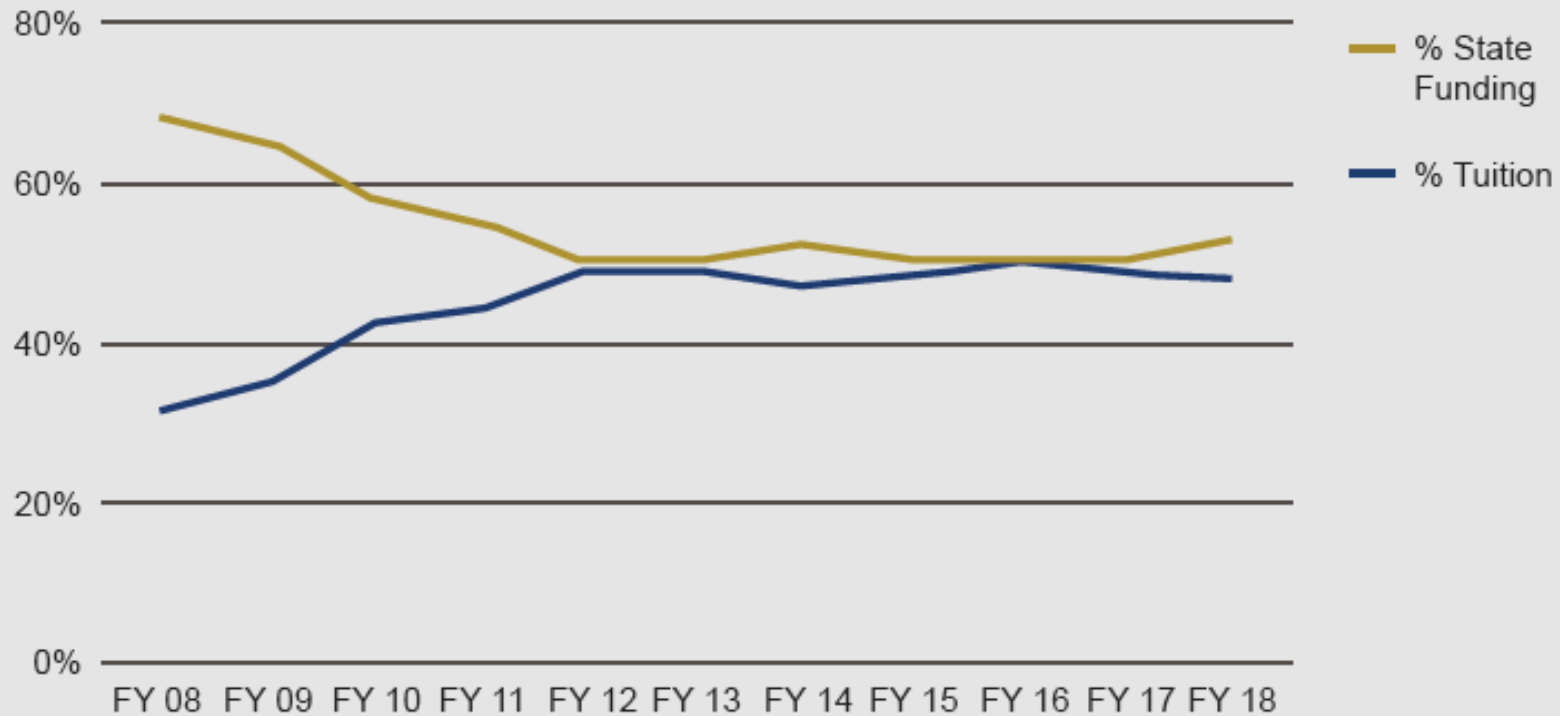
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Recession-Era Budget Cuts Shifted Higher Education Costs Toward Students

Share of revenues by funding source, by fiscal year



Source: GBPI analysis of data from University System of Georgia Annual Financial Reports, Enrollment Reports and amended fiscal year budgets.

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POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

- Institutional funding
- Financial aid for low-income students
 - Maximizing federal aid through FAFSA
 - State need-based grants
 - State work-study
 - “Gap” or “Last Mile” funding
- Access to financial aid: time limits, immigration status
- Dual Enrollment and transfer opportunities





THANK YOU

Thoughtful Analysis, Responsible Policy

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