



FUNDING

HIGHER EDUCATION

FOR

Students

The Issue...

Since FY 2008 – 09 Louisiana has cut state funding for higher education more than any other state in the country. This year we are facing additional BUDGET CUTS to higher education.

The Impact...

Recurring cuts in funding for higher education have forced our campuses to seek other means of self-generated funds by shifting the burden to students through increases in tuition and fees to offset drastic reductions in state funding. Higher education has also cut nearly 5,000 positions throughout the state and student services and resources are rapidly diminishing. Students are also feeling the pain by paying more in fees than initially anticipated while getting less in return. Class sizes have expanded, there are fewer course offerings and many campuses are in dire need of repairs. The students in Louisiana deserve better.

What's needed...

We need options which direct significant and sustainable dollars to higher education. This means passing a stable budget, even if that means raising revenue in order to transition to a more viable long-term budget solution for our state.

Support Higher Ed... Our future depends on it!

#SupportLAHigherEd

LOUISIANA
House of Representatives
225-342-6945



LOUISIANA
State Senate
225-342-2040

Ten Facts about LA Higher Education

#1 - Louisiana ranks **#1** in states that have cut funding for higher education. There has been an incredible shift in higher education funding since FY08-09, with a decrease in state support for higher education by **\$683 million**.

#2 - To offset reductions in state funding, students in four-year institutions are now paying on average **99 percent** more in tuition and fees. In 2014-2015, students enrolled in Louisiana's public colleges and universities paid **\$1.2 Billion** in tuition and fees, a **\$623 million** increase in 9 years.

#3 – Even with a doubling of tuition and fees, Louisiana's disinvestment in higher education has been so rapid that students enrolled at Louisiana 4-year colleges and universities not only receive the lowest total funding in the south but Louisiana ranks **48th** nationwide in funding per student.

#4 - Louisiana is one of the most undereducated states in the nation ranking **48th** in the number of residents with an associate's degree or higher. Not coincidentally, Louisiana's ranking of 48th in educational attainment matches Louisiana's investment in higher education, also **48th**. **48 = 48**.

#5 - Louisiana's disinvestment in higher education is further eroding its ability to be competitive with other states in the number of residents with an education beyond high school. Louisiana had its highest enrollment in 11-12 (229,037); however, we are starting to experience a deep decline in enrollment with **9,949 fewer** students enrolled in 14-15.

#6 - Of the annual job openings in the state, **84%** require educational attainment beyond high school closing the door on **1.1 million** Louisiana residents who do not have a credential nor a degree.

#7 - The cuts to higher education have left few resources for colleges and universities to provide the education that students and their families have paid for. For every **\$1**, universities receive from the state, **64 cents** is returned to the state for mandated costs. Mandated costs have increased an average of by \$116 million or an average of 16.4 million per year since FY 08/09. As budgets were reduced, mandated costs increased. This condition escalated as funding for some items such as deferred maintenance and increasing audits costs were eliminated. Higher education has absorbed more than its share of the increased costs and currently pays **\$83 million** annually in retirement costs, which are not for current or former higher education employees.

#8 - Reductions in state support have left the higher education campuses across the state in physical disrepair. The backlog of repairs statewide has ballooned to **\$1.5 B**. The state's lack of support to maintain and repair state buildings has escalated to a level that it would take more than **50 years** to make all repairs assuming no other additional maintenance needs.

#9 - **Louisiana ranks near the top** in the percentage of residents that pursue a higher education degree in their home state. **89 percent** of Louisiana students are most likely to enroll in a Louisiana institution.

#10 – **Louisiana higher education is MORE EFFICIENT!** Through streamlining of operations, program reviews, and reductions in force of nearly 5,000 employees since 08-09, Louisiana is ranked **16th** in the country and **4th** in the SREB for higher education efficiency according to the US Chamber of Commerce.

