

# West Virginia

## College Affordability Profile

College affordability continues to be a concern for students and their families in West Virginia, particularly those in lower income groups. This, along with declining birth rates and other factors, makes maintaining enrollment challenging for postsecondary institutions. Decreasing or stagnant enrollment will, in turn, make reaching state education attainment goals and improving students' employment outcomes more difficult. This 2019 college affordability profile provides updated data on how affordable different types of public institutions are for West Virginia families at various income levels.

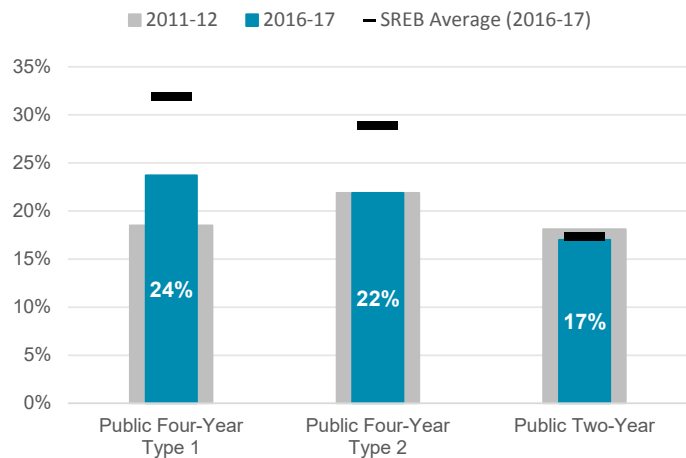
### Percentage of Average Family Income Required to Attend College Full Time

In 2016-17, the percentage of family income required to pay for college in West Virginia was **lower than SREB averages** for **four-year and two-year institutions**.

Families in West Virginia paid a higher percentage of their family income in 2016-17 for a full-time student to attend four-year Type 1 institutions than in 2011-12.

Families in West Virginia needed, on average, 24% of their income in 2016-17 to pay for educational expenses for a full-time student at four-year Type 1 institutions and 22% at four-year Type 2 institutions.

In 2016-17, families in West Virginia needed to pay, on average, 17% of their income to cover educational expenses at two-year institutions — less than in 2011-12.

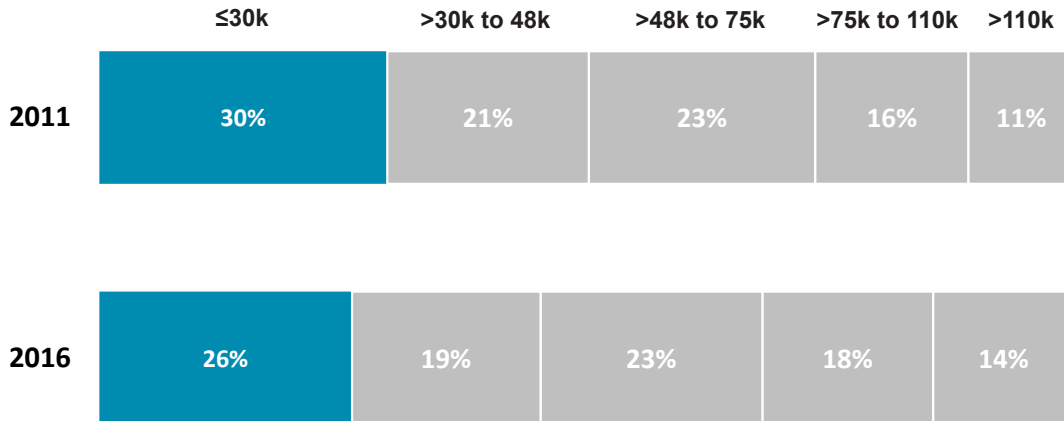


U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Student Financial Aid Files and Directory Files 2011 and 2016, 12-Month Enrollment Instructional Activity Files 2012 and 2017. American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Samples 2011 and 2016. Institutional types based on SREB-State Data Exchange categories.

*SREB College Affordability Profiles detail data and trends specific to each SREB state to assist policy-makers with decisions on postsecondary affordability and attainment. For additional resources, including recommendations of the Commission on College Affordability in the South and the SREB Fact Book on Higher Education, visit <https://www.sreb.org/AffordabilityProfiles>.*

## Distribution of Average Family Income

Data on cost of attendance are collected using five income categories. In West Virginia, students from families that **made less than \$30,000** accounted for **the largest percentage of families in 2011 and 2016**.



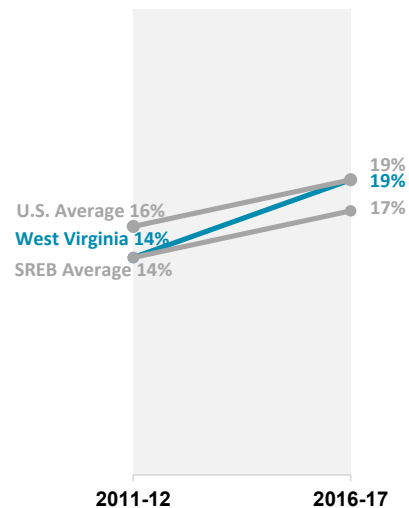
Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Student Financial Aid Files and Directory Files 2011 and 2016.

## Percentage of Income Required for Tuition at Lowest-Priced Colleges for Families Making Less Than \$30,000

The percentage of income required for tuition and fees at the lowest-priced public institutions **increased from 2011-12 to 2016-17** for West Virginia families making less than \$30,000.

For families making less than \$30,000, the cost of tuition and fees at the lowest-priced public institutions averaged 19% of income in 2016-17, compared to 14% in 2011-12.

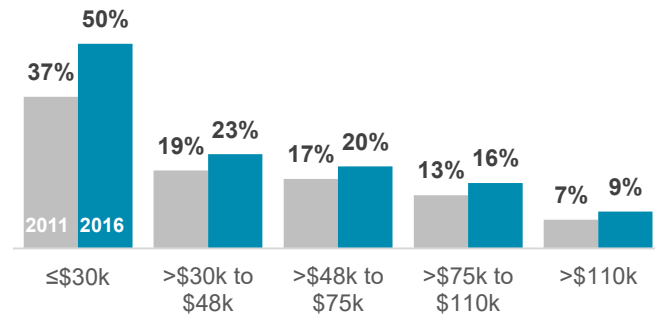
The percentage of income for West Virginia families making less than \$30,000 was equal to the SREB average in 2011-12 but higher in 2016-17.



U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Student Charges Data Files and Directory Files 2010 and 2015, 12-Month Enrollment Instructional Activity Data Files 2012 and 2017. American Community Survey Public Use Micro Sample Files 2011 and 2016.

## Net Price as a Percentage of Income, Public Four-Year Type 1 Institutions

West Virginia families in the **lowest income category** were the **most affected** by the increase in net price at four-year Type 1 institutions.



U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Student Financial Aid Files and Directory Files 2011 and 2016, 12-Month Enrollment Instructional Activity Files 2012 and 2017. American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Samples, 2011 and 2016. Institutional types based on SREB-State Data Exchange categories.

The increase in the percentage of income needed to pay for four-year Type 1 institutions in West Virginia was much larger for families making less than \$30,000 than for any other income category.

Families making less than \$30,000 in 2011 needed 37% of their income to pay for educational expenses. In 2016 it was 50%.

Families making over \$110,000 only needed 7% of their income in 2011 and 9% in 2016 to cover expenses at these institutions.

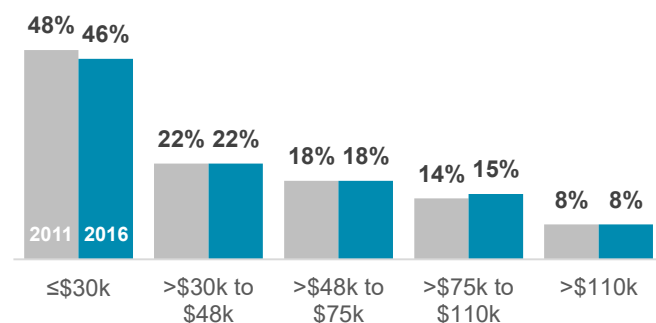
## Net Price as a Percentage of Income, Public Four-Year Type 2 Institutions

West Virginia families making less than \$30,000 were the **only income category** whose cost of attendance **decreased** at four-year Type 2 institutions.

The percentage of income needed to pay for four-year Type 2 institutions in West Virginia decreased for families making less than \$30,000. It stayed the same or increased for all other income categories.

Families making between \$75,000 and \$110,000 in 2011 needed 14% of their income to pay for educational expenses. In 2016 it was 15%.

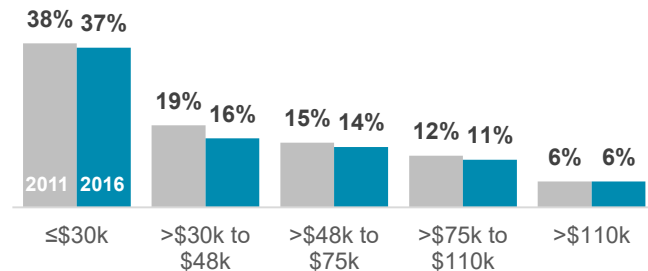
Families making over \$110,000 only needed 8% of their income in 2011 and 2016 to cover expenses at these institutions.



U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Student Financial Aid Files and Directory Files 2011 and 2016, 12-Month Enrollment Instructional Activity Files 2012 and 2017. American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Samples, 2011 and 2016. Institutional types based on SREB-State Data Exchange categories.

## Net Price as a Percentage of Income, Public Two-Year Institutions

The **percentage of income** that West Virginia families needed to pay for educational expenses at two-year institutions **decreased slightly** from 2011 to 2016.



U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Student Financial Aid Files and Directory Files 2011 and 2016, 12-Month Enrollment Instructional Activity Files 2012 and 2017. American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Samples, 2011 and 2016. Institutional types based on SREB-State Data Exchange categories.

The decrease in the percentage of income needed to pay for two-year institutions in West Virginia was larger for families making between \$30,000 and \$48,000 than for any other income category.

Families making between \$30,000 and \$48,000 in 2011 needed 19% of their income and 16% in 2016 to pay for educational expenses.

Families making over \$110,000 only needed 6% of their income in 2011 and 2016 to cover expenses at these institutions.

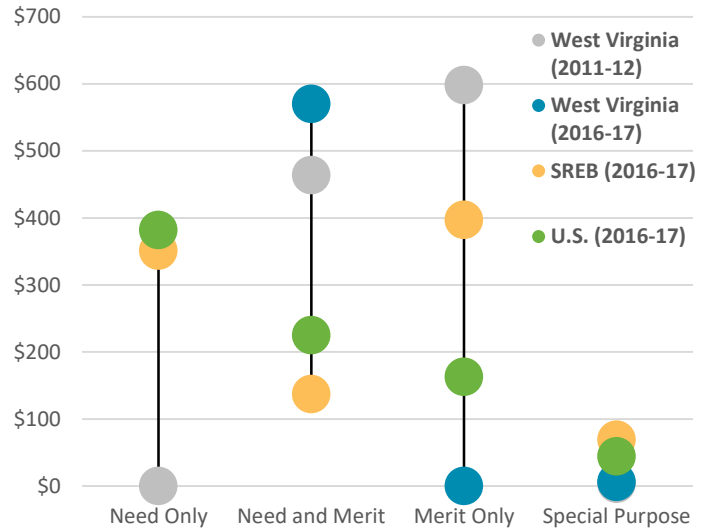
## State Financial Aid Per Student

West Virginia awarded **more merit-based aid in 2016-17** per full-time-equivalent (FTE) student than the SREB and national averages. **Merit-based aid also increased** from 2011-12 to 2016-17.

	Need Only	Need and Merit	Merit Only	Special Purpose
West Virginia (2011-12)	\$0	\$464	\$598	\$3
West Virginia (2016-17)	NA	\$570	\$0	\$6
SREB Average (2016-17)	\$351	\$137	\$397	\$69
U.S. Average (2016-17)	\$382	\$225	\$163	\$44

The state spent \$464, on average per undergraduate FTE student on financial aid that had need and merit criteria in 2011-12 compared to \$570 in 2016-17. The SREB average in 2016-17 was \$137 and the national average was \$225.

West Virginia spent \$598, on average, per FTE on merit-based aid in 2011-12, more than the average spent in 2016-17, the SREB average of \$135, and the national average of \$214.



National Association of State Student Grant & Aid Programs 2012 and 2017 annual survey (results for public institutions only). U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System Instructional Activity File, 2012 and 2017, and Directory File, 2011 and 2016.

## Student Borrowing at Public Institutions

In 2016-17, West Virginia graduates **borrowed more than the SREB and national averages to earn degrees at public four-year and two-year institutions.**

	West Virginia 2011-12	West Virginia 2016-17	SREB Average 2016-17	US Average 2016-17
Four-Year Type 1	\$19,500	\$23,689	\$21,546	\$21,139
Four-Year Type 2	\$19,372	\$22,226	\$22,198	\$19,115
Two-Year	\$13,396	\$10,801	\$9,693	\$9,356

U.S. Department of Education, College Scorecard, 2011 and 2016. U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, 12-Month Enrollment Instructional Activity Data Files 2012 and 2017 and Directory Files 2011 and 2016.

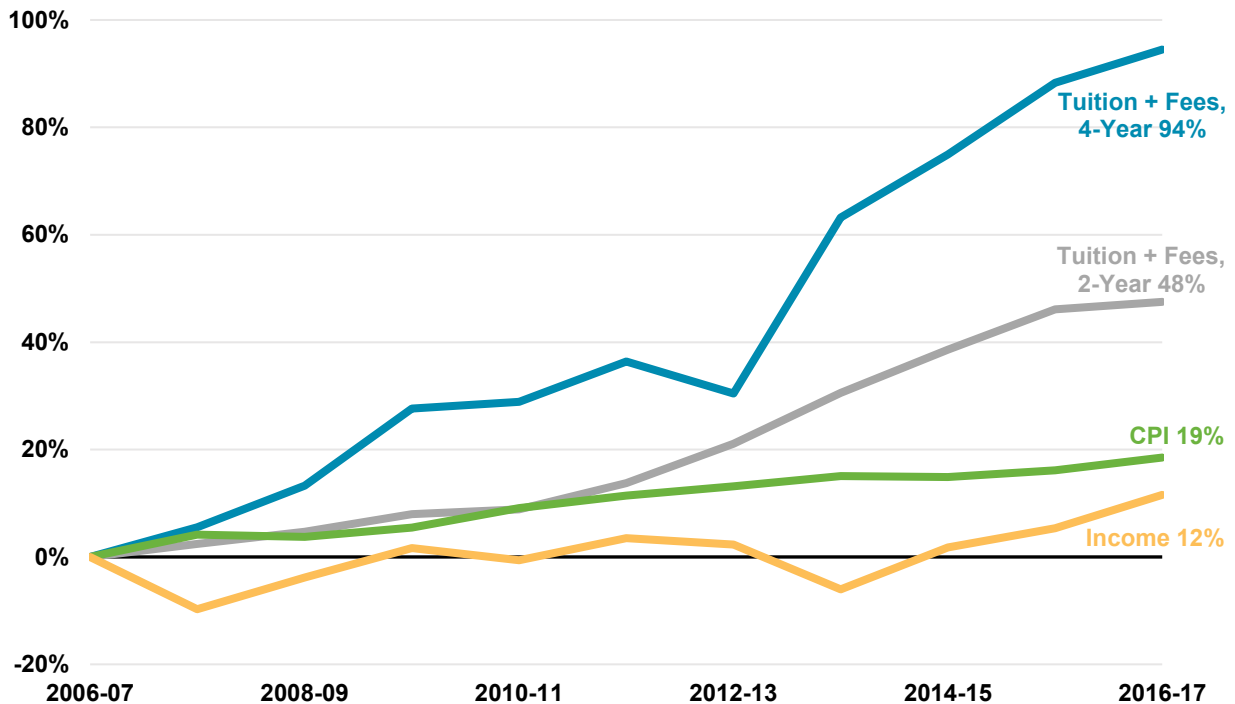
Graduates who sought a degree or certificate from four-year Type 1 universities in West Virginia in 2016-17 borrowed, on average, \$23,689 and graduates of four-year Type 2 institutions borrowed \$22,226. These amounts were higher than average amounts borrowed in 2011-12 and the SREB and national averages in 2016-17.

Students at public two-year colleges borrowed, on average, \$10,801 in 2016-17, less than the average amount in 2011-12 but more than the SREB and national averages in 2016-17.

## Changes in Tuition and Fees, CPI, and Household Income

Compared to the Consumer Price Index and household income, **tuition and fees** at West Virginia public colleges and universities **increased substantially** between 2006-07 and 2016-17.

Over that decade, the CPI increased by 19% and median household income in West Virginia increased by 12%, while tuition and fees increased by 94% at four-year institutions and 48% at two-year institutions.

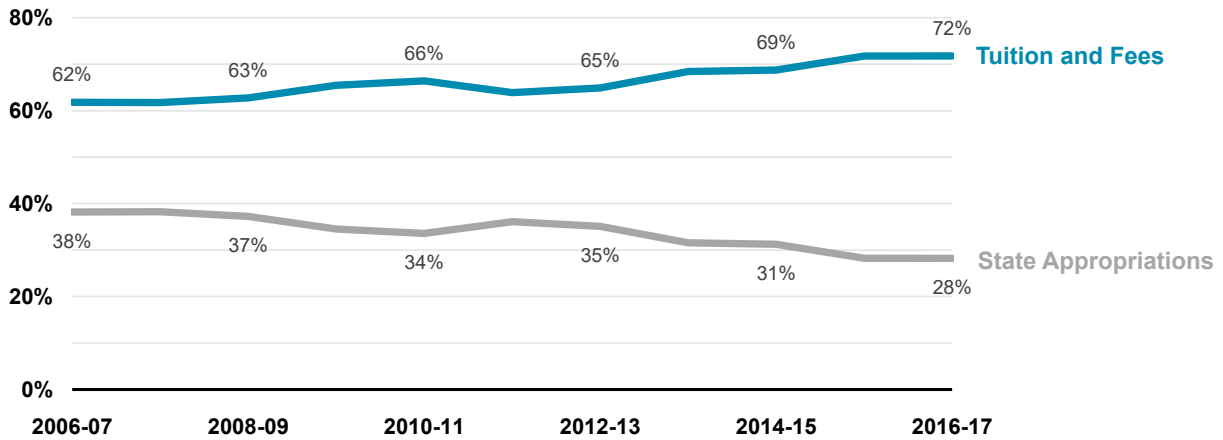


Sources: Consumer Price Index retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis; Bureau of Labor Statistics, South urban area, 2017. Tuition and fees retrieved from the U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Institutional Characteristics Files, 2006 to 2016. Median household income in current dollars retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis; U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplements, South region, 2019.

## State Appropriations vs. Tuition and Fees: Share of Funding

Operational funds consisted **mostly of tuition and fees** for West Virginia's **public four-year institutions** in 2016-17.

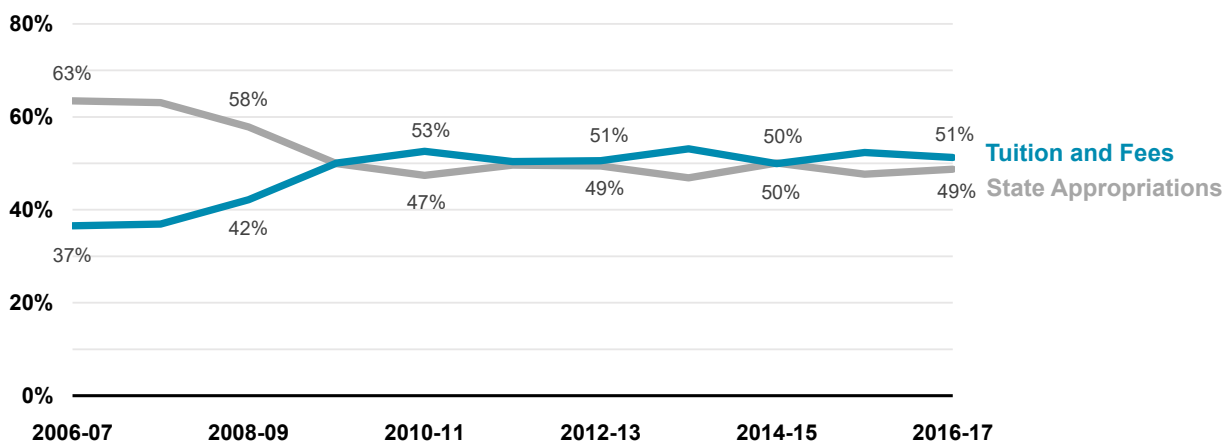
In 2016-17, net tuition and fees at West Virginia's four-year institutions made up 72% of total funds available for operations of the state's public institutions, while state appropriations supplied the remaining 28%. In comparison, state appropriations provided 38% in 2006-07.



Source: SREB-State Data Exchange

Operational funds were **split nearly evenly between tuition and fees and state appropriations** for West Virginia's **public two-year institutions** in 2016-17.

In 2016-17, net tuition and fees at West Virginia's four-year institutions made up 51% of total funds available for operations of the state's public institutions, while state appropriations supplied the remaining 49%. In comparison, state appropriations provided 63% in 2006-07.



Source: SREB-State Data Exchange

## Additional State Context

**Postsecondary Enrollment.** In 2016-17, 36% of students in West Virginia were enrolled in public four-year Type 1 institutions, 40% were enrolled at public four-year Type 2 institutions, and 21% were enrolled in public two-year colleges.

**First-Year Retention.** For the 2016 cohort, 81% of students attending public four-year Type 1 institutions in West Virginia were still enrolled one year later, 74% were retained after the first year in public four-year Type 2 institutions, and 51% were retained at public two-year colleges.

**Pell Grants.** In 2016-17, 20% of the average cost of attendance in public four-year Type 1 institutions in West Virginia was covered by the average Pell Grant award. The average grant amount covered 23% of costs in public four-year Type 2 institutions and 31% of costs in public two-year colleges.

**Education Attainment.** In 2017, over 36% of West Virginia's working adult population between ages 25 and 64 had a postsecondary credential of value. The state's educational attainment goal is to reach 60% by 2030.

**Student Debt.** In West Virginia, 65% of the class of 2018 graduated with debt, owing an average of \$30,014.

Sources: Enrollment: U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data Systems, 2016. Retention: SREB-State Data Exchange. Pell: U.S. Department of Education: 2016-2017 Award Year Grant Volume by School (2018) and SREB analysis of National Center for Education Statistics student financial aid survey, 2016-17. Educational attainment: State Higher Education Master Plans and Lumina Foundation, "A Stronger Nation," 2019. Student debt: The Institute for College Access & Success, "Student Debt and the Class of 2018" (2019).

## West Virginia Institutions by Type

### Public Four-Year Type 1

West Virginia University

### Public Four-Year Type 2

Bluefield State College

Concord University

Fairmont State University

Glenville State College

Marshall University

Shepherd University

West Virginia State University

West Liberty University

West Virginia University Institute of Technology

### Public Two-Year

West Virginia University at Parkersburg

Potomac State College of West Virginia  
University

Southern West Virginia Community and  
Technical College

West Virginia Northern Community College

Eastern West Virginia Community and  
Technical College

Pierpont Community and Technical College

Mountwest Community and Technical College

Blue Ridge Community and Technical College

New River Community and Technical College

Bridge Valley Community & Technical College



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## Notes

**Type 1** four-year institutions award at least 30 doctoral degrees in five different areas. **Type 2** includes all other four-year institutions. The **public two-year category** includes institutions that primarily award associate degrees; the list may include two-year institutions that award bachelor's degrees. The **technical college category** includes postsecondary institutions that offer programs of less than two years duration below the baccalaureate level and occupational and vocational schools with programs that do not exceed 1800 contact hours. This profile does not report data for the technical college category if less than 3% of students are enrolled in this sector.

Institutions are listed as they were categorized in the 2016-17 Data Exchange Survey and if they submitted the data required for this profile.

This profile is based on data reported to IPEDS by institutions during the 2016-17 academic year. Some IPEDS surveys collect data for the prior academic year; for instance, the 2016-17 Student Financial Aid survey collected data for 2015-16.

Institutions or states may have updated data previously reported, or adjusted methodology to calculate a statistic. As a result, some data in the current profile may differ from data reported in past Affordability Profiles for the same time period.

See the technical guide at [SREB.org/Affordability](http://SREB.org/Affordability) for detailed sources and explanatory notes.