

# Maryland

## College Affordability Profile

The Southern Regional Education Board convened a Commission on College Affordability in the South and published a report in 2016 emphasizing that affordability is a critical factor in both access to and completion of postsecondary education. In this year's SREB College Affordability Profiles, SREB examined data for the 2021-22 academic year, the most recent year that student financial aid and net price data are available. Maryland demonstrates a relatively strong college affordability profile with notable improvements, particularly at four-year institutions. The state's approach to funding four-year institutions and significant reductions in cost burden for lower-income students suggest effective policies, though challenges remain in addressing income inequality and two-year institution funding.

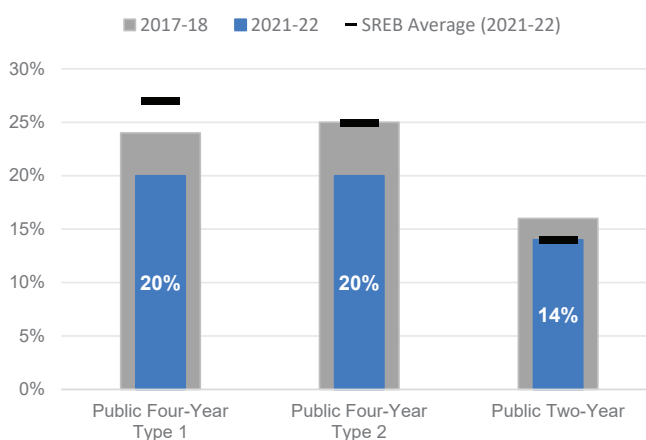
### Family Income Needed for Net Price at Public Institutions

In 2021-22, the percentage of family income required to pay for full-time students at public institutions in Maryland was lower than 2017-18 for public four-year Type 1, four-year Type 2 and two-year institutions.

All institution types are at or below SREB averages, suggesting better affordability compared to regional peers.

The 6-percentage point gap between four-year Type 1 and two-year institutions indicates relatively low variation in affordability across institution types.

The consistent improvement across all institution types indicates positive trends in college affordability in Maryland.



U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Student Financial Aid Files and Directory Files 2018 and 2022, 12-Month Enrollment Instructional Activity Files 2018 and 2022. American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Samples 2018 and 2022. Institutional sectors based on SREB-State Data Exchange categories.

#### Key terms:

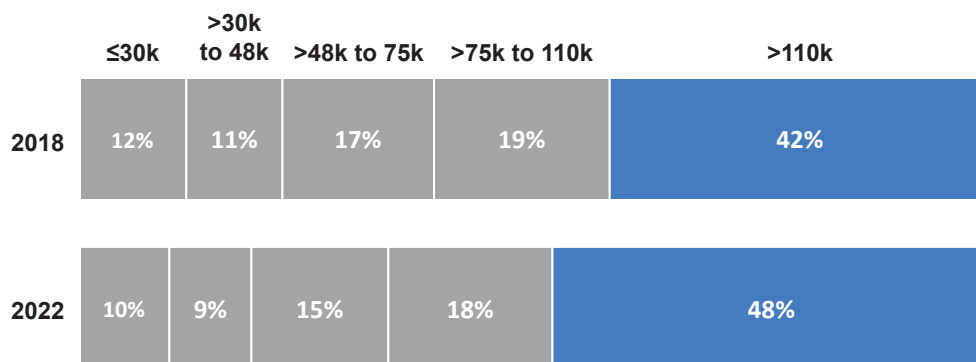
**Four-Year Institution Type 1:** Four-year institutions that awarded at least 30 doctoral degrees in five different areas.

**Four-Year Institution Type 2:** All other four-year institutions.

**Net Price:** Total cost of attendance (includes tuition, fees, room and board, and more) minus federal, state and local government, or institutional grant and scholarship aid.

## Distribution of Average Family Income

In Maryland, the gap between highest and lowest income groups widened considerably as nearly half of all income is concentrated in the highest income group by 2022. Maryland shows one of the most unequal income distributions among SREB states.



Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Student Financial Aid Files and Directory Files 2018 and 2022.

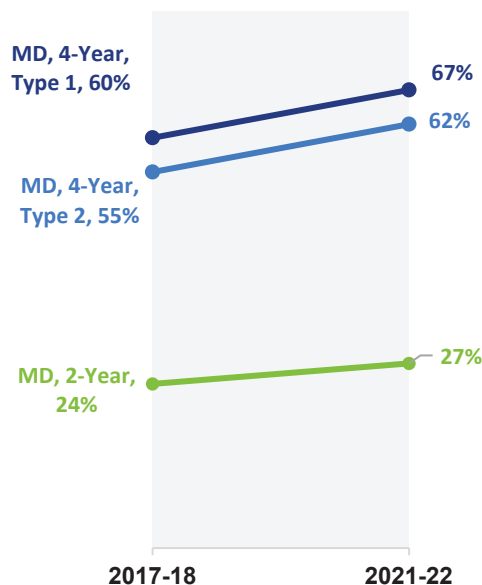
## Income Required for Median Tuition and Fees at Public Colleges for Families Making Less Than \$30,000

The percentage of income required for median tuition and fees increased across all institution types for Maryland families making less than \$30,000.

The parallel increase in both four-year Type 1 and four-year Type 2 institutions suggest systematic cost increases affecting four-year institutions.

The 40-percentage point gap between four-year Type 1 and two-year institutions indicates disparities in college affordability among institution types.

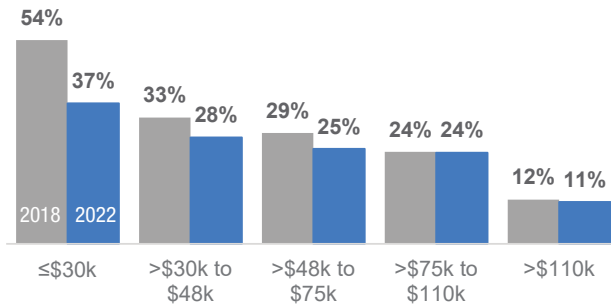
While two-year institutions remain more affordable, the universal increase in required income percentages suggests growing affordability challenges for families making less than \$30,000.



U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Student Charges Data Files and Directory Files 2018 and 2022, 12-Month Enrollment Instructional Activity Data Files 2018 and 2022. American Community Survey Public Use Micro Sample Files 2018 and 2022.

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

The percentage of income that Maryland families needed to pay for educational expenses at four-year Type 1 institutions decreased or remained stable from 2018 to 2022.



U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Student Financial Aid Files and Directory Files 2018 and 2022, 12-Month Enrollment Instructional Activity Files 2018 and 2022. American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Samples, 2018 and 2022. Institutional types based on SREB-State Data Exchange categories.

Families making less than \$30,000 needed 37% of their income while families making over \$110,000 needed 11% of their income in 2022 to cover expenses at four-year Type 1 institutions.

The 26-percentage point gap between highest and lowest income groups in 2022, while still significant, represents an improvement from 42-percentage point gap in 2018.

A substantial improvement in affordability was seen particularly for lower-income brackets.

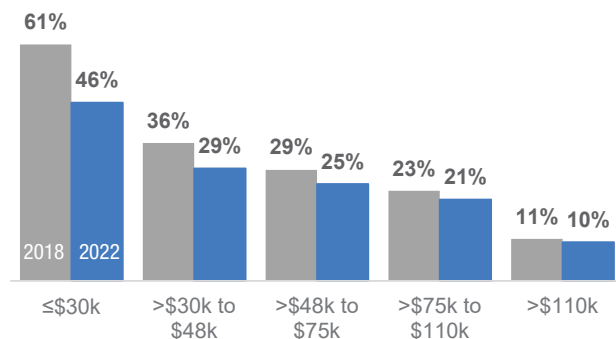
## Net Price as a Percentage of Income for Public Four-Year Type 2 Institutions

The percentage of income that Maryland families needed to pay for educational expenses at four-year Type 2 institutions decreased from 2018 to 2022.

In 2022, families making less than \$30,000 needed 65% of their income to pay educational expenses, while those earning over \$110,000 required just 9%.

The 56-percentage point gap between highest and lowest income groups in 2022 indicates severe inequity in affordability.

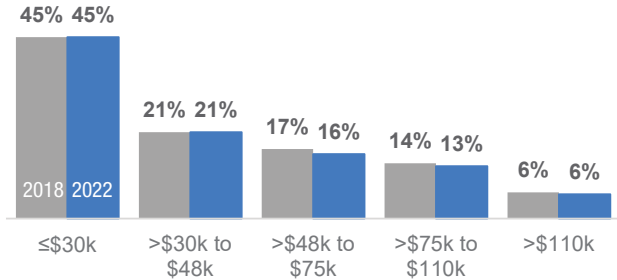
As the changes are minimal, the pattern shows persistent inequities with a particularly high burden on lowest income families.



U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Student Financial Aid Files and Directory Files 2018 and 2022, 12-Month Enrollment Instructional Activity Files 2018 and 2022. American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Samples, 2018 and 2022. Institutional types based on SREB-State Data Exchange categories.

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

The percentage of income that Maryland families needed to pay for educational expenses at two-year institutions remained stable from 2018 to 2022.



U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Student Financial Aid Files and Directory Files 2018 and 2022, 12-Month Enrollment Instructional Activity Files 2018 and 2022. American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Samples, 2018 and 2022. Institutional types based on SREB-State Data Exchange categories.

Families making less than \$30,000 needed 45% of their income while families making over \$110,000 needed 6% of their income in 2022 to cover expenses at two-year institutions.

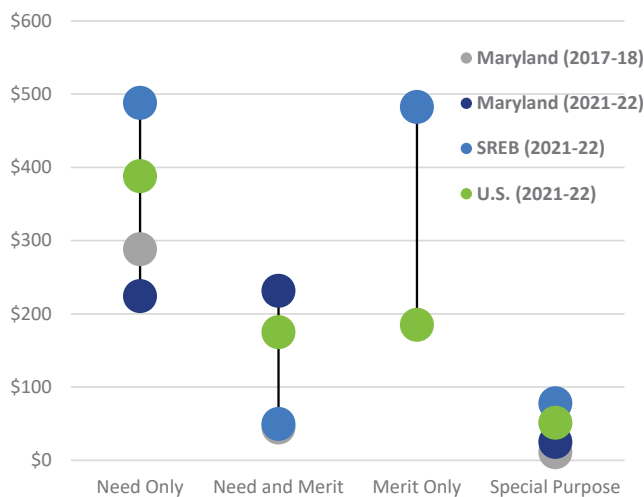
The 39-percentage point gap between highest and lowest income groups indicates inequity among institutions.

While two-year institutions remain more affordable than four-year institutions, the burden on lowest-income families remains substantial and unchanged over the period.

# State Financial Aid Per Student

Maryland awarded more need and merit aid in 2021-22 per full-time-equivalent student than the SREB and national averages. Special purpose aid increased from 2017-18 to 2021-22.

	Need Only	Need and Merit	Merit Only	Special Purpose
Maryland (2017-18)	\$288	\$45	NA	\$11
Maryland (2021-22)	\$224	\$232	NA	\$25
SREB (2021-22)	\$488	\$50	\$483	\$78
U.S. (2021-22)	\$388	\$175	\$185	\$51



Maryland shows a shift from pure need-based aid toward combined need and merit aid programs. The absence of merit-only aid and relatively low special purpose aid suggests a focused approach on supporting students with both academic achievement and financial need.

While total aid amounts are generally below regional averages, the significant increase in need and merit combination aid indicates a strategic change in aid distribution.

National Association of State Student Grant & Aid Programs 2018 and 2022 annual survey (results for public institutions only). U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System Instructional Activity File, 2018 and 2022, and Directory File, 2018 and 2022.

## Student Borrowing at Public Institutions

In 2020-21, Maryland graduates borrowed more than the SREB and national averages to earn degrees at four-year Type 1 and four-year Type 2 institutions.

	Maryland 2015-16	Maryland 2020-21	SREB Average 2020-21	U.S. Average 2020-21
Four-Year Type 1	\$23,667	\$21,917	\$20,710	\$20,550
Four-Year Type 2	\$21,736	\$22,507	\$21,912	\$20,758
Two-Year	\$9,586	\$10,159	\$10,088	\$10,653

U.S. Department of Education, College Scorecard, 2016-17 and 2021-22. U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, 12-Month Enrollment Instructional Activity Data Files 2018 and 2022 and Directory Files 2018 and 2022.

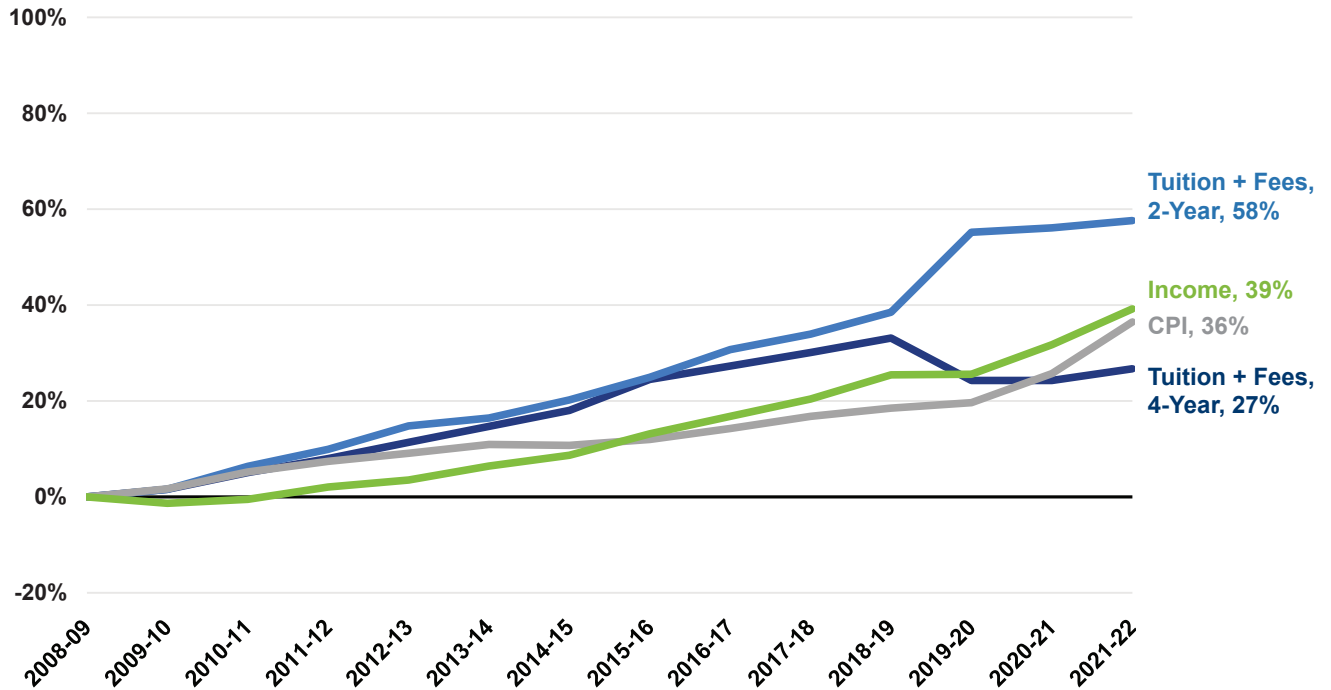
Maryland shows mixed trends in student borrowing, with decreases at four-year Type 1 institutions but increases at four-year Type 2 and two-year institutions. All institution types remain above SREB averages, except two-year institutions which remain below the U.S. average.

The significant decrease in four-year Type 1 borrowing suggests improving affordability at those institutions, while increasing borrowing at other institution types indicates growing affordability challenges.

# Changes in Tuition and Fees, CPI and Family Income

Maryland's college affordability trends are mixed, with better stability at four-year institutions but increases at two-year institutions.

An unusual pattern emerges in Maryland, where the growth in tuition and fees at two-year institutions outpaced that of four-year institutions, which remained below income growth. Notably, a sharp spike in tuition and fees at two-year institutions occurred during the pandemic period.

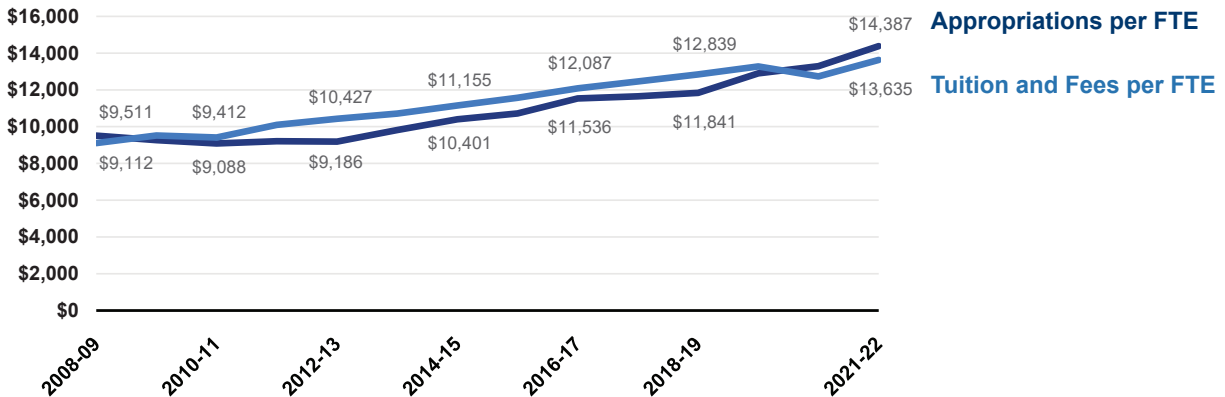


Consumer Price Index retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis: Bureau of Labor Statistics, South urban area, 2021. Tuition and fees retrieved from the U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Institutional Characteristics Files, 2008 to 2021. Median family income retrieved from the U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce, American Community Survey, ACS 1-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table B19113, 2023.

# Dollars per FTE Student from State Appropriations and Tuition and Fees

Operating expenses at Maryland's public four-year institutions were balanced between tuition and fees and state appropriations in 2021-22.

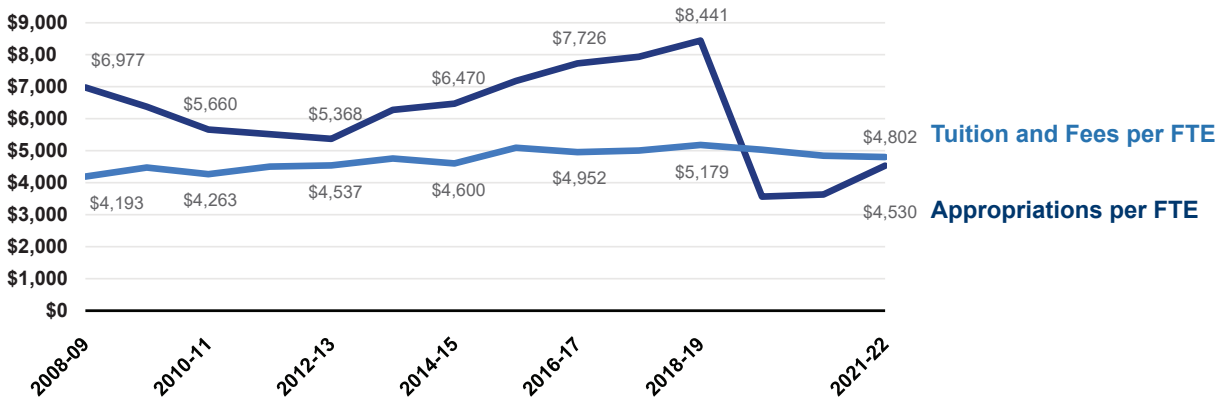
The data shows parallel growth in both funding sources, which is unusual among SREB states. Maryland maintains one of the strongest state support levels for four-year institutions, with appropriations nearly matching tuition revenue throughout the period.



Source: SREB-State Data Exchange

Operational funds per FTE at Maryland show volatile trends in state appropriations while tuition remained relatively stable.

The dramatic drop in state appropriations after the pandemic period represents a significant shift in funding structure. By 2021-22, state appropriations were only slightly below tuition and fees, whereas historically appropriations had been higher. This suggests a recent deterioration in state support for two-year institutions.



Source: SREB-State Data Exchange



## Maryland Fast Facts

**Postsecondary Enrollment:** According to 2021 fall enrollment, 26% of students in Maryland were enrolled in public four-year Type 1 institutions, 21% were enrolled at public four-year Type 2 institutions and 52% were enrolled in public two-year colleges.

**FAFSA:** As of July 5, 2024, Maryland’s high school class of 2024 had a FAFSA completion rate of 50%, a 12% decrease from the rate on the same date in 2023.

**Federal Student Aid:** In 2021-22, 26% of students receiving any form of federal student aid were awarded Pell Grants, while 30% received federal student loans.

**Education Attainment:** In 2022, 58.4% of Maryland’s working adult population (ages 25 to 64) held a postsecondary credential, placing the state 4.1 percentage points above the national average of 54.3%. This figure includes short-term credentials, which account for 5.7% of Maryland’s credential attainment rate, including certificates and industry-recognized certifications.

**Workforce Needs:** By 2031, 69% of jobs in Maryland will require a postsecondary credential. Maryland ranks 20th among states in the percentage of jobs projected to require such credentials.

Sources: Postsecondary Enrollment: U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data Systems, 2022.

FAFSA: FAFSA Tracker – National, Retrieved November 2024. <https://national.fafsatracker.com/schoolView/20>.

Federal Student Aid: SREB analysis of National Center for Education Statistics student financial aid database, 2021-22.

Educational attainment: Lumina Foundation, A Stronger Nation, Retrieved November 2024.

<https://www.luminafoundation.org/stronger-nation/report/#/progress/state/MD>.

Workforce Needs: Georgetown University, After Everything: Projections of Jobs, Education, and Training Requirements through 2031, Retrieved November 2024. <https://cew.georgetown.edu/cew-reports/projections2031/>.

## Maryland Institutions by Type

### Public Four-Year Type 1

Morgan State University

University of Maryland-College Park

University of Maryland-Baltimore County

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### Public Four-Year Type 2

Bowie State University

St. Mary’s College of Maryland

Coppin State University

Towson University

Frostburg State University

University of Baltimore

Salisbury University

University of Maryland Eastern Shore

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### Public Two-Year

Allegany College of Maryland

Chesapeake College

Anne Arundel Community College

College of Southern Maryland

Baltimore City Community College

Community College of Baltimore County

Carroll Community College

Frederick Community College

Cecil College

Garrett College

Hagerstown Community College

# Maryland Institutions by Type

## Public Two-Year (continued)

Harford Community College  
Howard Community College  
Montgomery College

Prince George's Community College  
Wor-Wic Community College

## 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 2021-22 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 2021-22 academic year. Some IPEDS surveys collect data for the prior academic year; for instance, the 2022-23 Student Financial Aid survey collected data for the 2021-22 academic year.

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 <https://www.sreb.org/state-affordability-profiles> for detailed sources and explanatory notes.

*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 [SREB.org/Affordability](https://www.sreb.org/Affordability).*