



Webinar

College Affordability in the South:

Insights from the 2025 SREB College Affordability Profiles

April 17, 2025

Southern Regional Education Board

SREB works with states to improve education.

We share promising practices and provide reliable data and research to inform strategy.

Analyze &
Publish



We help leaders collaborate and share resources.

Convene &
Engage



We help policy makers and state agencies navigate policy and practice.

Support
Action

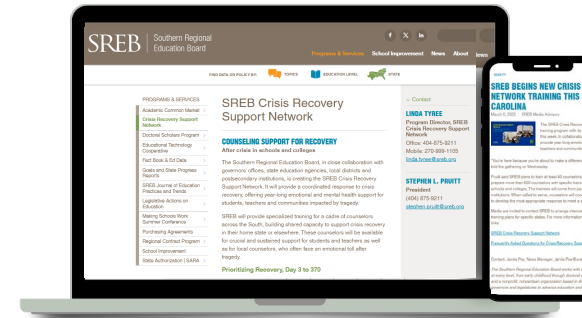


SREB is Here to Help



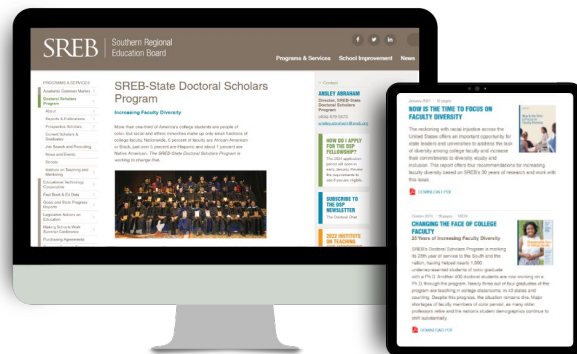
AI in Education

- How can we prepare students for AI in K-12 through postsecondary and the workforce?
- [SREB.org/sreb-commission-ai-education](https://www.sreb.org/sreb-commission-ai-education)



Crisis Recovery Support Network

- A coordinated response to crisis recovery, offering year-long mental health support for schools impacted by tragedy.
- [SREB.org/crisisrecovery](https://www.sreb.org/crisisrecovery)



Postsecondary Faculty Support

- *Launching September 2023:* New SREB Center for Innovative Faculty Development
- [SREB.org/doctoral-scholars-program](https://www.sreb.org/doctoral-scholars-program)



Higher Education Data

- The Fact Book on higher education.
- [SREB.org/fact-book-ed-data](https://www.sreb.org/fact-book-ed-data)

SREB and College Affordability



SREB
Commission on
College
Affordability

Shared
Responsibility
for College
Affordability

College
Affordability:
Promising State
Policies and
Practices

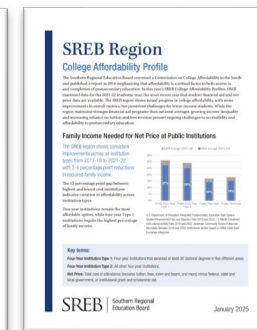
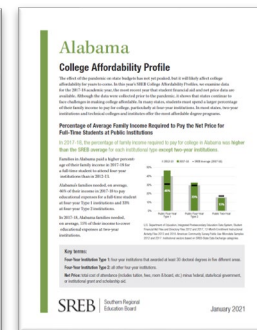
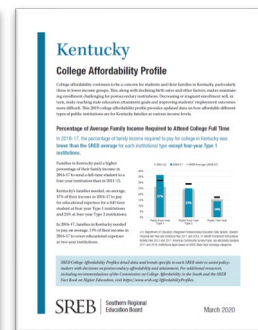
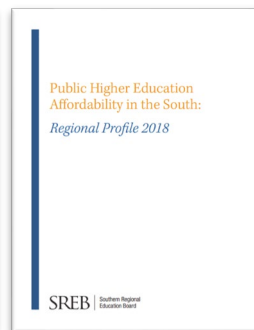
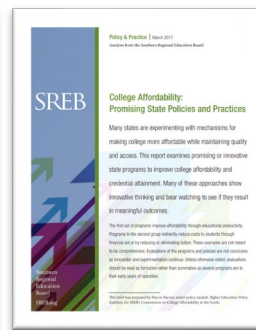
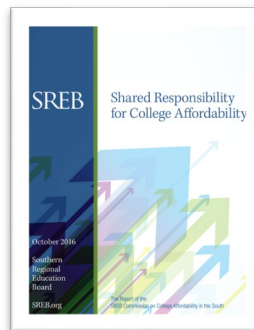
Public Higher
Education
Affordability in
the South

2020
College
Affordability
Profiles

2021
College
Affordability
Profiles

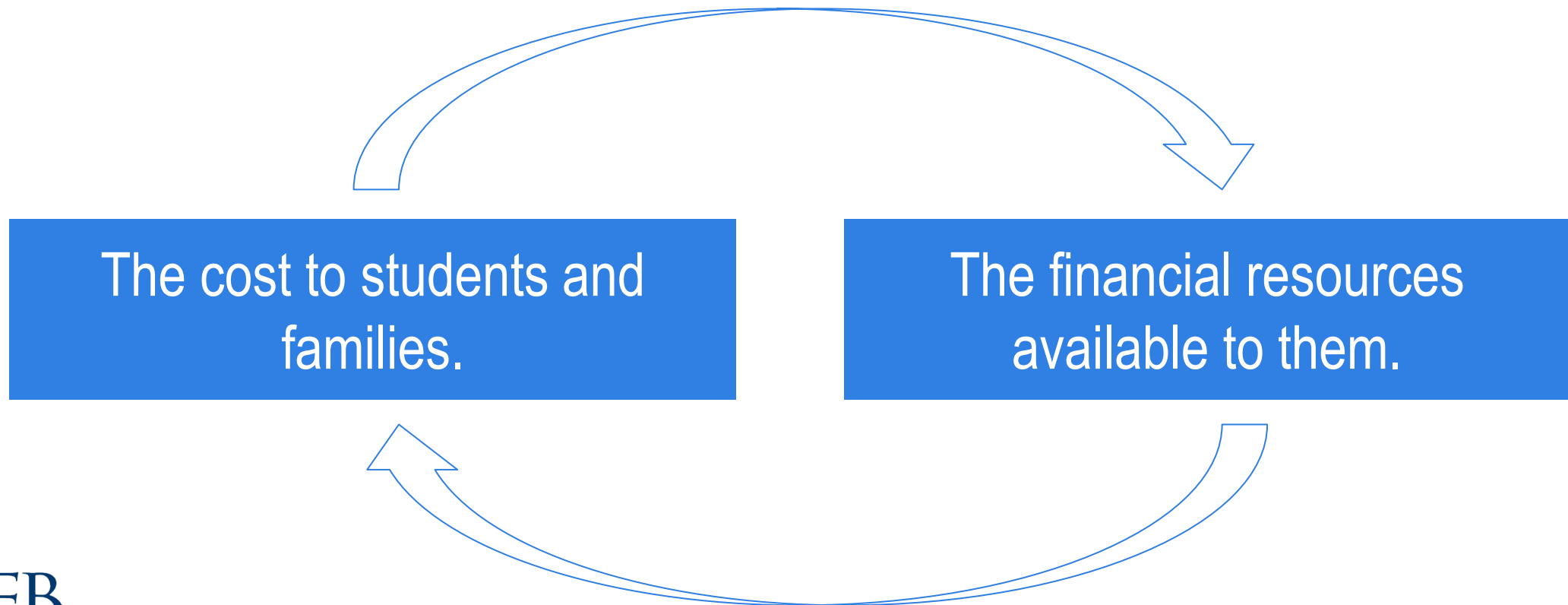
Higher
Education
Return on
Investment for
Students,
Families, and
Society

2025
College
Affordability
Profiles

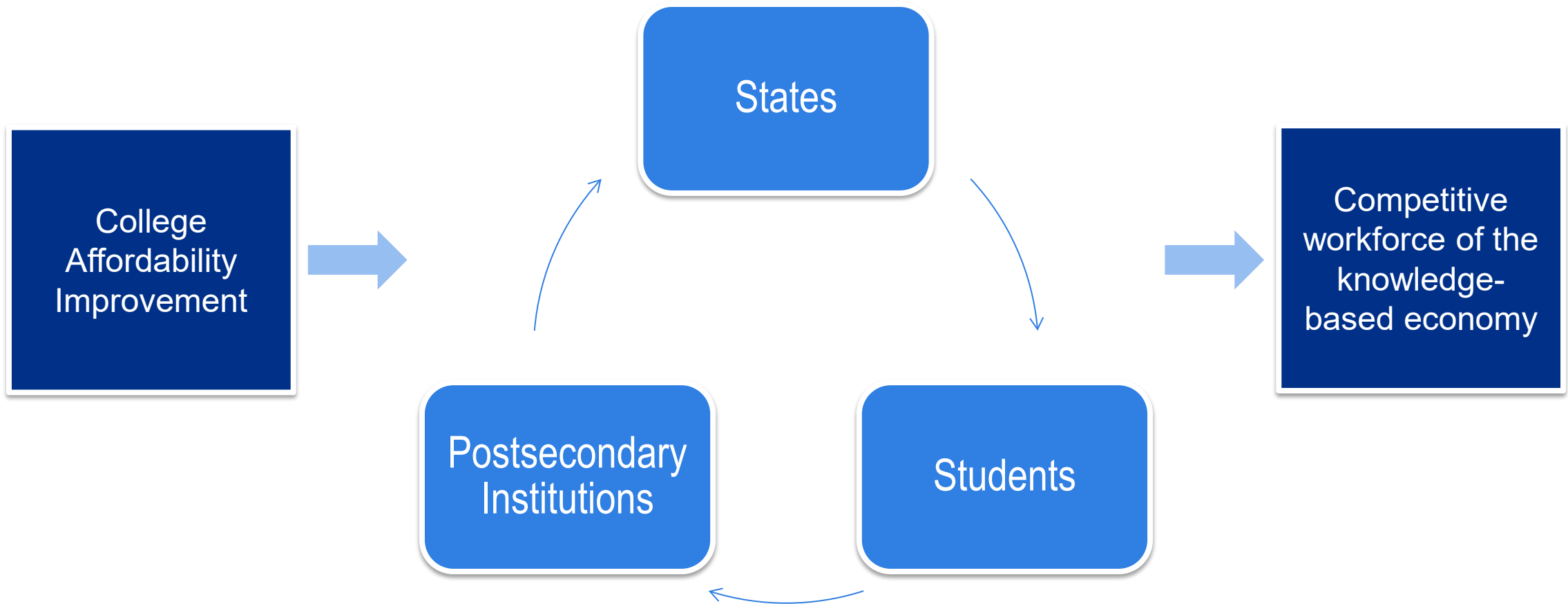


College Affordability in the South

College affordability is the price required to attend higher education relative to family income.



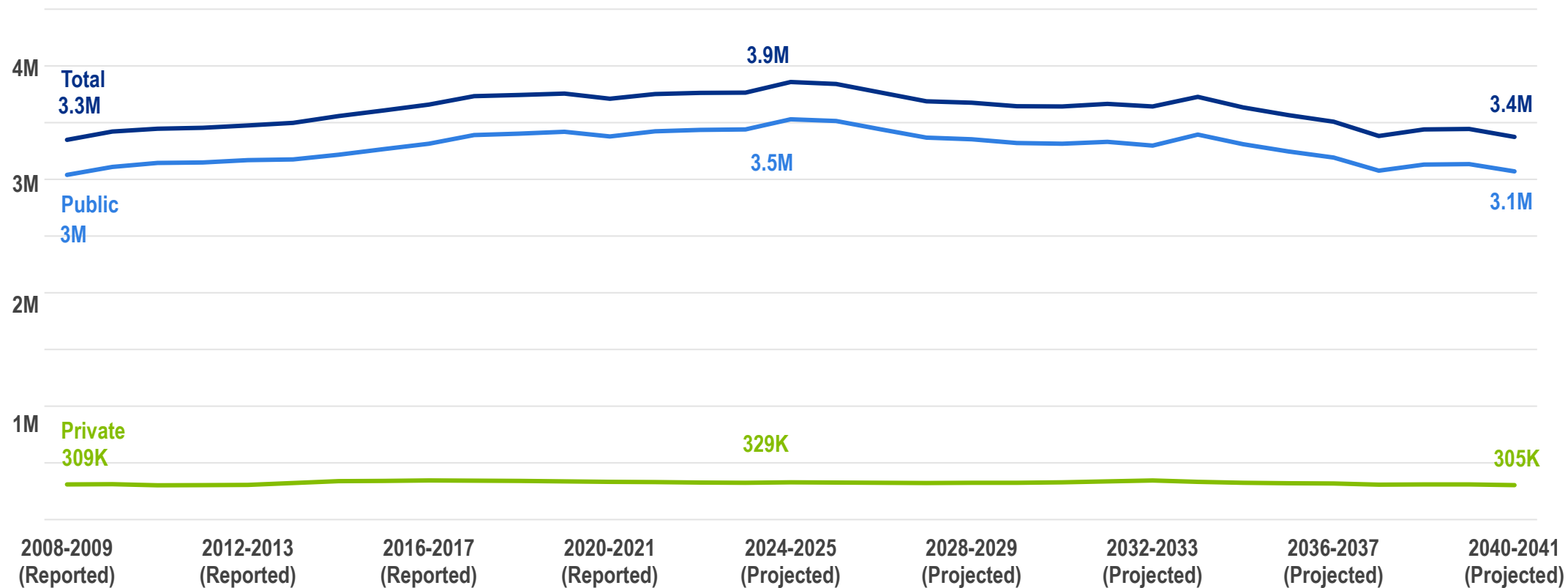
A Win-Win-Win





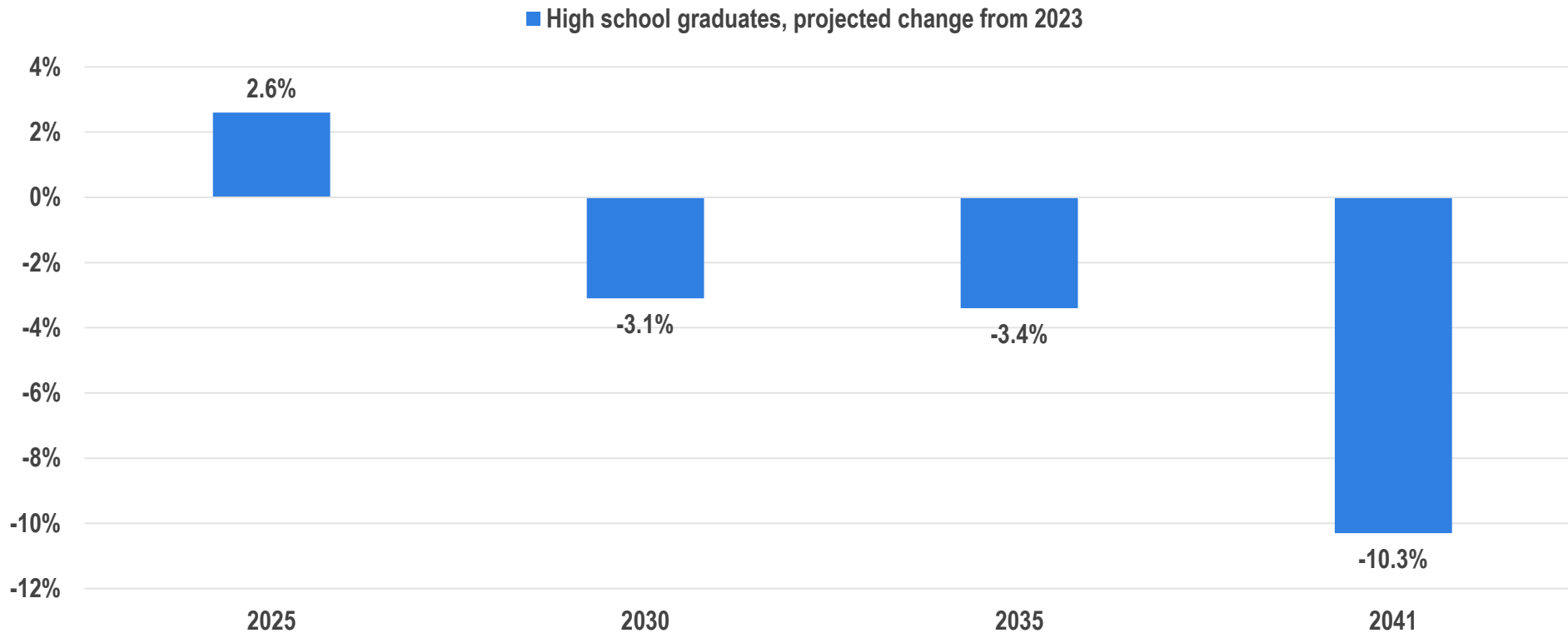
Compounding Challenges in American Higher Education

Demographic Cliff



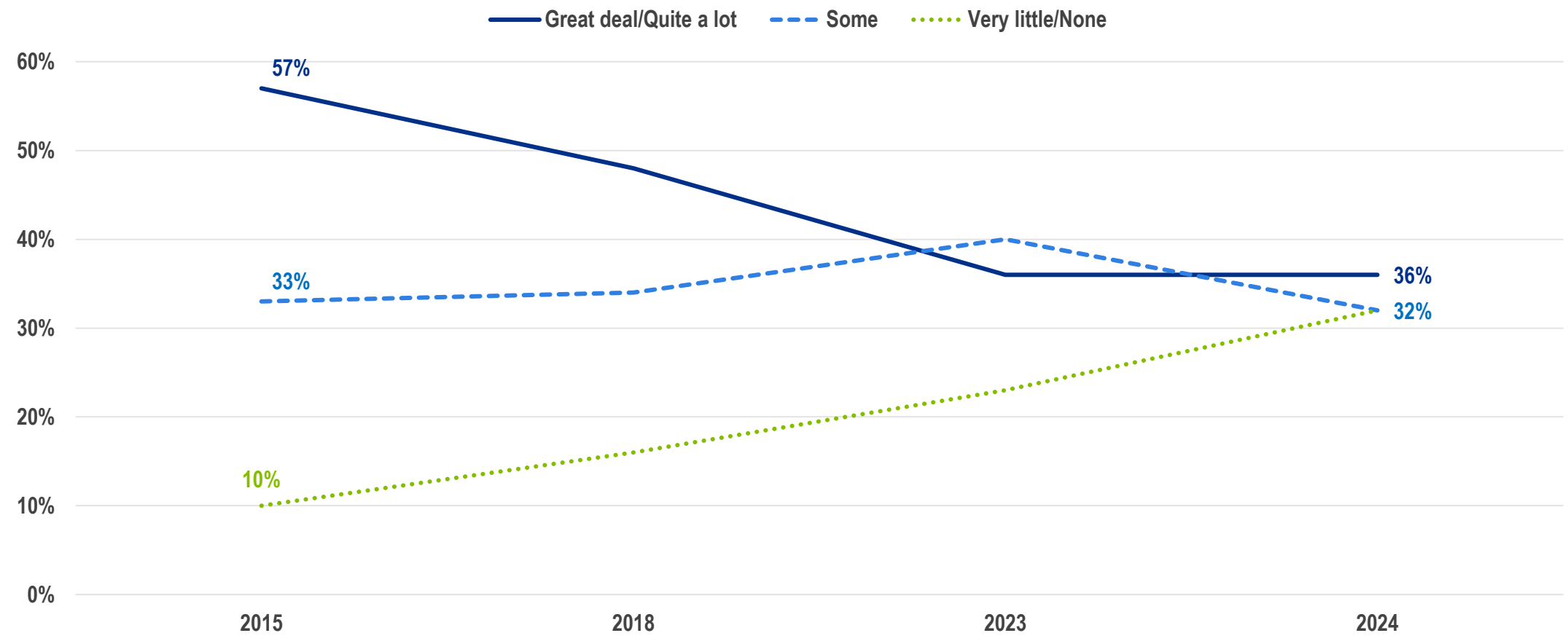
Source: Western Interstate Commission of Higher Education (2024)

National High School Graduates Projection



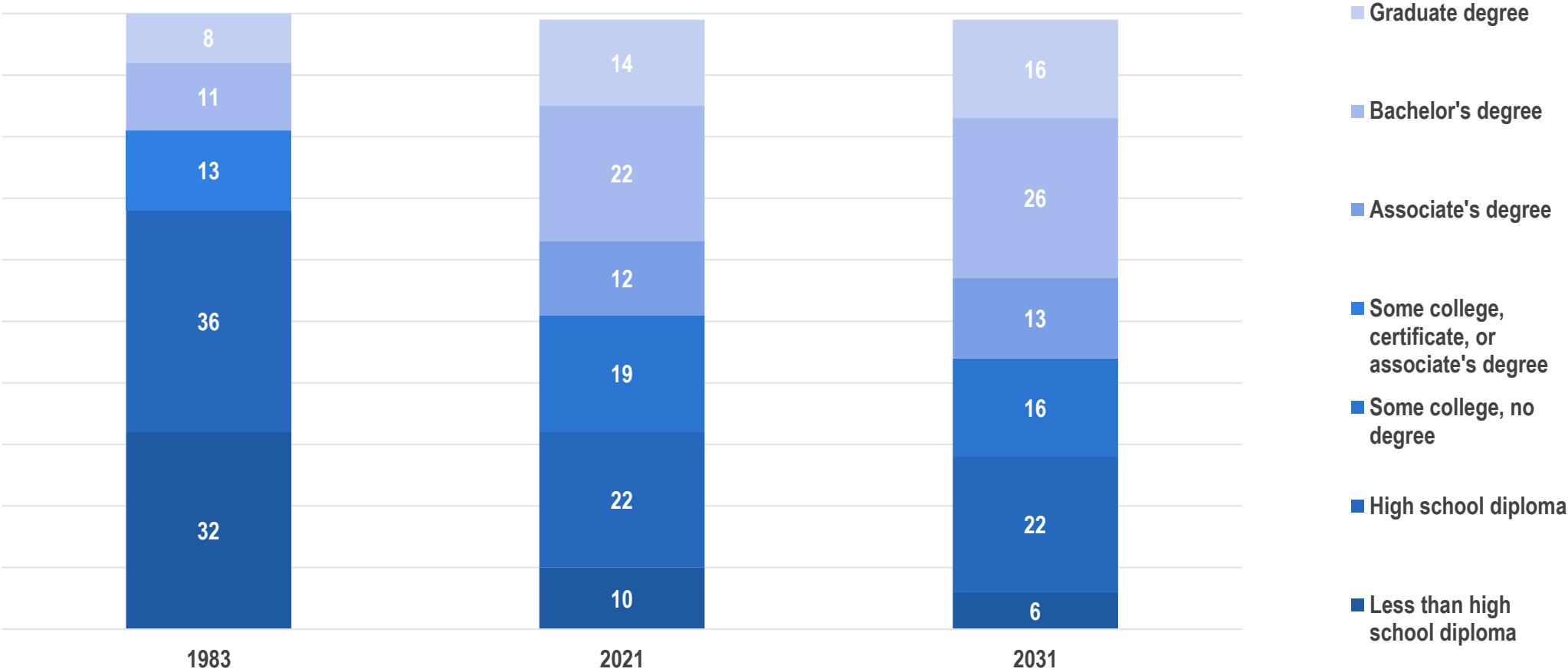
Source: "Knocking at the College Door" by Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

Declined Public Confidence in Higher Education



Source: Gallup and Lumina Foundation (2024)

Existing Gap in Prepared Talent

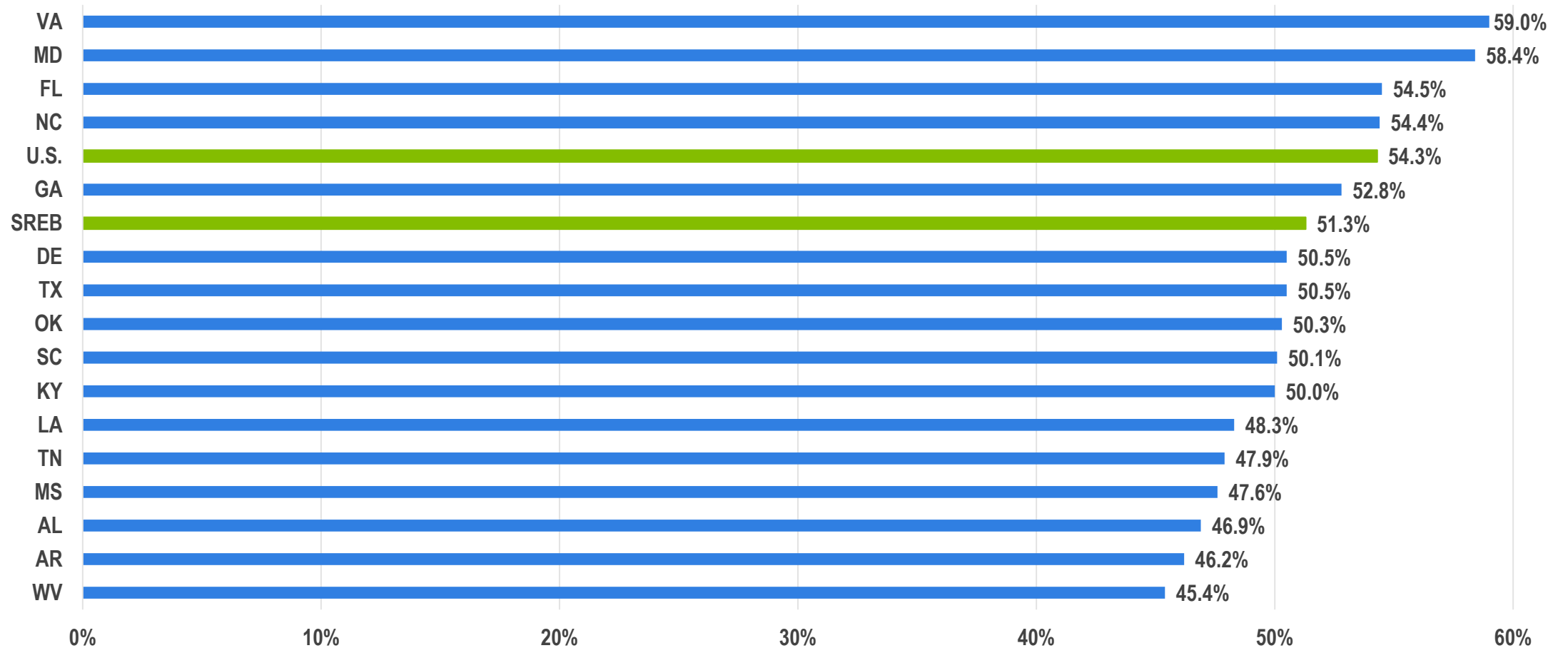


Source: Georgetown University Center for Education and Workforce (2023)



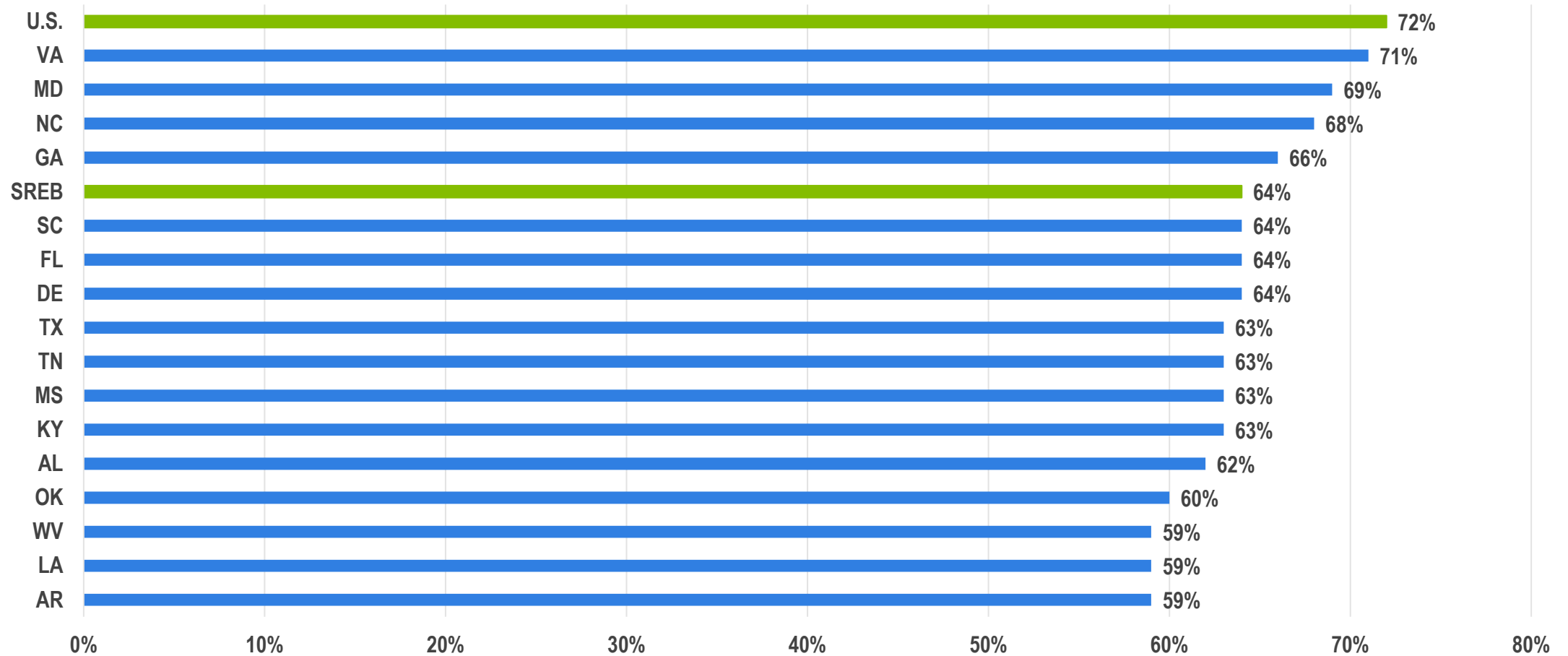
Regional Contexts

Postsecondary Education Attainment in 2022



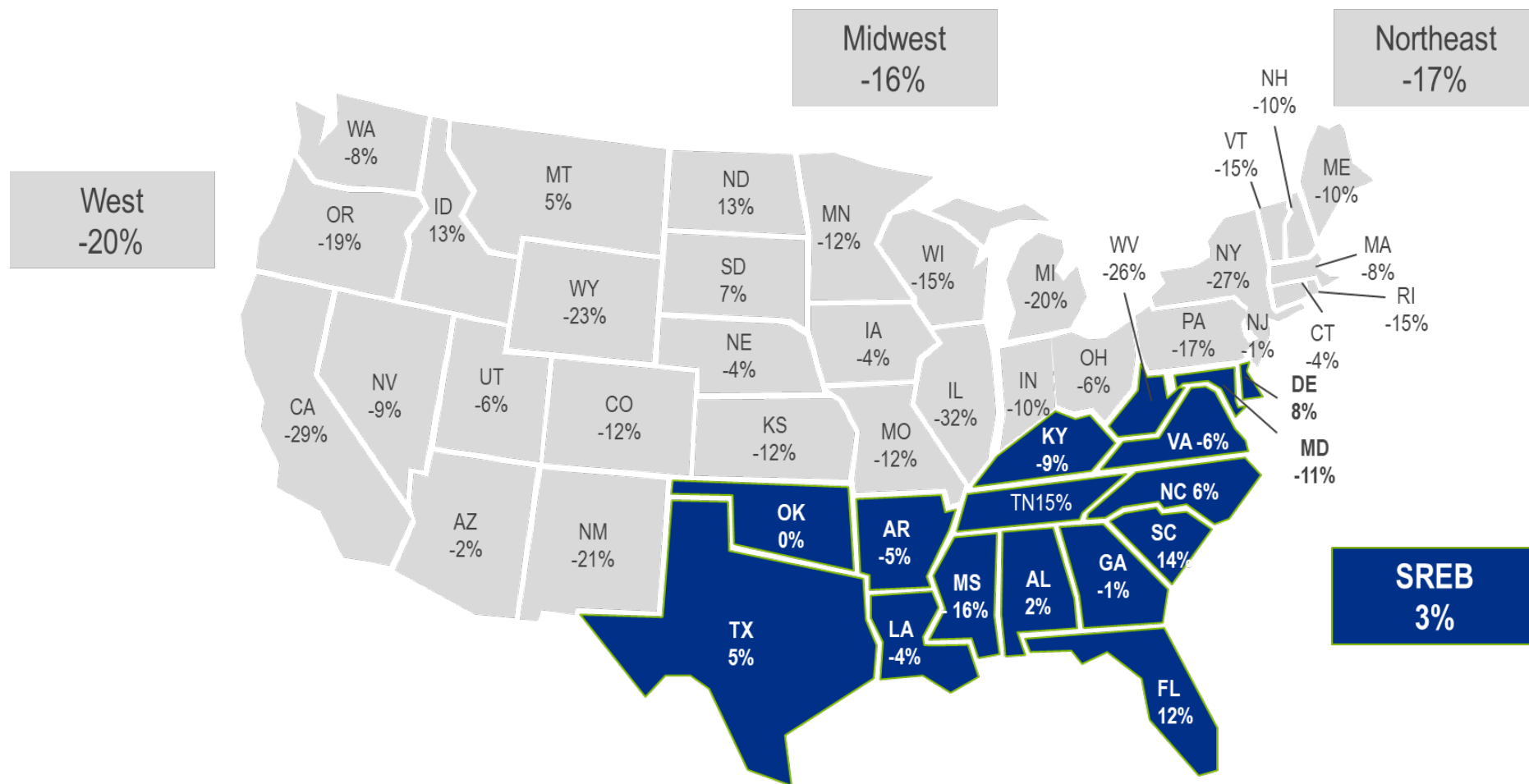
Source: "A Stronger Nation" by Lumina Foundation (2024)

Workforce Needs in SREB States



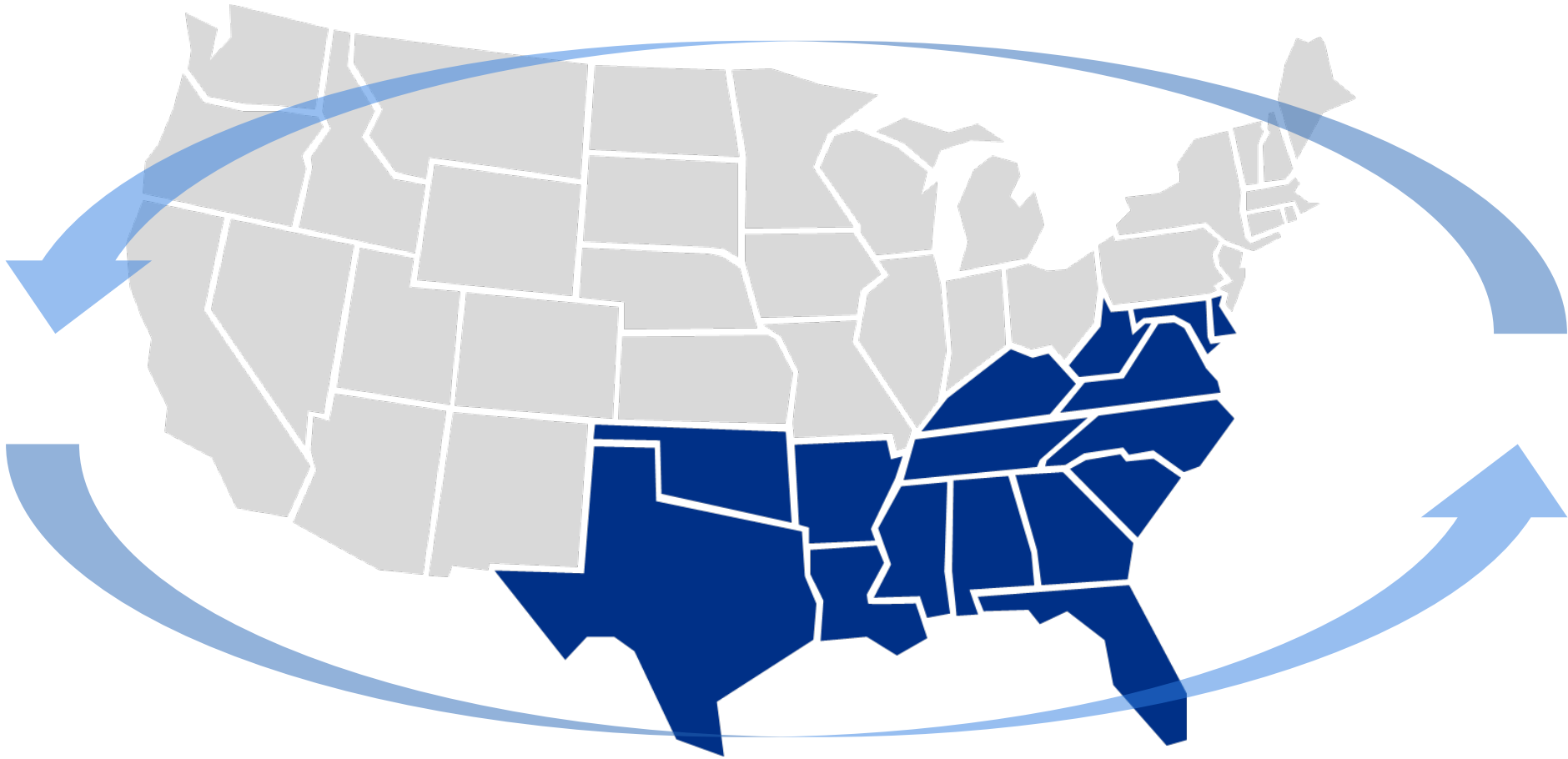
Source: "After Everything" by Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce

Regional High School Graduates Projection



Source: "Knocking at the College Door" by Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

College Affordability is a Regional Concern

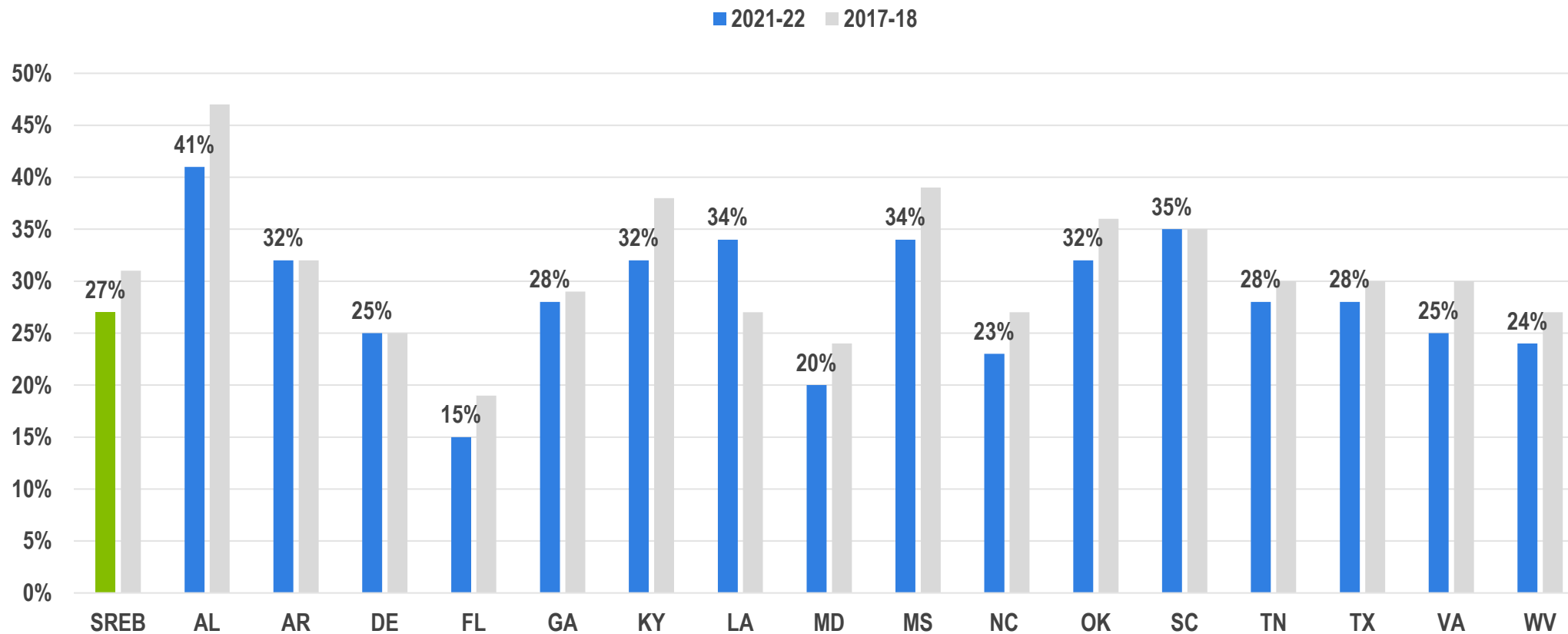


A close-up, side-profile view of a graduate wearing a brown mortarboard cap with a yellow tassel and a blue gown with an orange stole. The background is a soft-focus outdoor scene with trees and a bright sky. A solid blue vertical bar is on the left side of the image.

2025 College Affordability Profile Findings

Family Income Needed at Public Institutions

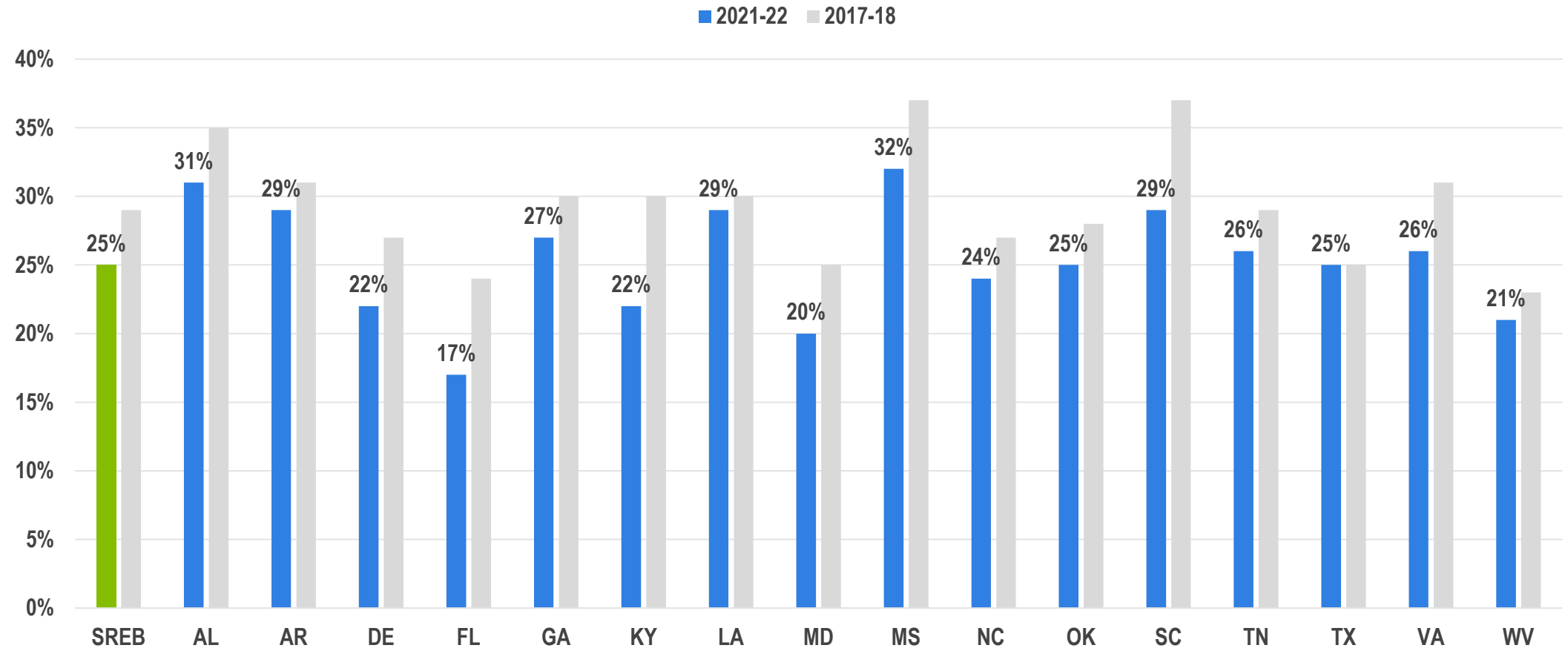
Public Four-Year Type 1 Institutions



Source: IPEDS, Student Financial Aid Files and Directory Files, Enrollment Instructional Activity Files, American Community Survey, SREB-State Data Exchange categories

Family Income Needed at Public Institutions

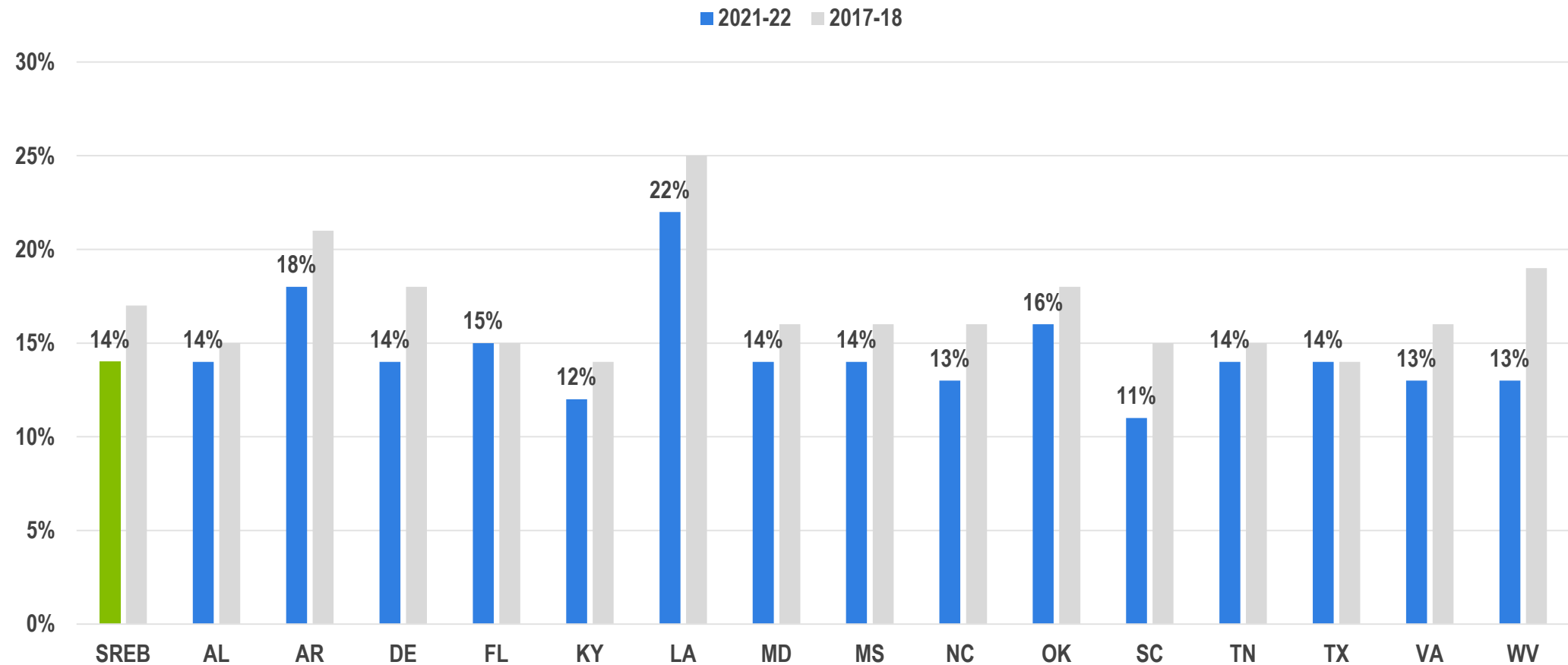
Public Four-Year Type 2 Institutions



Source: IPEDS, Student Financial Aid Files and Directory Files, Enrollment Instructional Activity Files, American Community Survey, SREB-State Data Exchange categories

Family Income Needed at Public Institutions

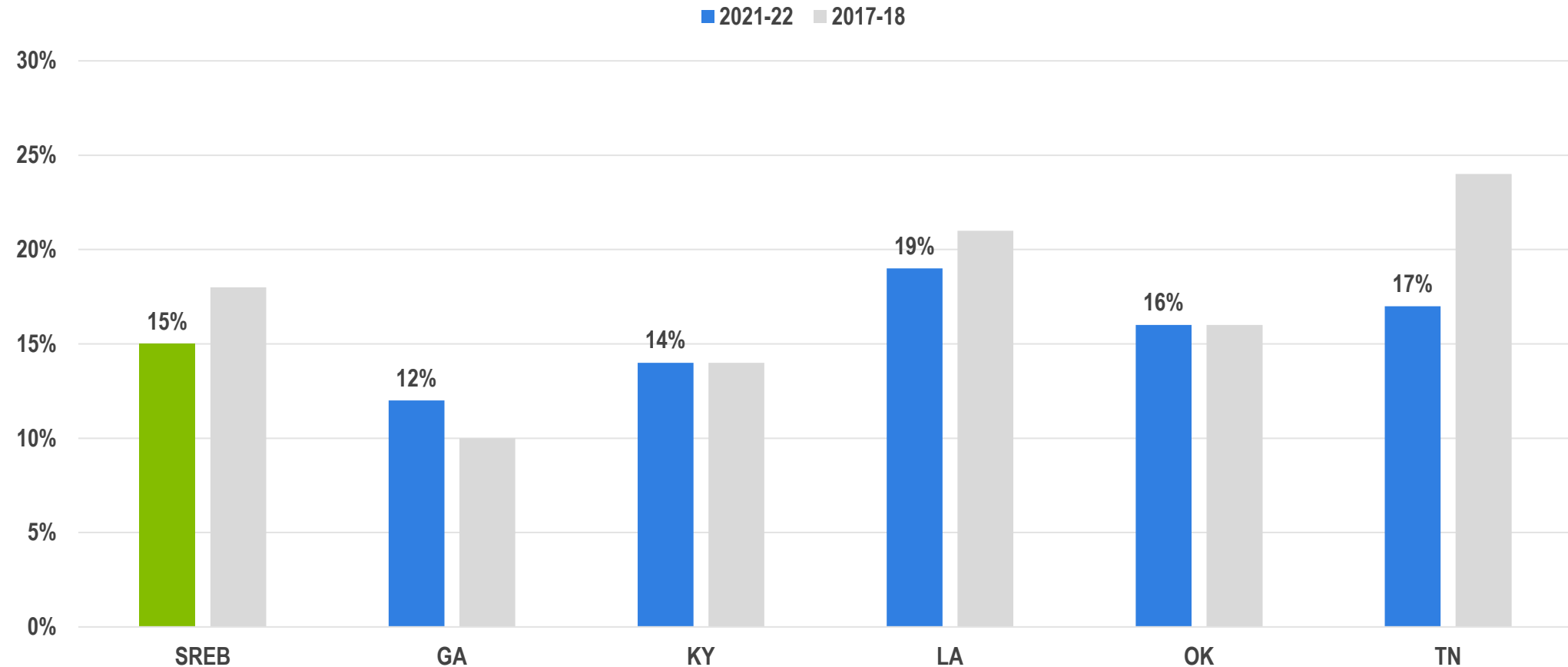
Public Two-Year Institutions



Source: IPEDS, Student Financial Aid Files and Directory Files, Enrollment Instructional Activity Files, American Community Survey, SREB-State Data Exchange categories

Family Income Needed at Public Institutions

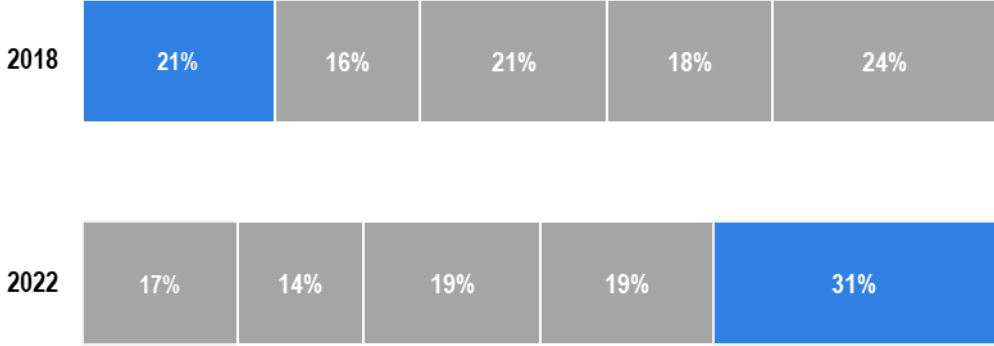
Public Technical Institutions



Source: IPEDS, Student Financial Aid Files and Directory Files, Enrollment Instructional Activity Files, American Community Survey, SREB-State Data Exchange categories

Distribution of Average Family Income

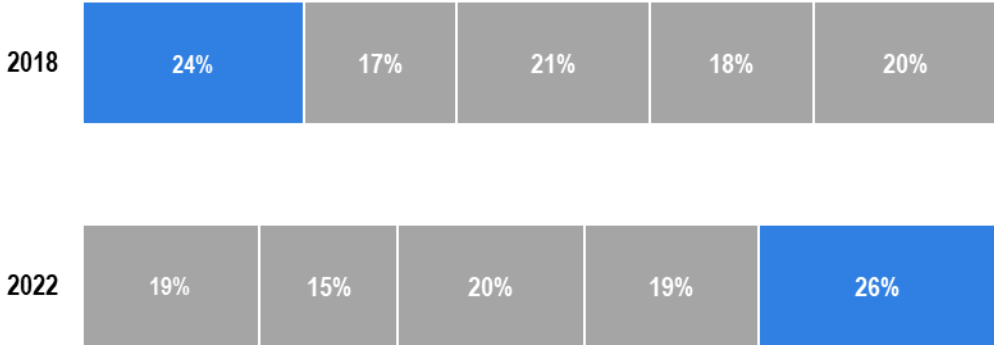
SREB



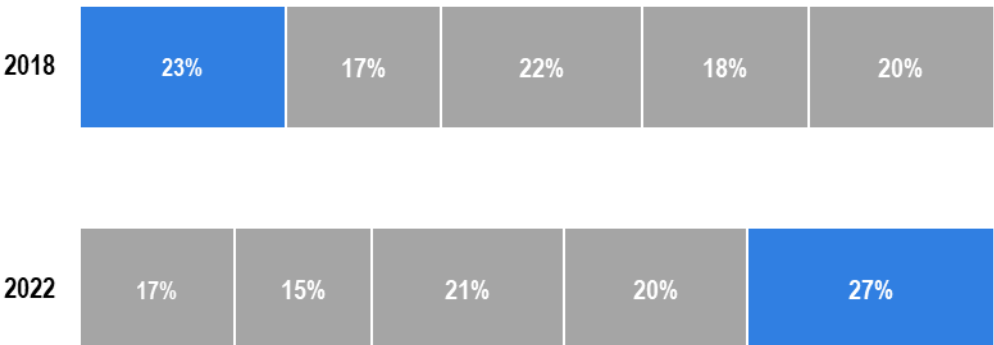
South Carolina



Alabama



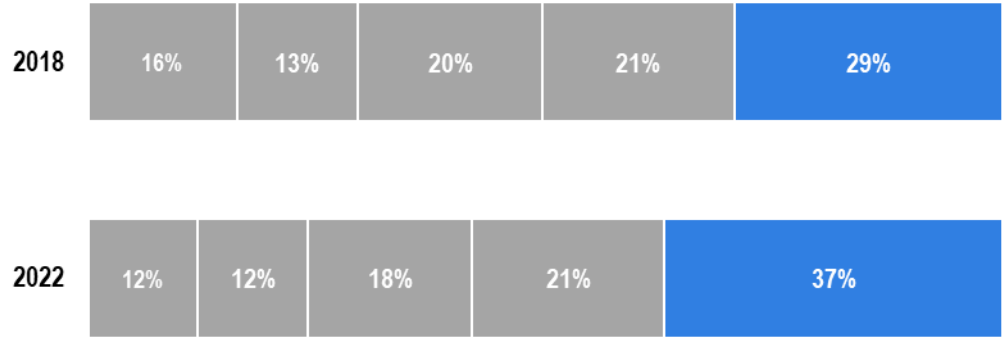
Tennessee



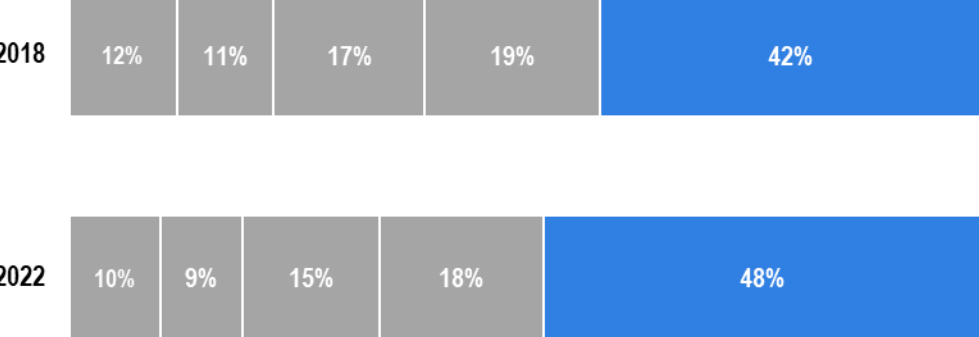
Source: IPEDS, Student Financial Aid Files and Directory Files

Distribution of Average Family Income

Delaware



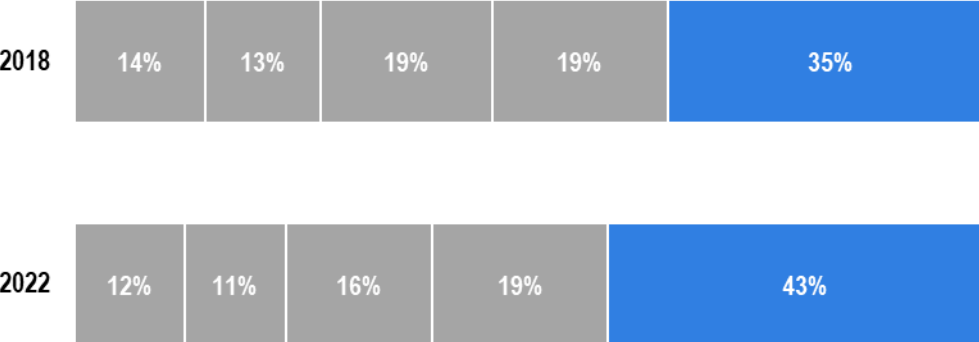
Maryland



Georgia



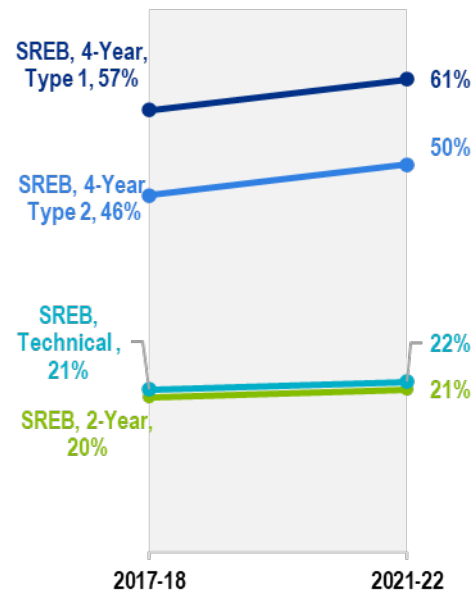
Virginia



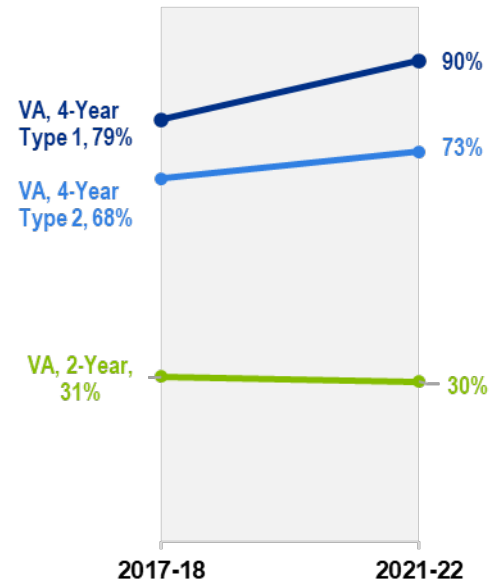
Source: IPEDS, Student Financial Aid Files and Directory Files

Income Required for Lowest Income Families

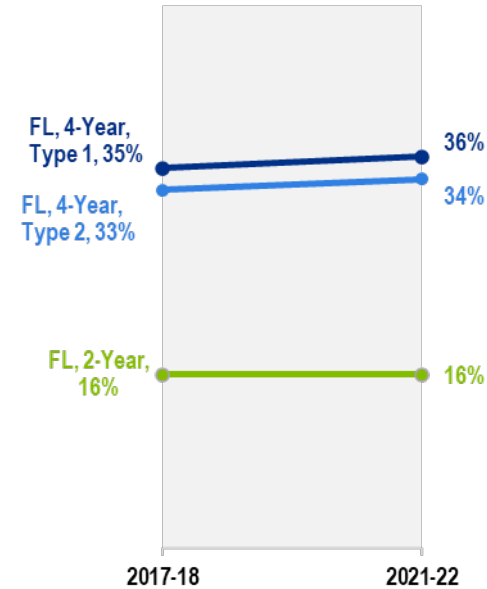
SREB



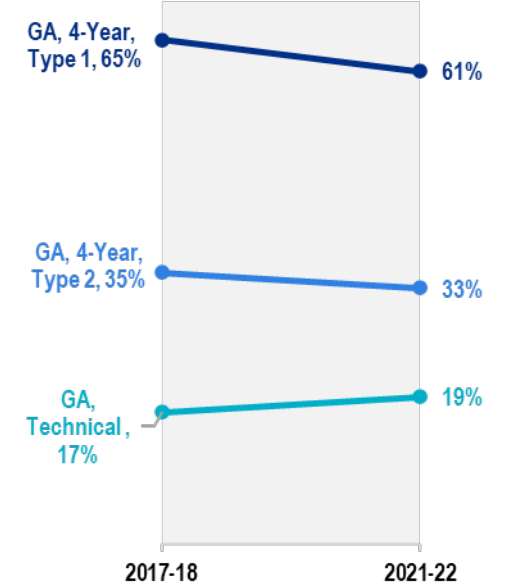
Virginia



Florida

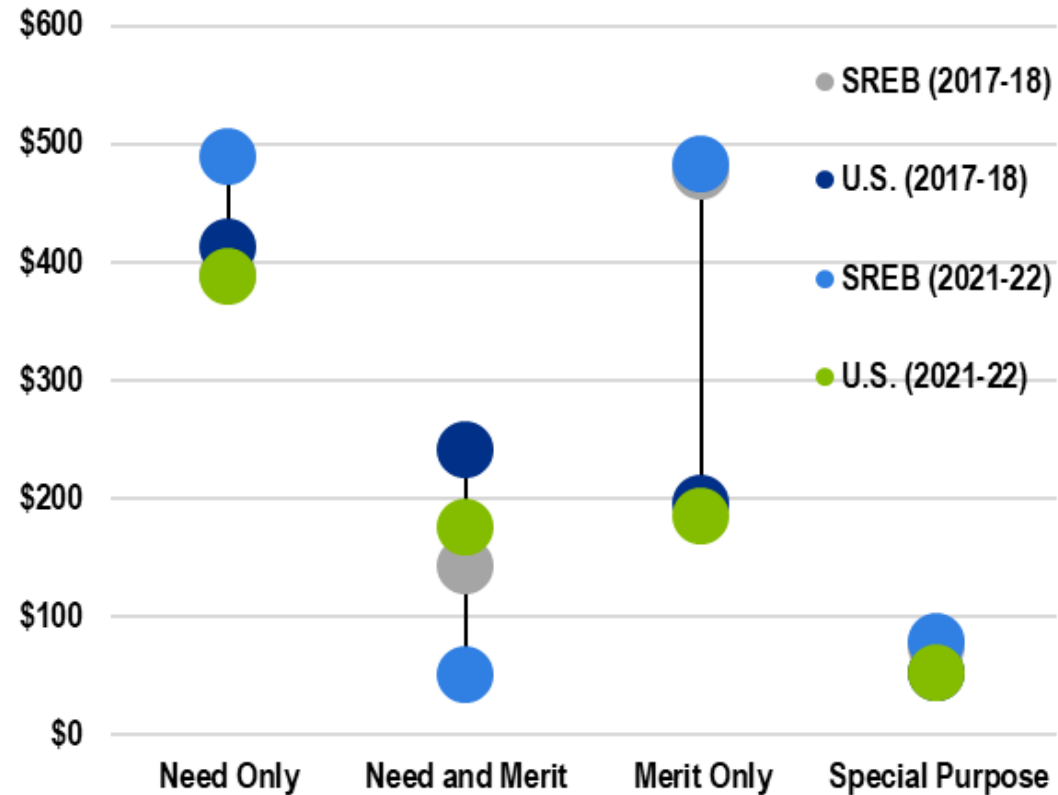


Georgia



Source: IPEDS, Student Charges Data Files and Directory Files, 12-Month Enrollment Instructional Activity Data Files, American Community Survey

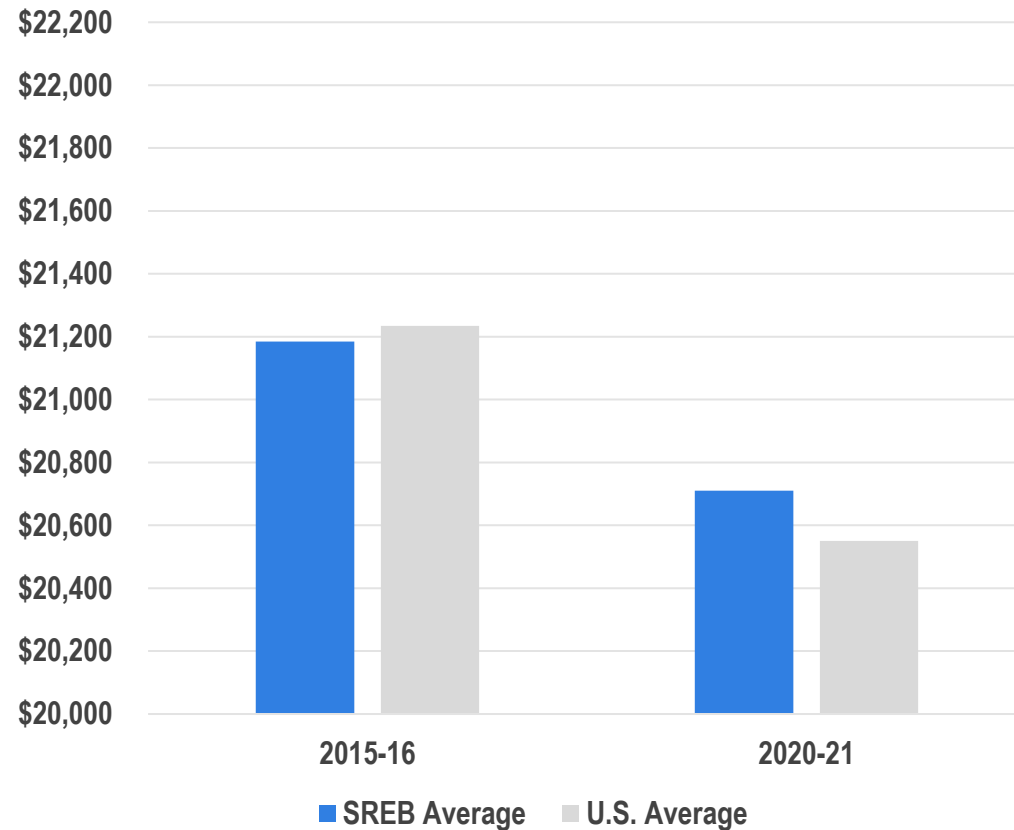
State Financial Aid Per Student



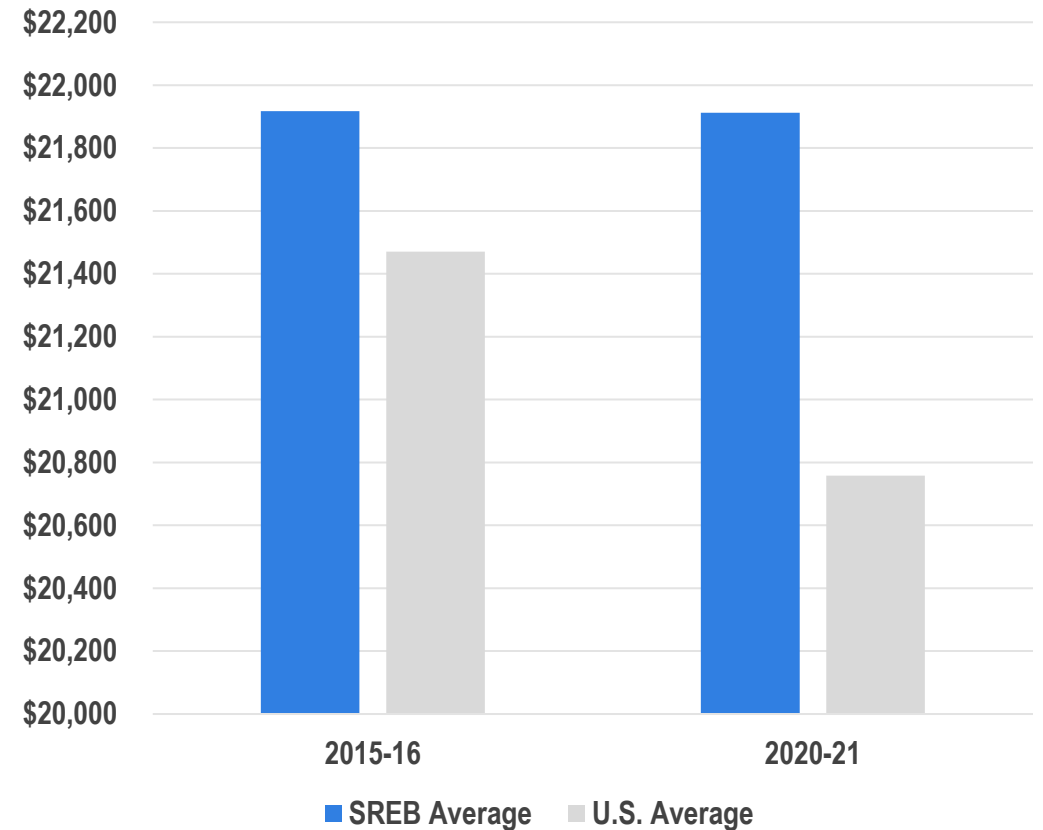
Source: National Association of State Student Grant & Aid Programs, IPEDS Instructional Activity File, Directory File

Student Borrowing at Public Institutions

Public Four-Year Type 1 Institutions

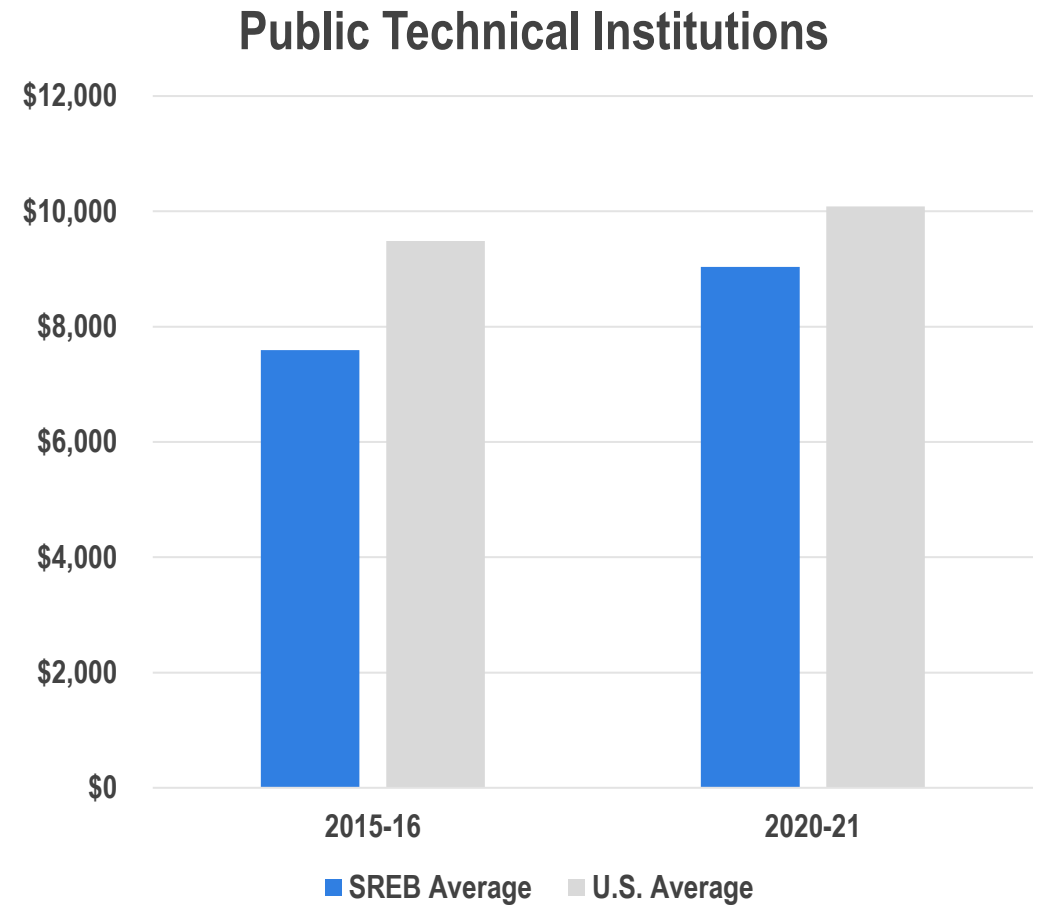
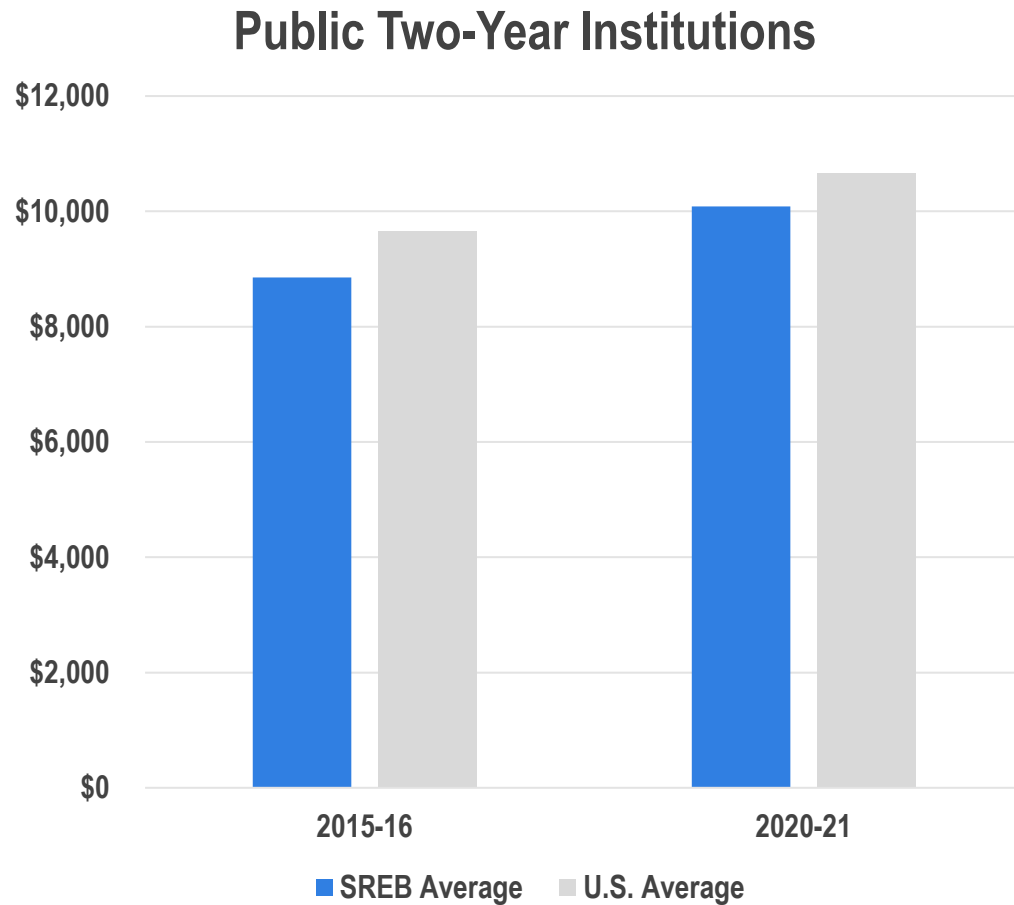


Public Four-Year Type 2 Institutions



Source: College Scorecard, IPEDS 12-Month Enrollment Instructional Activity Data Files, Directory Files

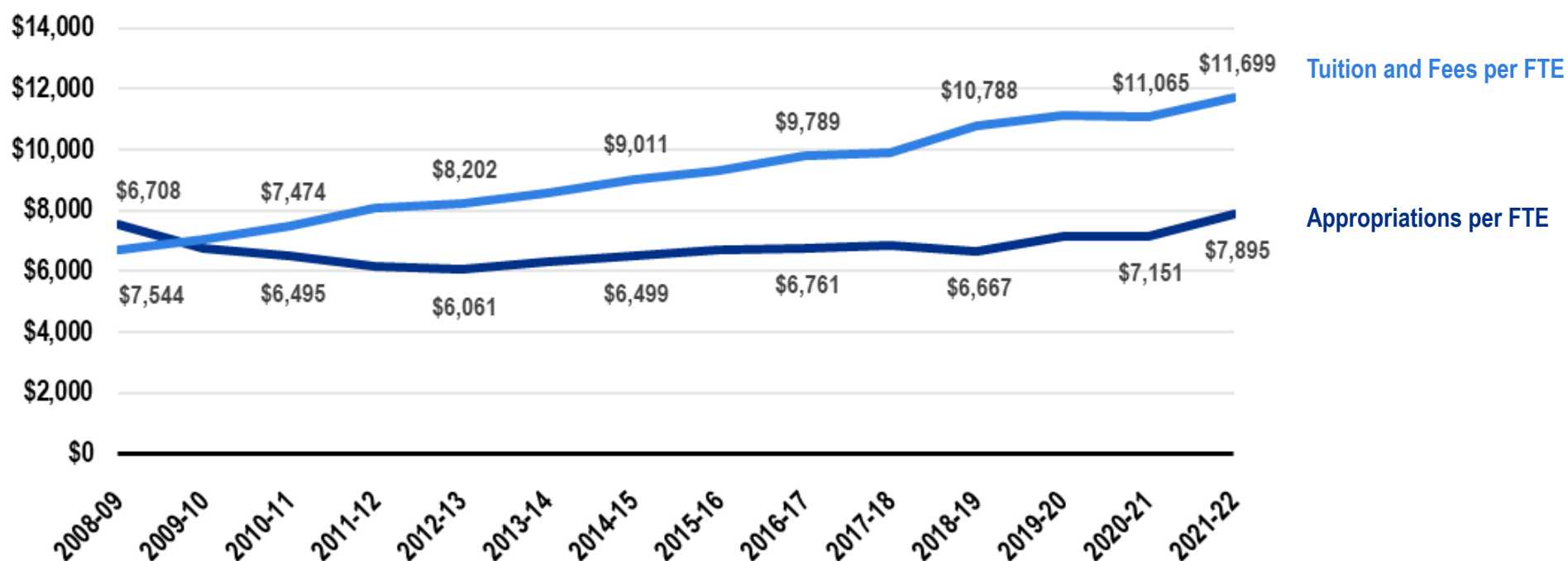
Student Borrowing at Public Institutions



Source: College Scorecard, IPEDS 12-Month Enrollment Instructional Activity Data Files, Directory Files

State Appropriations and Tuition and Fees

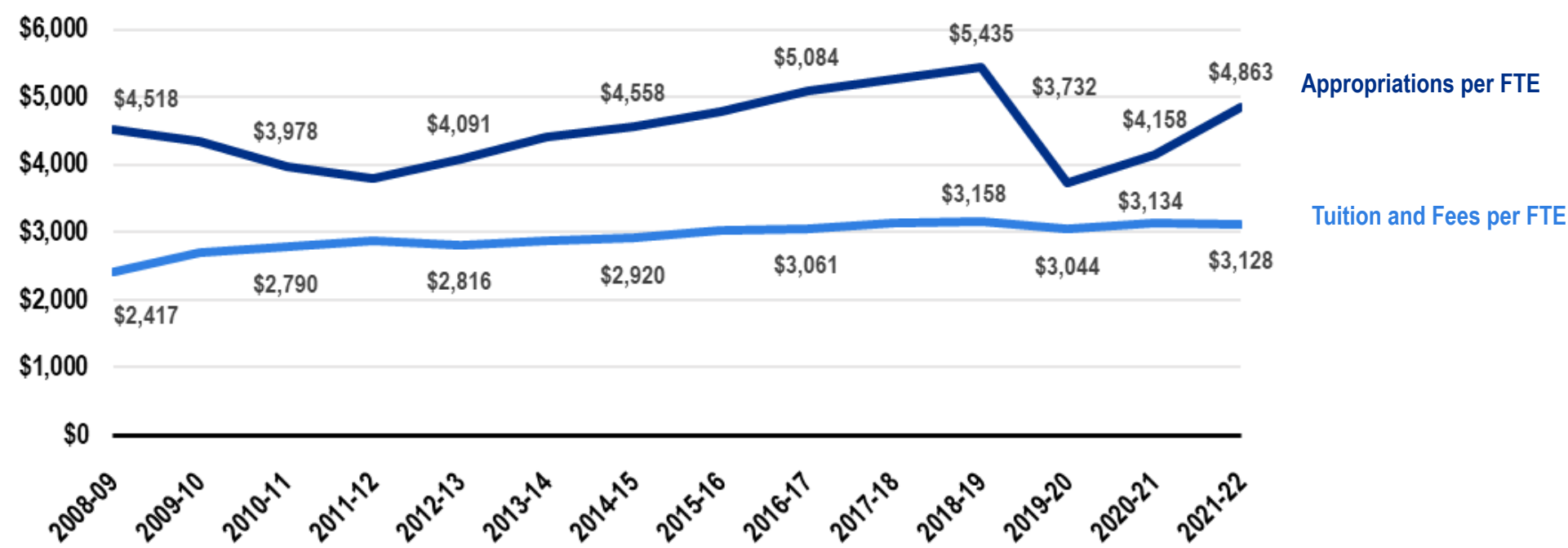
Public Four-Year Institutions



Source: SREB-State Data Exchange

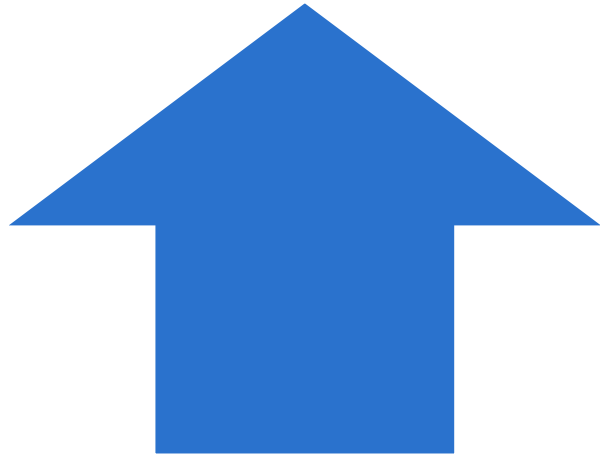
State Appropriations and Tuition and Fees

Public Two-Year Institutions



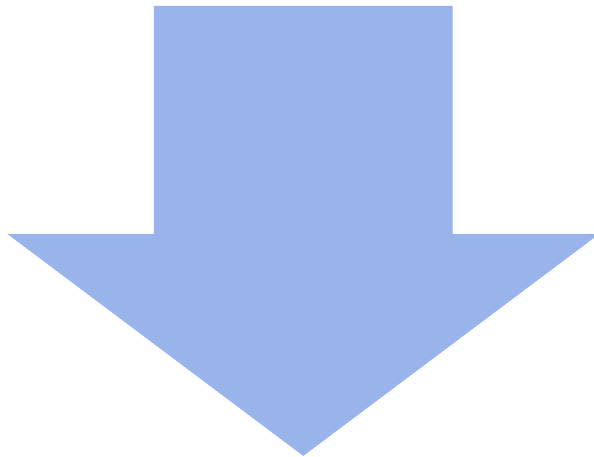
Source: SREB-State Data Exchange

Key Takeaways



Need-based aid has increased.

State appropriations for Two-year institutions have increased.



Four-year institutions continue to be less affordable.

Related Resources

16 State College Affordability Profiles

Arkansas College Affordability Profile

The Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) released its annual report on College Affordability in the South and published a report in 2019 emphasizing that affordability is a critical factor in both access and completion of postsecondary education. In the past, SREB's College Affordability Profile, SREB members have used the data to inform policy and practice. The report provides a snapshot of college affordability in Arkansas. While the data shows affordability has improved in public four-year institutions, the two-year institutions appear to be more accessible for students with average state support.

Family Income Needed for Net Price of Public Institutions

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



The 2017-18, Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) released its annual report on College Affordability in the South and published a report in 2019 emphasizing that affordability is a critical factor in both access and completion of postsecondary education. In the past, SREB's College Affordability Profile, SREB members have used the data to inform policy and practice. The report provides a snapshot of college affordability in Arkansas. While the data shows affordability has improved in public four-year institutions, the two-year institutions appear to be more accessible for students with average state support.

Key terms: Four-year institutions Type 1 four-year institutions that awarded at least 30 doctoral degrees in four different areas; Four-year institutions Type 2 all other four-year institutions; Net Price: Total cost of attendance (includes tuition, fees, room and board, and indirect costs) minus federal, state and institutional grants and scholarships; SREB: Southern Regional Education Board.

January 2020

SREB Southern Regional Education Board

Tennessee College Affordability Profile

The Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) released its annual report on College Affordability in the South and published a report in 2019 emphasizing that affordability is a critical factor in both access and completion of postsecondary education. In the past, SREB's College Affordability Profile, SREB members have used the data to inform policy and practice. The report provides a snapshot of college affordability in Tennessee. While the data shows affordability has improved in public four-year institutions, the two-year institutions appear to be more accessible for students with average state support.

Family Income Needed for Net Price of Public Institutions

In 2017-18, the percentage of family income required to pay for college in Tennessee was lower than 2017-18 for all individual types.



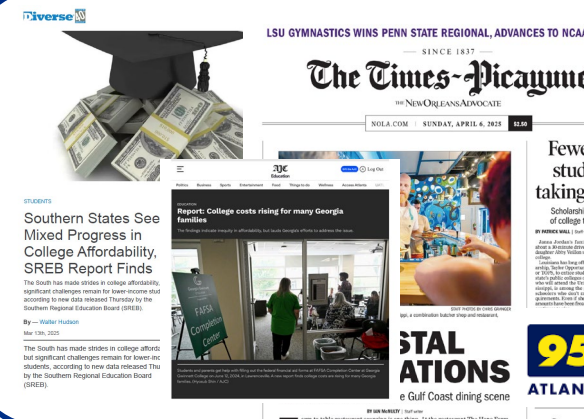
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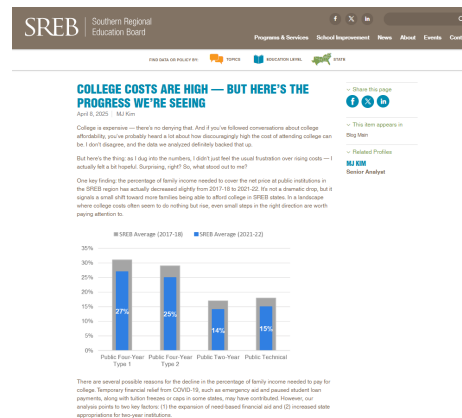
January 2020

SREB Southern Regional Education Board

Media Coverages



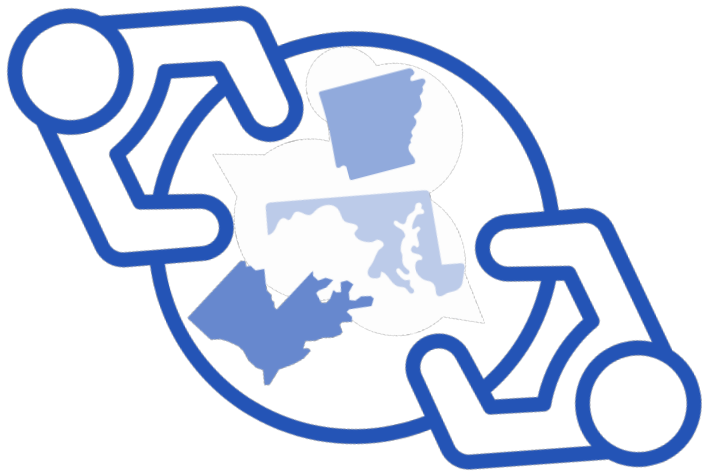
Blog Post



Key Findings Videos for 16 States



Conversation



What questions can we answer for you today?



What challenges are you seeing in your own context that these profiles might help address?

SREB

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Board

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