1. Enrollment

Enrollment at public higher ed institutions INCORPORATED 16% over the last five years, and remains well above the national average. Massachusetts has more than 171,000 FTE STUDENTS (an increase of 1.0% over last year), while the nation experienced a decrease. In 2013, more than 70% of MA high school graduates who attended college in MA enrolled in public institutions.

2. State Appropriations

Despite a 1.6% increase in Educational Appropriations per FTE student in 2013, Massachusetts public higher ed system funding dropped 26.7% between FY08-FY13 ($7,741 to $5,672).

In FY14, per capita appropriation for public higher education operating expenses was $163.14, more than 48% below the national average of $241.66. Massachusetts ranks 42nd nationally.

In FY14, state appropriation for public higher education per $1,000 of personal income was $2.88, compared to the national average of $5.45. Only Colorado and New Hampshire were ranked lower than Massachusetts.

State appropriations increased significantly the past two years. FY14 allocations are 8.9% higher than the FY13, and 12.2% higher than in FY12. However, compared to FY07, allocations (adjusted for inflation) are still down 18.3%. Moreover, allocations are 24.7% lower than FY01.

In FY11, 3.3% of Massachusetts revenues went to public higher education. The national average was 6.5%, with only three states spending a smaller percentage than Massachusetts.

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3 Degrees of Urgency, Board of Higher Education, Vision Project (October 2014), page 8.
3. Tuition, Fees, and Financial Aid

In FY14, average tuition and fees at public 4-year institutions in Massachusetts were $10,792, **26% above the national average** of $8,596. Only ten states had higher costs than Massachusetts. Average tuition and fees at public 2-year institutions in Massachusetts were $5,144, **39% above the national average** of $3,711. Only Minnesota, New Hampshire, South Dakota, and Vermont had higher costs.9

In FY14, Massachusetts **ranked 46th** in the average need-based grant award per student.10 The average MASSGrant award declined from covering 80% of the cost of tuition and fees at public institutions in 1988 to about 9% in 2013.11

4. Impact on Economic Activity

On average, a person with a bachelor’s degree pays $3,176 more each year in taxes in Massachusetts than someone with only a high school diploma.12

The MA public higher education system is projected to fall short of meeting the state’s need for new associate’s and bachelor’s degrees by a minimum of 55,000 to 65,000 by 2025.13

$1 in direct state investment in UMass generates more than $8 in economic activity. For every 100 UMass jobs, over 90 additional private sector jobs are created in the 5 UMass regions.14

980,000 Massachusetts residents owe more than $24 billion in student debt.15 This has a substantial negative effect on the economy (fewer people buying homes. new cars, or dining out).

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9 Tuition and Fees by Sector and State over Time, CollegeBoard (2014).
13 Approval of the Board of Higher Education Fiscal Year 2016 Budget
14 UMass is a $4 Billion Economic Force in the State and a Major Driver of Growth, Report Finds (October 2006).
15 Massachusetts Refinancing Student Loans Fact Sheet, Generation Progress (August 2014).