

KEY DATA ABOUT MASSACHUSETTS PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION

January 2015

1. Enrollment

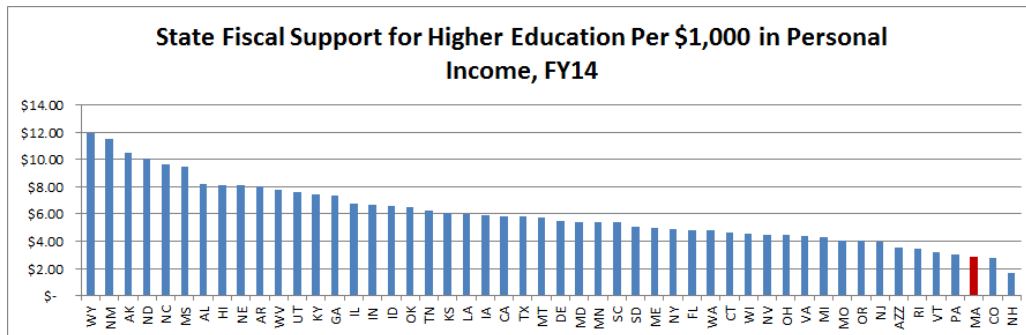
Enrollment at public higher ed institutions **INCREASED 16%** over the last five years, and remains well above the national average.¹ Massachusetts has more than **171,000 FTE STUDENTS** (an increase of 1.0% over last year), while the nation experienced a decrease.² In 2013, more than **70% of MA high school graduates who attended college in MA** enrolled in public institutions.³

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).⁴

In FY14, per capita appropriation for public higher education operating expenses was \$163.14, **more than 48% below the national average** of \$241.66.⁵ 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 \$5.45.⁶ 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**.⁷

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.⁸

¹ SHEEO, *State Higher Education Finance FY 2013* (April 2014).

² SHEEO, *State Higher Education Finance FY 2013* (April 2014).

³ *Degrees of Urgency*, Board of Higher Education, *Vision Project* (October 2014), page 8.

⁴ SHEEO, *State Higher Education Finance FY 2013* (April 2014).

⁵ Grapevine, *Fiscal Year 2013-14*, College of Education, Illinois State University (January 2014).

⁶ Grapevine, *Fiscal Year 2013-14*, College of Education, Illinois State University (January 2014).

⁷ Higher Education, *Budget Browser*, Mass Budget and Policy Center (2014)

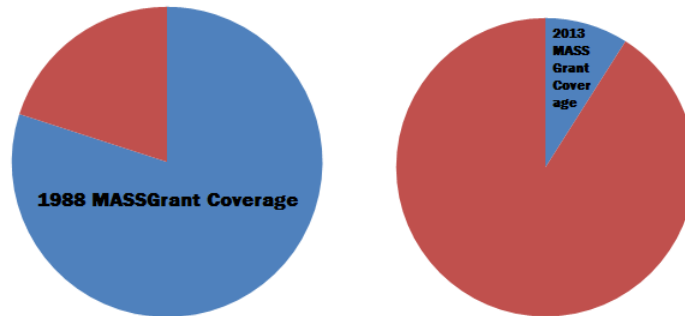
⁸ SHEEO, *State Higher Education Finance FY 2013* (April 2014)

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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).

⁹ [Tuition and Fees by Sector and State over Time, CollegeBoard \(2014\).](#)

¹⁰ [Higher Education Finance Commission Report \(October 2014\).](#)

¹¹ [Higher Education Finance Commission Report \(October 2014\).](#)

¹² [Michael Ash, Ph.D., Economic Impact of Investment in Public Higher Education in Massachusetts: Short-Run Employment Stimulus, Long-Run Public Returns \(2012\)](#)

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 \(August 2014\).](#)