

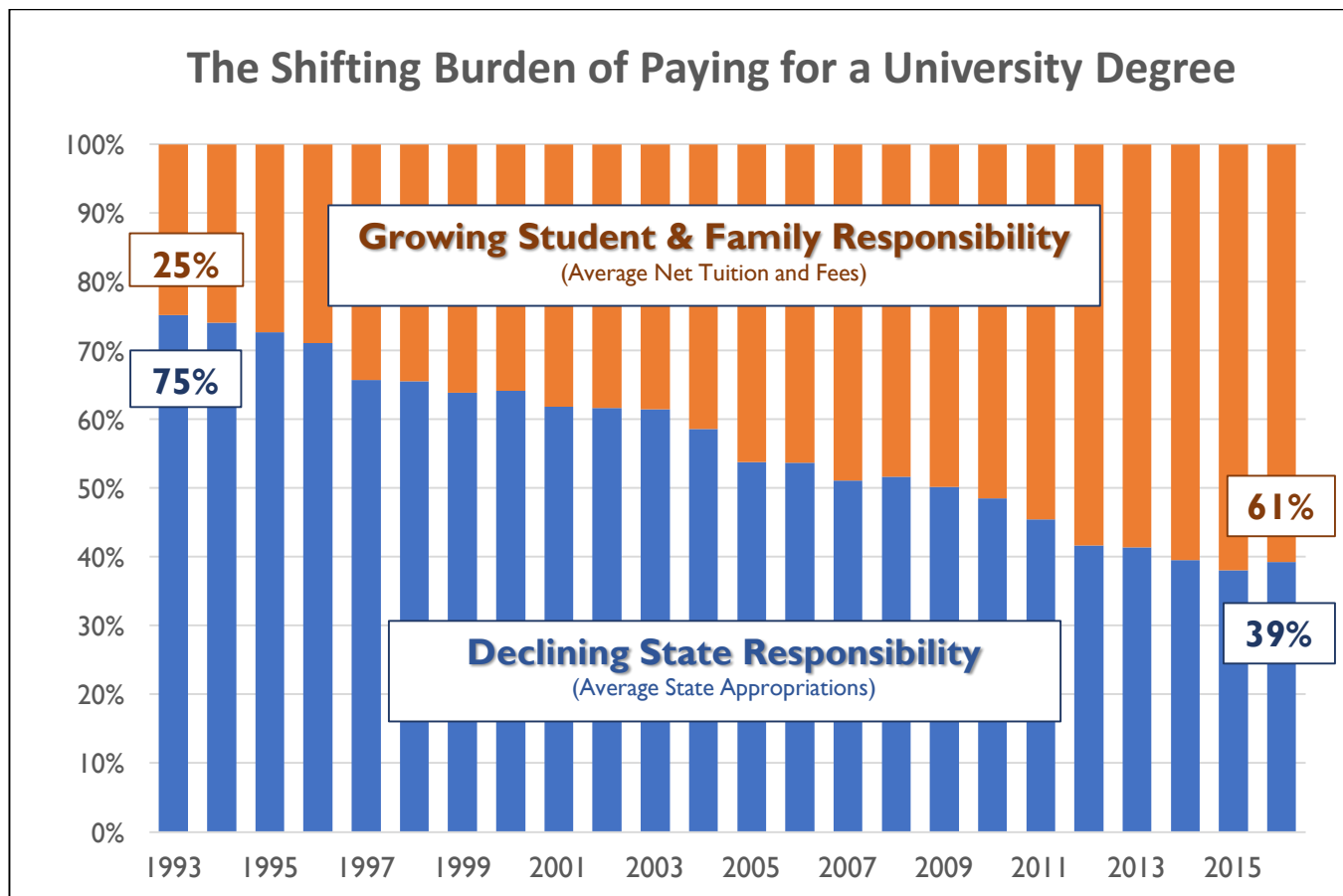
College Affordability

The State is Failing Students and Families

The future economic prosperity of Texas will depend on the education and skill level of our growing workforce. As a state, we acknowledge this fact and have set an ambitious goal to ensure that 60 percent of all 25-34 year-olds obtain a postsecondary credential. However, the Texas Legislature has not prioritized funding for higher education, limiting our investment and contributing to soaring tuition.

Students are Paying More of the Cost of College Every Year

A dramatic shift has taken place in the cost of college over the past two decades in Texas. In 1993, the State of Texas contributed 75 percent of the average cost for a Texas student to attend a public university. In 2016, that percentage had declined to only 39 percent. As a result of these trends, students and their families began paying more in tuition and fees than the state provided in state appropriations for the first time in 2009.

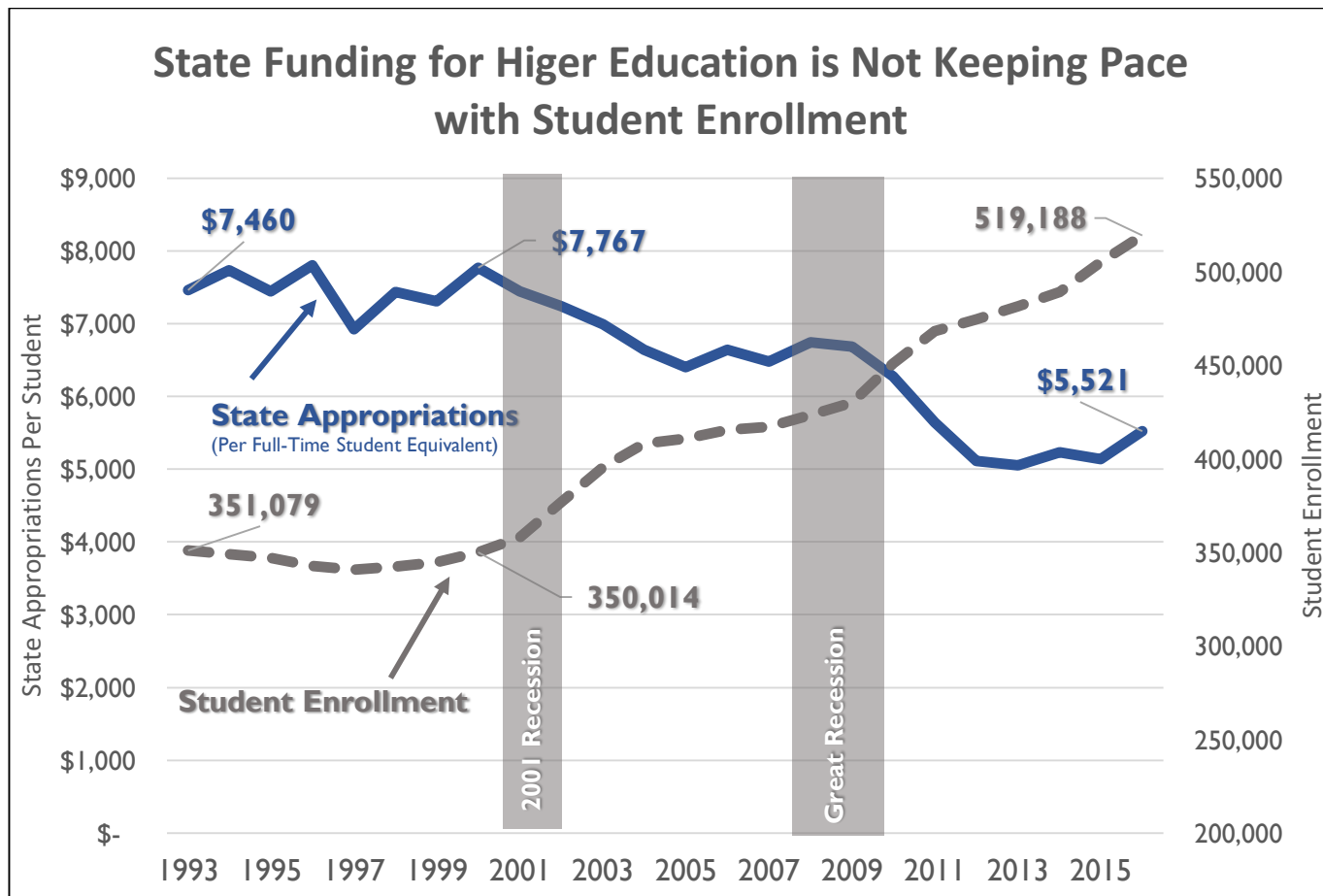


Notes: All estimates are an average for all Texas Academic Institutions per FTSE in 2016 dollars. The tuition and fee data included here are the amounts reported as net tuition and fees in the Sources and Uses Reports from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, and do not include scholarships, exemptions & waivers offered by the institution from its revenue sources. The state appropriation revenue included here are the amounts reported as State Appropriations in the Sources and Uses Report and does not include State Grants and Contracts, Research Development Funds, and Constitutional Funds received by the institutions.

Source: Sources and Uses and Pub Info Reports.

There is a Significant Structural Problem in How Texas Funds Universities

More students enroll in college when the unemployment rate increases during an economic recession. Unfortunately, state budgets also tighten and funding is generally not available to keep pace with the increasing numbers of students attending college. As a result, the funding level per student decreases sharply, as occurred after the 2001 Recession and the Great Recession. To make matters worse, new state investments are often not made when the recession ends, creating a “ratcheting down effect” that leads to a new funding floor after each recession. These lower per-student funding levels can be seen in the chart below from 2004 to 2009 following the 2001 Recession, and from 2011 to 2015 following the Great Recession.



Notes: Student Enrollment and State Appropriations per student for all Texas Academic Institutions in 2015 Dollars. The general revenue reported included here are the amounts reported as State Appropriations in the Sources and Uses Report and does not include State Grants and Contracts, Research Development Funds, and Constitutional Funds received by the institutions.

For more information or to request an interview, please contact Oliver Bernstein at bernstein@cphp.org or 512.823.2875.

About CPHP

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