Over the past 10 years, the State of Ohio has disinvested in its public colleges and its highest need students. Ohio ranks 45th in the nation on key affordability metrics.

**State Disinvestment in Public Higher Education**
Ohio’s State Share of Instruction, the primary public funding source for 2-year and 4-year public colleges, has remained flat since FY08. This amounts to a decline of $1,073 (15%) per college student from 2008-2017.
Source: Policy Matters Ohio

**Major Declines to Need-Based Aid**
Ohio’s only need-based aid program, the Ohio College Opportunity Grant, has dropped from its peak of $223 million in FY08 to $101 million in FY19 – a decline of 54%.
Source: Ohio Legislative Services Commission

**Large Student Loan Debt Loads**
62% of Ohioans graduate with debt – the 10th highest rate in the nation. On average, Ohio’s students graduate with $30,629, the 17th highest debt load in the nation.
Source: The Institute for College Access and Success

**Rising College Costs**
Tuition and fees at 2-year and 4-year public colleges have grown over the past 10 years by 15% and 8% respectively. This keeps costs at 2-year and 4-year public colleges higher than national averages by 8% and 7% respectively.
Source: The College Board

**Ohio: Last in the Region**
Students, on average, receive $209 annually through the Ohio College Opportunity Grant.

National average is $624; dollars are per undergraduate full-time equivalent enrollment, 2016-2017.
Source: NASSGAP

**OHIO’S HIGH COST OF COLLEGE HAS MAJOR ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES:**
1. Keeps talented low- and middle-income students from pursuing or completing education beyond high school, resulting in untapped human potential.
2. Widens the skills gap where jobs remain unfilled due to a lack of qualified workers.
3. Limits the State’s ability to attract and/or retain employers who have concerns regarding the availability of a skilled workforce.

**TO REDUCE THE COST OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND CREATE A STRONGER MORE SKILLED WORKFORCE OHIO MUST:**
1. Fund the Ohio College Opportunity Grant at pre-recession levels, $245 million (after inflation).
2. Increase the State Share of Instruction by a minimum of $180 million annually.
3. Continue to mandate modest tuition and fee caps at public colleges and universities.
4. Impose tighter restrictions regarding State-facilitated student loan debt collections.