



NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release:
Friday, February 5, 2021

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NYPIRG RELEASES ANALYSIS OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE TUITION POLICIES

BIG INCREASES IN TUITION, STEEP DROPS IN STUDENT POPULATIONS

(Albany, N.Y.) The New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) today released an analysis of community colleges' tuition policies. The review is part of NYPIRG's response to Governor Cuomo's proposed higher education budget. The review examined the last decade of community college tuition increases and student populations at the campuses. NYPIRG's review found:

- The rate of community colleges' tuition hikes over the past decade far outstrips inflation.
- A deeper look into the individual community colleges' tuition policies underscores that there has been a significant shift in who bears the burden of paying for college education.
- The average rate of tuition increases exceeded those allowed for the four-year public colleges.
- Over the past ten years, more than half of the SUNY community colleges (16 of 29) had tuition rate increases that exceeded the rate approved for the SUNY four-year public colleges and universities.
- Average community college tuition is above \$5,000.
- There are now community college tuitions that exceed the maximum TAP award.
- Student populations in New York's community colleges has seen a significant decline.

Much of what ails the state's community college system is the result of a stagnating population, particularly among young adults. However, there are steps that the state can take to bolster support for community colleges and offset the cost borne by college students and their families. The new state budget should ensure that:

- The state must fully restore the 20% "withhold" currently in place.
- State support for community colleges must at least match the tuition costs borne by college students, on a full-time equivalent basis.
- State aid should set a financial floor for covering the costs of community colleges.
- TAP awards should be raised to ensure that the tuition needs of low-income students are covered by the state.
- The state should increase its support for opportunity programs.
- The state should increase its support for child care programs.

NYPIRG's review can be found at:

https://www.nypirgstudents.org/pubs/202102/Policy_Close_Up_higher_ed_2.3.21.pdf.