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**AS LAWMAKERS CONSIDER GOVERNOR HOCHUL'S
PROPOSED HIGHER EDUCATION BUDGET,
NYPIRG RELEASES "PROMISES MADE, PROMISES BROKEN" POLICY PAPER**

**ANALYSIS HIGHLIGHTS CHANGES TO TAP THAT RESULTED IN "TAP GAP" AND THE DEEP
BUDGET CUTS IN STATE SUPPORT FOR PRIVATE COLLEGES**

(Albany, N.Y.) As lawmakers consider the governor's proposed higher education budget, the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) today released a policy paper, "Promises made, promises broken." The paper examined higher education policies which undermined the finances of public colleges and colleges in the independent sector.

In 2011, New York severed the relationship between the maximum Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) award and SUNY tuition. Prior public college tuition hikes were coupled with increases in the maximum TAP award in order to ensure that the lowest income students were protected from those increases. In 2011, that relationship ended, and local public colleges were required to make up the difference between rising tuition costs and TAP awards which did not increase. That increasing difference between public tuition and maximum TAP awards became known as the "TAP Gap" and strained public college finances. In recent years, that gap is covered through direct state appropriations, but the maximum TAP award still does not cover SUNY tuition.

Since the Rockefeller years, the state has provided direct assistance to private colleges through the "Bundy Aid" program. "Bundy Aid" was established to help campuses in the independent sector cope with expanding presence of the State University and City University public systems. Once a vital component of independent colleges' finances, the program has been decimated by cuts over the past four decades. The peak state support occurred during the 1989-90 fiscal year, when nearly \$114 million was appropriated. During the current fiscal year, that amount has been [reduced](#) to nearly \$22 million. If New York had merely kept pace with inflation, the amount of Bundy Aid should be about \$260 million – not \$22 million.

Not surprisingly, many colleges – usually small ones – have seen their finances stretched to the limit – and beyond. New York has seen six colleges (a total of ten degree-granting institutions) [shut their doors](#) in only the last *two* years, throwing their students into educational uncertainty and potentially, entire communities into economic insecurity. Of course, there are other pressures on independent colleges, but drastically reduced state support contributes to those burdens.

NYPIRG urged restoration of funding for both of these programs among other measures in its budget testimony delivered at today's hearing.

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NYPIRG

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Policy Close-Up

**“Promises Made,
Promises Broken”**

**New York’s Failure To
Adequately Fund Higher
Education**

**New York Public
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Level,
New York, NY 10007**

Summary: Decades of state neglect – and worse – have taken its toll on New York’s higher education sector. In the public sector, until 2010, financial assistance from the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) was informally tied to the cost of tuition at the State University of New York. As SUNY tuition went up, so did TAP awards for the neediest students. The state “promised” to link the two. The increasing TAP award also benefited colleges in the independent sector, as their students were also eligible for assistance.

In 2011, the relationship between SUNY tuition and TAP was severed. TAP awards did *not* keep pace with SUNY tuition. Instead, public colleges were required to make up the difference in tuition costs and TAP awards out of their own budgets, thus undermining the finances of public colleges. The inequity between rising public college tuition costs and frozen TAP awards created a financial gap.

Thus, as that difference grew, now known as the “TAP Gap,” with each passing public tuition hike, colleges’ finances became more precarious, and the “promise” was broken. In recent budgets, the “TAP Gap” has been eased in the state budget through appropriations to cover the “Gap” for public colleges; the maximum TAP award has been increased, although it still does *not* cover SUNY tuition; and, public college tuition has been kept constant.

However, the independent sector continues to suffer from policymaking. As mentioned above, TAP’s maximum award does not cover SUNY tuition, and that shortfall impacts all colleges in the independent sector. Even so, support for independent colleges and universities through New York’s “Bundy Aid” has been nearly demolished in state budgets over the past four decades.

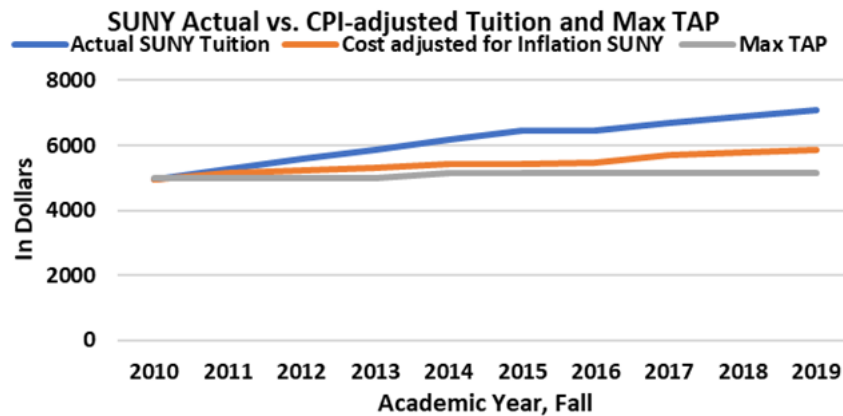
Originally designed to uphold the strength and vitality of independent institutions of higher education,¹ Bundy Aid once stood as a testament to the state’s promise. Since the 1980-81 fiscal year, 8 institutions that once benefited from Bundy Aid have permanently closed, with an additional 13 currently at risk of shutting down. The state funds Bundy Aid at just \$21.76 million, which amounts to 11.2% of the statutory level.² To meet legal requirements, the state should be investing closer to \$200 million...*breaking the promise* the state made to support and protect these vital pillars of learning.

Promises Made, Promises Broken – New York’s “TAP Gap”: For five decades, TAP has been the way of directing aid to the neediest students in both the public and independent college sectors. In its first year (1974), the program offered \$1,500 for the neediest students to cover tuition.

While the \$1,500 was more than the maximum public tuition charged at the State University³ and the City University⁴ of New York, the goal at that time also was to help stabilize the costs of attending college in the independent (private) college sector. At that time, the existing state support for independent colleges and universities covered only 22% of private tuition (the maximum state financial aid award to a private college student prior to TAP was \$600). The goal of the then-new TAP assistance was to boost that support to cover half of independent college tuition for the neediest students.⁵ Today, the maximum TAP award does not cover public college tuition⁶ and comes nowhere near half of the costs of tuition costs for independent colleges.⁷ On top of that, significant additional fees at public institutions—along with the costs of books and housing, which TAP does not cover—make college increasingly unaffordable. For many students, taking out loans has become the only option.

Prior to 2011, New York increased the maximum Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) award to match the state’s public college tuition, ensuring that the lowest-income students were protected from tuition hikes while also enhancing affordability for students attending independent colleges and universities. However, in 2011, the SUNY2020 law altered this approach by decoupling TAP from public college tuition. While tuition was set to increase automatically, TAP remained essentially frozen for the past decade, shifting the responsibility to colleges to supplement financial assistance for the lowest-income students.

As tuition has been raised, public colleges have had to dig deeper into their own resources – which have also been more or less frozen during this time – to provide necessary financial assistance. This deepening hole – the “TAP Gap” – shortchanged CUNY and SUNY for years, starving campus budgets and putting student support services and educational quality at risk. Prior to the recent changes in state support, CUNY reported a \$74 million TAP Gap.⁸ As seen in the following chart, the gap between the maximum TAP award and the public college tuition was growing with each annual tuition hike and that gap eventually was closed with state revenues, instead of campus resources.⁹



As public college tuition has increased while TAP awards remained essentially unchanged (there has been one increase over the past decade), the gap between the maximum award and SUNY and CUNY tuition has led to financial pressures on the individual campuses. Under the “SUNY2020” law, those campuses must provide additional assistance to students in need to make up the “TAP Gap.”

As mentioned earlier, in recent budgets the “TAP Gap” was eliminated through state appropriation. However, the financial damage caused by the prior years’ gaps were not restored. Those years’ policies undermined the financial strength of public colleges and universities.

Without additional investment, SUNY faces a \$1.1 billion annual shortfall; even with predictable funding increases, the gap would still be \$89.1 million.¹⁰ In 2022, total enrollment across all postsecondary institutions dropped to 896,000—the lowest it had been in 15 years—declining by 73,000 full-time equivalent students since Fall 2008.¹¹ Institutions like Buffalo State University are already cutting programs,

freezing hiring, and offering voluntary separations to reduce costs.¹² This downward trend further strains institutional budgets, reducing tuition revenue and deepening financial challenges.

Promises Made, Promises Broken – “Bundy Aid”: Aid to Certain Non-Public Colleges and Universities, popularly known as Bundy Aid, is a program that provides direct unrestricted financial support to independent postsecondary institutions located in New York State. The program was established in 1968 through a Select Committee charged with "how the State can help preserve the strength and vitality of our private and independent institutions of higher education and at the same time, keep them free." The Committee's report recommended that "the moderate but real level of need calls for direct assistance from New York to private colleges and universities." Distribution of the assistance is based on a formula derived from the number of degrees an institution has granted.¹³

Once a vital component of independent colleges’ finances, the program has been decimated by cuts over the past four decades. The peak state support occurred during the 1989-90 fiscal year, when nearly \$114 million was appropriated.¹⁴ During the current fiscal year, that amount has been reduced to \$21.76 million. The current year’s budget also eliminated any assistance to independent institutions with endowments consisting of at least \$750 million.¹⁵

In order to fairly compare individual colleges’ financial impacts resulting from New York’s cuts to Bundy Aid, we examined data from Academic Year (AY) 1980-81 with AY 2023-24 (the most recent data available). We removed colleges that either received support in 1980-81 but do not exist today, or those which did not exist in 1980-81 but do today. We also removed those institutions with endowments of \$750 million or more. Lastly, we added information about the financial health of private institutions.¹⁶ The institutions that have closed within the last two years had a score of C- or worse.¹⁷

COMPARISON OF BUNDY AID OVER TIME, COLLEGES WITH ENDOWMENTS UNDER \$750 MILLION AY1980-81, POSSIBLE CPI-ADJUSTED IN AY 2023-24, AND ACTUAL IN AY 2023-24				
Institution Name	Bundy Aid AY 1980-81	Possible Bundy Aid 2024 (Adjusted CPI)	Actual Bundy Aid AY 2023-24	Forbes Financial Grades
Adelphi University	\$3,102,600.00	\$12,668,458.16	\$554,726.03	C-
Albany College Of Pharmacy And Health Sciences	\$141,600.00	\$578,177.55	\$154,198.14	C
Albany Law School	\$213,300.00	\$870,941.19	\$34,457.26	
Albany Medical College	\$571,500.00	\$2,333,534.40	\$131,254.97	
Alfred University	\$409,800.00	\$1,673,285.04	\$99,499.12	B-
Bank Street College Of Education	\$132,300.00	\$540,204.03	\$56,172.52	
Bard College	\$156,000.00	\$636,975.27	\$150,996.11	A-
Barnard College	\$639,600.00	\$2,611,598.61	\$213,941.06	A-
Mount Sinai Phillips School Of Nursing	\$445,500.00	\$1,819,054.38	\$42,504.85	
Brooklyn Law School	\$276,300.00	\$1,128,181.20	\$69,452.92	
Canisius University Of Buffalo, New York	\$783,300.00	\$3,198,350.83	\$170,529.45	C+
Clarkson University	\$1,119,000.00	\$4,569,072.61	\$302,436.15	C-
College Of Mt St Vincent	\$278,400.00	\$1,136,755.87	\$274,458.52	D
Culinary Institute Of America 697	\$374,850.00	\$1,530,578.08	\$54,396.77	
Daemen University	\$224,400.00	\$916,264.43	\$234,721.20	D-
Dominican University New York	\$231,600.00	\$945,663.29	\$143,666.38	D-
D'youville University	\$378,000.00	\$1,543,440.08	\$257,900.52	C
Elmira College	\$434,400.00	\$1,773,731.14	\$48,115.49	D

Hartwick College	\$349,360.00	\$1,426,497.95	\$71,946.54	D
Hobart & Wm Smith Colleges	\$458,400.00	\$1,871,727.33	\$108,160.66	C+
Iona University	\$1,176,300.00	\$4,803,038.53	\$207,924.26	C
Ithaca College	\$1,197,700.00	\$4,890,418.47	\$447,406.03	C
Keuka College	\$160,800.00	\$656,574.51	\$95,475.34	D
Long Island University-Brooklyn Campus	\$5,299,300.00	\$21,637,968.26	\$906,363.92	C
Manhattan College	\$1,259,700.00	\$5,143,575.31	\$251,543.69	C-
Manhattan School Of Music	\$189,600.00	\$774,169.94	\$86,058.14	C-
Manhattanville College	\$249,600.00	\$1,019,160.43	\$182,015.20	
Maria College Of Albany	\$79,200.00	\$323,387.44	\$21,082.40	
Marist College	\$405,900.00	\$1,657,360.65	\$466,948.80	C+
Marymount Manhattan College	\$284,580.00	\$1,161,989.89	\$90,393.63	
Mercy University	\$1,328,400.00	\$5,424,089.41	\$528,023.54	C
Mount Saint Mary College	\$213,600.00	\$872,166.14	\$113,724.08	C-
Nazareth University	\$686,100.00	\$2,801,466.24	\$235,542.97	C
The New School	\$678,600.00	\$2,770,842.42	\$729,203.71	C-
Northeast College Of Health Sciences	\$873,000.00	\$3,564,611.61	\$108,349.57	
New York College Of Podiatric Medicine	\$499,500.00	\$2,039,545.82	\$61,027.51	
New York Institute Of Technology Old Westbury Campus	\$2,019,600.00	\$8,246,379.84	\$558,910.40	
New York Law School	\$319,500.00	\$1,304,574.35	\$52,224.29	
Ny Medical College	\$756,900.00	\$3,090,555.01	\$247,812.71	
Pace University - NYC Campus	\$3,063,600.00	\$12,509,214.34	\$866,749.40	D
Paul Smiths College	\$176,850.00	\$722,109.46	\$40,710.20	C
Pratt Institute	\$1,003,200.00	\$4,096,240.97	\$325,719.37	B-
Russell Sage College	\$639,600.00	\$2,611,598.61	\$198,525.97	D
St Bonaventure University	\$766,800.00	\$3,130,978.44	\$176,329.00	C-
St Francis College	\$627,670.00	\$2,562,886.33	\$141,380.57	C-
St John Fisher University	\$420,000.00	\$1,714,933.42	\$311,031.57	C+
St Joseph's University	\$585,600.00	\$2,391,107.17	\$330,253.23	C-
Saint Lawrence University	\$773,400.00	\$3,157,927.40	\$153,962.00	
St Thomas Aquinas College	\$242,400.00	\$989,761.57	\$85,189.17	C
Sarah Lawrence College	\$291,000.00	\$1,188,203.87	\$108,869.08	
Siena College	\$710,400.00	\$2,900,687.38	\$230,754.09	C
Skidmore College	\$664,800.00	\$2,714,494.61	\$174,836.60	B
Teachers College	\$2,260,800.00	\$9,231,241.61	\$456,757.09	
Touro University	\$146,400.00	\$597,776.79	\$1,030,005.80	C-
Trocaire College	\$46,125.00	\$188,336.44	\$39,444.49	
Union College	\$732,600.00	\$2,991,333.86	\$121,280.49	B-
Utica University	\$1,193,700.00	\$4,874,085.77	\$345,252.71	D
Villa Maria College Of Buffalo	\$56,700.00	\$231,516.01	\$17,001.94	
Wagner College	\$639,900.00	\$2,612,823.56	\$132,086.17	C
Webb Institute	\$20,400.00	\$83,296.77	\$6,517.40	
Yeshiva University	\$1,944,900.00	\$7,941,366.68	\$400,357.88	C+

Over the last 18 years, New York has lost seventeen independent colleges, universities, and other degree-granting institutions. Ten of those seventeen shut their doors in only the last two years, throwing their students into educational uncertainty and potentially, entire communities into economic insecurity.¹⁸

Institutions of Higher Education are Economic Development “Engines” that Produce Real Benefits, Unlike Many of the Highly Touted Projects that in Recent Years Have Produced Little Other than Scandal. As seen above, devastating cuts – both in real and inflation-adjusted dollars – have pushed many independent colleges to the financial brink – some off the cliff. Not only does the broken promise of support to public colleges, as well as independent ones, rob students of educational options, it also hurts the state economically. In addition, it is one of the best vehicles to move New Yorkers to financial stability and grow the “middle class.”

Yet too often the state’s economic development strategies ignore those well-documented benefits and instead spend taxpayer dollars on programs that sound good in press releases but rarely deliver. According to recent testimony by the Citizens Budget Commission,

“In New York State, various agencies and entities administer economic development programs with a total cost of \$10 billion annually in 2019. While New York is a leader in the scope and amount of its economic development spending, it is not a leader in job-creating projects. It fails to rigorously evaluate the effectiveness of its economic development spending and does not demonstrate that this spending is producing sufficient results.”

The CBC goes on to comment,

“CBC has previously found that the Regional Economic Development Councils, while conceptually an appropriate and productive structure, are not providing maximum value due to the lack of a comprehensive State and regional strategy that drives project selection, dispersed investment that reduces impact, and inadequate transparency and evaluation. We have also found that the film tax credit provides unnecessary subsidies to an established, profitable industry. We have noted that fossil fuel subsidies and tax breaks should be evaluated to ensure they effectively meet the range of State policy goals including greenhouse gas reduction targets. We have also identified other programs targeted to specific industries, such as horse racing, that should be more closely examined.”¹⁹

Higher Education’s Economic Benefits

For example, SUNY’s economic impact in New York State is \$28.6 billion. *For every \$1 invested in SUNY, New York State’s economy benefits the equivalent of \$8.17* and is responsible for nearly 2% of the gross state product.²⁰

- Approximately 296,000 New Yorkers are directly employed at a higher education institution in New York. Higher education is responsible for \$27 billion in wages. Further, colleges and universities engage in cutting edge research and development, spending \$8.3 billion in such activities in 2022.²¹
- CUNY graduates working in New York State earned a combined \$57 billion annually (\$67,000 on average) in 2019 – \$28.6 billion more than students would have earned without a post-secondary degree.²²
- CUNY graduates working in New York paid an estimated \$4.2 billion in State income taxes in 2019.²³ And the vast majority of CUNY graduates remain in New York State - five years after graduation, 85% of those who went to CUNY stayed in New York.²⁴
- The average bachelor’s degree holder contributes \$278,000 more to local economies than the average high school graduate through direct spending over the course of a lifetime; and an associate degree holder contributes \$81,000 more than a high school graduate.²⁵
- Five years post-graduation, 85% of graduates from the City University of New York (CUNY), 70% of those from the State University of New York (SUNY), and 65% of graduates from private colleges remain in New York State.²⁶

- In fiscal year 2022-23 independent colleges and universities in New York State contributed an estimated \$97 billion to the state's economy and supported more than 407,000 jobs.²⁷

Community Colleges are also prime examples of what economic development should look like. Research from experts like economist Tim Bartik has shown that **community college workforce education** is one of the most cost-effective ways for governments to create jobs and grow the economy, especially in comparison to giving money away to businesses via tax abatements, grants, and other forms of business subsidies.²⁸

Now is the Time to Dramatically Strengthen Investments in Higher Education:

The state gets such a high return on investment that it makes no sense to shortchange investment in SUNY, CUNY, and independent institutions. If the state wants to stem the tide of working-class people leaving New York, it needs to invest more resources in higher education as graduates tend to stay and work in the state – making significant financial contributions to the economy.

Recommendation: The State Must Dramatically Increase Base Aid Support for CUNY and SUNY, including passage of the New Deal for CUNY and analogous funding for SUNY. Given the importance of New York's higher education sector – both in terms of educating the next generation as well as providing an economic stimulus to local communities – it's hard to imagine revitalizing these important entities without significant additional state support. The state must provide funding to make up for revenues lost from enrollment declines and that addresses the decade of disinvestment that preceded the pandemic. **The Legislature should also provide more aid to alleviate the burden of current tuition and fee rates, including providing for the first 60 credits to be free for all students and reforming financial aid programs like TAP to be able to cover non-tuition costs.**

Recommendation: The State Should Increase Funding for Bundy Aid for the Independent Sector. Originally designed to uphold the strength and vitality of independent institutions of higher education,²⁹ Bundy Aid once stood as a testament to the state's promise. Today, New York State's independent higher education sector employs 65% of the state's higher education workforce, contributing \$33 billion in payroll impact.³⁰ However, last year's cuts to Bundy Aid reduced the state's total investment in independent higher education by 52%, resulting in an \$18.4 million loss for these institutions.³¹ Given that Bundy Aid is the only operating aid that Independent Sector campuses receive, this cut has impacted over 236,000 students.³² **NYPIRG urges an increase in Bundy Aid to at least its historical level of \$100 million, which, when adjusted for inflation, would exceed \$260 million today, for independent institutions.**

Recommendation: Increase the maximum TAP award to cover the full cost of SUNY and CUNY.

Recommendation: Restore the cuts to opportunity programs proposed by the Governor.

Recommendation: Boost State Support For Community Colleges

Community colleges are facing continued fragile financial circumstances yet are vital to the state's economy. To that end, the Governor has proposed free tuition for first time community college students aged 25-55 for certain majors in specific high demand fields. This is a good *first* step on which to build. While community colleges certainly provide needed job training, and supporting that is worthwhile, higher education is not reducible to such training. Academic disciplines disfavored by particular employers should not be a luxury for those who can afford it. So, instead of tipping the scales in favor of specific fields and further squeezing the humanities, **we urge that the final budget agreement offer this program to students regardless of which major they choose.**

Governor Hochul's Executive Budget holds community college funding harmless against recent enrollment losses, allocating the same level of funding they received last year. The rate of community colleges' tuition hikes over the past decade far outstrips inflation. Every community college in New York State has increased tuition in excess of higher education inflation.³³ Additionally, community college tuition increases have

exceeded those allowed for the four-year public colleges. Since the first year of SUNY2020, more than half of the SUNY community colleges (16 of 29) and all CUNY community colleges had tuition rate increases that exceeded the rate approved for the SUNY four-year public colleges and universities.³⁴

The state should be covering 40% of the costs of educating a student at a community college. However, there is a huge discrepancy between the tuition paid by students and the aid provided by the state. In the current fiscal year's budget, the state has pledged to provide \$2,947 in aid for each full-time student attending community colleges. None of the state's community colleges have tuition levels set under \$4,300, much less \$3,000. In fact, average community college tuition is above \$5,000,³⁵ roughly 70% higher than the amount of state support. The Legislature should create a stable minimum funding floor for community colleges at 100% of the 2019-2020 funding level and increase per-FTE base aid.

Endnotes:

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⁴ Tuition at the CUNY 1974 <https://cunytime.wordpress.com/quick-facts/cuny-tuition/>.

⁵ Higher Education Services Corporation, "Appendix E: New York's Tuition Assistance Program - A History," <https://www.hesc.ny.gov/partner-access/financial-aid-professionals/programs-policies-and-procedures-guide-to-grants-and-scholarship-programs/appendix-e-new-york-s-tuition-assistance-program-a-history.html>.

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⁷ College Tuition Compare, "2023 Average Tuition of colleges in New York is \$9,187 for Residents and \$18,639 for Others," February 27, 2023, <https://www.collegetuitioncompare.com/articles/average-cost-of-college-in-new-york/#:~:text=For%20private%20colleges%20in%20New,average%20graduate%20tuition%20is%20%2425%2C834>.

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¹² WKBW. 2024. "Program Cuts and Hiring Freeze Included in Buffalo State University's Financial Sustainability Plan." WKBW Buffalo, February 19, 2024. <https://www.wkbw.com/news/local-news/buffalo/program-cuts-and-hiring-freeze-included-in-buffalo-state-universitys-financial-sustainability-plan>.

¹³ New York State Education Department, "New York State Bundy Aid Program, 1969-1981," December 1981.

¹⁴ New York State Education Department, "Fiscal Indicators for Postsecondary Education in New York State, 1986-87 Through 1990-91, August 1993, see: Section IV - Table I.

¹⁵ Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities, "FY 2025 Enacted State Budget Key Takeaways," <https://www.cicu.org/statement-from-cicu-president-lola-w-brabham-on-the-fy-2025-enacted-state-budget/>.

¹⁶ Whitford, E., Schifrin, M., "Forbes 2024 College Financial Grades: The Nation's Strongest And Weakest Schools, Forbes, <https://www.forbes.com/sites/emmahwhitford/2024/08/03/forbes-2024-college-financial-grades-americas-strongest-and-weakest-schools/>.

¹⁷ Whitford, Emma. 2023. "Forbes 2023 College Financial Grades: The Strongest and Weakest Colleges." Forbes, April 26, 2023. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/emmahwhitford/2023/04/26/forbes-2023-college-financial-grades-the-strongest-and-weakest-colleges/>.

¹⁸ New York State Department of Education, "Closures of Degree-Granting Institutions," <https://www.nysed.gov/college-university-evaluation/closures-degree-granting-institutions>.

¹⁹ Citizens Budget Commission's testimony before the joint hearing of the New York State Senate Committees on Finance, Commerce, Economic Development and Small Business, and Investigations and Government Operations, January 14, 2022.

²⁰ The Economic Impact of the State University of New York: Laura Schultz, November 2018 <https://rockinst.org/issue-area/the-economic-impact-of-the-state-university-of-new-york/>.

²¹ New York State Comptroller. "Economic Impact: Higher Education." September 2024. <https://www.osc.ny.gov/files/reports/pdf/higher-education-economic-impact.pdf>

²² Comptroller Stringer Analysis: CUNY Graduates Earn Combined \$57 Billion Annually, Highlighting CUNY's Significant Contributions to Local and State Economies. <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/newsroom/comptroller-stringer-analysis-cuny-graduates-earn-combined-57-billion-annually-highlighting-cunys-significant-contributions-to-local-and-state-economies/>.

²³ Comptroller Stringer Analysis: CUNY Graduates Earn Combined \$57 Billion Annually, Highlighting CUNY’s Significant Contributions to Local and State Economies. <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/newsroom/comptroller-stringer-analysis-cunys-significant-contributions-to-local-and-state-economies/>.

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²⁶ New York State Comptroller. “Economic Impact: Higher Education.” September 2024.

<https://www.osc.ny.gov/files/reports/pdf/higher-education-economic-impact.pdf>

²⁷ Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities, “ Economic Impact of New York State’s Independent Sector, Fiscal Year 2022-23,” <https://www.cicu.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Economic-Impact-of-New-York-States-Independent-Sector-FY2022-23.pdf>.

²⁸ Bartik, 2019 <https://reinventalbany.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Workforce-Development-Everybody-Says-They-Love-It-But-What-Is-It-November-2022.pdf>.

²⁹ New York State Education Department, New York State Bundy Aid Program, 1969-1981: A Historical Report on New York State Colleges and Universities Receiving State Aid Under Section 6401 of the Education Law (Albany, NY: Cultural Education Center, December 1981).

³⁰ The Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities, Economic Impact of New York State’s Independent Sector, Fiscal Year 2022-23, <https://www.cicu.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Economic-Impact-of-New-York-States-Independent-Sector-FY2022-23.pdf>.

³¹ The Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities, Stand Up for Student Aid: Restore FY 2025 Cuts to Bundy Aid, Fiscal Year 2024-2025, <https://www.cicu.org/>.

³² National Center for Education Statistics, College Navigator, U.S. Department of Education, accessed February 13, 2025, <https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>.

³³ For tuition costs for the academic years 2010-11 through AY 2019-20, we relied on the National Center for Education Statistics (a federal agency) to obtain the data necessary to calculate our estimates. We used its Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System.” Using the option to “compare institutions,” we obtained student population and tuition data used to do the calculations. The data was obtained at <https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/use-the-data>. Accessed September 2020. For tuition costs for AY2020-21, we reviewed each of the community colleges’ websites to obtain current charges.

³⁴ SUNY tuition for Academic Year (AY) 2010-2011 was \$4,970. The so-called “rational tuition” policy allowed for \$300 annual increases for 5 years, or a total of \$1,500 by July 2016. NY’s re-instituted annual tuition increases for AY 2017-2018, 2018-2019, and 2019-2020 by allowing for three \$200 dollar increases, bringing tuition to \$7,070 at SUNY, hence tuition has increased 42%. SUNY community college tuition increased, on average, 43%. Similar increases were approved for the City University systems as well. Its community colleges also exceeded increases beyond those approved for the four-year college and universities within its system. Calculations performed by NYPIRG.

³⁵ *Supra* 6