

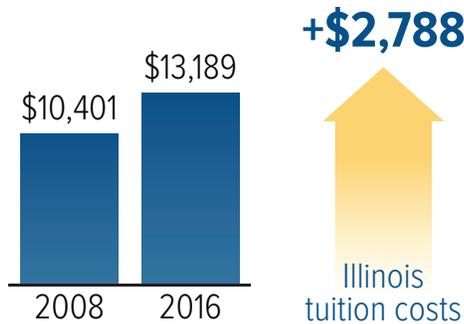
# Cuts to Illinois' Higher Education System Jeopardizes Our Economic Future

Cuts to Illinois' higher education system are making college less affordable and threatening the quality of education students receive at the state's public four-year and community colleges. Having a highly educated workforce is critical to our economic future, and we need a strong and high-quality higher education system to make that happen. Ensuring adequate investment in our state's colleges and universities requires that policymakers make sound decisions about how to raise and use resources and avoid shortsighted tax cuts.

**1** Per-student funding for Illinois' public colleges and universities is 54% below 2008 levels.



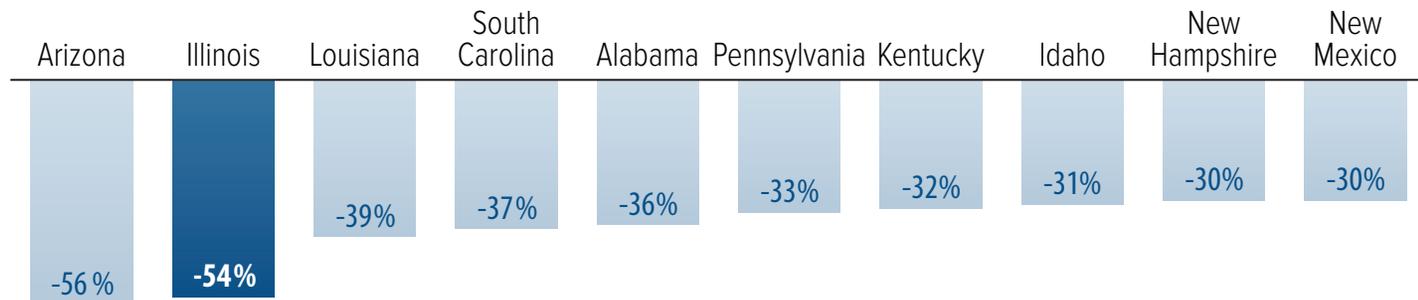
**2** Since 2008, average tuition in Illinois is up by \$2,788 for four-year public colleges and universities.



**3** The \$3,479 cut in per-student funding and tuition increases have made college less affordable, shifting costs from Illinois to students and jeopardizing quality at public universities.



Only 1 state has cut higher education more than Illinois



Note: Illinois system of higher education operated without state appropriations for much of the 2015-16 school year. In April, Illinois lawmakers provided just under \$600 million for state colleges and universities for FY2016. In June, the legislature approved an additional \$1 billion in higher education funding that could be used for expenses in FY2016 and the first half of FY2017. In order to calculate the amount dispersed for 2016 we have spread the additional \$1 billion in funding across the 18-month time period with two-thirds of the funding applied to 2016 and the remaining third to FY2017, such that the final FY2016 appropriation totals \$1.255 billion.

Sources: State Higher Education Executive Officers Association, SHEF 2015; Fiscal Policy Center at Voices for Illinois Children; College Board, Trends in College Pricing 2016.