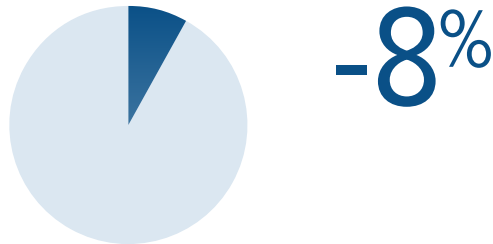


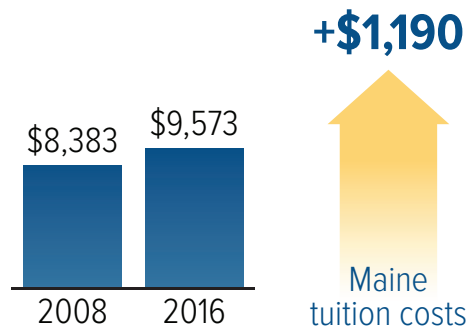
Cuts to Maine's Higher Education System Jeopardize Our Economic Future

Cuts to Maine's 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 Maine's public colleges and universities is 8% below 2008 levels.



- 2 Since 2008, average tuition in state is up by \$1,190 for four-year public colleges and universities.



- 3 The \$708 cut in per-student funding and tuition increases have made college less affordable, shifting costs from state to students and jeopardizing quality at public universities.



Notes: All figures are adjusted for inflation and represent constant 2015 dollars. Because data is available only through the 2014-2015 school year, enrollment for 2015-16 is estimated based on past years.

Sources: State Higher Education Executive Officers Association, SHEF 2015; Illinois State University, Grapevine fiscal year 2016; College Board, Trends in College Pricing 2016.