

Trends in College Affordability by Income

Developing the SREB State Affordability Profiles



**Introduction:
SREB**

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About SREB

- Founded in 1948
- One of four regional education compacts
- Only compact with programs that target pre-K through postsecondary education
- Sixteen member states
- Funded by annual appropriations, grants from foundations and agencies, and contracts with schools and districts for services

Analyze & Publish

data, research,
promising practices

How We Work

Support Action

in states and schools,
policy and practice

Convene & Engage

decision-makers in education,
government, business

SREB Data Services

- Manage the SREB State Data Exchange survey and report findings
- Produce the SREB Fact Book on Higher Education and Featured Facts
- Support individuals within SREB and outside of the organization who have data requests

Affordability Profiles History

- Created in response to the SREB Commission on College Affordability in the South
 - Analyses showed that SREB states had lost ground in college affordability, which led to increased student borrowing and debt.
 - Commission concluded that states must take steps to assure that tuition, student financial aid, appropriations to institutions, and accountability policies are aligned so that affordability for all students is protected as a critical state priority.
- Profiles first published in 2016
- Data focus on 4-year, 2-year, and technical institutions in SREB states
- Involves data on net price, FTE enrollment, tuition, income levels, and student borrowing

SREB Commission on College Affordability in the South

During times of financial distress and budgetary shortfalls, protecting college access and completion for low-income and middle-income students, including capacity at the institutions that serve them, should be states' highest postsecondary priority.

Profiles on the SREB Website

The screenshot shows the SREB website interface. At the top left is the SREB logo and the text "Southern Regional Education Board". To the right are social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn, and a search icon. Below this is a navigation bar with links for "COVID-19 Response", "Programs & Services", "School Improvement", "News", "About", "Events", and "Contact". A secondary navigation bar features "FIND DATA OR POLICY BY:" followed by icons for "TOPICS", "EDUCATION LEVEL", and "STATE".

The main content area is titled "College Affordability". On the left is a sidebar menu under the heading "TOPICS" with the following items: "CTE and Career Pathways", "College Affordability" (highlighted), "State Affordability Profiles", "College and Career Readiness", "College Completion", "Community Colleges", "Distance/Online Education", "Dual Enrollment", "Governance & Finance", "Literacy Instruction", "Mathematics Instruction", "Principals & School Leaders", "Standards & Accountability", and "Teacher Preparation".

The main text under "College Affordability" reads: "Affordability is a crucial component in students' ability to earn college degrees. SREB offers data, reports recommendations and technical assistance to help states raise their college attainment rates and bolster their economic futures."

Below this is a section titled "HOW AFFORDABLE IS COLLEGE IN YOUR STATE?" with the sub-heading "16 state profiles, March 2020". The text states: "State-level data and how each state compares to national and SREB-region averages. Each state profile details net price at different types of institutions, state financial aid based on need or other factors, student borrowing, and percentage of family income needed to pay for college at different income levels." A link "Find your state's profile >" is provided.

On the right side of the page, there are two promotional cards. The top one is for a "WEBINAR" titled "Trends in College Affordability by Income - May 6 at 11 a.m." and includes a line graph showing trends from 2007 to 2017. The bottom card is for "STATE FINANCIAL AID" and includes a map of the Southern region with a legend for "Merit", "Need", and "Non-need" aid.

To download a copy of your state's Affordability Profile go to sreb.org/AffordabilityProfiles

Setting up Base Files

- We needed to
 - Determine our list of institutions
 - Match IPEDS sectors to SREB categories
 - Set the categories for income levels (did the same with ACS data)
 - Calculate the undergraduate FTE, net price, population proportions
- Required a combination of IPEDS files
 - Header (HD)
 - EFIA
 - SFA

Setting up Base Files

A1 fx stabbr

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
1	stabbr	year	group	instnm	unitid	city	control	sector	carnegie	ccipug	fteug
2	AL	2008		1 University of Alabama at Birmingham	100663	Birmingham	1	1	15	11	9369
3	AL	2008		1 University of Alabama in Huntsville	100706	Huntsville	1	1	16	14	5137
4	AL	2008		1 The University of Alabama	100751	Tuscaloosa	1	1	15	14	21916
5	AL	2008		1 Auburn University Main Campus	100858	Auburn University	1	1	15	14	19278
6	AL	2008		1 University of Alabama at Birmingham	100663	Birmingham	1	1	15	11	9369
7	AL	2008		1 University of Alabama in Huntsville	100706	Huntsville	1	1	16	14	5137
8	AL	2008		1 The University of Alabama	100751	Tuscaloosa	1	1	15	14	21916
9	AL	2008		1 Auburn University Main Campus	100858	Auburn University	1	1	15	14	19278

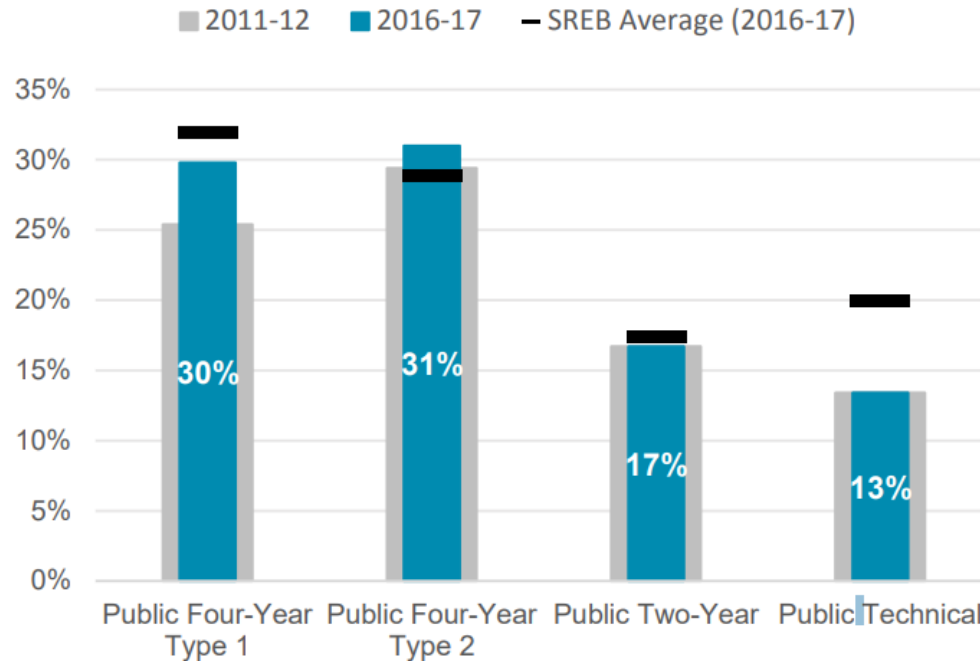
A1

	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T
1	famincat	netprice	stnum	statename	sreb.sector	all_fte	prop_fte	total_stat	sector_prop
2	< 30k	9491	1	Alabama	41	55700	0.168205	182301	0.305539
3	< 30k	7864	1	Alabama	42	55700	0.092226	182301	0.305539
4	< 30k	15216	1	Alabama	41	55700	0.393465	182301	0.305539
5	< 30k	8686	1	Alabama	41	55700	0.346104	182301	0.305539
6	30k to 48k	11052	1	Alabama	41	55700	0.168205	182301	0.305539
7	30k to 48k	9990	1	Alabama	42	55700	0.092226	182301	0.305539
8	30k to 48k	17113	1	Alabama	41	55700	0.393465	182301	0.305539
9	30k to 48k	11433	1	Alabama	41	55700	0.346104	182301	0.305539

Institution Types

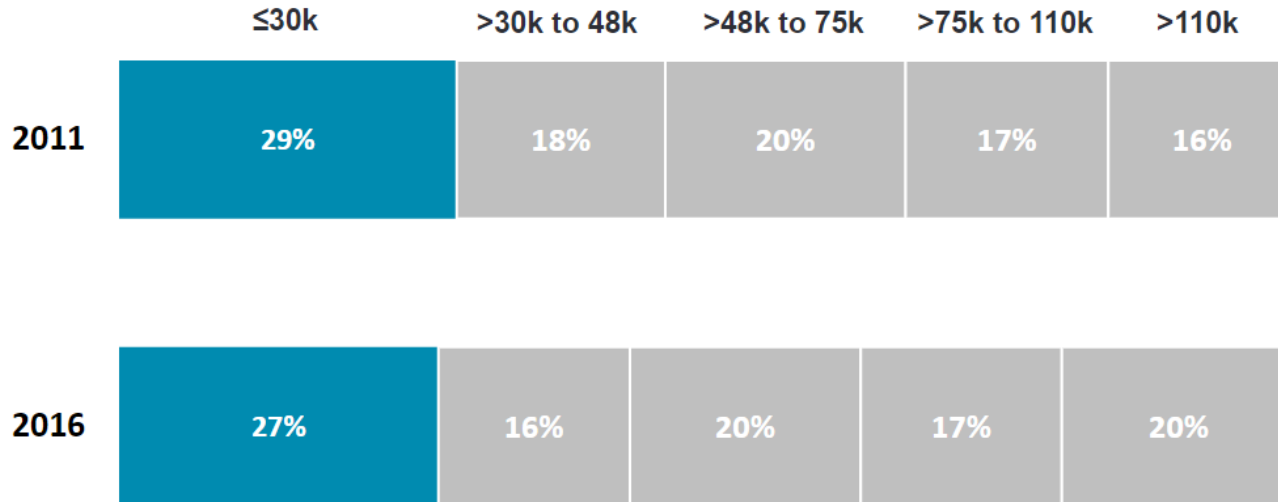
- Higher education institutions are grouped into four types, based on SREB institutional categories
 - **Four-Year Type 1:** four-year institutions award at least 30 doctoral degrees in five different areas
 - **Four-Year Type 2:** all other four-year institutions
 - **Two-Year:** institutions that primarily award associate degrees
 - **Technical:** postsecondary institutions that offer programs of less than two years duration below the baccalaureate level and occupational and vocational schools with programs that do not exceed 1800 contact hours

Percentage of Family Income Required to Pay Net Price



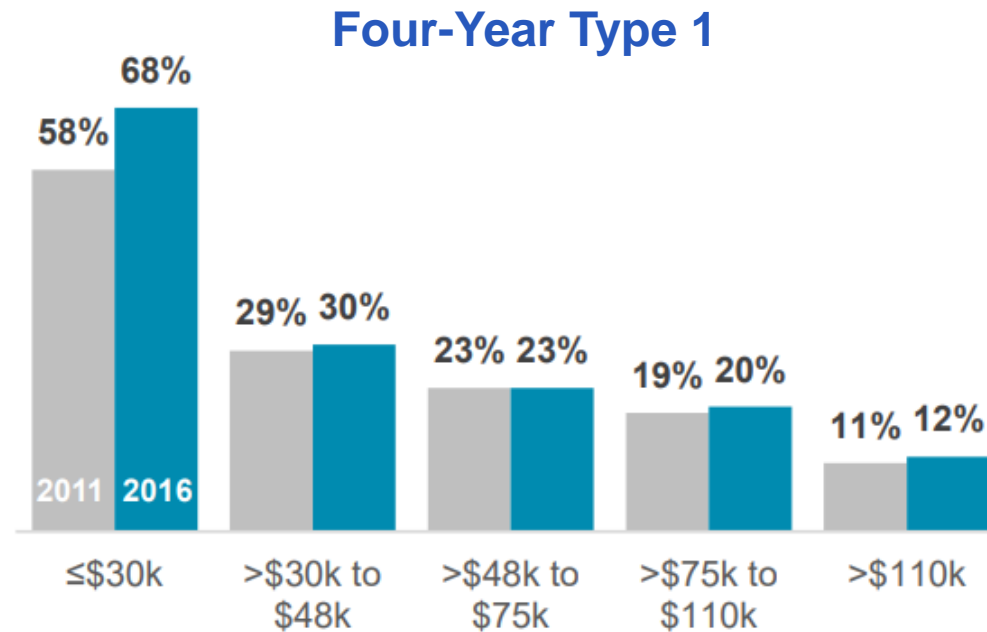
U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Student Financial Aid Files and Directory Files 2011 and 2016, 12-Month Enrollment Instructional Activity Files 2012 and 2017. American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Samples 2011 and 2016. Institutional types based on SREB-State Data Exchange categories.

Distribution of Family Income



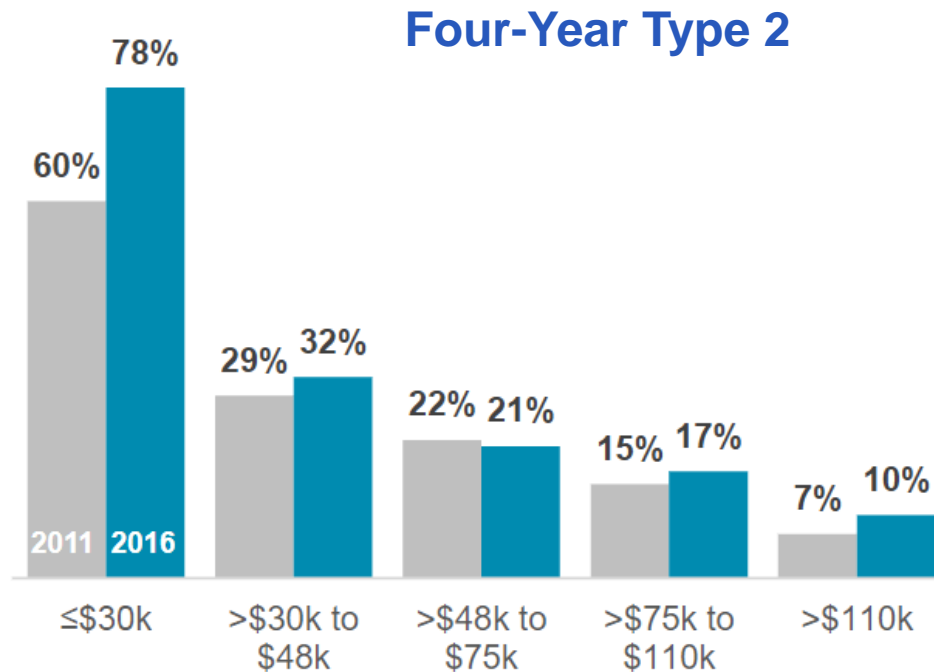
Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Student Financial Aid Files and Directory Files 2011 and 2016.

Net Price as a Percentage of Income by Family Income



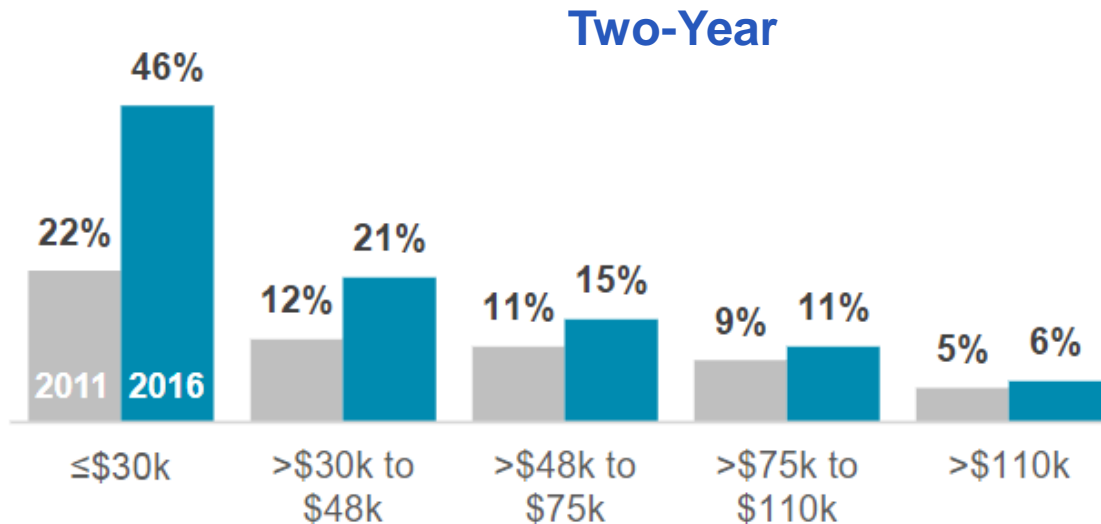
U.S. Department of Education, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Student Financial Aid Files and Directory Files 2011 and 2016, 12-Month Enrollment Instructional Activity Files 2012 and 2017. American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Samples, 2011 and 2016. Institutional types based on SREB-State Data Exchange categories.

Net Price as a Percentage of Income by Family Income



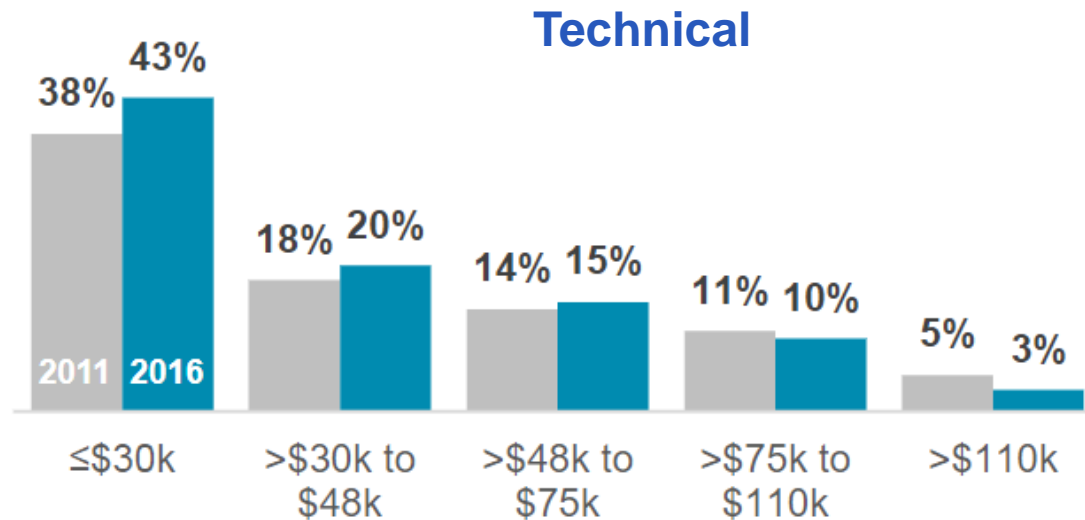
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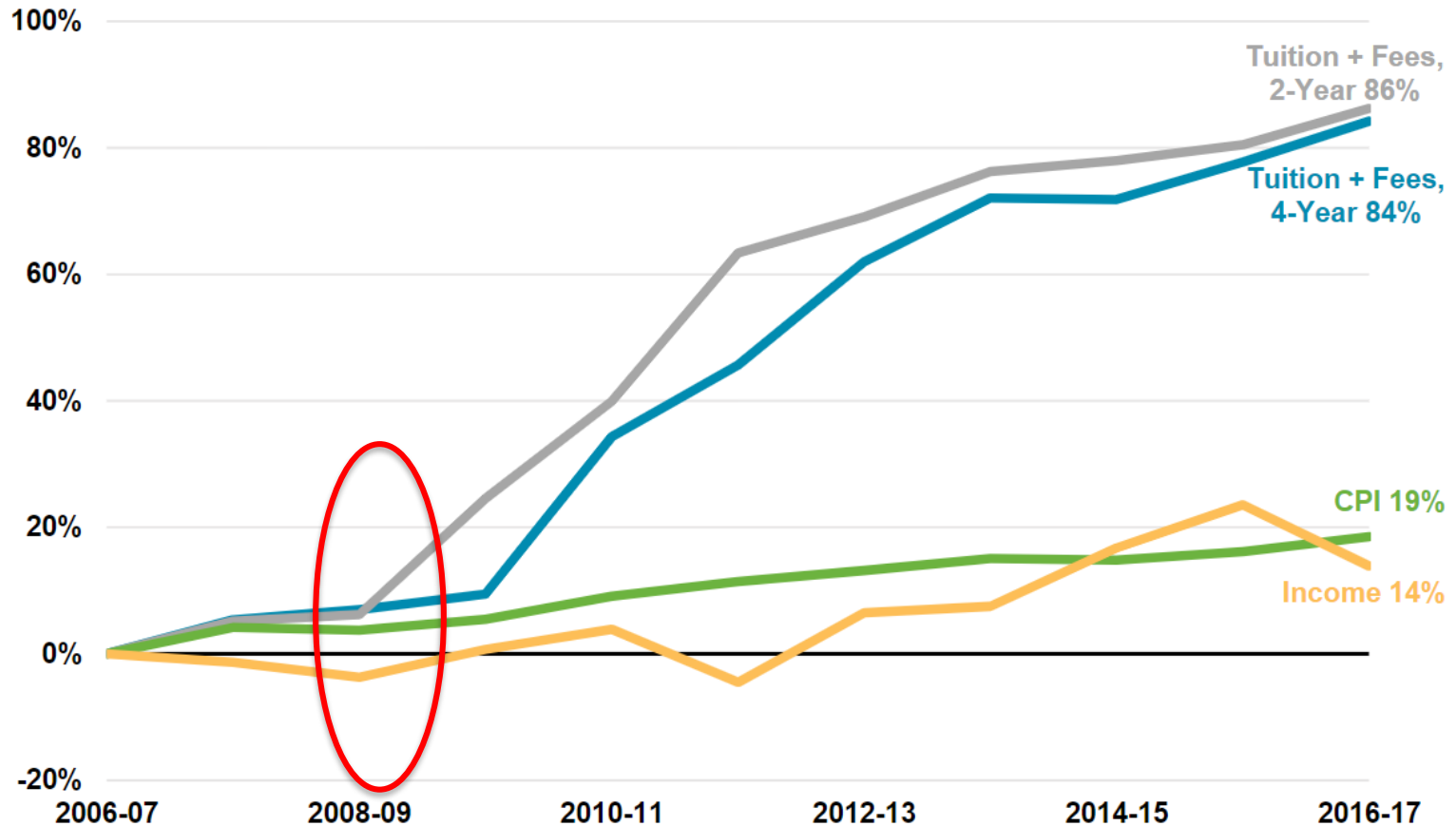


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How Much Graduates Borrow

	Need Only	Need and Merit	Merit Only	Special Purpose
Oklahoma (2011-12)	\$111	\$0	\$53	\$365
Oklahoma (2016-17)	\$97	NA	\$67	\$455
SREB Average (2016-17)	\$351	\$137	\$397	\$69
U.S. Average (2016-17)	\$382	\$225	\$163	\$44

Changes in Tuition and Fees, CPI, and Household Income



Conclusion

- Some states have made progress in helping make college more affordable, but there is still more to do
- States might examine how they can make college more affordable for students in the lowest income groups
- Policymakers might continue to diversify the types of student aid available in their state with the goal of making college affordable for all income groups
- States might consider ways to reduce the amount of money students must borrow to go to college

SREB



Contact SREB:

sreb.org/AffordabilityProfiles

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