



OVERVIEW

The American Dream is upward mobility—all children, regardless of background, having a chance at economic success. Yet, as the current generation enters the workforce, young people are increasingly unable to achieve this dream.

Compared to their parents, students today increasingly cannot afford college, are burdened with debt, work at jobs with few if any benefits, and have no long-term security.

Financial aid such as the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) is one step toward reversing the trend. But the TAP gap and the underfunding of SUNY threaten students' access to education and their ability to graduate. Fully funding SUNY ensures that the state's future workforce, taxpayers and citizens can contribute to the productivity, quality of life, and overall health of New York state.



MIND THE TAP GAP:

Underfunding SUNY and the Fading American Dream

Fast Facts:

1

The TAP Gap—the difference between full SUNY tuition and the amount campuses are allowed to charge TAP-eligible students—is a loss of more than \$70 million every year that SUNY's 29 state-operated campuses must absorb while providing a quality education.

2

More than 40 percent of students receiving TAP attend SUNY. More than one-third of students at SUNY's state-operated campuses receive TAP. Campuses that enroll TAP-eligible students must forgo revenue desperately needed to provide these students a high-quality education.

3

In 1974, SUNY received \$4,129 on average per student in revenue (combined tuition and state appropriations); in today's dollars, that's more than \$21,000. This is roughly \$7,000 less in revenue on average per student than the current combined tuition and state appropriations that SUNY campuses receive.

4

SUNY's 2019-2020 tuition is \$7,070. Tuition for students receiving the maximum TAP award is capped at \$5,000—covering only 71 percent of SUNY undergraduate tuition. The TAP Gap (tuition loss to SUNY) is \$2,070 for each student receiving the maximum TAP award. This gap grows each year as tuition rises.

5

Closing the TAP Gap could support the annual salaries for 800 to 1,000 new full-time faculty. These additional hires could increase advising, counseling, tutoring and course offerings to help students graduate—and graduate on time.

Underfunding SUNY is extremely short-sighted. Taxpayers ultimately pay a bigger tax bill in the form of higher public assistance and health care costs. Employers have increasingly relied on higher education institutions to train and develop an ever-changing workforce. Now more than ever, fully funding SUNY is necessary to ensure that New York's future workforce receives a solid education.