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## Declining State Support, Higher Tuition in Higher Education

A new report released by The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities finds that state funding for public colleges and universities decreased by 16 percent on average per student between 2008 and 2018, and \$7 billion in total after adjusting for inflation. States cut financial support for higher education because of budget constraints in the immediate aftermath of the Great Recession, and have only gradually restored funding. Between 2017 and 2018, state financial support for higher education remained effectively unchanged, according to the report.

Some schools have made up for the shortfall by raising tuition — in the past decade, in-state tuition at four-year public colleges has increased by 36 percent — while others have responded by reducing services or eliminating course offerings.

### Change in state funding for public higher education per student, 2008 to 2018

Cuts to state support for public higher education have been widespread, with few clear regional patterns.

Funding cuts were deeper in red states: In states won by President Donald Trump in the 2016 election, state support declined by 20 percent on average, compared to a 13 percent average reduction in states won by Hillary Clinton.

The state with the greatest funding cut, Arizona, has also sharply cut funding for K-12 public education over the past decade — possibly because of revenue constraints following state-level cuts to major corporate and income taxes.

Conversely, North Dakota has seen the largest increases nationwide for both higher education and K-12 education funding per student. Since 2010, the state has experienced a massive increase in population, driven by a booming oil industry.

