

Public Higher Education In Missouri: Falling Behind

In the past 25 years, public financial support for higher education has declined by one-third, and students and their families have seen tuition and fees increase to make up the difference. In Missouri, these trends are more extreme than in most states. Consider the following facts about Missouri's public higher education:

- Missouri paid 81.6% of students' educational expenses in 1980 and only 46.0% in 2007. (State Budget Book)
- The percentage of Missouri's budget dedicated to higher education was 16.8% in 1980 and 12.7% in 2007. (State Budget Book)

The 2007 legislative session demonstrated that Missouri's lawmakers are beginning to focus on higher education and taking steps to improve it. These facts indicate that Missouri has much more work to do to reverse the trend of falling behind in public support of higher education. Compared to national averages, or what our surrounding 7 states appropriate, Missouri is clearly still falling behind, as the following tables illustrate.

1 Year % Change in Appropriations FY07-08

State	1 year % change FY07-08	Ranking
IA	9.5%	18
AR	9.3%	21
KS	4.7%	39
OK	6.2%	34
IL	4.8%	38
KY	7.1%	29
TN	8.6%	22
MO	4.4%	40
Nation	7.5%	

(Grapevine, Illinois State University)

Appropriations per \$1000 Personal Income & Per Capita FY2008

State	\$ Per \$1K PI	Rank	\$ Per Capita	Rank
IA	8.42	15	294.85	17
KS	8.07	18	297.44	16
AR	10.15	11	302.65	13
OK	8.29	17	280.64	20
IL	5.64	39	227.16	33
KY	10.18	10	316.48	11
TN	6.68	28	221.22	35
MO	4.65	44	159.05	47
Nation	6.59		257.46	

(Grapevine, Illinois State University)

Missouri needs a long-term investment plan for higher education tied to a reliable and adequate revenue source.