

Why do two-year college students need a tuition freeze?

- Tuition has risen by 77% in the last decade, far outpacing inflation and income growth.
- Ten years ago students paid 29% of the cost of their education; today they pay over 37%.
- The State Board is concerned about the impact today's tuition level has on current and potential students, and how it may impede raising the knowledge and skills of the state's residents.
- The Board asks for a biennium freeze on tuition while they develop policy recommendations for tuition and financial aid. They asked for \$30 million to back-fill foregone tuition revenue during the course of their study based on a 5% tuition increase each year of the biennium.

Why do two-year colleges need the money back-filled?

- Colleges use the revenue from tuition increases to pay for rising operations costs. With few exceptions, colleges do not receive funding for inflation, such as rising utility costs.
- Examples of other expenditures covered by rising tuition include program expansions, counseling and advising, disability accommodations and equipment.
- The Governor proposed \$19.7 million to support colleges during the tuition freeze, but anticipates that faculty increments would be paid from these dollars. The increment requirement significantly reduces funds that are needed for college operations, and establishes a precedent that students would have to bear future tuition increases to pay salary increments.

