THE INSTITUTE FOR COLLEGE ACCESS & SUCCESS

Michigan Final 2024-2025 Budget Fact Sheet

This year, TICAS prioritized seven policy proposals uplifted by our community partners, including the top higher education policy priority identified by our inaugural class of Student Advocacy Fellows. Four of these priorities were substantively reflected in the final state budget. These wins are in no small part due to our growing partnerships with the wide range of folks who do the tireless day to day work of preparing students for postsecondary life, encouraging them to pursue higher education, walking them through the financial aid process, and providing them the resources that are necessary to their success.

Policy Wins During the 2024 Budget Process

TICAS Policy Areas	TICAS Policy Priorities	State Investments
Access	Enhance student career development, exposure, and experiences at the state and regional levels.	$3.2 million to help recruit, retain, and support adult students pursue a postsecondary education
		$2.5 million to establish an Office of Rural Prosperity to enhance access to housing, education, and workforce opportunities
		$2.45 million in career exposure programs for high school students
		$1.2 million for career and education navigators for adult students
	Establish funding and program incentives for student support staff (e.g., counselors, school psychologists, college advisors, etc.).	**No Budget Investment or Changes** *Recommendation:* Expand the teacher and educator resources and investments to counselors to attract, retain, and address the state's student to counselor ratio currently ranked 49th nationwide 598 to 1.
Affordability	Close the age gap in financial aid access.	$30M Michigan Achievement Scholarship expansions to guarantee tuition-free community college for everyone, closing the state aid age gap
	TICAS Student Fellows' Priority: A grant to help cover non-tuition costs	$1000 state scholarship for community college students to use towards non tuition college costs
		Expanding rules of MAS to apply the award to the full cost of attendance improving state aid utilization and addresses equitable access to state financial aid.
	Improve state's financial aid disbursement regulations.	**No Budget Investment or Changes** *Recommendation:* Align with federal disbursement practices by having the state work directly with institutions for aid disbursement to ensure eligible students receive their state aid.
Success	Improve state financial aid reporting.	New required annual state reporting on institutional cost of attendance
	Expand student housing resources.	Ensure investments meant to address housing insecurity does not indirectly penalize eligible adults due to burdensome employment requirements for enrollment in postsecondary programs.

Other Investments that will Improve College Access, Affordability, and Success

TICAS Policy Areas	TICAS Policy Priorities
Access	$75 million for the MI Future Educator Fellowship and Stipend programs which provide financial assistance to students aspiring to be educators
	$10 million to boost FAFSA completion by making it a high school graduation requirement
	$500,000 to build improved 2-year to 4-year to career pathways for public safety, education, and health care programs
Affordability	Removing state financial aid programs from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funding allocation and moving them to General Funds, ensuring TANF resources are going to families for whom the program is designed
	Passage of Senate Bill SB350, that will allow Michigan Promise Zones to now help students cover the full cost of attendance towards earning a degree or skilled credential
Success	Over $100 million to increase housing stock and affordability initiatives
	$1 million for the MILEAP department to partner with Michigan institutions on creating and managing transfer pathways
	$500,000 for the Hunger Free Campus Pilot Program at two Michigan public universities and community colleges

Budget Implications

Constituency	Potential Impacts
Students	Improved exposure for students to help inform potential postsecondary and career pathways
	More streamlined access to state financial aid
	Reduced loan debt due to improved coverage of the state aid programs
	More navigable education pathways as a result of the investments in MILEAP
Educational Institutions	Greater support to students should support greater enrollment, persistence, and graduation rates
	Improved operational funding helps to free up institutional dollars to reinvest in students.
	Increased transparency to the state can help to foster additional investments and supports in the future.
Businesses & Employers	More students graduating with degrees and skilled credentials will help to fuel workforce needs.
	Increased connections between career opportunities and students early on can help create and sustain pipelines.
	Improved pathways between institutions and the workforce can also meet workforce needs.
The State	Increased exposure to careers early and stronger college to career pathways on can help build education to career pipelines that are more easily navigable for students.
	Increased affordability will encourage greater enrollment and graduation, helping the state to meet its 60 by 30 goal.

These investments build on recent strides the state has taken to make higher education more affordable to all Michiganders. They will work collectively to break down persistent equity barriers to higher education accessibility, affordability, and completability for thousands of Michigan students and families specifically students that need the most support.