THE INSTITUTE FOR COLLEGE ACCESS & SUCCESS

2025-26 Michigan Final Budget Fact Sheet

This year, TICAS prioritized six policy proposals uplifted by our community partners, five of which were addressed in the final FY26 budget or via administrative changes. 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 with the resources that are necessary for their success.

TICAS Michigan's FY26 Budget Priorities	Administrative Changes & Final Budget Investments
ACCESS	
• Improve statewide messaging/campaigning on the value of higher education in Michigan. • Increase support for postsecondary exposure, matriculation, and success advising. **Student Fellows Priority:** • Develop a user-friendly state higher education information hub that centralizes available student support programming, financial aid, and health and wellness resources.	• MiLEAP has worked to improve campaigning, messaging, and websites for state programs • Policymakers removed proposed limitations on diversity, equity, and inclusion policies and programs on college campuses • Policymakers created a dual enrollment taskforce through MiLEAP **Final Budget Investments:** • Over $650 million for MiLEAP • Nearly $135 million for early postsecondary programs and testing incentives • $10 million for FAFSA completion programming • $2.35 million for Higher Education in Prison programs & Thumb Correctional Education Center • $1 million for Focus: HOPE that provides workforce development programming, early childhood education, youth development, food assistance, community empowerment, and advocacy • $260,000 to raise awareness of postsecondary opportunities among men
AFFORDABILITY	
• Streamline state financial aid programs, administrative rules, and reporting.	• Improved and streamlined financial aid program reporting through MiLEAP. • Policymakers maintained a Student Loan Ombudsman to advocate for borrowers **Final Budget Investments** • Improved administrative rules for Tuition Incentive Program (TIP) led to increased uptake and investment ($122.3 million) • $50 million to continue streamlining state aid programs by phasing out programs made redundant by MAS • Over $580 million in state financial aid programs including MAS, Reconnect, TIP, MCS & MTG, and MI Future Educator Fellowship & Stipend • $43.3 million for the MI Promise Zones ($8.8 million increase) • $2 million to maintain and improve the state education data system
SUCCESS	
• Address administrative barriers in student basic needs, especially housing. • Improve state investments in student basic needs, especially health and wellness.	• Early investments in the College Success Fund led to institutions making new investments in housing and wellness resources **Final Budget Investments** • $1 million for College Success Fund and Wraparound Services