WHAT IS PENN STATE’S GENERAL SUPPORT REQUEST?

Penn State’s 2023-24 state appropriation request for General Support is $357.27 million. This represents an increase of $115 million or a 47.6% increase over 2022-23.

Why is Penn State requesting such a large increase?

When comparing Penn State’s general support funding with our peer state-related universities and PASSHE, Penn State is severely underfunded on a per Pennsylvania resident student basis.

This requested increase would raise Penn State’s annual appropriation to the same level as Temple University, the next lowest peer on a per-student basis.

Additionally, in real dollars, Penn State currently receives less general support funding than it received in the 2010-2011 fiscal year.

As a matter of fairness, Penn State students deserve as much per-student support as the other state-related universities in Pennsylvania. To support our students at a lower funding level than students of other institutions is a disservice to those attending Pennsylvania’s land-grant university. The current funding model puts our students at a financial disadvantage and should be corrected immediately.
How many Pennsylvania resident undergraduate students does Penn State educate compared to other publicly funded institutions?

Penn State educates more Pennsylvania resident undergraduate students than any other public, four-year university in the state.

Top four-year public universities educating Pennsylvania students (as of fall 2021):

What has Penn State been doing to control costs?

Penn State has been operating at sub-inflation for both tuition and state appropriations for more than a decade and continues to do so even after this year’s tuition increase. Doing so has required the University to work hard to contain and reduce costs as much as possible.

Over the last five years, Penn State has:

- **IMPLEMENTED A STRATEGIC HIRING FREEZE IN 2022.**
- **IMPLEMENTED ACROSS-THE-BOARD RESCISSIONS EACH OF THE LAST FOUR YEARS THAT SAVED MORE THAN $110 MILLION IN RECURRING COSTS.**
- **PRE-FUNDED A PORTION OF PENNSYLVANIA STATE EMPLOYEES’ RETIREMENT SYSTEM (SERS) UNFUNDED LIABILITY THAT WILL RESULT IN $533 MILLION IN NET SAVINGS OVER 30 YEARS.**
- **OFFERED A VOLUNTARY RETIREMENT OPTION IN 2016 THAT RESULTED IN $14.4 MILLION IN SAVINGS.**
- **IMPLEMENTED A NEW HIGH-QUALITY EMPLOYEE HEALTH CARE PLAN THAT IS EXPECTED TO SAVE APPROXIMATELY $60 MILLION OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS.**

Why is the state’s general support appropriation so important to Penn State?

The state appropriation represents a critical component of Penn State’s revenue. Increasing Penn State’s funding to the same level as its peer institutions on a per Pennsylvania student basis will not only help achieve a balanced budget but will also represent a fairer level of investment for the students who attend our University.

Additionally, the state appropriation is critical to helping Penn State attract and retain the types of students who choose to remain here after graduating and help Pennsylvania prosper. With a campus within 30 miles of 96% of Pennsylvanians, Penn State has a capacity that no other university in the state can match. Penn State is a valuable asset to the commonwealth that provides a great return on investment.

What is the return on investment for Penn State’s appropriation?

An investment in Penn State is an investment in the communities, families and individuals who comprise our great state. As Pennsylvania’s only land-grant university, Penn State drives job creation, economic development and workforce preparedness for the businesses and critical industries in the commonwealth. In addition, Penn State conducts five times more defense research than any other institution in the state and supports the agriculture sector through $100 million per year in research and extension education programming in every county. With a presence in nearly every community in the state, Penn State offers Pennsylvania residents unparalleled access to a world-class education. Further, Penn State attracts more than 27,000 non-Pennsylvanian students from across the country and around the world — students who add to the vibrancy and economic impact of communities across the commonwealth.