

FY22 HIGHER EDUCATION PRIORITIES

*Partnering and Reimagining
Higher Education*

New Mexico Council of
University Presidents (CUP)

NM Independent Community Colleges
(NMICCC)

NM Association of Community Colleges
(NMACCC)



New Mexico Higher Education Associations



Eastern New Mexico University · New Mexico Highlands University
New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology
New Mexico State University · Northern New Mexico College
Western New Mexico University · The University of New Mexico



Central New Mexico Community College
Clovis Community College · Luna Community College
Mesalands Community College · New Mexico Junior College
San Juan College · Santa Fe Community College
New Mexico Military Institute



Northern New Mexico College · Western New Mexico University

ENMU-Roswell · ENMU-Ruidoso
NMSU-Alamogordo · NMSU-Carlsbad · NMSU-Dona Ana · NMSU-Grants
UNM-Gallup · UNM-Los Alamos · UNM-Taos · UNM-Valencia

COVID-19: A Delicate Balancing Act

The pandemic has impacted every aspect of Higher Education.

- Instructional delivery
- Curriculum
- Communications
- Student Services
- Student Activities
- Food Service
- Campus Housing
- Maintenance & Security
- Intercollegiate Athletics
- Enrollment
- Auxiliary Revenues
- Campus response plans
- PPE, safety training, COVID testing
- Contact tracing & rapid response
- Student & staff needs assessments
- Laptops & online IT support
- Student mental health issues
- Increased need for student support
- Restrictions on international travel
- Disruption of research activities
- Health care delivery challenges
- Furnishing community assistance

Higher Education institutions remain in constant contact with the Governor's Office, LFC, DFA and HED, as well as federal officials.

Priorities for the 2021 Legislative Session

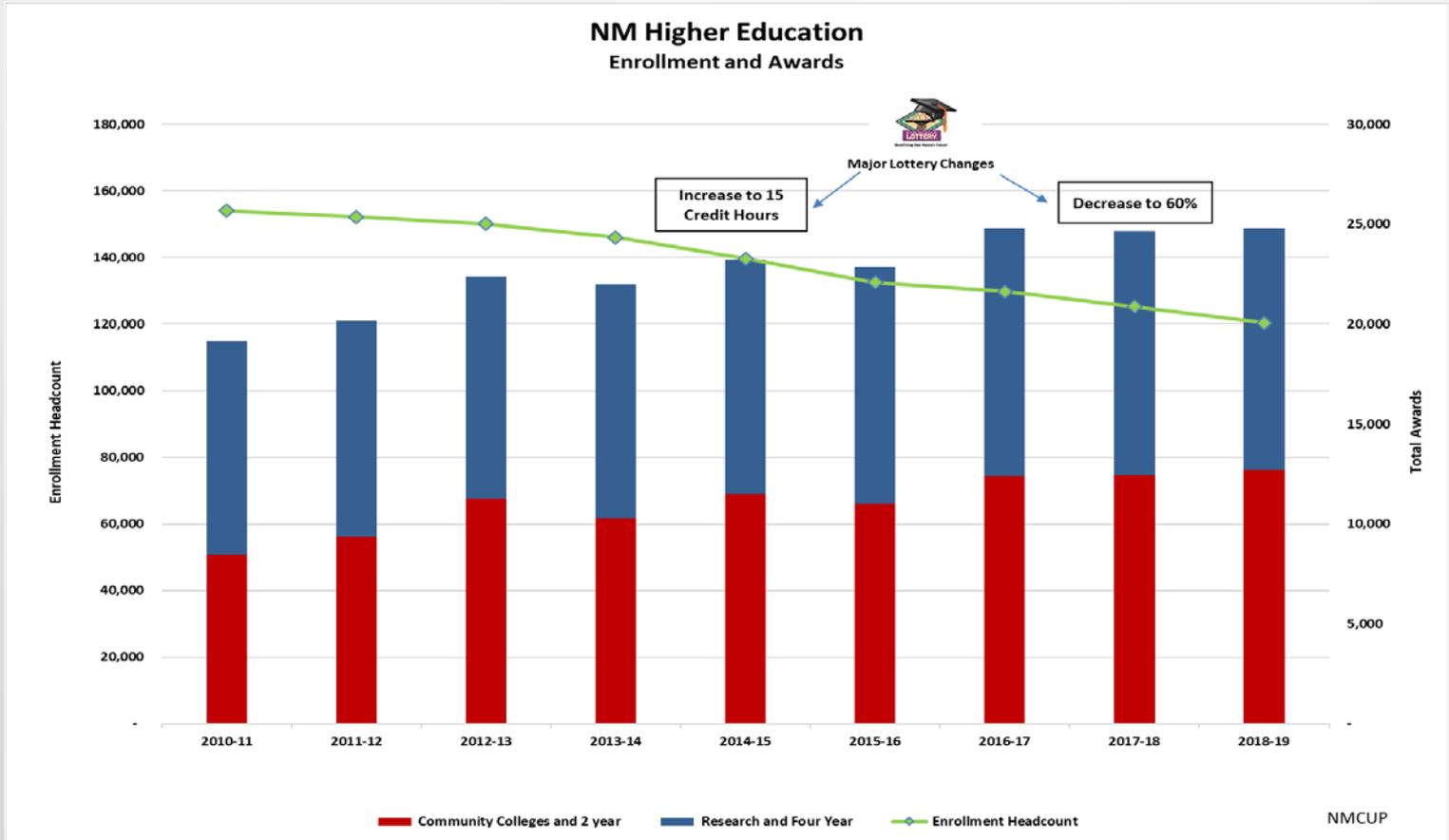
- Fully restore the federal funds swap to the I&G base.
- Maintain current Higher Education funding levels and run the funding formula with no redistribution.
- Fully fund Dual Credit outside the funding formula.
- Increase funding for and expand capabilities of HED regarding transfer, common course numbering, data analysis, and financial aid management.
 - Increase funding for student financial aid, Lottery Scholarships, Opportunity Scholarships for 2- and 4-year degree programs, and College Affordability grants.
 - Fund engagement efforts directed to Adult Degree-Completers.
 - Fund the Higher Ed Endowment to support research and workforce development initiatives.
 - Support the High Skills fund to expand contract training for employers and enhance economic growth and diversification.

Higher Education Work Plan

Partner with LFC, HED, DFA, other agencies, and each other to increase enrollment, decrease costs, and enhance other revenue sources, specifically:

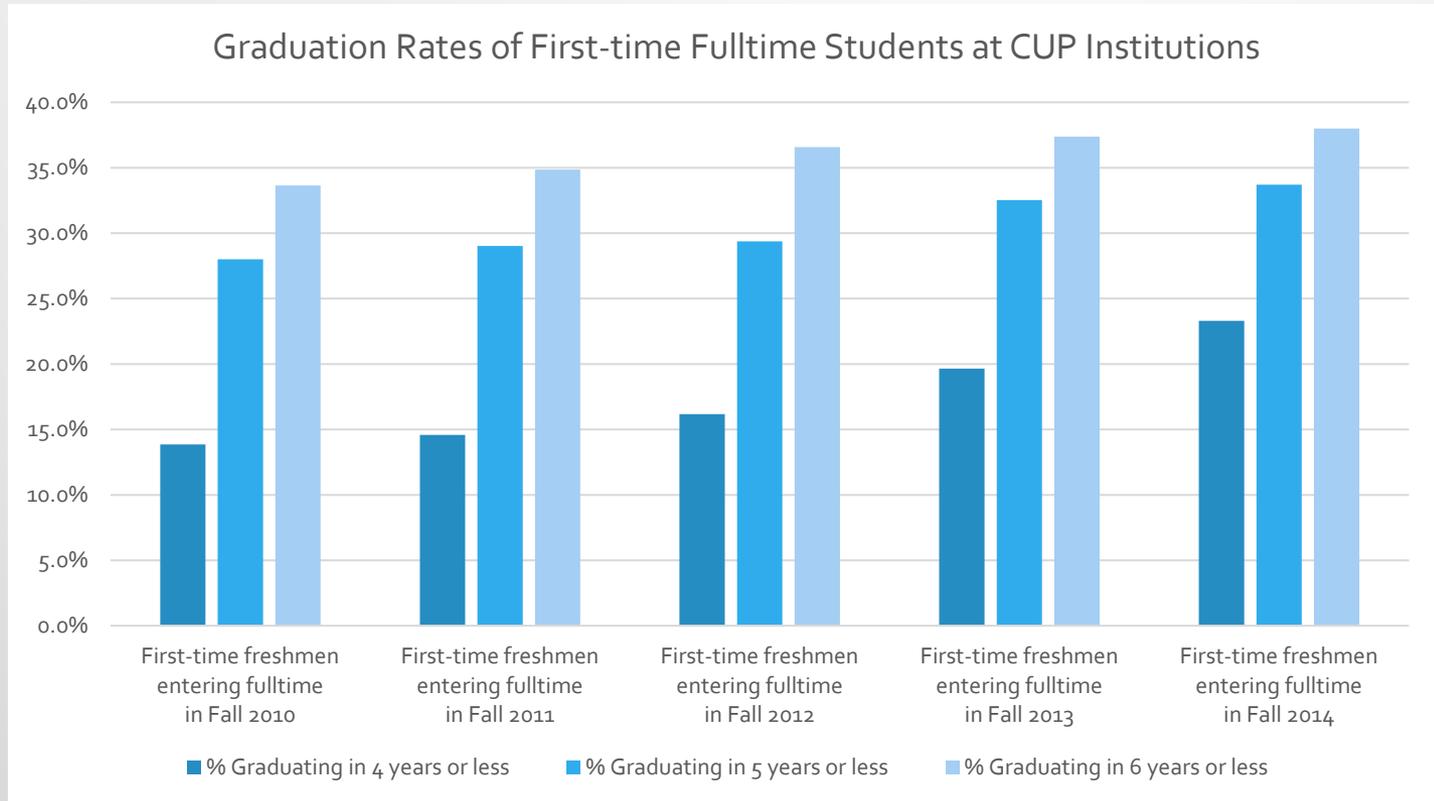
1. Trifecta: Work with HED to align 100- and 200-level courses and improve transfer rates between institutions.
2. Collaborate with HED and PED to help align high school and college curriculum.
3. Thoughtfully and strategically improve enrollment and collaborate with the Dept. of Workforce Solutions and HED to identify promising career pathways and increase enrollment of adult degree-completers.
4. Work with HED – and together – to create opportunities for savings through instructional, administrative and/or technology collaborations.
5. Improve management through data by developing processes for incorporating data collection and analysis into planning efforts.

NM Higher Ed Enrollment & Awards



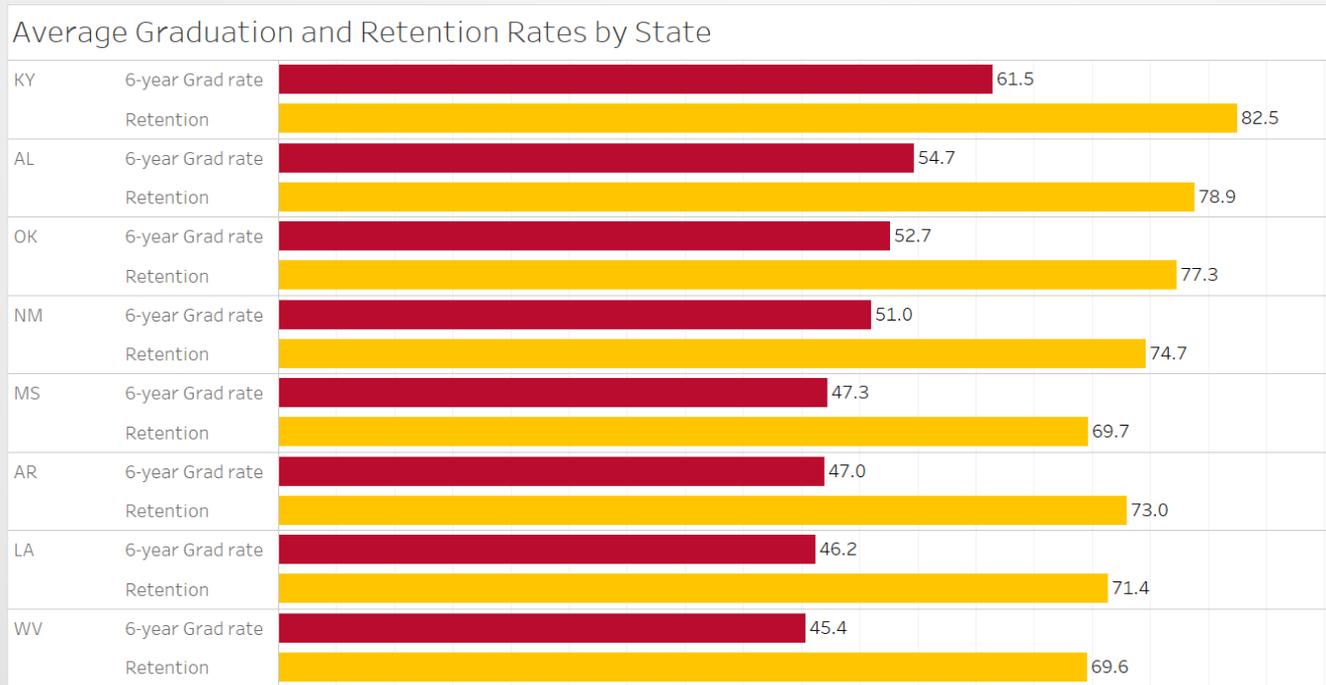
Enrollment has declined while degree and certificate awards have increased.

Graduation Rates Continue to Improve



The tenacious efforts of faculty and staff have enabled us to continue to improve graduation rates, student retention, and time-to-degree. When transfer students are included, 6-year graduation rates are even higher.

Graduation & Retention Rates in Peer States



Here are the 6-year graduation and retention rates at NM's three research universities and their counterparts in the seven states most comparable to New Mexico in terms of median family income.

Kentucky is on top (at 61.5% and 82.5%), followed by Alabama, Oklahoma, New Mexico (at 51% and 74.7%), Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, and finally West Virginia (at 45.4% and 69.6%).

Higher Education Enrollment Trends

Several factors have contributed to enrollment declines since 2010-11:

- Increasing job opportunities as New Mexico recovered from the Great Recession
- Gains in student success, especially in higher education graduation rates
- Increasing the Lottery Scholarship requirement from completing 12 credit hours per semester (with a 2.5 GPA) to 15 hours per semester in 2014-15.
- Lowering baccalaureate degree requirements from 128-150 hours to 120 credit hours and associate's degree requirements from up to 80 hours to 60 credit hours in 2016-17.
- Reductions in Lottery Scholarship awards, which decreased 33% from 2008 to 2015 and by 2017-18 covered only 60% of tuition.

Higher Ed must thoughtfully and strategically increase enrollment by:

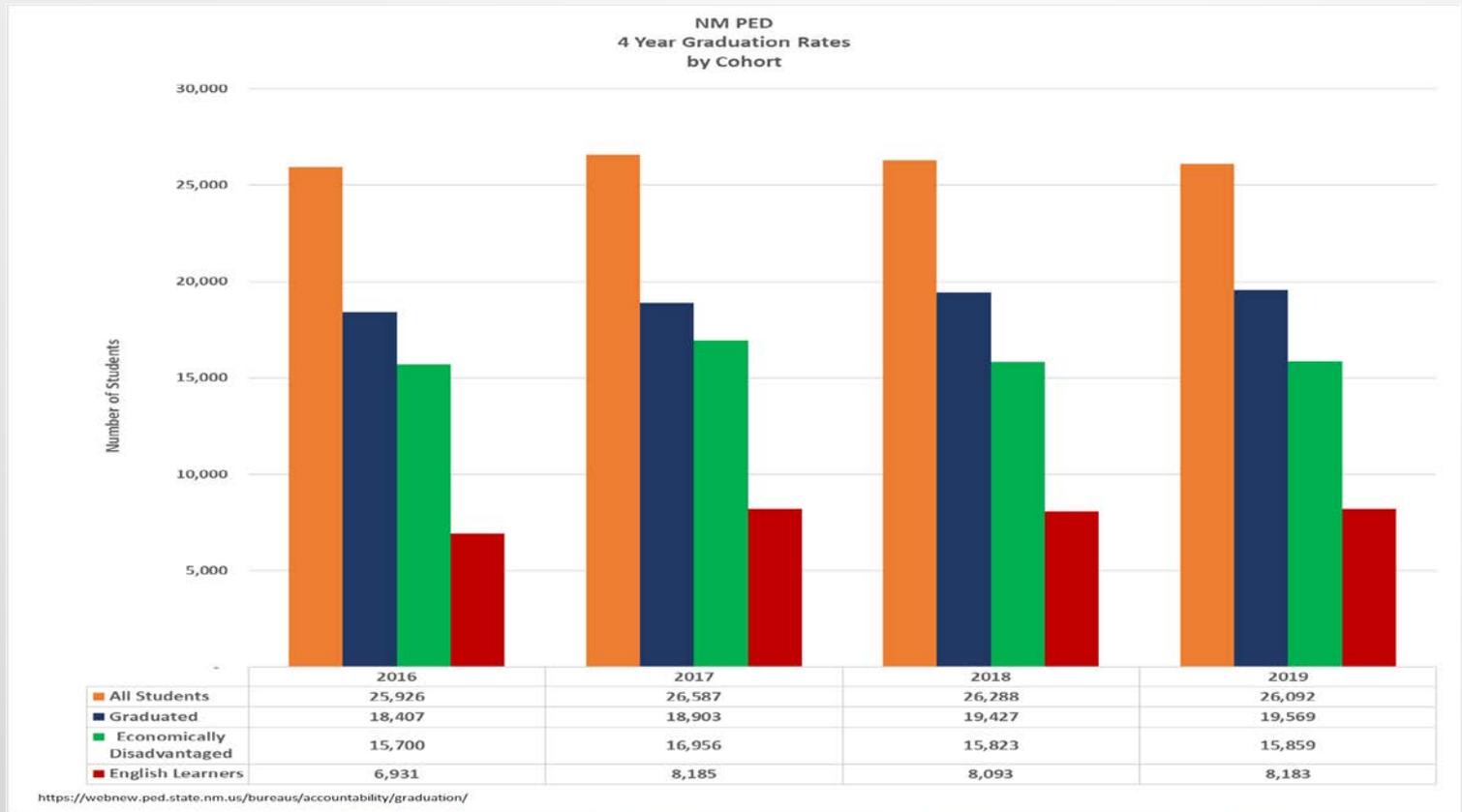
- ✓ Working with New Mexico high schools to align curriculum.
- ✓ Facilitating articulation and transfer among institutions.
- ✓ Marketing select programs and career pathways to adult degree-completers.

Enrollment Considerations

- **Higher Ed Funding Formula:** The previous formula incentivized headcount and student credit hours; the current formula incentivizes completion rates.
- **Time-to-Degree:** Policies that incentivize more rapid degree completion help decrease graduates' debt loads and get them into the workforce faster.
 - **Required Credit Hours:** Lowering requirements from 128 to 150 credit hours to 120 hours for bachelors' degrees, and from up to 80 credit hours to 60 hours for associates' degrees has helped reduce time-to-degree.
 - **Lottery Scholarship Changes:** Changes in scholarship criteria and award amounts have made it more difficult for economically disadvantaged students who must work and carry 15 credit hours.
 - **Transfer and Adult Students:** Today, 38% of all college students are transfer students and a similar number are over the age of 25. Traditional structures must be adjusted to accommodate them.

Higher Education must accept responsibility for increasing enrollment and enhancing revenues. We will partner with LFC, HED, DFA, other agencies and each other to address the state's economic development and workforce needs.

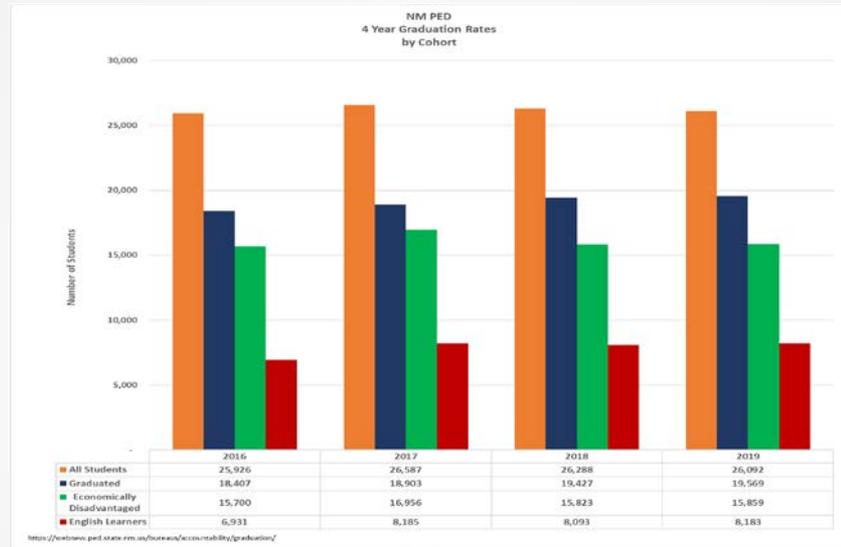
NM High School Graduation Rates



The number of high school graduates has increased, but we do not know how many attend college or where they go.

Composition of NM High School Cohorts

- ✓ Almost 2/3 of New Mexico high school students are economically disadvantaged. Their percentage has fluctuated, but the 2019 cohort returned to 61%.
- ✓ Over four years, the number of English-learners increased by 18%. English-learners made up 31.4% of the cohort that graduated in 2019.
- ✓ Graduates increased by 6%, but the number who attend college is unknown.
- ✓ Just as Public Education struggles to support so many children with multiple adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), New Mexico's colleges and universities also serve many adults who grew up with multiple ACEs and require enhanced student support services to promote their success.



Inadequate college- and career-readiness were critical factors in the Yazzie/Martinez lawsuit. Continuing Yazzie/Martinez funding support for underserved students through their post-secondary education would help ensure they can succeed in attaining their higher education goals.

Higher Education needs funding stability.

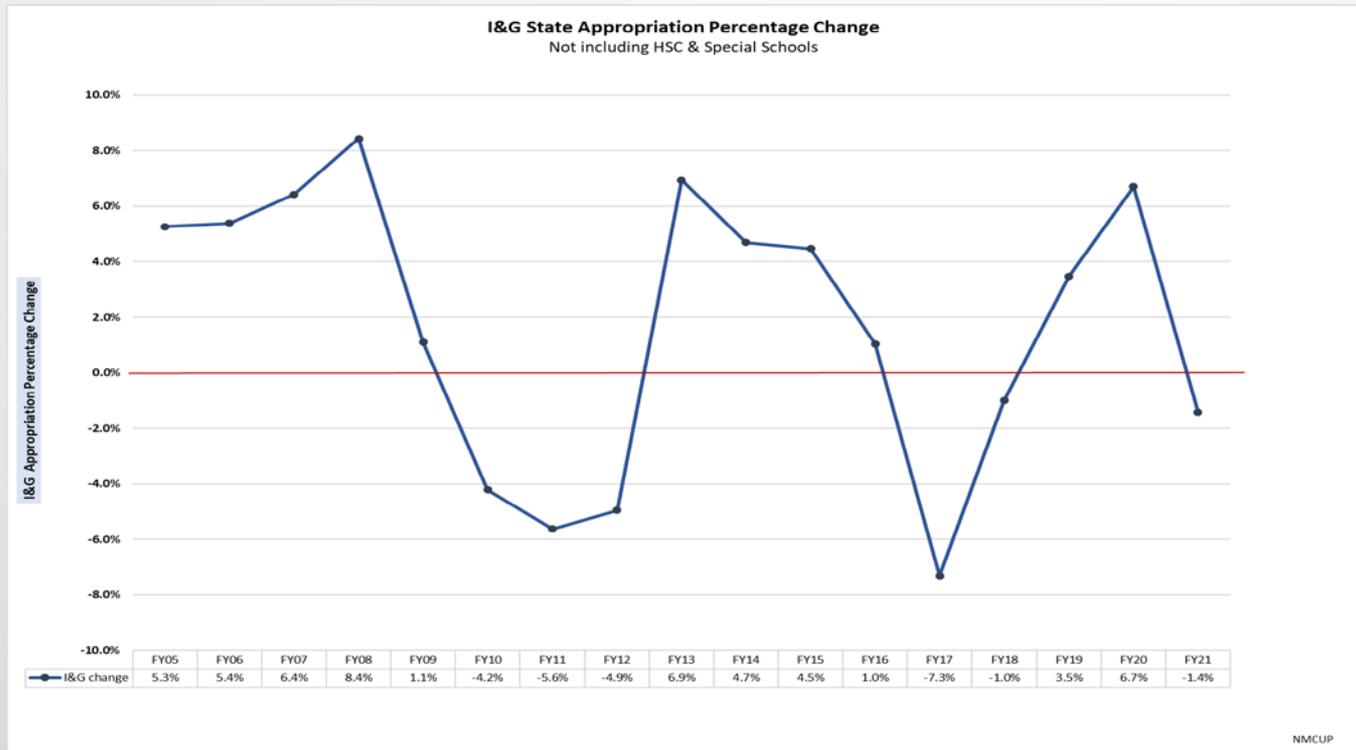
Higher Education has been subject to highly erratic funding for the last 12 years

An unstable funding environment makes strategic planning difficult.

It is essential that Higher Education and the legislature work together to establish stable revenue sources and address inflationary factors in institutions' base budgets.



Higher Education Funding



Higher Education's state funding has been unstable, as have its revenues from enrollment.

Restore the one-time federal funds swap to institutions' base.

In addition to 5-6% cuts to Higher Ed budgets, the FY21 budget bill passed in the 2020 Special Session took credit in institutions' I&G appropriations for \$20 million in federal funding.

Because of how the federal government determined institutions' funding, this inadvertently penalized most those institutions that serve the largest percentage of economically disadvantaged students.

Restoring the \$20 million federal funds swap to I&G will remove that inequity.

The base for FY22 should include the across-the-board 4.5% cut to I&G, as well as restore the federal funds swap.



Higher Education needs to maintain funding to support student success.

If cuts are required, we ask that...

- ✓ The legislature recognize higher education's critical role in restarting and diversifying New Mexico's economy.
- ✓ Cuts to Higher Education not exceed those applied to other state entities.
- ✓ Cuts be applied consistently across all institutions. Run the funding formula without redistribution.
- ✓ Institutions be allowed to implement their cuts strategically and prioritize services critical to student success.



Students are struggling to fund their education.

Financial issues are a major factor in lack of persistence and completion.

The 6-year graduation rate for Pell Grant recipients who also received Lottery Scholarships is more than twice the rate of those who received only Pell Grants.

Today's economic climate calls for enhancements to financial aid programs so students can complete their degrees and workforce training for tomorrow's skilled jobs.



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