

Who should pay?

Students today have many different options to pay for college. Students are offered FAFSA, scholarships, they can pay with their own money, or even by work study. Students should definitely get help to pay for college but they should also contribute to support their education, instead of relying on the government.

The United States is known across the world for providing an education for everyone and most of it is possible thanks to financial aid. Just about everyone can get it and it helps to cover for tuition and even living expenses while way in college. A study done by Legislative Analyst's Office on Higher Education states that "The amount the state spends on higher education (about \$10 billion in 2009-10) is higher than any other state"(LAO 1). The amount of money the state of California spends is significant by 29 percent compared to the rest of the states in the United States. Which may seem like California has really taken an interest in funding our student's education. But considering that California spends almost the same amount of money on prisons and higher education, there should be doing a whole lot more help towards college, after all we are the "Golden State".

Has our government really engaged in supporting our students? In the article "California's Higher Education in Line for Big Budget Hit Under Brown's Proposals" by Laurel Rosenhall, a writer for the Sacramento Bee, she mentioned Brown's proposal of "cutting \$500 million each from the University of California and the California State University systems and another \$400 million from community colleges" (Rosenhall 2). Taking into account the recession

we are going through we need to prepare our youth because they are our future and sooner or later we are all going to depend on them, that's why we must educate and prepare our youth for what's to come . Also at an open forum at CSU Stanislaus Representative Kristin Olsen pointed out the importance of funding education because it is an investment for our community (Olsen). The importance of making an investment on our youth's education is vital and it's in our government's best interest because the risk of an investment in education is none and it will 100 percent pay off. It will pay off when all those educated people give back to our country, by creating jobs, paying taxes, and maybe even later creating their own scholarships to help other students with their schooling.

Another point that was brought up at the CSU Stanislaus Forum was that of wasting our financial aid. Dr. Jim Riggs, who has an extensive background in higher education administration, along with Kristin Olsen both seemed to agree that in order for students to get financial aid there must be improvement shown, because if there is no personal investment then there will be no engagement from the students. There are some students who take advantage of financial aid by not fulfilling their job as students and getting the best possible grades they can obtain. They sometimes end up retaking classes which ends up elongating their time in college and since the extra time does not cost them a thing they don't feel the pressure to graduate as soon as possible.

On the other hand some people think that students should pay for their own education. Like the author Mr. Edward Krigbaum. He feels that the government should not pay for college because "we are on the break of collapse" (Krigbaum). He also managed to pay for his education when he was a student so he knows from experience that paying for your own education is

duable. He also mentioned that if students need help paying for college they can always go to loans or scholarships instead of relying on the government to pay for everything.

We should all meet in the middle the government should help students out and students should also pay part of their education. Students should pay out of their pocket or with non-government-funded scholarships for their education freshmen year and sophomore year of college then by the time they turn into juniors and seniors it should all be covered by the government. If you are a student maybe you have noticed that there are more lower class students than upper class students. A student who is willing to pay for their first two years of college would show a great deal of commitment to his education and then by the time those students turned into juniors we would know for a fact that they are an investment for our community not just kids wasting our time and money. It would be helpful and motivate lower class student to get good grades, since their education would be costing them. I, a student who is paying full tuition out of pocket can assure that someone who pays for their own education puts ten times more effort into their education than someone who gets full coverage by FAFSA, like some of my classmates. A student who pays for their schooling will also not settle for a barely-passing-grade we always make sure to get the best possible grade to assure ourselves that we are making every penny we paid in tuition count.

College is an investment and it's a safe one that will pay off. The government should definitely make an investment in our youth but students should also make an investment in themselves and both contribute to better ourselves and our communities.

Works Cited

Gandara, Patricia, Gary Oldfield, and Civil Rights Project. "Squeezed from All Sides: The CSU Crisis and California's Future — The Civil Rights Project at UCLA." *The Civil Rights Project at UCLA*. California Faculty Association, Ford Foundation, and the Civil Rights Project, 14 Feb. 2011. Web. 28 Oct. 2011.

<<http://civilrightsproject.ucla.edu/research/college-access/financing/squeezed-from-all-sides-the-csu-crisis-and-californias-future>>.

"HIGHER EDUCATION: ANSWERS TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS." *LAO 65 Years of Service*. Legislative Analyst's Office Higher Education, 13 July 2010. Web. 28 Oct. 2012. <https://blackboard.csustan.edu/bbcswebdav/courses/2114-MDIS1200-002/2114MDIS1200002_ImportedContent_20111018104758/Higher_Education_Issue_13comparewithotherstates.pdf>.

"HIGHER EDUCATION: ANSWERS TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS." *LAO 65 Years of Service*. Legislative Analyst's Office, Dec. 2009. Web. 31 Oct. 2011. <https://blackboard.csustan.edu/bbcswebdav/courses/2114-MDIS1200-002/2114-MDIS1200002_ImportedContent_20111018104758/Higher_Education_Issue_18prisonvs_highered.pdf>.

Krigbaum, Edward. . "Perspectives in Higher Education." Open Forum. CSU Stanislaus, Turlock 25 Oct. 2011 Adress.

Olsen, Kristin. "Perspectives in Higher Education." Open Forum. CSU Stanislaus, Turlock 25 Oct. 2011 Adress.

Riggs, Jim. "Perspectives in Higher Education." Open Forum. CSU Stanislaus, Turlock 25 Oct. 2011 Adress.

Rights Project, 14 Feb. 2011. Web. 28 Oct. 2011.

<<http://civilrightsproject.ucla.edu/research/college-access/financing/squeezed-from-all-sides-the-csu-crisis-and-californias-future>>.

Rosenhall, Laurel. "California's Higher Education in Line for Big Budget Hit under Brown's Proposals." *The Sacramento Bee* [Sacramento] 12 Jan. 2011. Print