

SHEF Summary, FY2024

The State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (SHEEO) recently released its annual [State Higher Education Finance \(SHEF\) report](#). It includes national data through FY 2024 (the 2023-24 academic year). This document provides a few highlights with more information available in a [state profile](#) posted on SHEEO's website.

For Oregon, FY2024 brought an increase of 34% in state financial aid funding with a 4% reduction in net tuition revenue per student. **This is only the second year-to-year, non-recession decline in net tuition revenue per FTE in the last 25 years.** The state's total public investment in higher education continues to trail the national average ranking Oregon 37th in the nation even though it has surpassed pre-pandemic funding levels in 2019 by 29% adjusted for inflation. The report also finds that FTE enrollment has increased year-to-year by 4% after many years of decline, outpacing the national increase.

Key takeaways from the report include:

1. Oregon's **enrollment declined 20%** from 2014 to 2023 which was twice as steep as the national average, and among the highest in the country. That said, Oregon higher education enrollment grew 3.8% between 2023 and 2024, compared with a national increase of 2.9% (Table 3.1, page 37). The growth from 2023 to 2024 was 6.0% for the two-year sector and 2.6% for the four-year sector. (Table 3.1A, page 40)
2. At \$8,625 per student, Oregon's **total public investment** in higher education, including institutional support and student financial aid, is 26% below the national average of \$11,683 and ranks Oregon 37th among all states. Still, since 2014, Oregon's public investment per student has increased 56% after adjusting for inflation -- more than all but seven states -- and has moved Oregon up from almost the very bottom on this ranking. (Table 3.2, page 44)
3. At \$1,224 per student, Oregon's investment in **financial aid** has grown 186% since 2014 and now exceeds the national average of \$1,155 by 6%. The year-to-year increase was 34.4% surpassing that of all but six other states ranking Oregon 18th in the nation during FY2024. The State of Washington invests 38% more than Oregon (\$1,978 per student). (Table 3.3, page 53)
4. Oregon public institutions generated \$9,700 **net tuition revenue** per student in 2024, significantly surpassing the national average of \$7,510. Adjusted for inflation, net tuition revenue per student in Oregon remained flat between 2014 and 2024, compared with a national decrease of 2.1%. Year-to-year, net tuition revenue decreased in Oregon by 4.0% compared to a national decrease of 3.7%. (Table 4.1, page 61)
5. At \$18,325 per student, Oregon's **total educational revenue** – a measure that combines public investment and net tuition – trails the national average of \$19,092 by 4%. It has increased 20.4% since 2014, a growth rate that's just above the national average of 16.7% and that surpassed all but fourteen other states during this time. (Table 4.2, page 68)

The data above reflects combined enrollment, spending, and revenue across the public university and community college sectors. Sector breakouts have been tracked in the SHEF since 2019. Some highlights:

Oregon community colleges

At \$12,224 per student FTE in 2024, Oregon community colleges receive more public funding than the national average for the sector (\$10,899), ranking 15th among the states. It's worth noting that Oregon lagged the national average on this measure as recently in 2019 but has experienced an increase due in part to enrollment declines that were double the national average since 2019. (Table 3.2A, page 48)

Oregon community colleges generated \$2,467 net tuition revenue per student FTE in 2024, 10% lower than the national average for the sector and down 32.5% since 2019 on an inflation-adjusted basis. Total educational revenue (combining public funding and net tuition) for community colleges was \$14,691 per student in 2024, 19th among the states. (Tables 4.1A and 4.2A, pages 64 and 71)

Oregon public universities

At \$6,200 per student FTE, Oregon public universities significantly lag the national average in public funding for the sector (\$10,820), ranking 46th among the states. (Table 3.2A, page 48)

Oregon public universities generated \$14,235 net tuition revenue per student FTE in 2024, a 1.0% decline from the prior year and a 4.4% increase from 2019 after adjusting for inflation. Oregon ranks 9th among the states on this measure. Total educational revenue (combining public funding and net tuition) was \$20,434 per student FTE in 2024, just below the national average (\$21,117). (Tables 4.1A and 4.2A, pages 64 and 71)

Inflation Factor

The Higher Education Cost Adjustment (HECA) is used to estimate inflation instead of the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Prior-year data are adjusted by HECA to express amounts in today's dollars. The HECA is based on two components—personnel costs (75% of the index) and non-personnel costs (25%).

HECA is constructed from two federally developed and maintained price indices—the Employment Cost Index (ECI) and the Gross Domestic Product Implicit Price Deflator (GDP IPD). The ECI reflects employer personnel costs including wages and benefits. The GDP IPD reflects general price inflation in the U.S. economy. The HECA has the following advantages:

1. It is constructed from measures of inflation in the broader U.S. economy.
2. It is simple, straightforward to calculate, and transparent.
3. The underlying indices are routinely updated by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.