

## 1

### Increase State Operating Support for Public Universities to Improve College Affordability

*Reinvigorate state investment to power Michigan's workforce talent pipeline.*

- **Advocate for sustained, sufficient state funding to improve college affordability**, especially for low- and middle-income students.
- **Address the decline in state investment over the past two decades**, which forced universities to raise tuition and shifted funding burdens onto students and families.
- **Align funding levels for public universities closer to the national average**, particularly in comparison to community colleges.
- **Support workforce-aligned academic programs to enhance student success** and strengthen Michigan's talent pipeline.

## 2

### Continue Implementation of the Michigan Achievement Scholarship to Enhance College Affordability

*Build on Michigan's historic investment in financial aid to ensure that less affluent students can earn a college degree.*

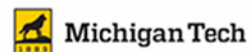
- **Continue implementing the MAS** to further support college affordability.
- **Adjust MAS awards based on inflation** to maintain their purchasing power.
- **Increase the MAS award for public university students** as a next step toward a universal preK-14 education system as a strategy to boost the state's population and economic growth.

## 3

### Invest in State Capital Outlay and Asset Maintenance to Provide High-quality Facilities and Campus Infrastructure

*To compete for the best students, faculty, and research opportunities, it's vital that Michigan universities have high-quality facilities.*

- **Ensure predictable, annual state capital outlay funding** for modern, high-quality campus facilities and infrastructure.
- **Remove outdated hard caps on state contributions for capital projects.**
- **Reinstate funding for Infrastructure, Technology, Equipment, Maintenance, and Safety (ITEMS)** to address deferred maintenance and extend the lifespan of state-owned campus assets.
- **Allocate \$100M annually for ITEMS** to mitigate the \$6.44 billion deferred maintenance backlog.



For more information on the state universities' collective policy priorities, including data sources, see *MASU's 2025 Michigan Higher Education Public Policy Agenda*, viewable online at [masu.org/policy-reports](https://masu.org/policy-reports).