

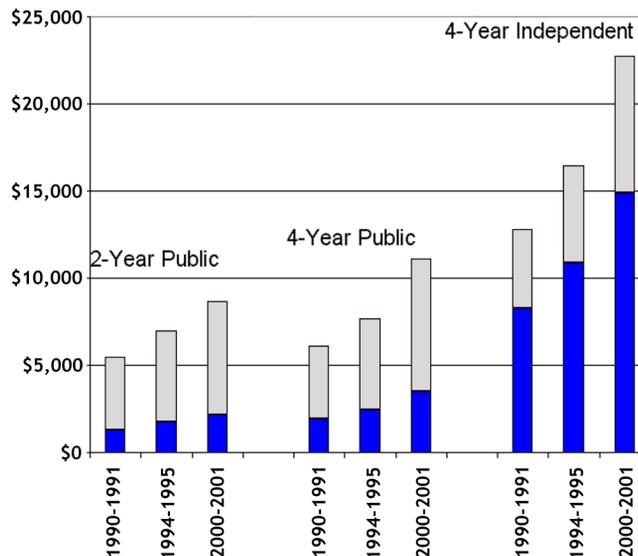


Making College More Affordable

Prepared by the Office of Senator Tom Harkin

According to the U.S. Department of Education, in FY 2001 nearly 80% of federal postsecondary assistance was provided in the form of student loans. Sen. Harkin fought to maintain the lowest possible interest rates for students and providing stability in the student loan system. His support of Senate bill 1762, which was signed by the President on February 8, 2002, secured low interest rates in the future for student borrowers and will guarantee the continued strength of the federal student loan system. This legislation is estimated to save the typical student borrower almost \$700 over the life of their loan. In addition to direct aid provided in the fiscal year 2002 education funding bill mentioned previously, Senator Harkin also supported the following loan-related funding in Iowa:

- Approximately \$1.9 million in Federal Capital Contributions for the Perkins Loan program. These federal funds, in addition to institution matching funds and other resources support long-term, low interest loans to financially needy undergraduate and graduate students.
- \$2 million to the Iowa Student Aid Commission to continue a program of loan forgiveness for teachers. The program provides forgivable loans of up to \$3,000 to Iowa college students enrolled in teacher preparation programs who plan to teach in a designated shortage area in the state upon graduation.
- Almost \$720,000 for the Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership program, which is an increase of almost \$130,000 over last year. These funds help States establish or expand need-based grant and work study assistance programs for eligible postsecondary students. In Iowa, these funds are used to support the Iowa Tuition Grant program.



AVERAGE STUDENT EXPENSES AT IOWA SCHOOLS, 1990-2001

Top portion of bars represent full college costs.

Bottom portion represents tuition and fees.