

The importance of base funding and how it affects tuition

Legislative support enables KU to balance quality and affordability

Overview

- KU is asking legislators to restore higher education funding to FY 2021 levels.
- This funding would enable KU to freeze tuition for an unprecedented fourth straight year, which would benefit Kansas students and families.
- A tuition freeze is simply not possible without this restoration of State support, due to recent inflationary costs and a decades-long decline in State funding for higher education.

Base funding and tuition

Base funding from the Legislature is the lifeblood of KU and enables the university to provide core academic and student support services, as well as basic campus operations. For years, stable support from the Kansas Legislature enabled KU to be one nation’s leading research universities while also keeping tuition affordable for Kansas students and families.

But since about 2000, Legislative support for KU has declined, putting upward pressure on tuition. In fact, State funding for higher education remains below 2008 levels – and that’s without adjusting for inflation. KU continues to make cuts to become more efficient and develop additional revenue sources, but the reality is the university cannot continue to function as a top research institution *and* remain affordable for Kansans without stable State funding.

How the Legislature can help

KU has frozen tuition for the past three years and would like to do so again – especially given the challenges Kansas families are facing due to inflation and the pandemic. But to accomplish this, we need help from lawmakers. Specifically, the Board of Regents is asking the State for \$45.7 million to restore higher education funding to FY 2021 levels and address inflation.

