The Truth About:
Out-of-State Students

Out-of-State Students Continue to Come to Ohio

Since 1998, the number of out-of-state students coming to Ohio institutions has increased by a little over 6,000. The influx of out-of-state students helped offset the declining percentage of in-state students enrolling in Ohio's higher education system. This drop can be at least partly attributed to falling high school graduation totals in Ohio. For example, over a five-year period after the 2012-2013 school year, the number of Ohio high school graduates had decreased by more than 10,000 students, or a drop of roughly 8 percent.

Ohio's Net Migration has Rebounded

Ohio's net migration of first-time undergraduate students has rebounded from negative migration to positive migration. This indicator, along with stable in-state enrollment rates shows that Ohio is increasingly being chosen as a higher education destination. Retaining these out-of-state students is essential to solving Ohio's long-term demographic problem of anemic population growth. If Ohio does not increase in-migration, it will face long-term budgetary and economic challenges. Population loss in an aging state means a reduction in tax revenue, a reduced educated labor force for which businesses can draw upon to fill positions, and a need for more community-support spending.

Public Universities & Out-of-State Students

Since the Great Recession in 2008, Ohio's public universities have shown a dramatic increase in enrollment of out-of-state students, almost doubling in a decade. Increased need for tuition dollars, state funding formulas for SSI, selectivity, and other factors may account for the dramatic increase in public universities' out-of-state student enrollment.