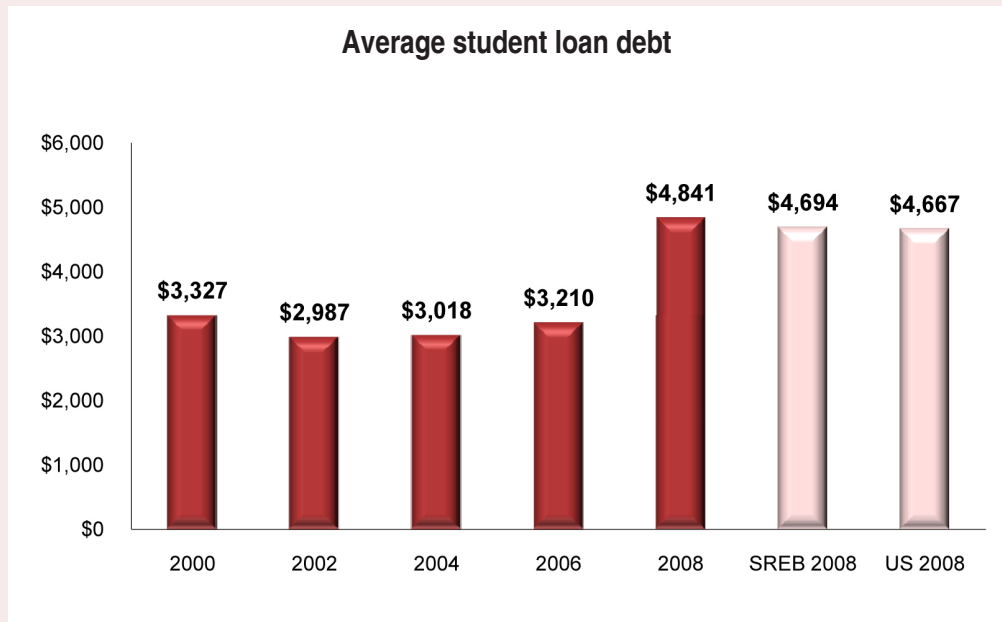




Average student loan debt

Status: Losing ground



Source: *Measuring Up 2008: The State Report Card on Higher Education*

Highlights

- In 2008, undergraduate students in Kentucky borrowed an average of \$4,841 in federal loans per year, up sharply from \$3,210 in 2006.
- Kentucky did not achieve its 2008 performance goal of \$3,210 for this indicator.
- Kentucky students on average now borrow more than college students in SREB states and the nation, a problem given Kentucky's low median family income.
- According to a 2008 report from the Project on Student Debt, the average total debt in Kentucky for the graduating class of 2007 was nearly \$17,000.

About this measure

This indicator, developed by *Measuring Up*, monitors the average amount undergraduate students borrow each year from federal loan programs, which comprise more than 90% of all student loan funds. Rising debt is a sign that college is becoming less affordable for many families, one that, if left unchecked, could threaten the financial well-being of future generations of Kentuckians.

More students also are using private loans to pay for college, a trend that should be explored further to fully understand student debt levels.