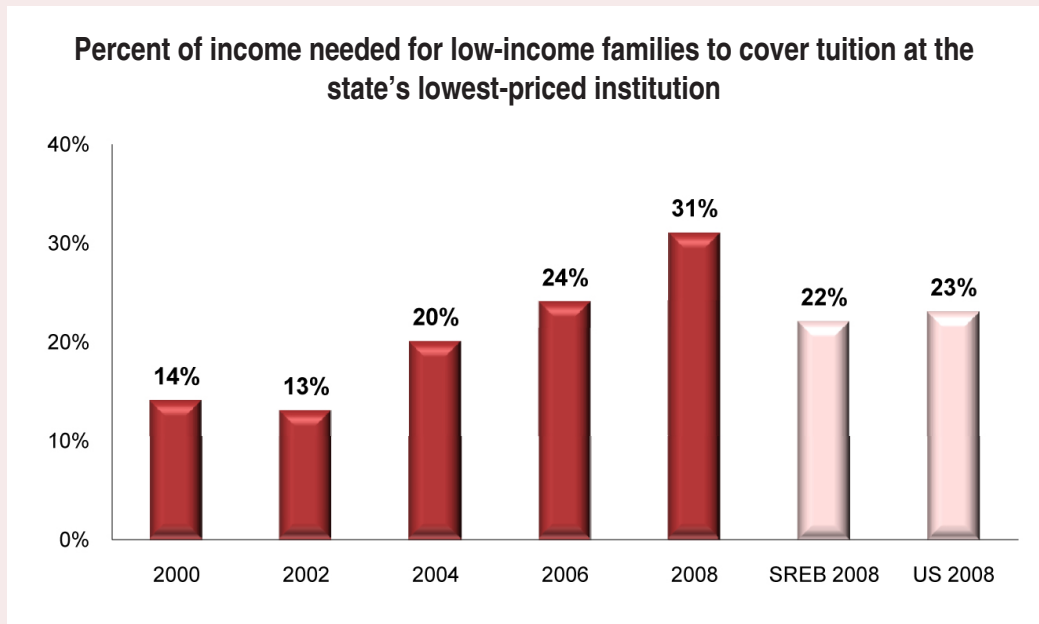




Affordability of college for low-income families

Status: Losing ground



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

Highlights

- The lowest income families in Kentucky would need to devote nearly a third of their incomes (31%) to pay for tuition at the lowest-priced college in the state (KCTCS). This is up 7 percentage points from 2006 and 17 percentage points from 2000.
- The 2008 result for this indicator is well above the 2007-08 goal of 23%.
- On average, community and technical college tuition is now less affordable for low-income families in Kentucky than it is for similar families in SREB states and the nation.

About this measure

This indicator, developed by *Measuring Up*, monitors college affordability for families that are least able to pay. This indicator takes the median family income of the lowest income quintile in Kentucky (\$8,854) and determines what percent is needed to pay the average tuition at the lowest priced institution in the state (KCTCS). The lower the percentage, the better the performance.

Maintaining low-cost options for college is an important strategy for increasing access to postsecondary education. Aggressively increasing first-time enrollments and transfers at KCTCS is a key strategy for raising Kentucky's educational attainment to the national average by 2020.