



Higher Ed, Not Debt, CT! Guiding Principles

1. The **decades-long disinvestment in our public higher education system** must be reversed. The state must fund public higher education at a level sufficient to provide a high quality, affordable public higher education for all students.
2. **Education should be as accessible as possible to all communities** of potential students, regardless of race, economic background, immigration status, age or any other non-academic factor. As our economy continues to change, the state should recognize the necessity of life-long learning.
3. **Attending college is becoming prohibitively expensive** for too many children from hard working American families. The problem of skyrocketing cost must be addressed with policies that don't sacrifice the quality of higher education. Privatization of services, faster paced curriculum, and increased use of low wage adjunct instructors are trends that need to be halted, not solutions to be promoted.
4. Wall Street lenders, predatory loan servicers, and profit making colleges seek to benefit from the **student debt burden that is weighing down so many people** and families. Minimizing this student debt, while maximizing the contribution that higher education makes to our families, our communities, and our economy, requires relief for current and future borrowers.
5. Institutions of **higher education should be model workplaces that treat all employees with dignity and respect**. Overpaid college presidents and managers are on the rise. At the same time the use and abuse of a part-time, underpaid academic labor force rises even faster. Fair compensation, full benefits, job security, and union rights should be the norm in all of our colleges and universities.

