Even as UC Enrollment Has Increased, State General Fund Support Has Declined

Percent Change in Enrollment and Direct General Fund Spending Since 1981-82

- Enrollment at the University of California (UC) has increased significantly. More high school graduates are eligible for the UC, and more students are applying to and enrolling in the university. Enrollment has increased by 113% since the early 1980s, rising from 128,035 in 1981-82 to 272,592 in 2017-18.

- At the same time, direct state investment in the UC has dropped. Despite recent state funding increases, inflation-adjusted General Fund spending per student is down by 51% since the early 1980s, falling from $24,594 in 1981-82 to $12,076 in 2017-18.

- State disinvestment in the UC negatively impacts California’s students and economy. Inadequate state support fails students – many of whom are turned away from the UC due to capacity limitations – as well as our economy, which relies on having a highly educated workforce.

* Estimated.
Note: Figures reflect *full-time equivalent* enrollment, which accounts for credits taken by each student relative to a full-time course load. Expenditures are inflation-adjusted and exclude indirect state funding for the UC attributable to Cal Grant tuition and fee payments.
Source: Department of Finance and the University of California