

THE BERNIE SANDERS COLLEGE FOR ALL FACT SHEET

ELIMINATES TUITION AND FEES AT PUBLIC FOUR-YEAR COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES AND MAKES COMMUNITY COLLEGE TUITION- AND FEE-FREE FOR ALL

The College for All Act would provide at least \$48 billion per year to states and tribes to eliminate undergraduate tuition and fees at public colleges, universities, and institutions of higher education controlled by tribes. Under this bill, students from any family would be able to attend a public four-year college or university, or four-year tribal college or university, tuition- and fee-free. All students, regardless of income, would also be able to attend community colleges, trade schools, or apprenticeship programs tuition- and fee-free.

Under the College for All Act, the federal government would cover 67 percent of the cost of eliminating tuition and fees at public colleges and universities and tribal institutions of higher education. States and tribes would be responsible for eliminating the remaining 33 percent of the costs.

To qualify for federal funding, states and tribes must meet a number of requirements designed to protect students, ensure quality, and reduce ballooning costs. States and tribes will need to maintain spending on their higher education systems, on academic instruction, and on need-based financial aid. In addition, colleges and universities must reduce their reliance on low-paid adjunct faculty.

No funding under this bill may be used to fund administrator salaries, merit-based financial aid, or the construction of non-academic buildings like stadiums and athletic facilities.



CANCELS \$1.6 TRILLION IN STUDENT DEBT FOR 45 MILLION AMERICANS

About [45 million Americans](#) owe nearly [\\$1.6 trillion](#) in student loan debt. As part of the College for All Act, we will cancel student loan debt for all of them within six months. Under this proposal, the average student loan borrower would save about [\\$3,000 a year](#). The economy would get a boost of [approximately \\$1 trillion](#) over 10 years, which could be used to buy new homes, cars, and open up small businesses. Student loan debt is causing severe economic pain to Millennials. Since its peak in 2004, the homeownership rate among those under the age of 35 has dropped by [nearly 19 percent](#). In 2014, [400,000 more Americans](#) between the ages of 24 and 32 would have owned homes, if not for the increase in student debt over the preceding decade, according to the Federal Reserve.

Student debt is also disproportionately impacting African Americans and Latinos. Among graduates of four-year public colleges, [82 percent of black graduates](#) had student debt in 2016, compared to 61 percent of Latinos and 68 percent of whites. However, these differences compound over time. For those who started college in 2003-04, about half of black student loan borrowers [had defaulted within 12 years](#) compared to 35 percent of Latino borrowers and 20 percent of white borrowers. Twelve years after starting college, the median black borrower owed [more than they had taken out](#) in the first place.

An increasing number of senior citizens are also being negatively impacted by student debt. The number of people over 60 with student loan debt [increased more than five-fold](#) between 2004 and 2017, from 600,000 to 3.2 million. Over that same period, that group's share of the debt skyrocketed from \$6 billion to \$85 billion, and many are having [student loan payments deducted](#) from their Social Security checks.



ENSURES STUDENTS CAN ATTEND COLLEGE DEBT FREE

This bill:

- Ensures low-income students getting a Pell Grant can use this aid for books, housing, transportation, and the other costs of colleges.
- Requires states and tribes participating in the College for All Act to cover the full cost of college for their poorest students – typically those students from families with [incomes less than \\$25,000](#)– filling in the cost gap that may remain after the elimination of tuition, fees, and grants.
- Caps student loan interest rates at no higher than what the federal government pays for its debt—1.88 percent, compared to student-loan interest rates as high as 8.5 percent. In other words, this bill would end the absurdity of the government profiting off of student loan programs.
- Requires participating states to demonstrate that their public colleges and universities are curbing tuition and fee increases for all students, including out-of-state students and graduate students.
- Provides a dollar-for-dollar match for states and tribes that provide extra funding to reduce the cost of college beyond eliminating tuition and fees. States and tribes would also be able to use funding to increase academic opportunities for students, hire new faculty, and provide professional development opportunities for professors.
- Triples our current investment in the Work-Study Program, which provides an average award of about [\\$1,760 a year](#) , so that it can reach about 2.1 million students (1.4 million more than today) and focuses funding on schools that enroll high numbers of low-income students.



ELIMINATES OR REDUCES TUITION AND FEES FOR LOW-INCOME STUDENTS AT PRIVATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES THAT SERVE HISTORICALLY UNDERREPRESENTED MINORITIES

This bill provides at least \$1.3 billion per year to eliminate or significantly reduce tuition and fees for low-income students at two- and four-year, private nonprofit Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and private nonprofit Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) that serve a student body that is composed of at least 35 percent low-income students. About 200 schools would be eligible to participate.



PROVIDES FUNDING TO ELIMINATE EQUITY GAPS IN HIGHER EDUCATION ATTAINMENT

This bill doubles funding for the TRIO Programs and increases funding for the GEAR UP Program so more first-generation and low-income students can enroll in and graduate college. This means that TRIO Programs would reach [1.5 million students](#) and GEAR UP would reach over 100,000 more students than it currently does.



PAID FOR BY A TAX ON WALL STREET SPECULATION

The estimated \$2.2 trillion cost of this bill would be paid for by a tax on Wall Street speculation. During the financial crisis, Wall Street received the [largest taxpayer bailout](#) in the history of the United States. Now, it's Wall Street's turn to help rebuild the disappearing middle class. By imposing a small Wall Street speculation tax of just 0.5 percent on stock trades (that's just 50 cents for every \$100 worth of stock), a 0.1 percent fee on bonds, and a 0.005 percent fee on derivatives, we would raise up to [\\$2.4 trillion](#) over the next decade. [More than 1,000 economists](#) have endorsed a tax on Wall Street speculation and [some 40 countries](#) have already imposed a similar financial transactions tax, including Britain, Germany, France, Switzerland, South Korea, Hong Kong, and Brazil.

Economists [estimate](#) that the full amount of this tax would be borne by the financial industry, not individual holders of stock or pension funds. The industry would be no less effective in allocating capital after the tax is imposed. A Wall Street speculation tax is widely recognized to reduce waste and inefficiency in the financial sector.