

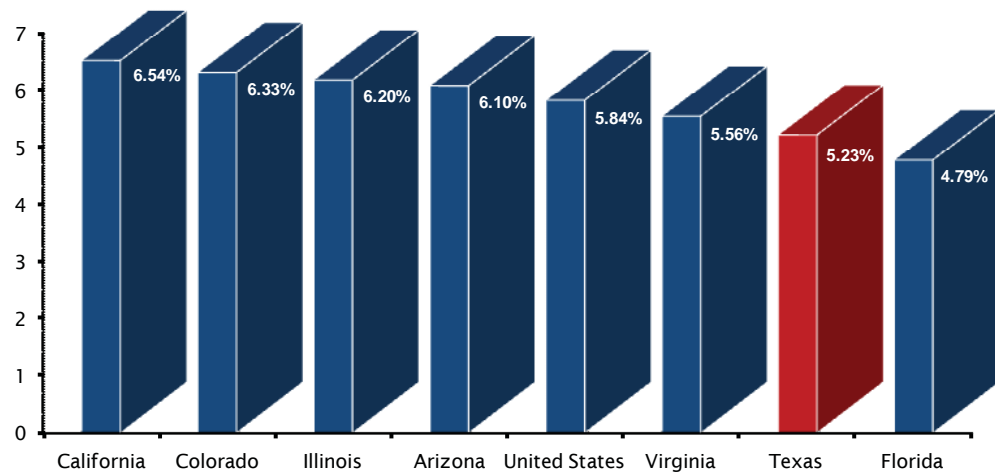
## Denied Access: Fewer Texans Attend College Because There Are Fewer Options

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Success in the global economy—for individuals, communities and whole states—increasingly relies on a well-educated workforce. Unfortunately, Texas is falling behind, with fewer students attending college than other states in the nation. With high barriers to entry that limit new colleges and universities, there are fewer higher education options for Texans. So much so, in fact, that Texas suffers from a net negative migration of college students to other states.

Overall per capita college enrollment in Texas is below the national average. Texas enrollment is 5.23 percent of the state's population versus the national average of 5.84 percent. If Texas' college enrollment were merely the national average, an additional 143,000 Texas students would be in college today and every year. If Texas reached California's enrollment percentage, an additional 308,000 Texans would be in college!

Total Per Capita College Enrollment

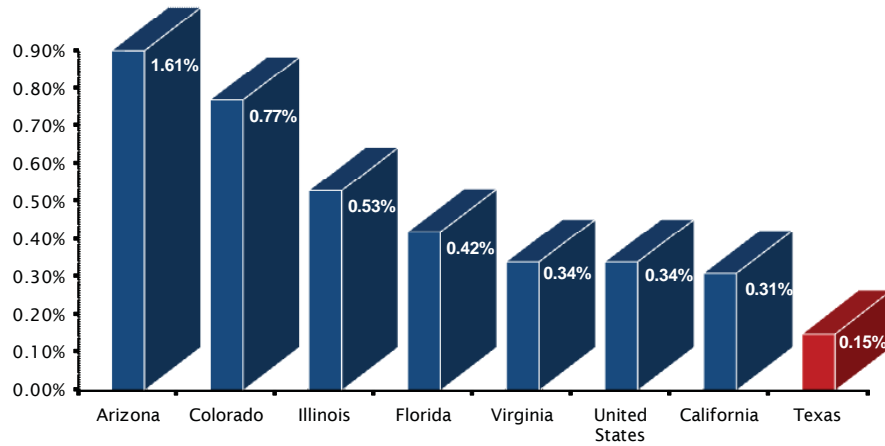


*Note: The University of Phoenix's online campus is excluded. In addition, Florida's total college enrollment would be 5.84 versus 5.45 for Texas, if those 65 and older are excluded from the total population.*

A major reason fewer Texans are enrolled in college is that fewer Texans attend for-profit, degree-granting higher education institutions. In fact, the Texas enrollment in these institutions (34,000) is less than half the national average—0.15 percent of the Texas population versus the national average of 0.34 percent.

If the percent of Texas' population enrolled in for-profit, degree-granting colleges and universities equaled that of California, 64,000 more Texas students would be enrolled in college.

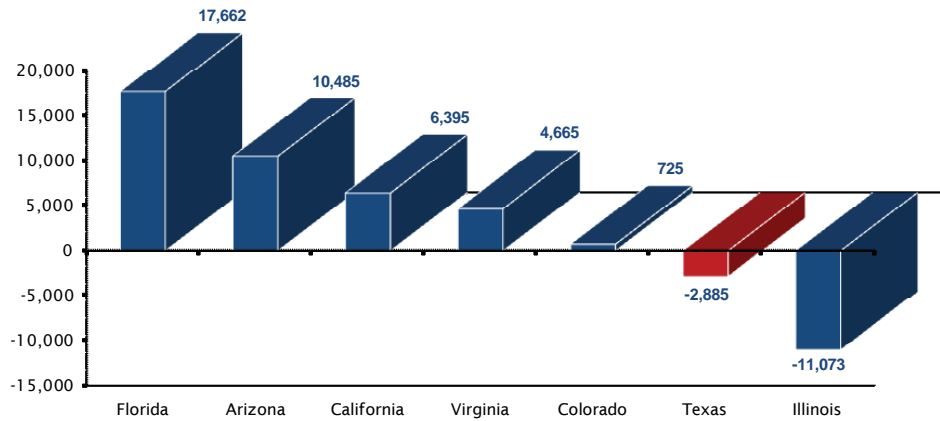
## Per Capita Enrollment in For-Profit, Degree-Granting Colleges



*Note: The University of Phoenix's online campus is excluded. In addition, Florida's total college enrollment would be 5.84 versus 5.45 for Texas, if those 65 and older are excluded from the total population.*

With fewer options, it isn't a surprise that Texas actually suffers a net loss of students who leave to attend colleges and universities in other states.

## Net Migration of College Students



Texas, at \$229 per capita, also appropriates more money for higher education than any of the above states except California, and much more than the \$164 per capita in Arizona. Yet, Arizona has an additional .87 percent of its population enrolled in college, mostly at for-profit, degree-granting institutions.

Given that Texas has favorably young demographics as the 47th youngest state, the most likely explanation for the state's lack of enrollment in for-profit, degree-granting institutions is the many regulatory barriers such institutions must surmount in order to receive approval to operate in Texas. These barriers have constricted the number of such institutions in the state, the number of branch campuses, and the number of degree programs, reducing student options. ★

Sources: Per capita college enrollment, net migration of college students and per capita appropriations: <http://measuringup.highereducation.org/compare>. Per Capita Enrollment in For-Profit, Degree-Granting Colleges: [http://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d06/tables/dt06\\_200.asp?referrer=list](http://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d06/tables/dt06_200.asp?referrer=list).