

## Florida Colleges' Performance Tops on SREB Key Student Indicators

In years past, institutions within The Florida College System (FCS) have consistently performed at the top of many Southern Regional Educational Board (SREB) measures, especially in comparison to the other SREB states. This has been particularly true with regard to student outcomes.

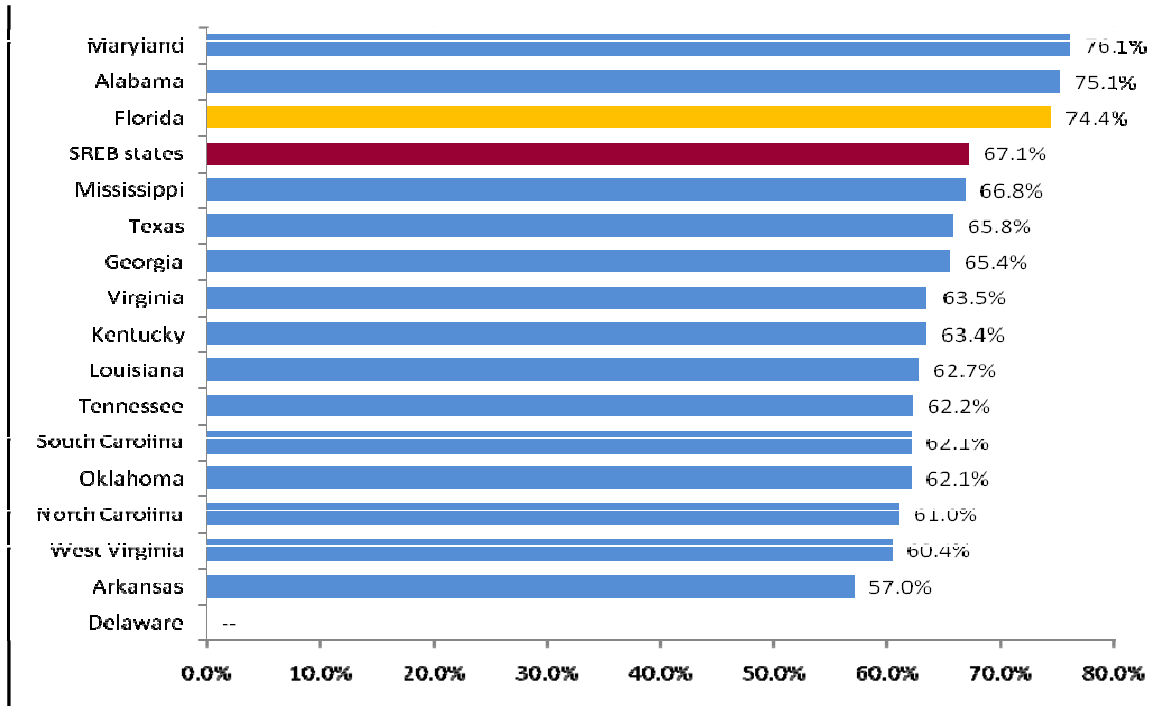
The 2009-10 SREB indicators report is comprised of charts showing the performance of its 16 member states on a number of measures. These charts are based on data collected and compiled annually for SREB's State Data Exchange. Among key indicators relating to student performance are:

- First-Year Student Persistence Rates
- Graduation Rates
- Degrees and Awards Conferred

This report provides highlights of key indicators interspersed with additional data charts on another indicator, appropriations and tuition/fees revenue per Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) student. The FCS's data (listed as "Florida" or "FCS" throughout the report) are shown and summarized in relation to those data of the other SREB member states (i.e., Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia).



**Exhibit 1. FCS’s First-Year Persistence for Students Enrolling in Fall 2008**



(-) Data not available

Source: SREB State Data Exchange

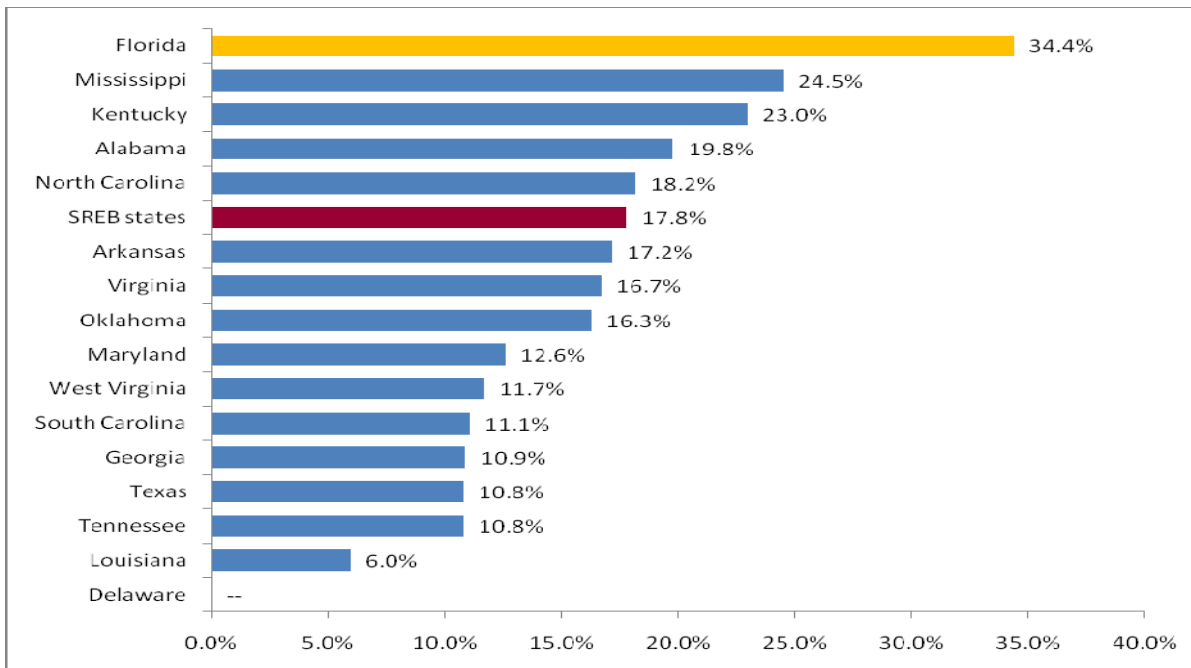
**Exhibit 1** provides the first-year persistence rates for students enrolling in the FCS in 2008. The SREB defines “persistence” as students re-enrolling or transferring out the second year.<sup>1</sup> Among the 16 SREB states, Florida had the third highest first-year persistence rate at 74.4%. Specifically, 68.1% of students in FCS re-enrolled the following year while 6.3% transferred out.<sup>2</sup> Taken together, this is 7.3 percentage points above the SREB average and an increase of 1.4 points compared to the 2007 cohort’s persistence rate. Maryland’s persistence rate was the highest at 76.1% followed by Alabama at 75.1%.

<sup>1</sup> SREB State Data Exchange, 2009-10 Indicators Report, [http://www.sreb.org/page/1075/education\\_data.html](http://www.sreb.org/page/1075/education_data.html)

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., 13.



**Exhibit 2. FCS Three-Year Graduation Rates, 2006 Cohort**



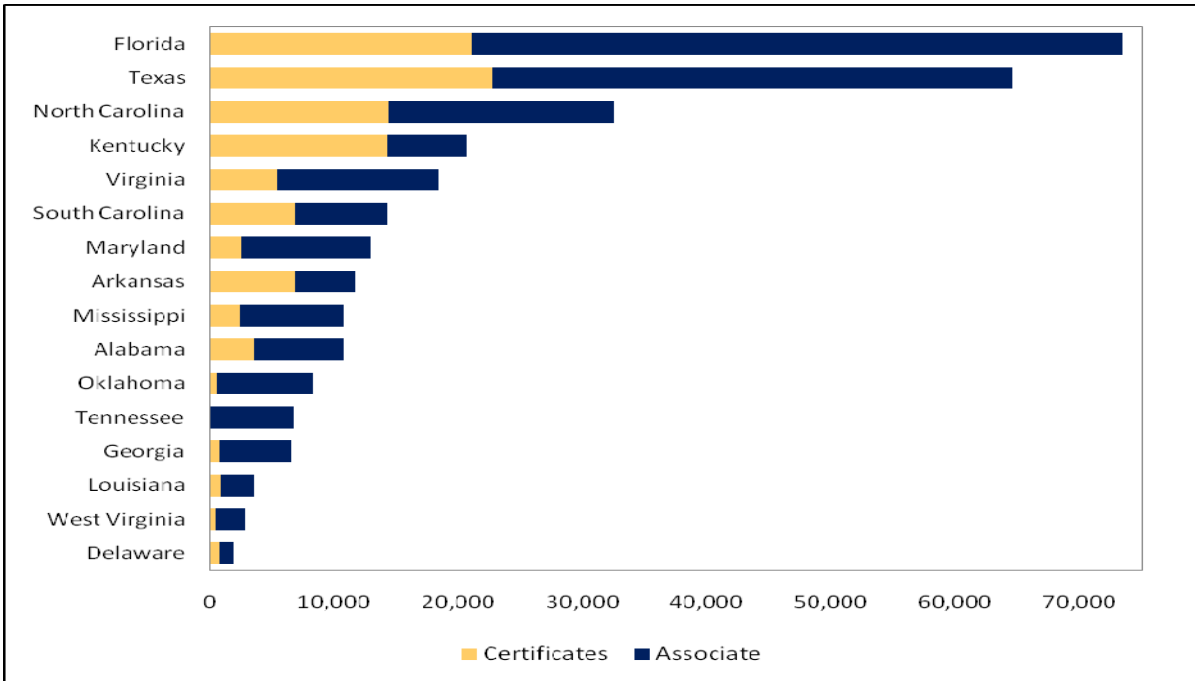
(--) Data not available

Source: SREB State Data Exchange

As part of its progression indicators, the SREB includes students who have completed their academic programs within 150% of normal time (i.e., three years). **Exhibit 2** shows the three-year graduation rate for the 2006 cohorts in each state. Florida had highest three-year graduation rate at 34.4% - nearly 10 percentage points over Mississippi, which had the second highest three-year graduation rate at 24.5%. The SREB average was 17.8%, which was 16.6 percentage points below Florida.



**Exhibit 3. FCS Associate Degrees and Certificates Awarded, 2008-09**

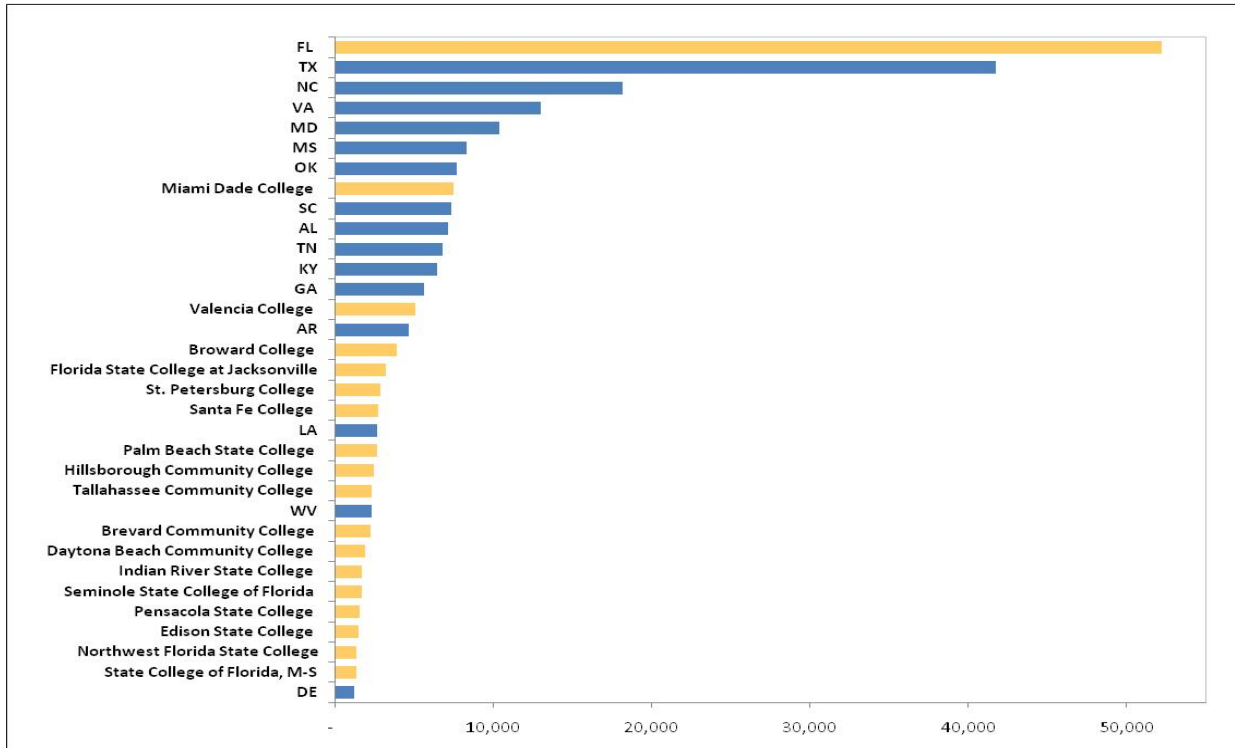


Source: SREB State Data Exchange

**Exhibit 3** shows that for certificates and associate degrees awarded, the FCS was top among all SREB states. In 2008-09, 21,111 certificates and 52,252 associate degrees were awarded, for a total of 73,363 awards. Texas was second to Florida with 22,805 certificates and 41,732 associate degrees, totaling 64,537 awards. The Florida College System has a strong history for producing certificate and associate degree graduates. Florida’s articulation policies, including the statewide course numbering system, help ease transfer from the FCS to the State University System (SUS), which makes the associate in arts degree an attractive lower division option for many.



Exhibit 4. Credentials Awarded: FCS vs. SREB States, 2008-09

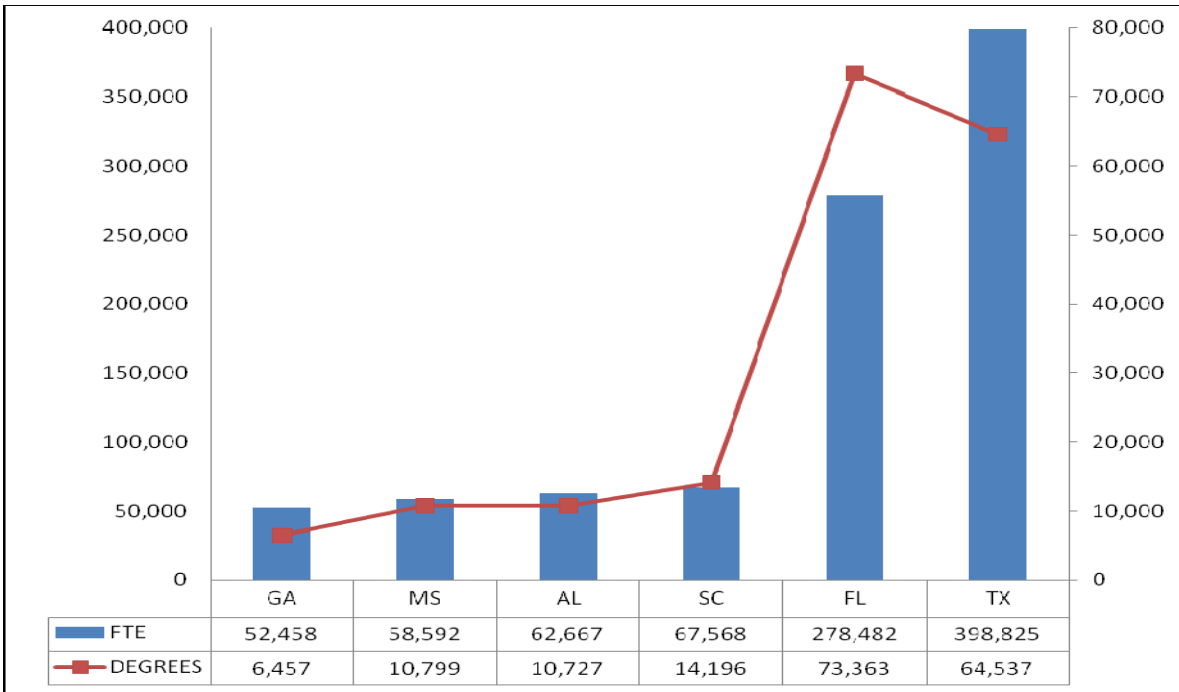


Source: SREB State Data Exchange

Not only does the FCS top the SREB states in the number of associate degrees awarded, but 17 Florida colleges produce more associate degree completers than other states in the SREB. Miami Dade College awarded more associate degrees than eight states. Valencia College produced more associate degrees than four states. Remarkably, 15 colleges are listed on the chart after Arkansas as producing more credentials than one or more SREB states.



Exhibit 5. FCS Degree Productivity, 2008-09



Source: SREB State Data Exchange

Exhibit 5 shows a comparison of FTE and degree productivity between the FCS and selected surrounding SREB states. In terms of FTE, Texas has 398,825—the most of all the SREB states; Florida was second to Texas with 278,482. However, Florida leads in the number of certificate and degree produced per FTE.

Exhibit 6. Ratio of FTE to Award Conferred, 2008-09

	Degrees and Other Awards Conferred 2008-09	FTE - ALL 2008-09	Ratio*
Kentucky	20,665	44,844	2.17
Arkansas	11,641	36,741	3.16
<b>Florida**</b>	<b>74,401</b>	<b>278,482</b>	<b>3.74</b>
Delaware	1,991	9,643	4.84
South Carolina	14,196	68,757	4.84
SREB states	301,540	1,574,905	5.22
West Virginia**	3,029	15,872	5.24
Mississippi	10,799	58,592	5.43
Oklahoma**	8,376	46,229	5.52



**Exhibit 6. Ratio of FTE to Award Conferred, 2008-09 (continued)**

	Degrees and Other Awards Conferred 2008-09	FTE - ALL 2008-09	Ratio*
Virginia	18,423	105,320	5.72
Alabama	10,727	62,667	5.84
Texas**	64,649	398,825	6.17
Maryland	12,921	82,283	6.37
North Carolina	32,496	231,737	7.13
Georgia**	6,714	52,458	7.81
Louisiana**	3,694	28,922	7.83
Tennessee	6,818	53,532	7.85

\*Ratio of FTE to credentials conferred

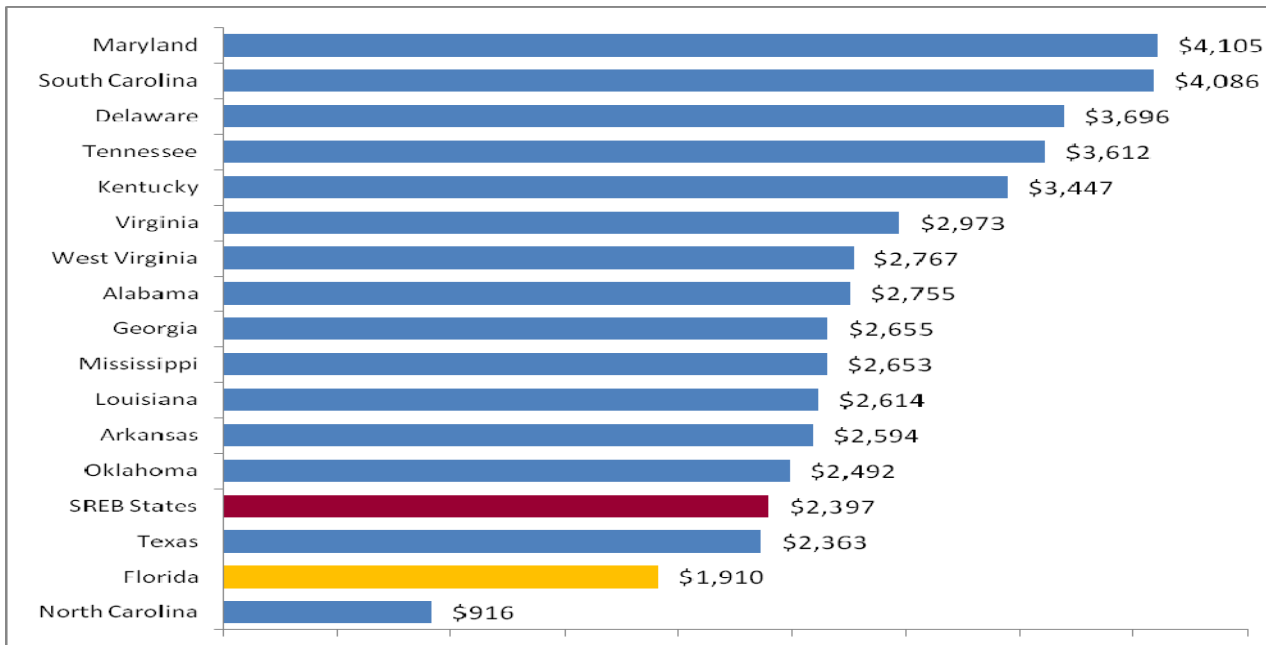
\*\*Total includes baccalaureate degrees awarded

Source: SREB State Data Exchange

**Exhibit 6** shows the ratio of the number of FTE to the number of credentials (associate degrees, certificates, and baccalaureate degrees) produced. Here, the number of FTEs required to produce a credential is used as a measure of efficiency. The fewer FTE per award, the more efficient a state is in producing completers. The FCS’s ratio of FTE to credentials awarded is 3.74—meaning that the system generates one award for every 3.74 FTEs—making it third among the SREB states. Kentucky is first and Arkansas is second, respectively, among the SREB states, and the SREB average is 5.22. When comparing Florida to Texas and North Carolina (who were second and third in the SREB for awarding associate degrees and certificates, see **Exhibit 4**), Texas’s ratio of FTE to credentials is 6.17 (i.e., six times as many FTE are required to produce credentials) and North Carolina’s ratio of FTE to credentials is even higher at 7.13. This information shows that The Florida College System is not only highly productive in awarding associate and baccalaureate degrees and certificates, but is also able to do so in an efficient manner.



**Exhibit 7. Tuition and Fees Revenue\* per FTE Student, 2009-10**



\*Excludes amounts mandated or used for debt service.

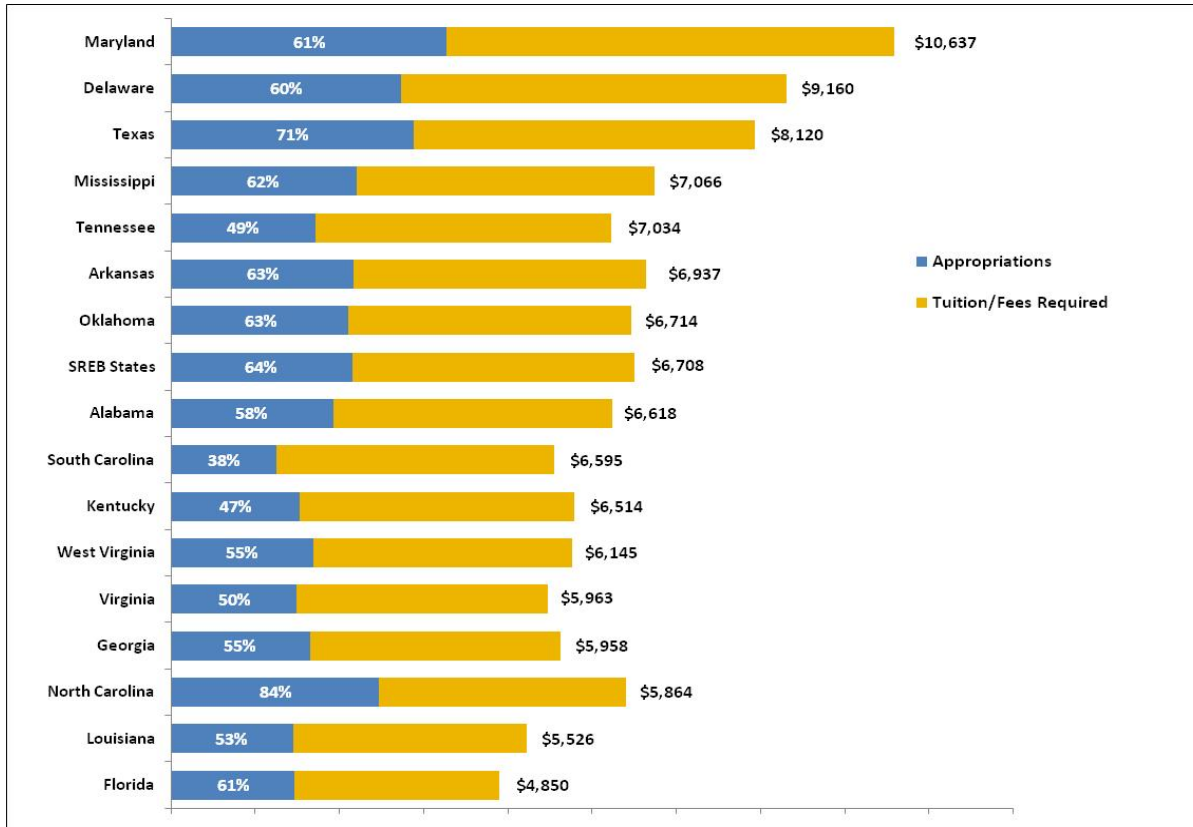
Source: SREB State Data Exchange

**Exhibit 7** shows tuition and fees revenue per FTE student by SREB states in 2009-10. For this category, Maryland topped the list of SREB states again at \$4,105—a \$2,195 difference from the FCS and \$1,708 higher than the SREB average. The FCS was second to last in the SREB at \$1,910, which is \$487 below the SREB average of \$2,397. Florida’s 2009-10 tuition and fees revenue represent a 4.0% decrease from 2008-09. Texas was third from last in the SREB at \$2,363 and North Carolina was last at \$916 for tuition revenues per FTE student. Interestingly, as shown in **Exhibit 3**, Florida (FCS), Texas, and North Carolina are the top three states in the SREB (respectively) for awarding associate degrees and certificates. Although Texas and North Carolina are higher than Florida (FCS) in terms of appropriations per FTE student (see **Exhibit 9**), the FCS still produces nearly 9,000 more associate degrees and certificates than Texas and approximately 40,000 more than North Carolina.





**Exhibit 8. Appropriations and Tuition/Fees Revenue per FTE Student, 2009-10**

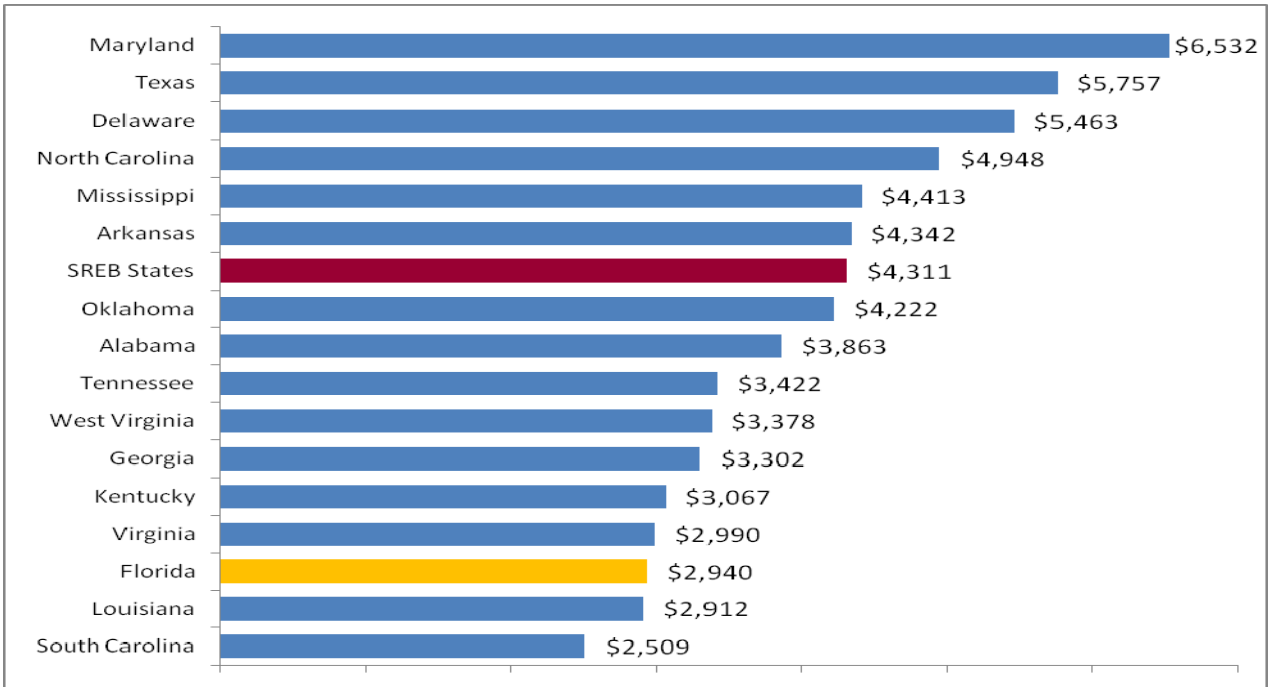


Source: SREB State Data Exchange

Core funding sources for many public colleges are from state and local appropriations and tuition and fees. **Exhibit 8** shows the proportion of appropriations in relation to total revenue generated per FTE (total dollar amount shown above represents appropriations plus tuition and fees). The FCS is last among the SREB states in terms of total revenue (\$4,850); 61% of total revenue comes from appropriations. In 2009-10, appropriations and tuition/fees revenue per FTE student decreased 7% from 2008-09. Louisiana experienced a 23.4% decrease from the previous year and generated \$5,526 in total revenue (53% were appropriations). Although North Carolina had the largest proportion of appropriations of all SREB states at 84%, it was still third from the last in terms of total revenue. Maryland topped the list at generating \$10,637 per FTE student while its appropriations comprised 61% of that total, representing a 4.8% decrease from 2008-09.



**Exhibit 9. Appropriations\* per FTE Student, 2009-10**



\*Includes state and local general purpose and educational special purpose appropriations to campuses.

Source: SREB State Data Exchange

**Exhibit 9** shows appropriations per FTE, by SREB state. The FCS was third from last at \$2,940—an 8.9% decrease from the previous year. Florida (FCS) was also \$1,371 below the SREB average of \$4,311. Louisiana was below Florida (FCS) at \$2,912 (35.6% below 2008-09) and South Carolina was below Louisiana at \$2,509 (15.5% below appropriation levels in 2008-09). Maryland’s appropriations levels decreased by 6.4% to \$6,532, but still places first among all SREB states. Maryland is followed by Texas at \$5,757; Delaware at \$5,463; and North Carolina at \$4,948.

The Florida College System is a top producer, nationally, in the number of associate degrees awarded. Florida colleges continue to exemplify efficiency in the face of hard economic times. Even with low funding, the FCS remains above all other SREB states in terms of the number of certificates and degrees awarded. With the addition of baccalaureate degrees, the FCS will continue to provide quality education to Florida’s citizens in a cost-effective manner.

**SREB KEY INDICATORS**

APRIL 2011, EDITION 2011-03



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