In FY2008, California appropriated $7.71 per $1000 of state personal income, ranking the state #21 among all states. In FY1980, California ranked 11th on this measure when it invested $12.86 per $1000 of state personal income.

If California had maintained the investment it made in FY1980, an additional $3.2 billion would have been invested in higher education last year.

From a high of almost 18% in FY1973, in FY2008, California devoted only 11% of its budget to higher education.
When California adopted its Master Plan for Higher Education, it dedicated 17% of General Fund budget to higher education. In the 40 years that followed, the state has abandoned its historic commitment.

California still spends one of every five general fund dollars on its corrections and higher education agencies, but the proportion of funds devoted to each has shifted radically.

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