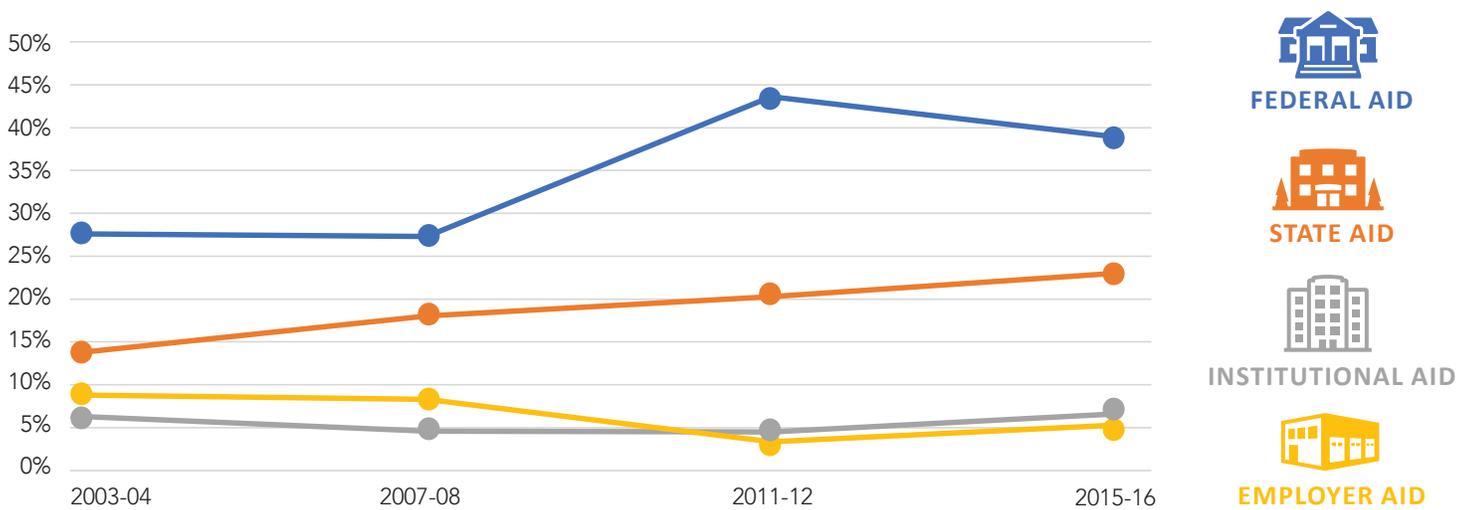


The post-recession bump

Community college students were more likely to receive federal aid immediately following the Great Recession.

Percent of public two-year college students receiving select aid types



Source: Data included in recently released financial aid tables from the [National Postsecondary Student Aid Study \(NPSAS\)](#), which is conducted every four years.



In the 2011-12 academic year, the percent of community college students receiving federal aid was at its highest, while employer-funded aid to community college students was at the lowest. The 2011-12 peak in the percent of students receiving federal aid reflects the end of the Great Recession, when community college enrollments were at near-historic high levels (reached in the prior academic year). It was also the peak for the number of Pell Grant recipients, and Pell Grant expenditures were one year past record levels. The recession also appeared to have cooled employers' willingness to pay the college costs of their employees. In regards to the steady increase in the percent of students receiving state aid, this may reflect the College Promise movement, where certain states, localities and organizations are offering to cover tuition for eligible community college students under certain conditions.

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