

## College costs still a concern Stockton Polling Institute.

The good news is that 78 percent think New Jersey colleges provide a high-quality education, and 80 percent of those who had a household member attending college believe investing in a degree has high value. Eighty-eight percent favor four-year traditional colleges over two-year and online programs when it comes to quality.

The bad news is that cost is viewed as the single biggest barrier to attending and completing college by 70 percent of residents. Only 47 percent find college in New Jersey affordable; while roughly 40 percent say flatly that college is not affordable. Fifty-four percent indicate that it is unlikely that financial aid will be available to them or their families.

Citizens see state funding cuts (26 percent), salary increases (28 percent), and the cost of new facilities and technology (15 percent) as major factors in cost increases. They also take a balanced view of responsibility for state and college reforms to improve college affordability and completion. About 42 percent indicate that more state funding and student financial aid is needed. About 45 percent say that better cost control and tighter reins on tuition, such as tying tuition to the rate of inflation, would help families afford college.

Only 15 percent see online classes as a primary fix