

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

## *Schumer Report: With College Tuition in Upstate New York Up 35 Percent Since 2001, More Than 100,000 Middle Class Families Stand to Lose Critical Tuition Tax Break*

Today, U.S. Senator Charles E. Schumer revealed that hundreds of thousands of upstate New York middle class families could lose a critical tax break that helps pay for the skyrockets cost of college tuition if Congress doesn't act by the end of the year. More than 102,000 upstate New York families took advantage of the "College Tuition Tax Credit" that allows middle class families to deduct up to \$4,000 of their kids tuition from their taxes. Schumer said this tax credit is needed now more than ever as he released new report showing that, since the 2000-2001 school year, the price of going to college in upstate New York has jumped more than 35 percent. In response, Schumer said he was calling on Majority Leader Senator Bill Frist to bring legislation to the Senate floor to make the tax break permanent.

**12,576 families in the Capital Region** took advantage of the college tuition tax credit in 2003. Over the past five years, the average price of going to college in Capital Region is up **37 percent**, rising from **\$9,037** in 2001 to **\$12,343** in 2006.

County	Average College Tuition in 2000-2001	Average College Tuition in 2005 - 2006	Percentage Increase	Number of Families Who Took Advantage of the College Tuition Tax Credit (2003)
Albany	\$10,069	\$13,237	31%	3,680
Fulton				688
Montgomery	\$3,503	\$4,223	21%	605
Rensselaer	\$13,473	\$18,506	37%	1,921
Saratoga	\$11,357	\$14,542	28%	2,658
Schenectady	\$11,249	\$17,254	53%	1,845
Schoharie	\$4,571	\$6,298	38%	399
Washington				780
<b>Capital Region Total</b>	<b>\$9,037</b>	<b>\$12,343</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>12,576</b>

**11,563 families in Central New York** took advantage of the college tuition tax credit in 2003. Over the past five years, the average price of going to college in Central New York is up **47 percent**, rising from **\$10,808** in 2001 to **\$15,927** in 2006.

County	Average College Tuition in 2000-2001	Average College Tuition in 2005-2006	Percentage Increase	Number of Families Who Took Advantage of the College Tuition Tax Credit (2003)
Onondaga	\$10,717	\$15,679	46%	5,668
Oswego	\$5,741	\$7,409	29%	1,527
Cortland	\$5,787	\$7,327	27%	602
Madison	\$19,355	\$32,885	70%	870
Oneida	\$12,438	\$16,333	31%	2,896
<b>Central New York Total</b>	<b>\$10,808</b>	<b>\$15,927</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>11,563</b>

**15,542 families in the Rochester-Finger Lakes region** took advantage of the college tuition tax credit in 2003. Over the past five years, the average price of going to college in the Rochester-Finger Lakes region is up **33 percent**, rising from **\$11,603** in 2001 to **\$15,382** in 2006.

County	Average College Tuition in 2000-2001	Average College Tuition in 2005-2006	Percentage Increase	Number of Families Who Took Advantage of the College Tuition Tax Credit (2003)
Monroe	\$12,363	\$17,400	41%	9,075
Cayuga	\$8,263	\$10,042	22%	1,008
Livingston	\$5,854	\$7,607	30%	794
Ontario	\$14,248	\$18,432	29%	1,293
Schuyler				239
Seneca				431
Tompkins	\$15,919	\$20,450	28%	1,238
Wayne				1,158
Yates	\$12,970	\$18,360	42%	306
<b>Finger Lakes Total</b>	<b>\$11,603</b>	<b>\$15,382</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>15,542</b>

**29,381 families in the Hudson Valley** took advantage of the college tuition tax credit in 2003. Over the past five years, the average price of going to college in the Hudson Valley is up **30 percent**, rising from **\$8,606** in 2001 to **\$11,222** in 2006.

County	Average College Tuition in 2000-2001	Average College Tuition in 2005-2006	Percentage Increase	Number of Families Who Took Advantage of the College Tuition Tax Credit (2003)
Westchester	\$11,880	\$16,933	43%	11,641
Orange	\$5,824	\$8,167	40%	4,614
Columbia	\$3,236	\$3,776	17%	787
Dutchess	\$16,674	\$22,103	33%	3,648
Greene				615
Putnam				1,244
Rockland	\$10,540	\$12,044	14%	3,624
Sullivan				947
Ulster	\$3,479	\$4,308	24%	2,261
<b>Hudson Valley Total</b>	<b>\$8,606</b>	<b>\$11,222</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>29,381</b>

**6,937 families in the North Country** took advantage of the college tuition tax credit in 2003. Over the past five years, the average price of going to college in the North Country is up **36 percent**, rising from **\$6,238** in 2001 to **\$8,470** in 2006.

County	Average College Tuition in 2000-2001	Average College Tuition in 2005-2006	Percentage Increase	Number of Families Who Took Advantage of the College Tuition Tax Credit (2003)
Clinton	\$4,486	\$5,963	33%	1,015
St. Lawrence	\$13,693	\$17,861	30%	1,378
Warren	\$3,270	\$4,019	23%	811
Essex	\$3,363	\$5,340	59%	479
Franklin	\$12,740	\$18,470	45%	631
Hamilton				65
Herkimer	\$3,121	\$3,863	24%	789
Jefferson	\$2,991	\$3,771	26%	1,440
Lewis				329
<b>North Country Total</b>	<b>\$6,238</b>	<b>\$8,470</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>6,937</b>

**8,031 families in the Southern Tier** took advantage of the college tuition tax credit in 2003. Over the past five years, the average price of going to college in the Southern Tier is up **24 percent**, rising from **\$9,168** in 2001 to **\$11,411** in 2006.

County	Average College Tuition in 2000-2001	Average College Tuition in 2005-2006	Percentage Increase	Number of Families Who Took Advantage of the College Tuition Tax Credit (2003)
Broome	\$4,713	\$6,775	44%	2,437
Allegany	\$12,959	\$15,560	20%	626
Chemung	\$14,490	\$17,169	18%	1,107
Chenango				640
Delaware	\$3,825	\$6,282	64%	588
Otsego	\$15,452	\$18,167	18%	776
Steuben	\$3,569	\$4,513	26%	1,220
Tioga				637
<b>Southern Tier Total</b>	<b>\$9,168</b>	<b>\$11,411</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>8,031</b>

**18,707 families in Western New York** took advantage of the college tuition tax credit in 2003. Over the past five years, the average price of going to college in Western New York is up **35 percent**, rising from **\$8,596** in 2001 to **\$11,584** in 2006.

County	Average College Tuition in 2000-2001	Average College Tuition in 2005-2006	Percentage Increase	Number of Families Who Took Advantage of the College Tuition Tax Credit (2003)
Erie	\$10,122	\$12,612	25%	11,516
Genesee				733
Niagara	\$8,791	\$11,706	33%	2,685
Orleans				537
Wyoming				528
Cattaraugus	\$9,913	\$15,275	54%	1,020
Chautauqua	\$5,556	\$6,743	21%	1,688
<b>Western NY Total</b>	<b>\$8,596</b>	<b>\$11,584</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>18,707</b>

\*College Tuition data came from the National Association of Colleges and Independent Universities. Tax data was generated using data from the Internal Revenue Service and the Senate Finance Committee. Tuition averages include tuition prices at public and private colleges for both in-state and out-of-state students.