

# HIGHER EDUCATION COSTS & EFFICIENCY

## *Spending and Efficiency at Higher Education Institutions, 2024*

### RECOMMENDATIONS

**Assessing impact of non-instructional spending on student costs** ► The General Assembly may wish to consider amending § 23.1-1303 of the Code of Virginia to expressly include in the duties of boards of visitors at public four-year higher education institutions the responsibility to fully consider the impact that policies and decisions in non-instructional areas—such as intercollegiate athletics, institution-funded research, and staffing levels for non-instructional positions—have on student costs. (Recommendation 1)

**Reducing costs when institutions' enrollment declines** ► The General Assembly may wish to consider amending § 23.1-306 of the Code of Virginia to require as part of the six-year planning process that institutions experiencing reductions in cost efficiency because of declining enrollment report their efforts to improve efficiency and/or better align operations with enrollment levels by (i) reducing unnecessary staffing, (ii) eliminating low enrollment academic programs, and (iii) reducing facilities' square footage. (Recommendation 2)

**Limiting students' and institutions' funding of intercollegiate athletics** ► The General Assembly may wish to consider amending § 23.1-1303 of the Code of Virginia to constrain the amount of student fees and institutional funds that can be allocated to intercollegiate athletics by establishing a maximum proportion of the total cost of attendance that student fees and institutional funds cannot exceed per student. (Recommendation 4)