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New York Dream Act Would Cost Typical Taxpayer Less Than a Doughnut



By [TED HESSON](#)

Last year, I wrote about how the New York Dream Act — which would offer state financial aid to undocumented college students — would cost most New York taxpayers [less than a latte](#). Turns out for the average taxpayer, it's even cheaper.

The Fiscal Policy Institute (FPI), a non-partisan research organization, has [issued a report](#) looking at the costs and benefits of the state-level bill. And since we all know it's easier to do math when it involves fried dough, they've broken out the costs in doughnut dollars:

If the DREAM Act were financed through the state income tax it would cost a typical taxpayer 87¢—less than the price of a donut

Taxpayer's Adjusted Gross Income	Average annual tax	Approximate percentile
\$20,000 - \$24,999	26¢	20th
\$35,000 - \$39,999	61¢	40th
\$45,000 - \$49,999	87¢	median taxpayer
\$55,000 - \$59,999	\$1.14	60th
\$75,000 - \$99,999	\$1.95	80th
\$150,000 - \$199,999	\$4.92	95th



Source: Fiscal Policy Institute calculation.⁵

The figures were still calculated the same way as last year, but in the report the organization decided to focus on the cost for the median taxpayer, which was \$0.87 per year. My latte piece looked at the majority of taxpayers, those making \$200,000 per year or less.

Expect the New York Dream Act to be back in the news. Supporters of the education bill are starting to make noise again, and there will be [a rally](#) for the legislation in Albany on March 5.

Of the three states with the highest number of immigrant residents, New York is the [only one](#) that doesn't offer state financial aid to undocumented immigrant students.

(Image: Stockbyte/Getty Images)