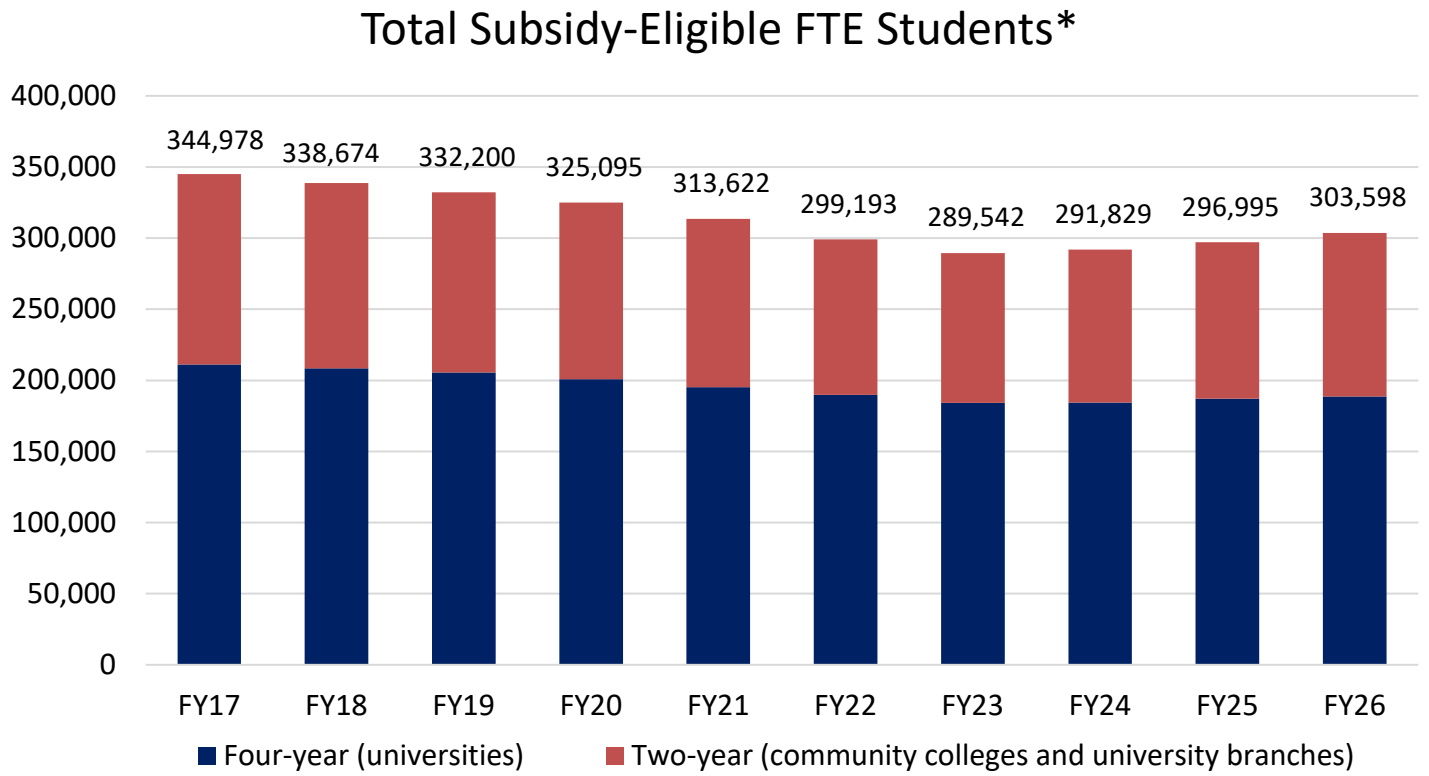
Higher education enrollment continues rebound following years of sustained decline



*An FTE (full-time equivalent) student is based on one student taking 15 credit hours per semester or the equivalent. Subsidy-eligible FTEs include all but out-of-state undergraduate students.

Source: Ohio Department of Higher Education

- Total enrollment at public colleges and universities increased each year from FY 2023 to FY 2026 (led by two-year campuses) after it decreased each year from FY 2017 to FY 2023.
- Increases from FY 2023 to FY 2026:
  - 9.1% (9,630) two-year campuses
  - 2.4% (4,427) four-year campuses
- Decreases from FY 2017 to FY 2023:
  - 21.3% (28,510) two-year campuses
  - 12.8% (26,926) four-year campuses
- Overall, FY 2026 enrollment was 41,380 FTEs (12.0%) lower than FY 2017.
- Enrollment decreased by an average annual rate of 3.8% from FY 2020 to FY 2023, nearly twice the average annual decrease of 2.0% in the years prior to the pandemic (FY 2017-FY 2020).