



Economic Challenges Facing Future Ministers:

What the ECFFM Initiative
Has Taught Us.

Presenter:

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and Student Research**
the Association of Theological Schools

The ATS Biennial Meeting
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Denver, CO



The ECFFM Initiative

67 participating schools

Representing 27 denominations

Three year grants (2013, 2014)

Sustainability grants (2016, 2017)

Goals

Conduct Research

Create and/or Strengthen Educational Programs

Imagine and Implement New Strategies

Initiate or Enhance Partnerships



*This initiative and a coordination grant to
The Association of Theological schools
was generously funded by
Lilly Endowment, Inc.*

Average Educational Debt

Incurred by 2016-17 Graduates:

All Graduates:
\$17,842

Borrowers Only:
\$35,625

Current Education for 2011 and 2015 Alumns in 2016:

All Alumns:
\$13,998

Borrowers Only:
\$51,000

Brought by 2017-18 Entering Students:

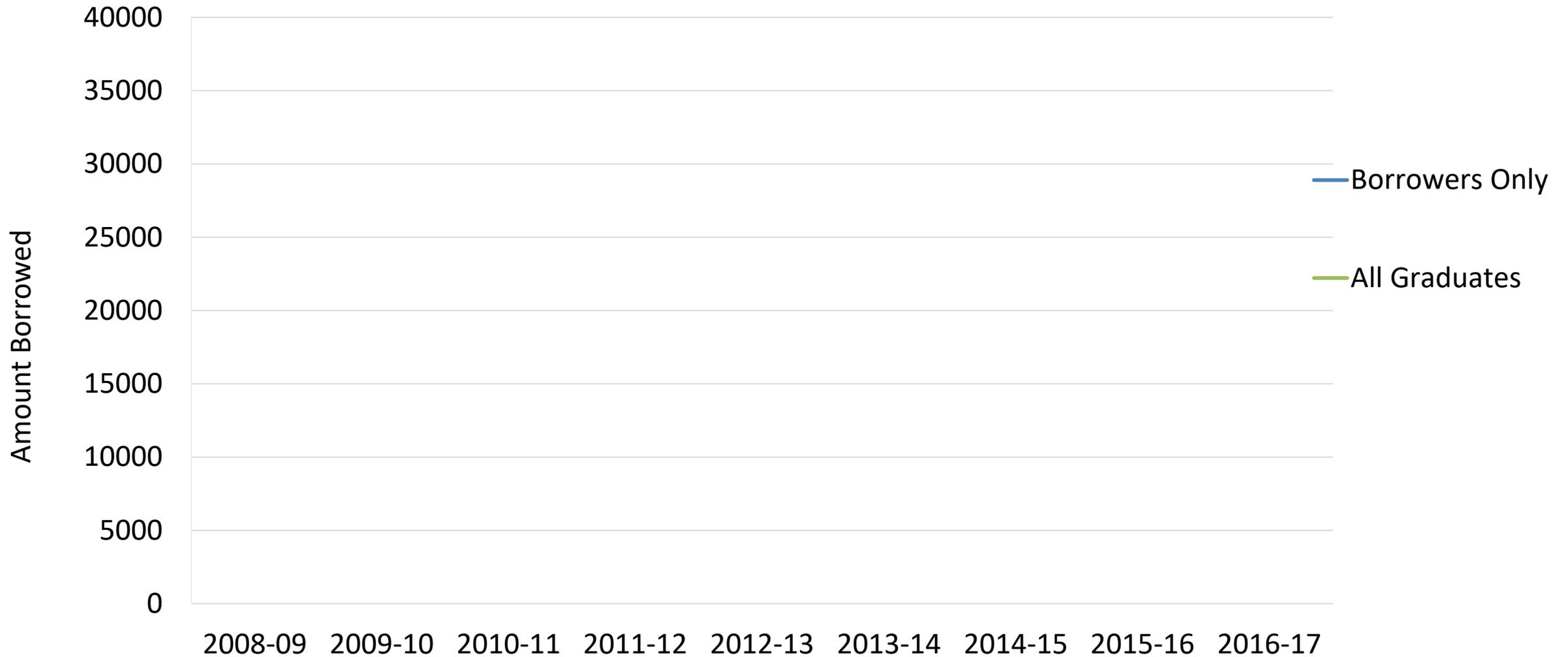
All Entering
Students: \$14,369

Borrowers Only:
\$32,609





Approx. Average Educational Debt Incurred in Seminary All Graduates, 2008-09 to present

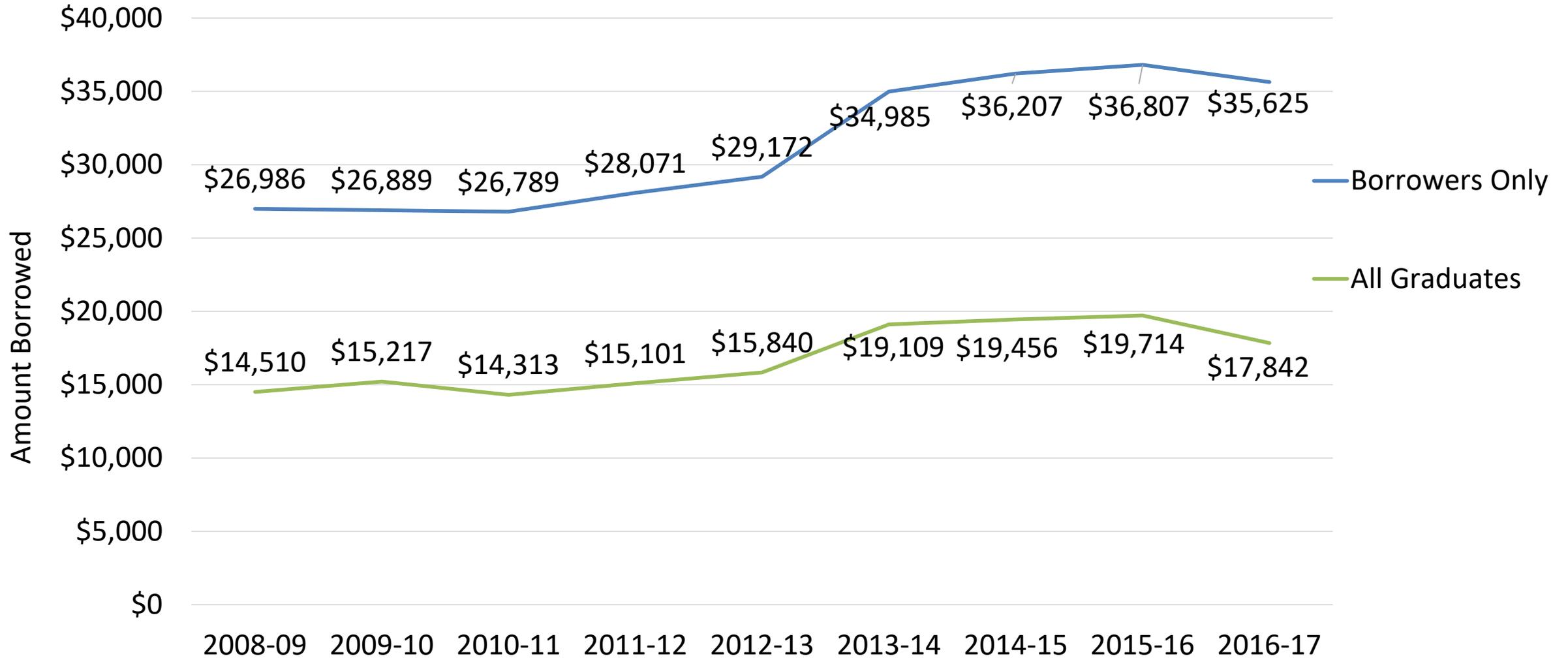


Source: The ATS Graduating Student Questionnaire Total School Profile Table 7, The ATS Graduating Student Questionnaire Question 13b

Note: The bump in average debt in 2013-14 is due to changes to the debt ranges in the GSQ.



Approx. Average Educational Debt Incurred in Seminary All Graduates, 2008-09 to present



Source: The ATS Graduating Student Questionnaire Total School Profile Table 7, The ATS Graduating Student Questionnaire Question 13b

Note: The bump in average debt in 2013-14 is due to changes to the debt ranges in the GSQ.

Research on ECFFM Effectiveness

- Data drawn from the following sources:
 - ECFFM Annual Project Charts on student activities and student debt
 - ECFFM Annual Report Narratives
 - ATS Annual Report Data (Institutional Data)
 - Educational Models Program Survey
- Complete data from 65 of the 67 participating schools

ATS Research team included:

Jo Ann Deasy, Director of Institutional Initiatives and Student Research

Debbie Gin, Director of Research and Faculty Development

Chris Meinzer, Senior Director of Administration and CFO

Carola Molinares, Conference Coordinator and Admin. Assist. For the ECFFM Initiative

**Economic Challenges Facing Future Ministers
2017 PROGRAM CHARTS**

As part of their assessment of the ECFFM Initiative, Lilly Endowment will be gathering information on the number of people participating and leading various campus activities related to the project. We do understand that not all projects focus on student or faculty related campus activities. Please fill in the chart as appropriate to your particular project. Faculty who also serve as administrators should only be counted in one category. Add additional activities as needed.

Student Focused Activities: Jan to Dec 2017

	# of Courses/Forums Offered	# of Participants Involved		Typical Contact Hours per Participant	# Involved in Leading		
		Students	Other		Faculty (Regular & Adjunct)	Administrators	Collaborators
Restricted Courses							
Non Restricted Courses							
Co-curricular Workshops/Forums							
One-on-one Financial Counseling							
Cohort Financial Counseling							
Other:							
Activity 1:							
Activity 2:							
Activity 3:							

ats The Association of Theological Schools
The Commission on Accrediting

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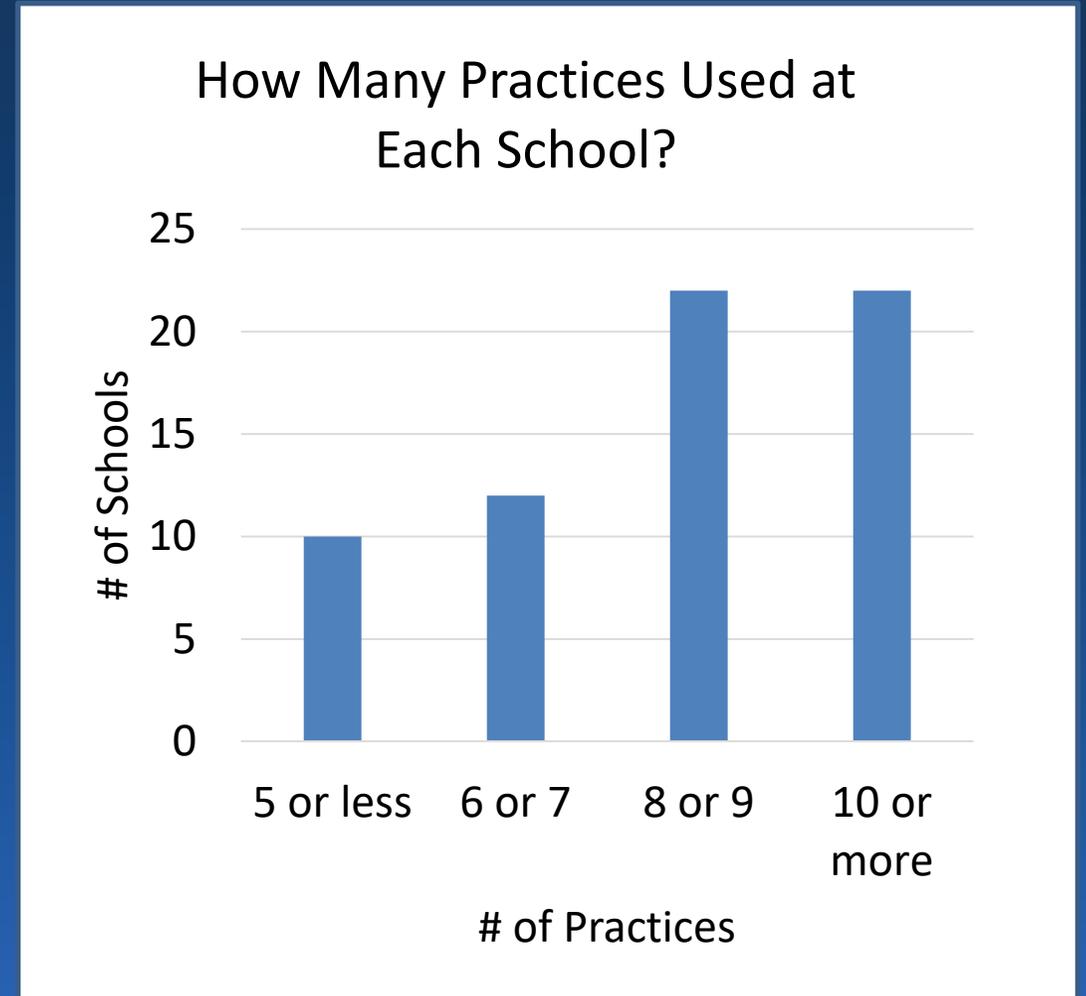
Home » Resources » Institutional Data » Annual Data Tables

Annual Data Tables

A primary purpose of the ATS Commission on Accrediting is "to collect data from all members of ATS for use in accrediting and to provide the data resources supporting applied research undertaken by ATS" (COA Bylaws 1.2). This page provides some of that data publicly in the form of annual summaries of data collected each year from all ATS member schools. Since 2003-04, these annual summaries of data have been published as the Annual Data Tables. Prior to 2003-04, these annual summaries were published as the *Fact Book on Theological Education*.

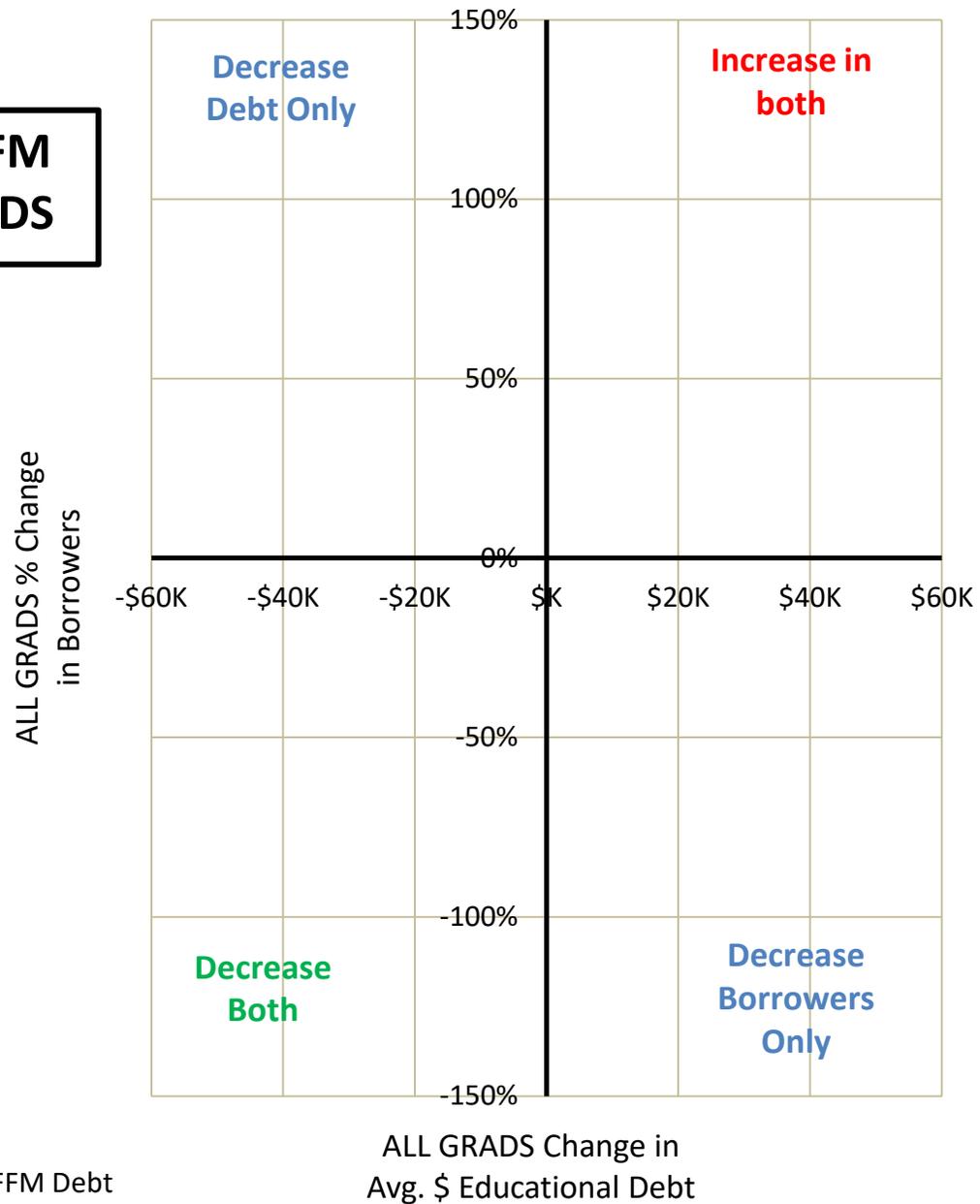
Practices Considered

1. Workshops and Forums (57 schools)
2. Required Financial Aid Counseling (55)
3. Adjusted Financial Aid Procedures (53)
4. One-on-one Counseling (52)
5. Partnered with a Denomination (48)
6. Addressed Finances in Admissions (45)
7. Added Requirements for All Borrowers (44)
8. Transcribed Courses (41)
9. Addressed Finances in Orientation (38)
10. Established Interventions for High Debt Students (35)
11. Distribute Financial Aid Letters (23)
12. Worked on lowering Housing Costs (21)





**ECFFM
GRADS**



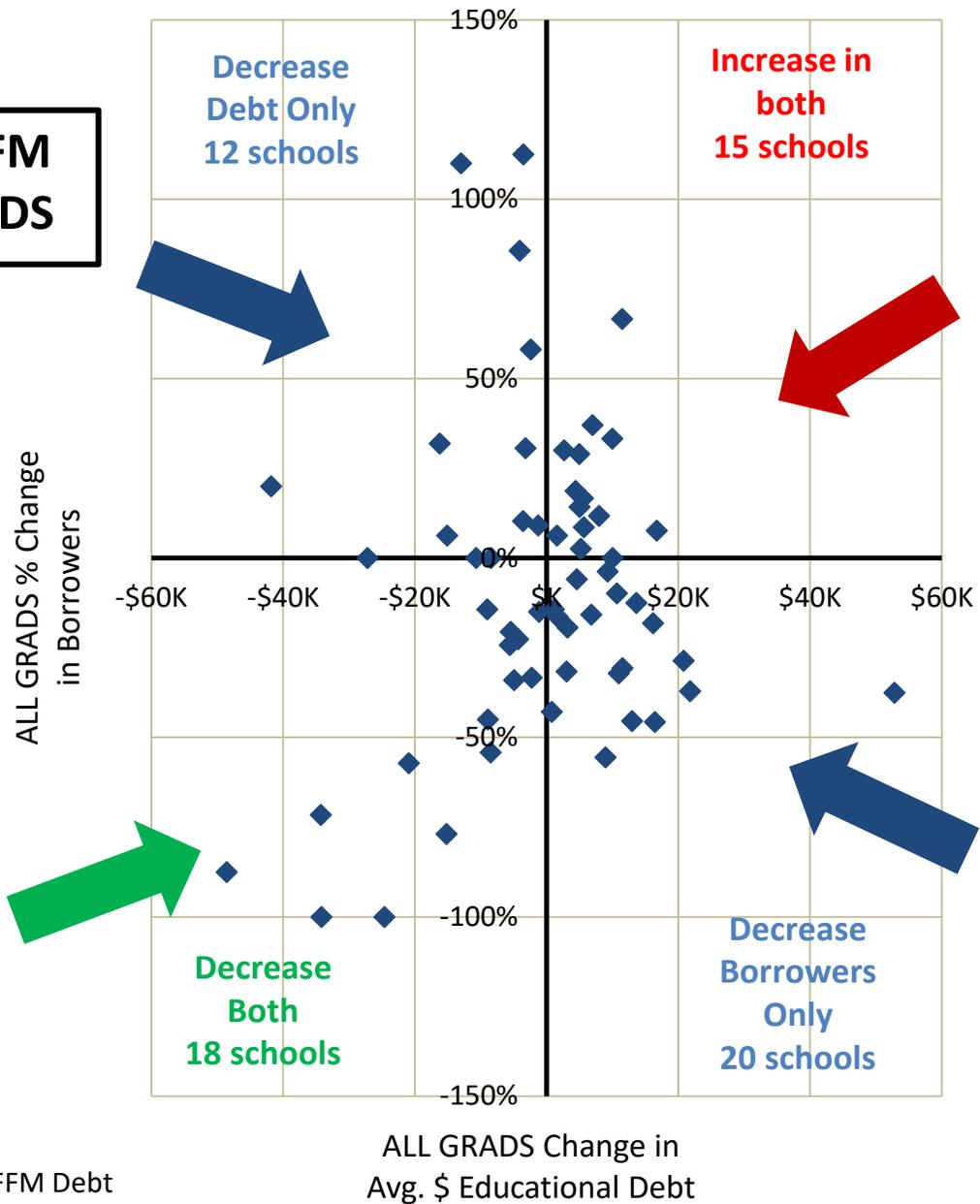
Source: ECFFM Debt Charts 2014-2016

What impact has the ECFFM Initiative had on participating schools during the first three years?





**ECFFM
GRADS**



Source: ECFFM Debt Charts 2014-2016

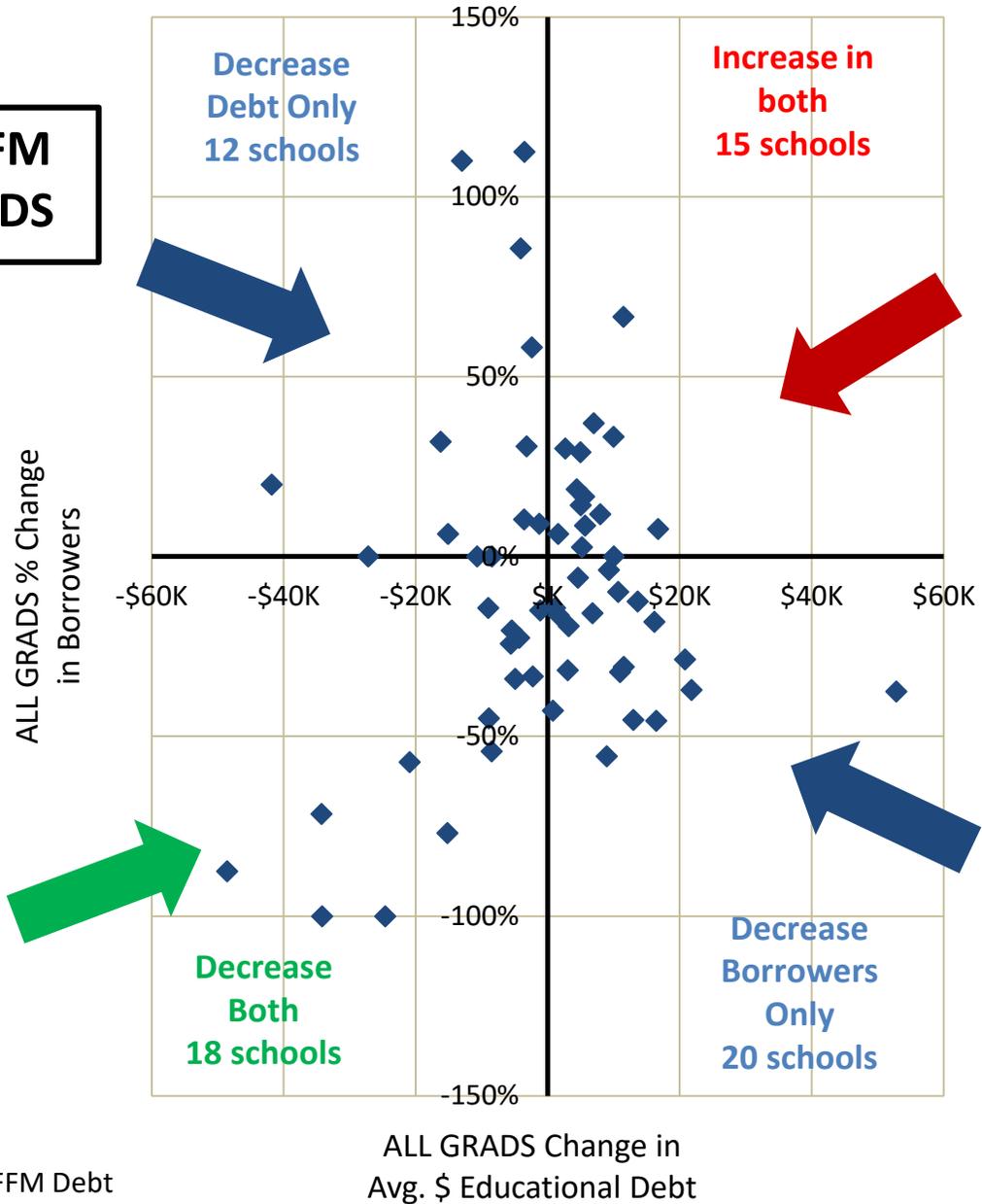
What impact has the ECFFM Initiative had on participating schools during the first three years?

77% of participating schools lowered the # of borrowers or the average educational debt incurred by graduates



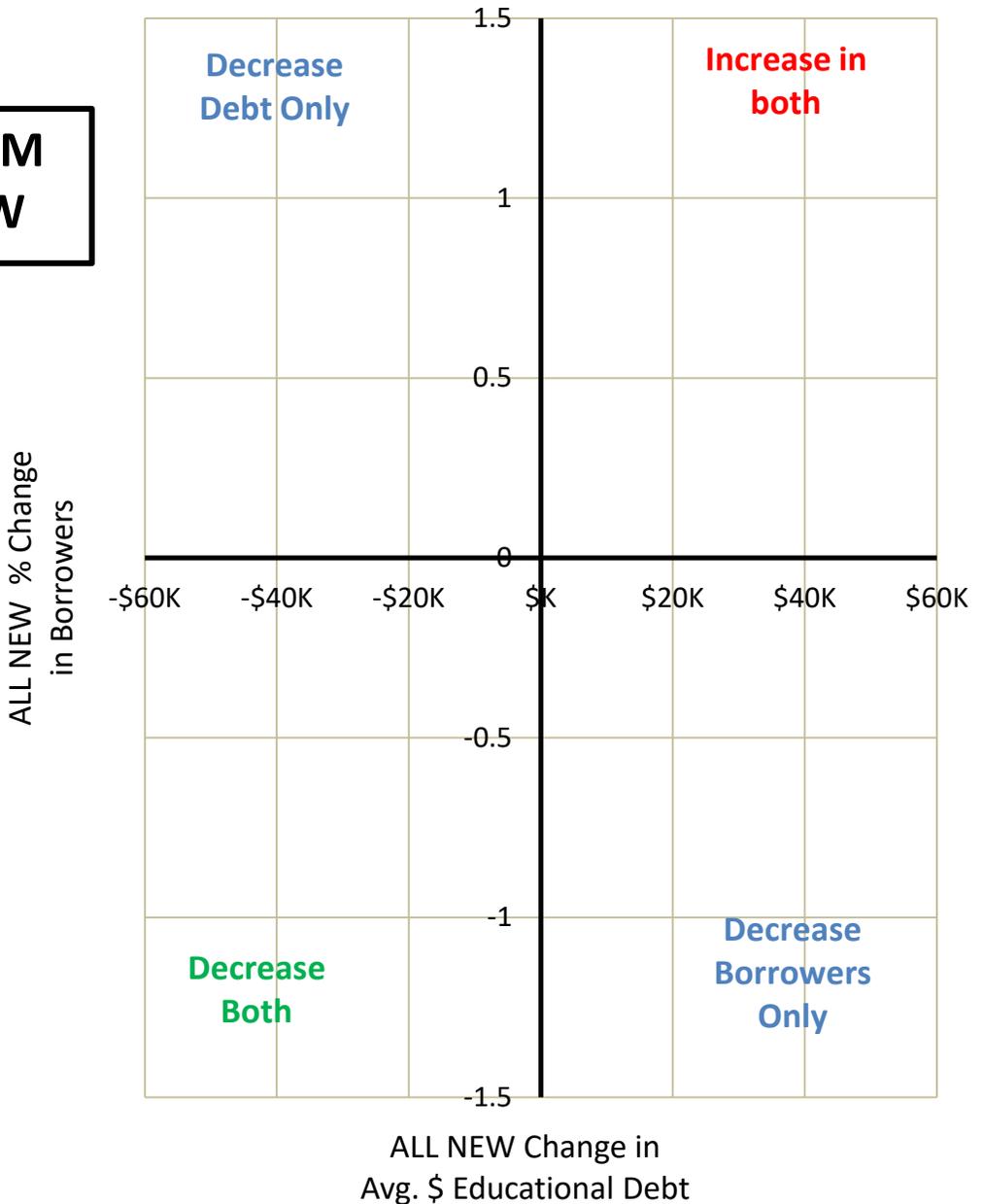


**ECFFM
GRADS**

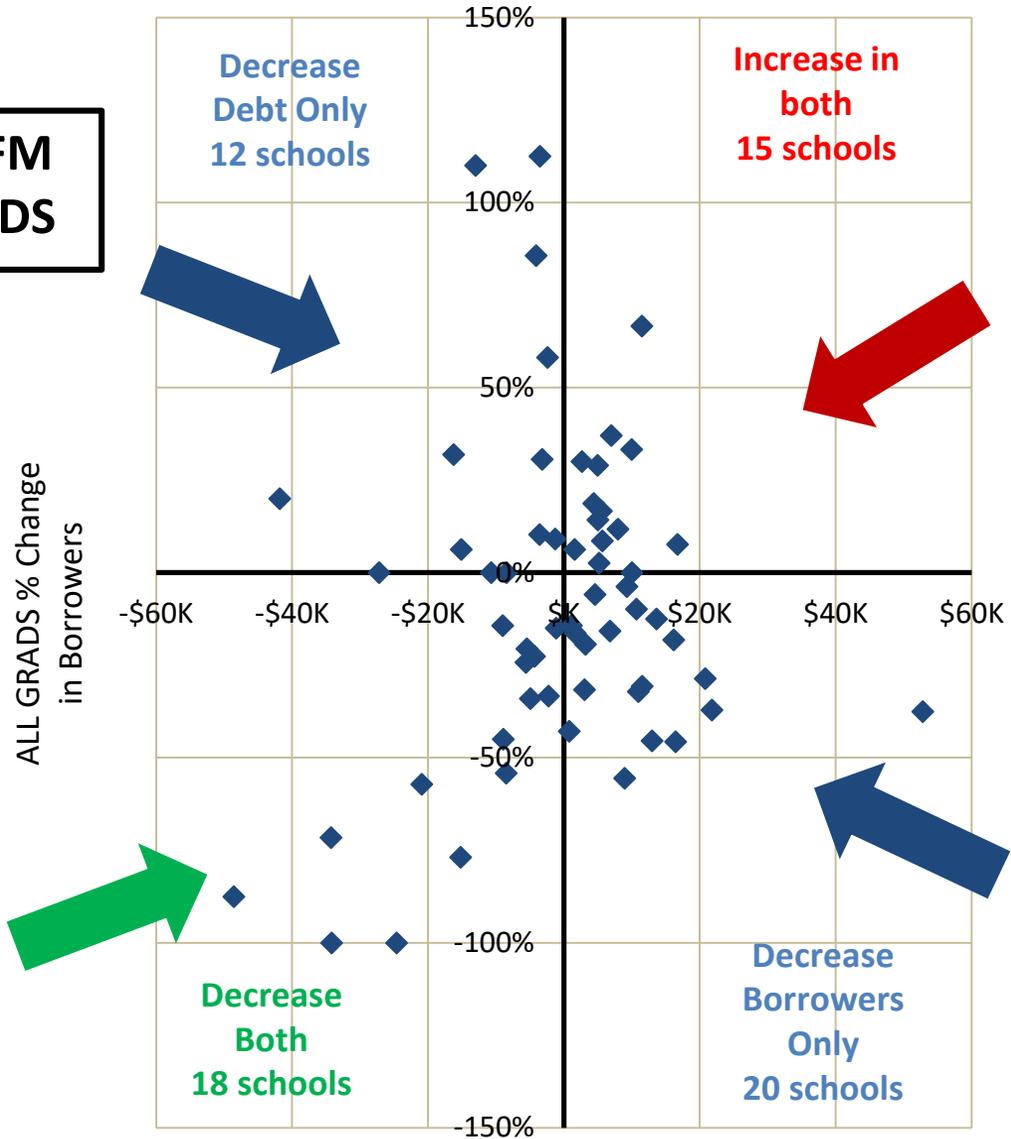


Source: ECFFM Debt Charts 2014-2016

**ECFFM
NEW**



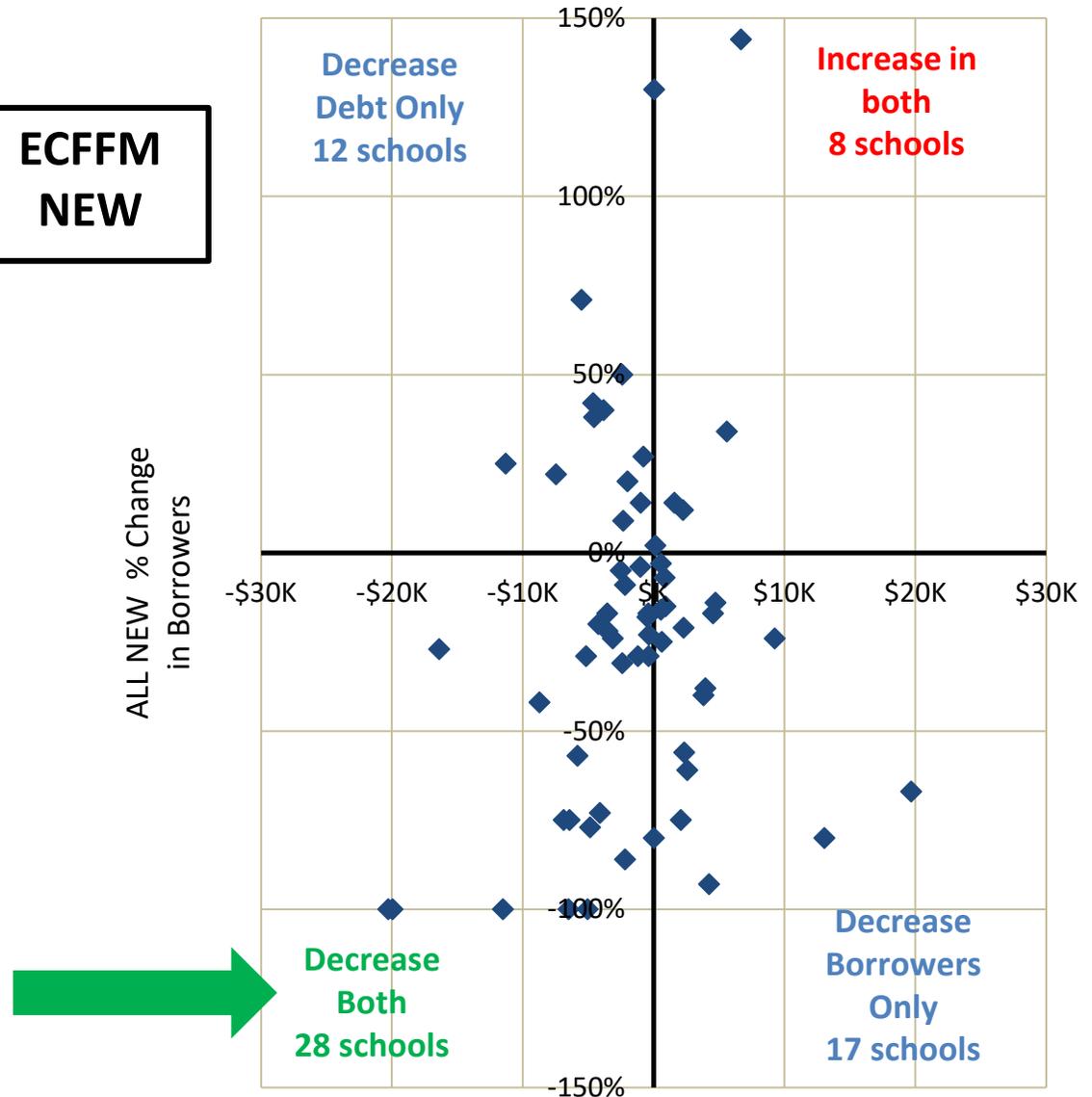
**ECFFM
GRADS**



ALL GRADS Change in
Avg. \$ Educational Debt

Source: ECFFM Debt
Charts 2014-2016

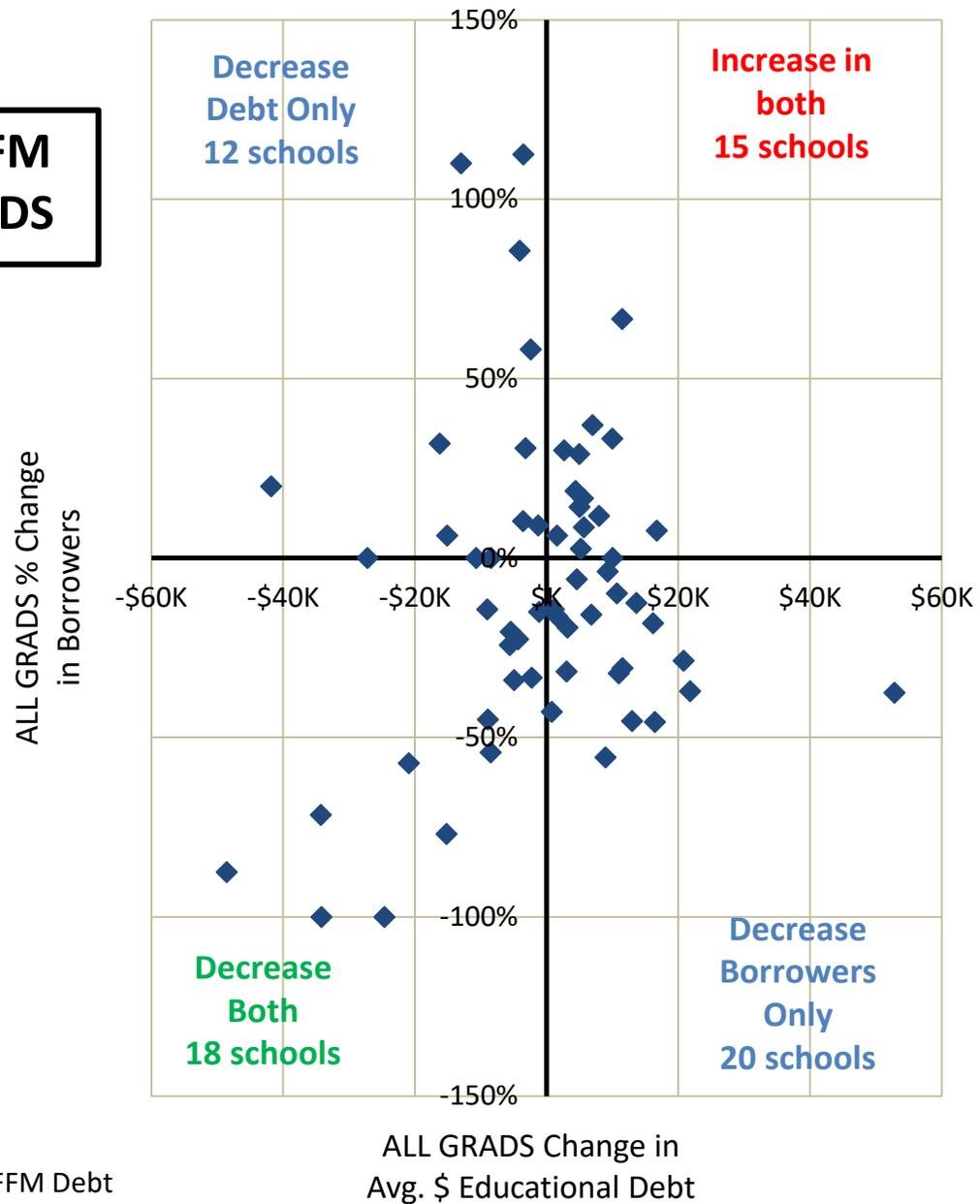
**ECFFM
NEW**



ALL NEW Change in
Avg. \$ Educational Debt

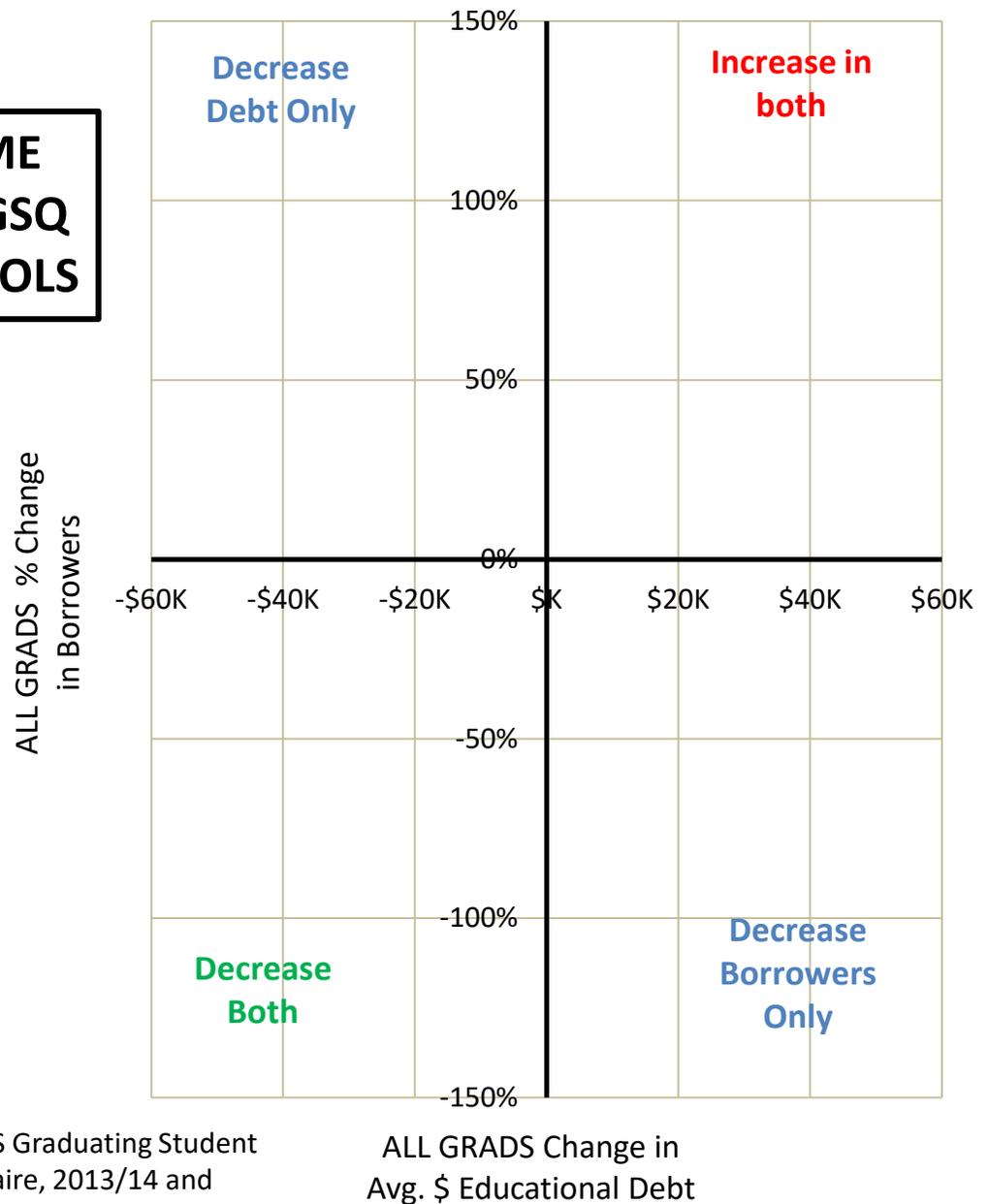


**ECFFM
GRADS**



Source: ECFFM Debt Charts 2014-2016

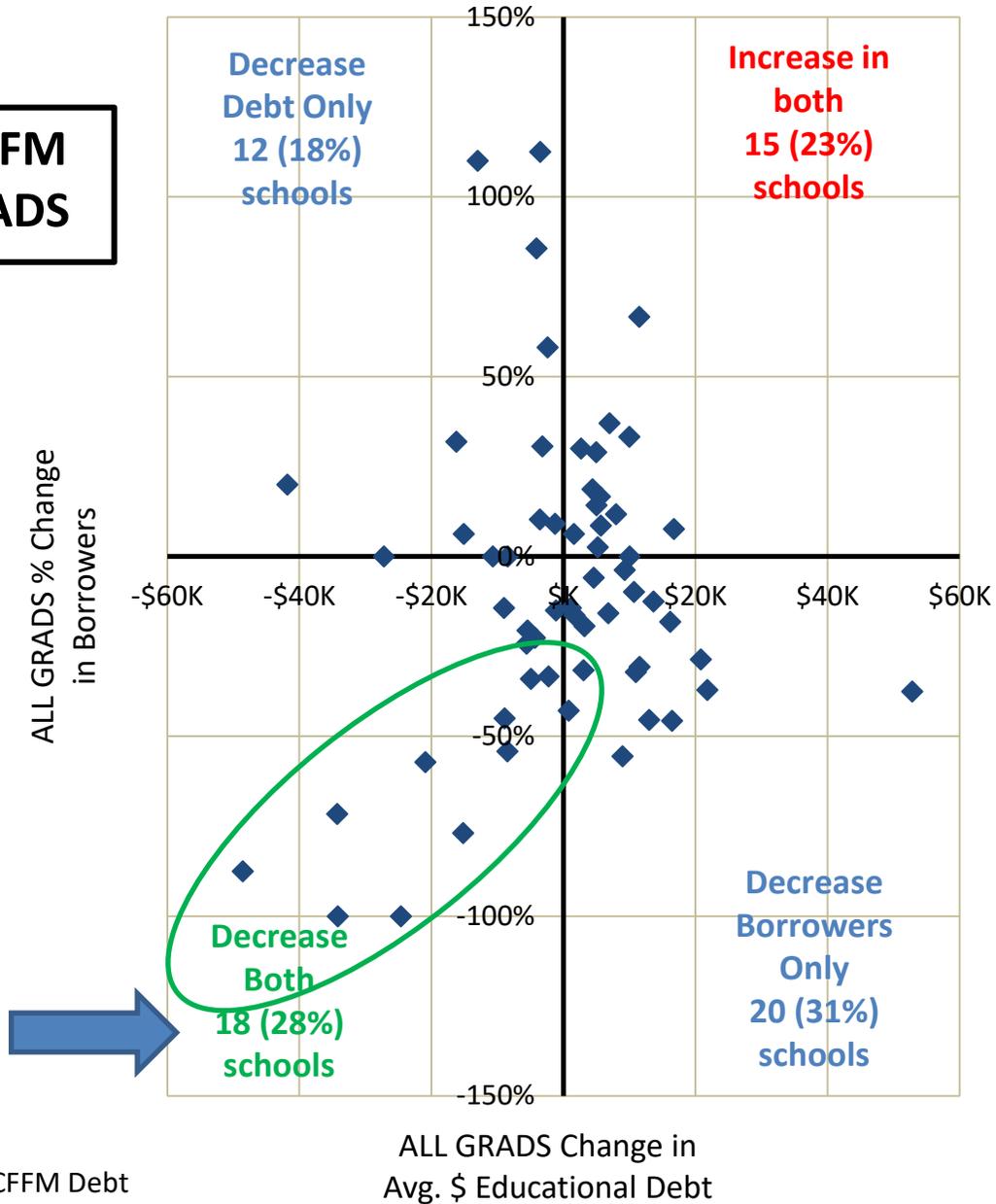
**SAME
SET GSQ
SCHOOLS**



Source: ATS Graduating Student Questionnaire, 2013/14 and 2015/16

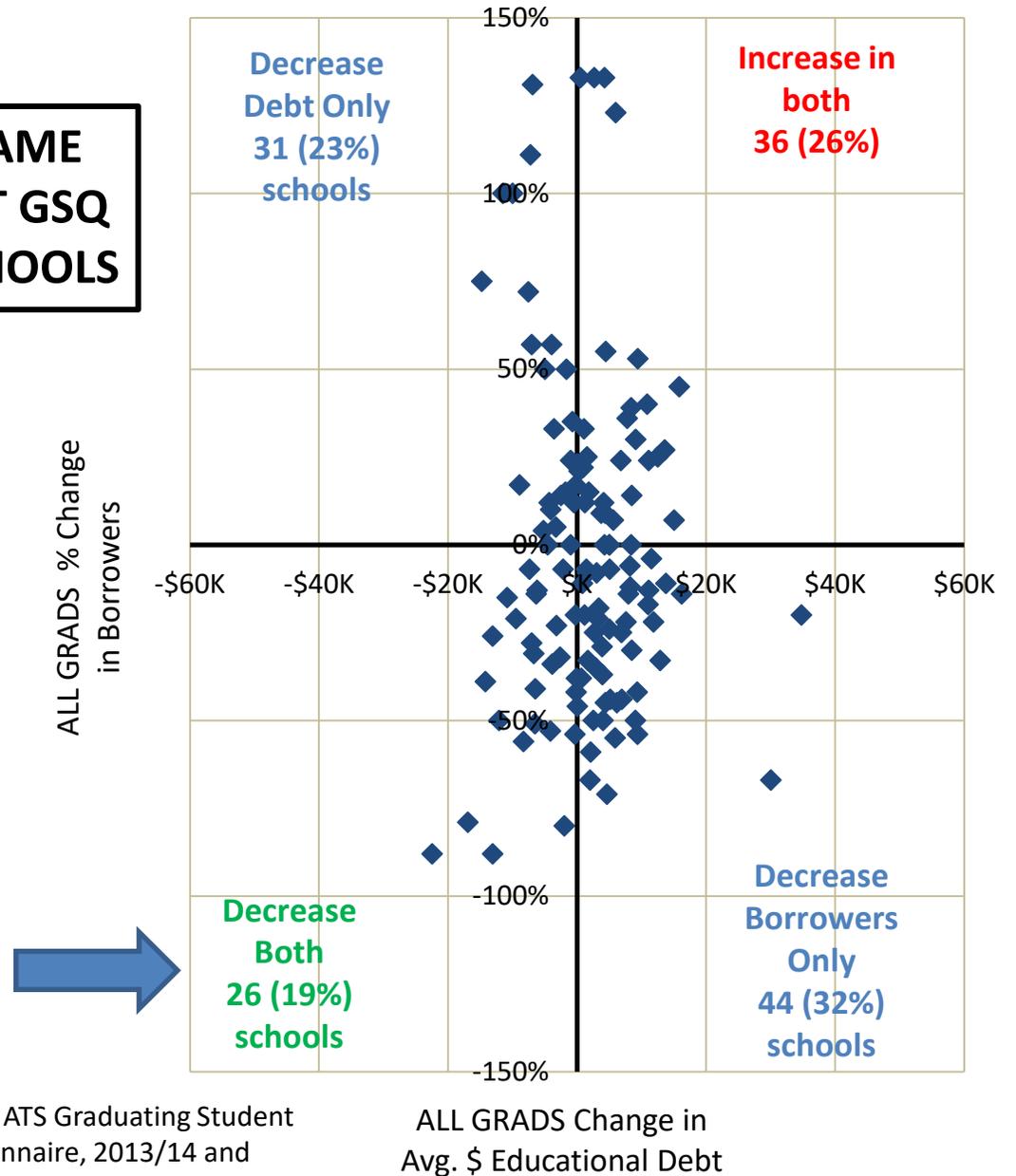
ALL GRADS Change in Avg. \$ Educational Debt

**ECFFM
GRADS**



Source: ECFFM Debt Charts 2014-2016

**SAME
SET GSQ
SCHOOLS**



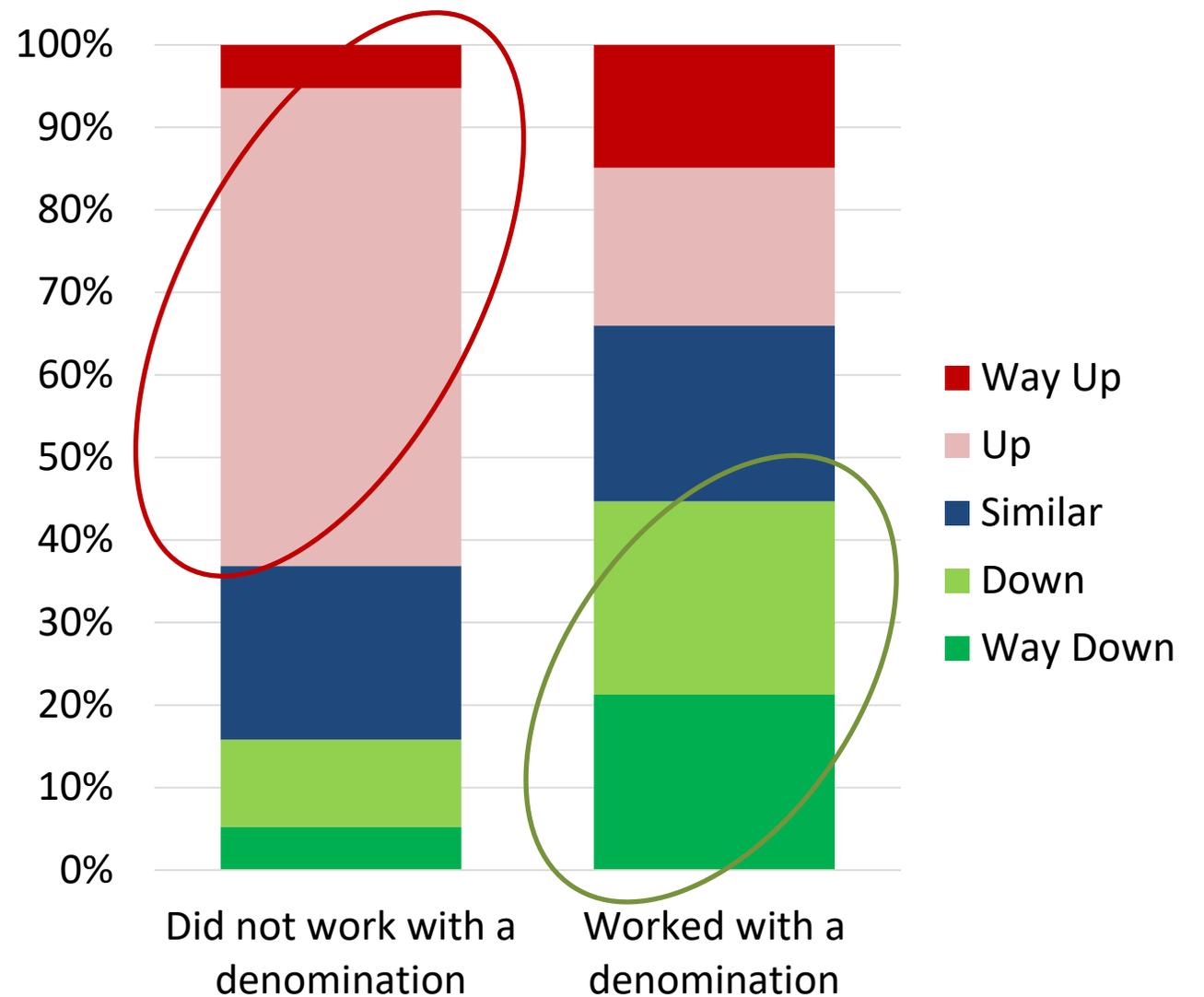
Source: ATS Graduating Student Questionnaire, 2013/14 and 2015/16

ALL GRADS Change in Avg. \$ Educational Debt



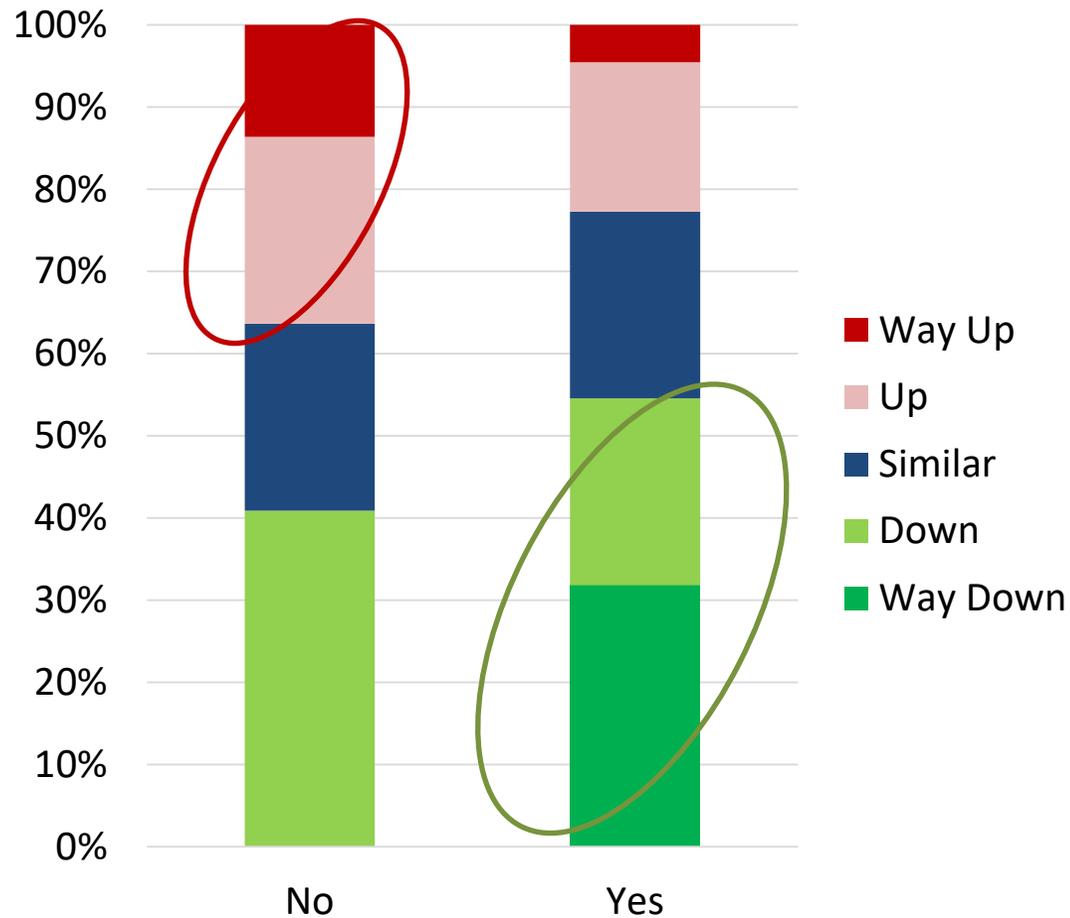
Correlations between Changes in Average Debt of MDiv Grads 2014-2016 and Financial Counseling Practices

Changes in Average Educational Debt Incurred by MDiv Grads 2014-2016

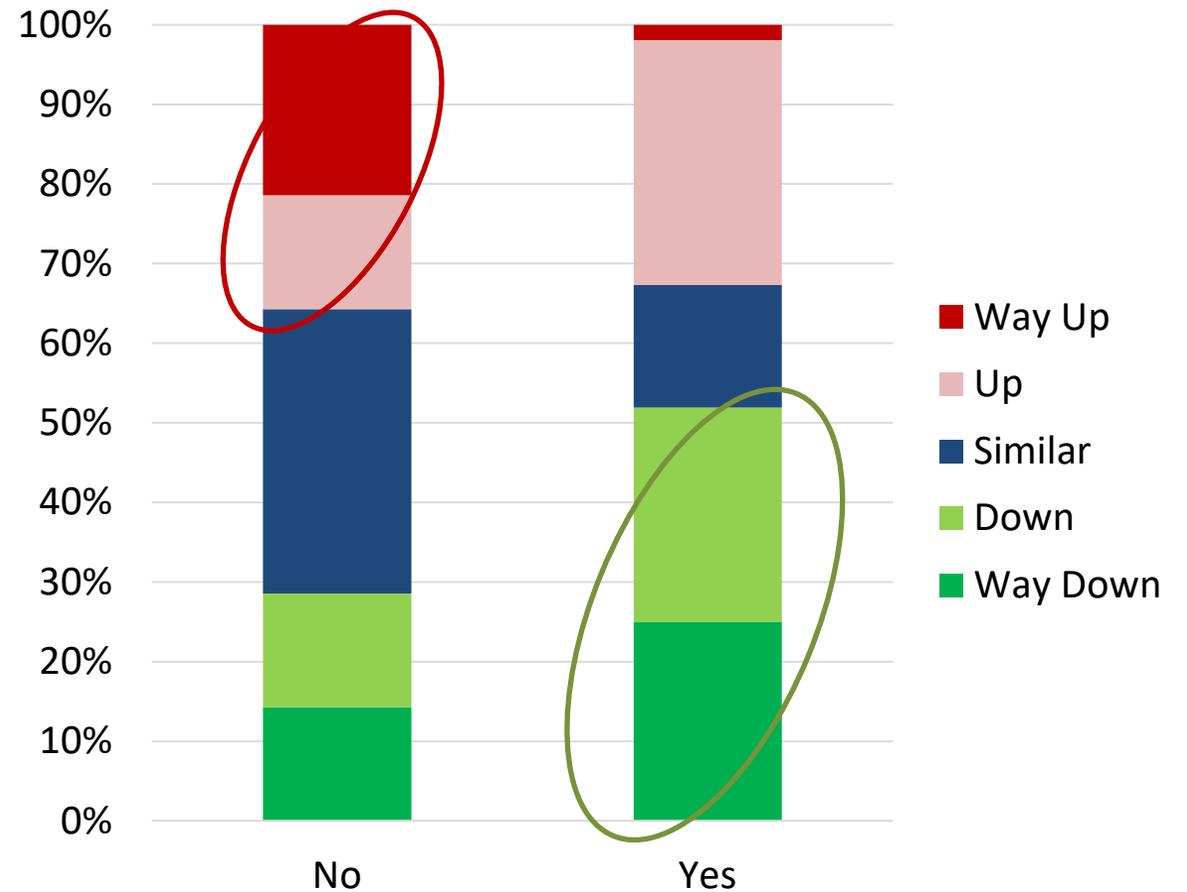


Correlations between Changes in Average Debt Incurred by New Students 2014-2016 and Financial Counseling Practices

Address Finances in Admissions

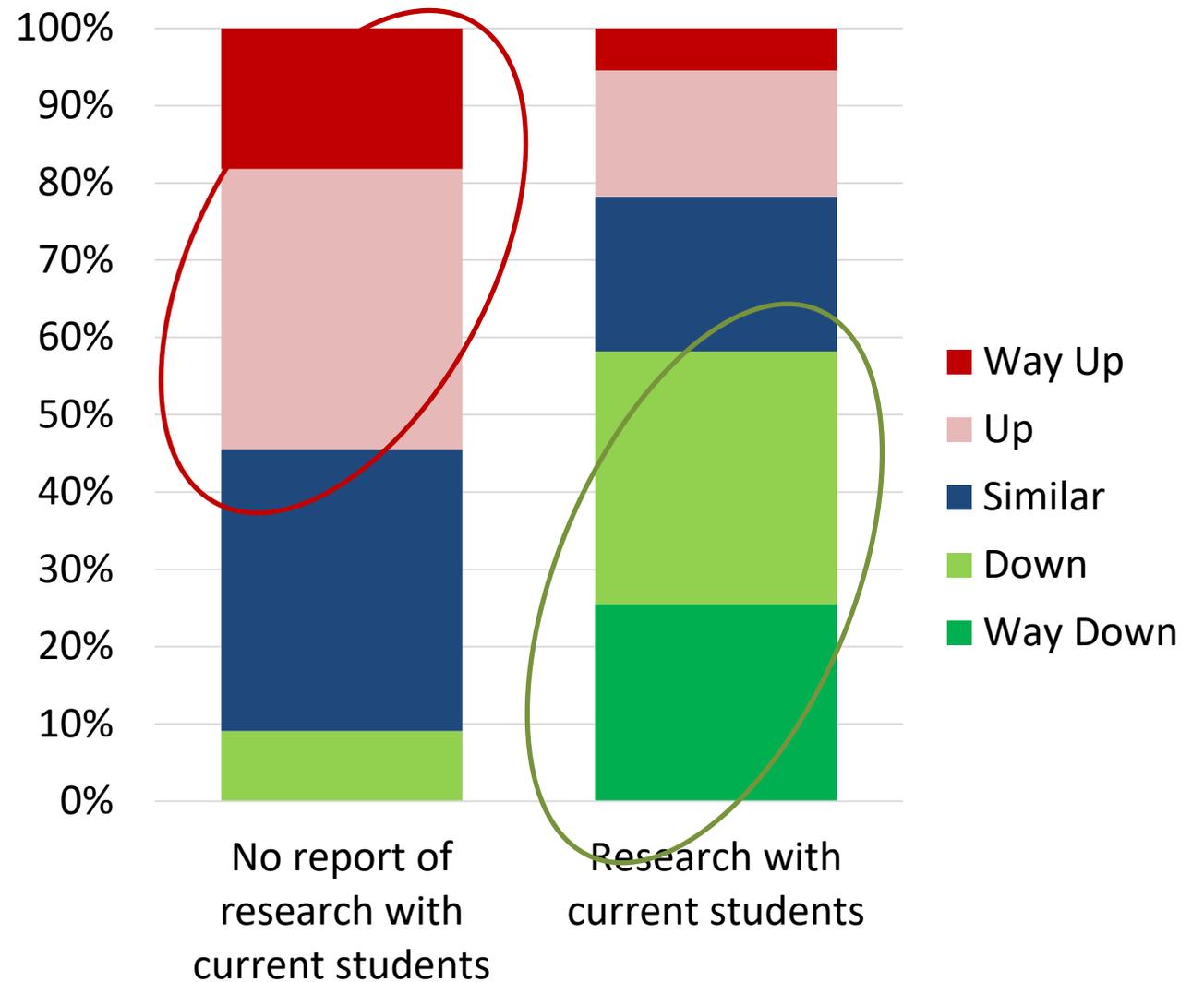


One-on-One Counseling



Correlations between Changes in Average Debt of ALL NEW 2014-2016 and Financial Counseling Practices

Changes in Average Educational Debt Incurred by ALL NEW 2014-2016



Which institutional characteristics predicted a decrease in educational debt* from 2014-2016?

For All MDiv Grads (weak)	For All New (weak)	For All New MDiv (weak)
Lower % of Under-Represented Minorities	Higher % Residential	Higher % Residential
Higher % of Non-local Commuters		

Which institutional characteristics predicted a decrease in the # of borrowers from 2014-2016?

There were no significant predictors...

Considering Institutional Characteristics from ATS Annual Report Forms and Ed Models Data Only

**Educational Debt = Average Educational Debt of Borrowers at an Institution*

Source: ECFM Effectiveness Research Dataset 2018

Which practices/interventions were most likely to see decreased educational debt* from 2014-2016?

For All Grads (moderate)	For All New (moderate)
One-on-One Counseling	Addressed Finances in Admissions
Requirements for All Borrowers	Work with a denomination
Fewer Years of One-on-One Counseling	Research with Current Students
Offered Fewer Transcribed Courses	

Which practices/interventions predicted a decrease in the # of borrowers from 2014-2016?

For All Grads (very weak)	For All New (moderate)	For All New MDiv (weak)
Did not address Finances in Admissions	Lower % of Students per Year in One-on-One Counseling	Lower % of Students per Year in One-on-One Counseling
	More Years of One-on-One Counseling	More Years of One-on-One Counseling
	Addressed Finances in Admissions	

Considering ECFFM related practices/interventions only

**Educational Debt = Average Educational Debt of Borrowers at an Institution*

Which schools were most likely to predict a decrease in educational debt* from 2014-2016?

For All Grads (moderate)	For All New (moderate to strong)	For All New MDiv (weak)
Requirements for All Borrowers	Higher % Residential	Higher % Residential
Fewer Years One-on-One Counseling	Working on Housing Issues not reported	Addressed Finances in Admissions
Lower % Local Commuter	Research with current students	
	Work with a Denomination	

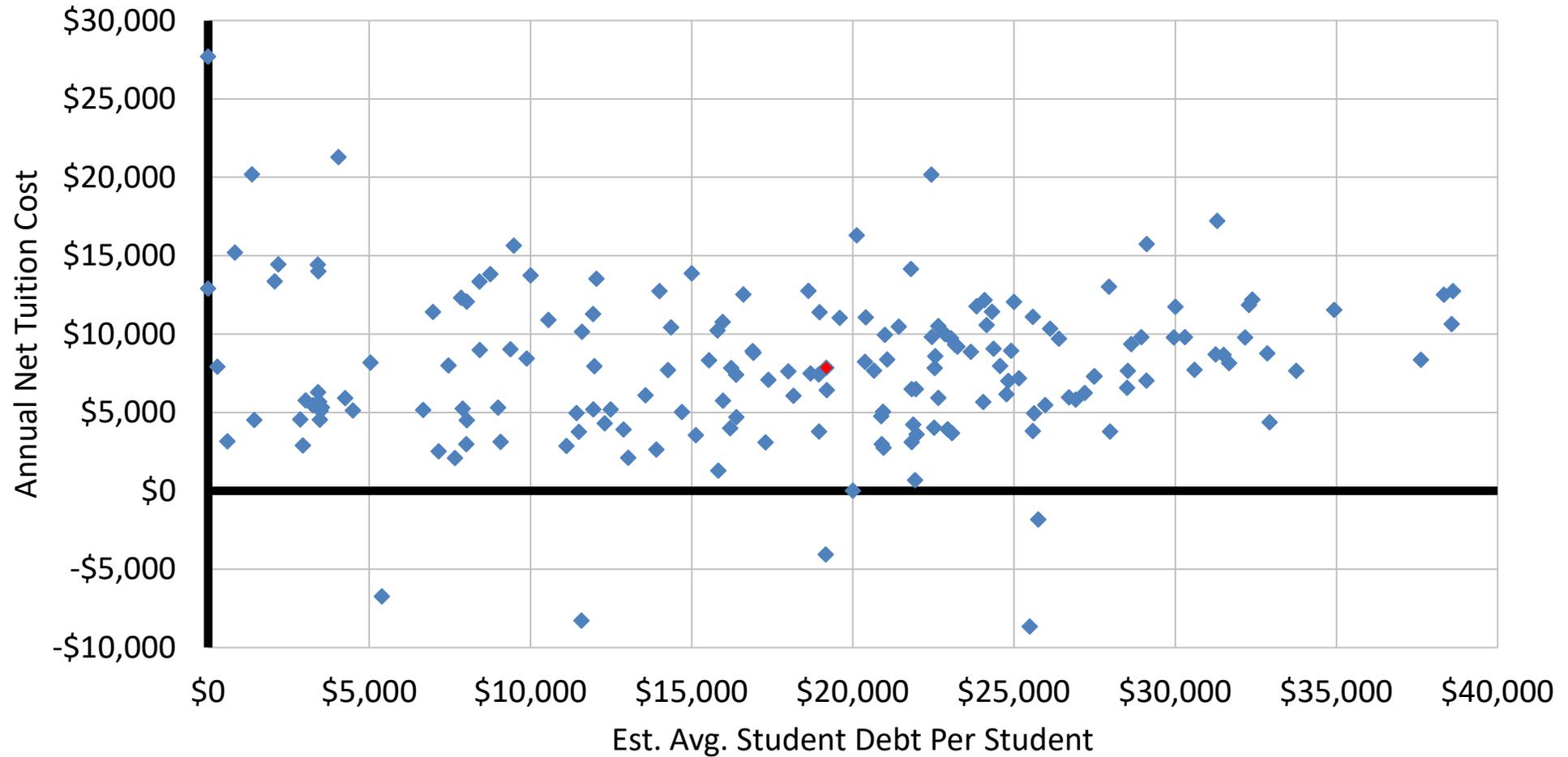
Which schools were most likely to see a decrease in the # of borrowers from 2014-2016?

For All Grads (weak)	For All New (moderate to strong)	For All New MDiv (weak to moderate)
Higher Avg Debt among All New	More Years of One-on-One Counseling	More Years of One-on-One Counseling
	Lower % of Students per Year in One-on-One Counseling	Lower % of Students per Year in One-on-One Counseling
	Higher # of Students per Year in Cohort Counseling	
	Addressed Finances in Admissions	

Considering institutional variables, debt variables, and ECFFM related practices/interventions
 *Educational Debt = Average Educational Debt of Borrowers at an Institution



Estimated Average Student Debt per Student Incurred in Seminary vs. Net Tuition Cost, **All Participating ATS Schools** All Masters Students





Summary:

- ECFFM Initiative seems to be helping to decrease debt among graduates.
- The strongest predictors related to decreased debt were:
 - One-on-One Counseling
 - Addressing Finances during Admissions
 - Working with a Denomination
 - Research with Current Students
- There were few institutional characteristics that predicted decreased debt. Any school can do it!



ECFFM:

A Theological School Initiative to Address
Economic Challenges Facing Future
Ministers

Questions about the Initiative:

Jo Ann Deasy (deasy@ats.edu)

For more resources:

ATS.edu -> Resources -> Initiatives

-> Economic Challenges Facing Future Ministers

(<https://www.ats.edu/resources/current-initiatives/economic-challenges-facing-future-ministers>)