Low income and at-risk students are most affected by the cost of traditional textbooks, negatively impacting their grades and graduation rates, even deterring them from enrolling at all.¹

College textbook prices far outpace the rate of inflation, as much as an 82% increase between 2002 and 2012.²

The average four-year cost of textbooks is $4,800,³ the equivalent of 662 hours of labor, which many students opt to pay with student loans or not at all.⁴

Students and instructors prefer OER and open textbooks, citing their low cost, ease-of-access, and a preference for digital content in the classroom.⁵

Nine in ten faculty surveyed rated open textbooks as equal or superior to traditional resources in terms of current content⁶, claiming that open textbooks are as rigorous and prepare students as well as traditional textbooks.

Using open textbooks in the classroom accounted for significantly lower rates of D’s, F’s, and withdrawals (DFW).⁷ DFW rates decreased significantly for at-risk students, and as much as 29.54% for part-time students.⁸