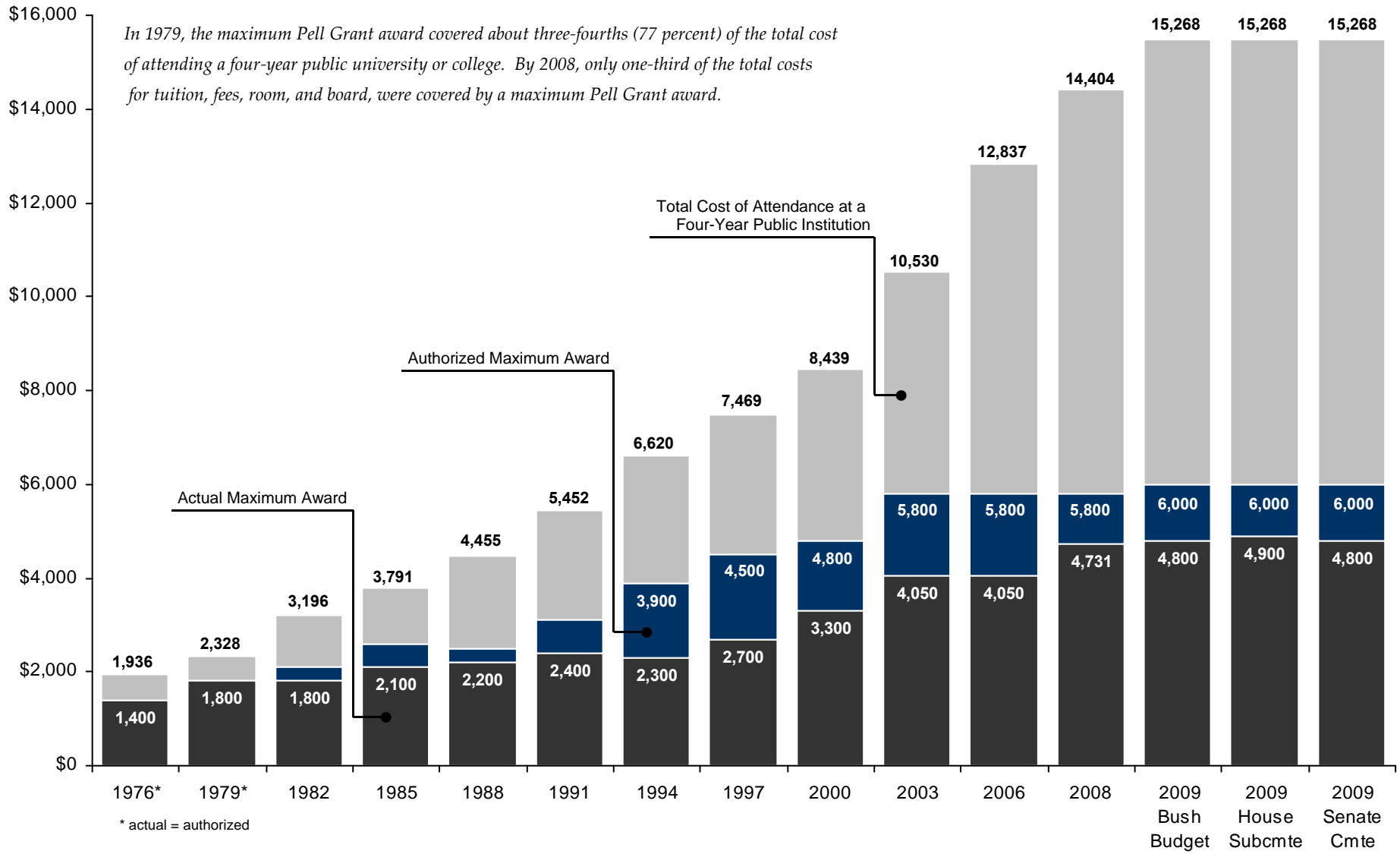


FEDERAL PELL GRANTS: Maximum Awards

Actual vs. Authorization & Total Cost of Attendance, Selected FYs 1976-2009



Sources: U.S. Department of Education; Congressional Research Service; and The College Board. Actual maximum awards for 2008 and 2009 include mandatory increases based on the College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007 (P.L. 110-84). The authorized maximum award in 2006 through 2008 is based on the 2003 level, the last year authorized under the Higher Education Amendments of 1998. The authorized maximum award in 2009 is based on the recently enacted Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008. Total cost of attendance includes tuition and fees, and room, and board. Total costs of attendance in 2008 and 2009 assume a 6 percent increase each year, which equals the rate of growth the past two years (2006-07) according to The College Board. The Federal Pell Grant program began in 1973, however 1976 was the first year in which all undergraduates were eligible. For more information, contact Tom Zembar at 202.822.7109 or TZembar@nea.org. Updated August 14, 2008.