- longstate: state name in long format
- state: state name in short format
- year
- startyear: start year for each period
- endyear: end year for each period
- meritstate.obs: Indicator variable for state adoption of merit aid program
- govideo: Berry, et al government ideology measure
- prc.updem: Percent of upper house democratic
- prc.lowdem: Percent of lower house democratic
- continue:Continuation rate, as described in article
- outmig: Outmigration rate, as described in article
- composite: Composite SAT/ACT score, as described in article
- attain: Percent of adult population with a bachelor's degree, as described in article
- diffuse: Diffusion variable: number of neighboring states with merit aid programs
- perc1824: Percent of state population aged 18-24
- income.i: Median income for a family of four, adjusted for inflation using cpi-u
- merit.fte.i: Merit aid per full time equivalent student
- region.1: Alternative diffusion variable–percent of states in regional grouping with merit aid program
- first.year: First year of governor's term, as described in article