

# Communities of Practice: Advancing an Evidence-Based Student Success Policy Agenda

June 27-28, 2024  
Alexandria, Virginia



## **SHEEO**

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State Higher Education  
Executive Officers Association

#SHEEOCoP2024

## WiFi

Network: Hilton Honors

Password: DCAOT2024

Bathroom Code: 1254

(This information is also on  
the back of your name tag!)

# Welcome

## Participating States and Territories:

- Alabama
- Arizona
- Delaware
- Idaho
- Kansas
- Louisiana
- Michigan
- Montana
- Rhode Island
- Texas
- Virginia

8:15 a.m.	Welcome and Overview
8:30 a.m.	Arnold Ventures Strategy
8:45 a.m.	Evidence to Action: Identifying Effective Student Success Strategies
9:30 a.m.	Break
9:45 a.m.	State Team Time
10:15 a.m.	Designing Comprehensive Student Success Policies
11:15 a.m.	Break
11:30 a.m.	Scaling a Successful Pilot: The Ohio College Comeback Compact
12:15 p.m.	Lunch
1:15 p.m.	From Crisis to Success: Addressing Basic Needs to Improve Student Outcomes
2:00 p.m.	Break, with snacks
2:15 p.m.	State Team Time #2
3:15 p.m.	Break
3:30 p.m.	Evidence-Based Practices to Meet the Affordability Challenge
5:30 p.m.	Dinner

# Welcome and Overview

## Rob Anderson

President

State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (SHEEO)

## John Lane

Vice President for Academic Affairs and Equity Initiatives

State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (SHEEO)

Communities of Practice: Student Success





# Arnold Ventures Strategy

## Kelly McManus

Vice President of Higher Education  
Arnold Ventures

## Jessica Taketa

Higher Education Manager  
Arnold Ventures



# Evidence to Action: Identifying Effective Student Success Strategies

**Alex Mayer**

*Director, Postsecondary Education*  
MDRC

**Jennielle Strother**

*Assistant Commissioner for Student Success*  
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board





*SHEEO Community of Practice: Student Success*

Evidence to Action: Making the most of research

June 2024

Alex Mayer, MDRC

# About MDRC

- Nonprofit, nonpartisan organization with experience conducting demonstrations in postsecondary education



## Specializes in:

- Finding what works
- Random assignment evaluations
- Qualitative studies
- Assistance with program and policy enhancements

# The Common Barriers to Using Evidence

- Policymakers and practitioners may have limited time and energy to engage with research
- Research is not always credible or persuasive to key audiences
- Putting proven reforms into practice can be costly
- Stakeholders may not know how to act on the evidence or make appropriate adaptations.

# Partnering to Overcome the Barriers

The barriers are significant — but there are good approaches to overcome them.

- Work to establish and maintain robust partnerships between policymakers, practitioners, and researchers.
- Focus on the right questions. Identify research questions that can be answered credibly.
- Know which research designs and methods work best for which questions.
- Use multiple types of research and data to understand programs and policies.

# Different Questions, Different Methods

- Descriptive analyses can examine quantitative data, such as who participates in a program and their outcomes.
- Qualitative research give us richer perspectives on students' experiences, using data from interviews, focus groups, and surveys, for example.
- Implementation research helps us learn how well a program is implemented and whether students experience it as intended.
- Impact research evaluates whether a program caused a change in outcomes and requires strong careful designs.
- Research syntheses look across multiple studies to draw overarching lessons.

# Research Design is Critical

- Selection bias is when one group systematically differs from another, in a way that corresponds to the outcomes of interest
- Selection bias is one of the biggest threats to research on program impacts. It can also compromise descriptive research
- For descriptive studies, the research design needs to ensure the data reflect the target population.
- For impact research, the research design must produce a control group that is essentially the same as the program group, except for the program



# Randomized Controlled Trials (RCTs)

- Random assignment is a lottery-like process to place students into a “program group” and a “standard services group” (aka control group).
- Allows researchers to measure the impacts (effects) on outcomes for each group.
- A fair way to determine who receives program services when resources are limited.

# Use a Theory of Change to Guide Research

- Who is the target population and what proportion participate in the program?
- What were students expected to experience?
- What did students experience, and how did it differ from the status quo?
- What are the mechanisms that are expected to improve student outcomes, and what are the early indicators that the mechanisms are working?
- What are the longer-term outcomes that should improve?

# Answering the Essential Question

What works to improve outcomes for students? To find answers:

- Need partnerships between policymakers, practitioners, and researchers.
- Need to ask the right questions that can influence change
- Need a strong causal design to understand effectiveness
- Need multiple data sources to fully understand how students are improved

# Advancing Evidence-Based Student Success Practices

Jennielle Strother, Ed.D.  
Assistant Commissioner for Student Success

# Student Success Division: Strengthening our Culture of Evidence

The division will build a robust body of evidence of the programs currently implemented in Texas designed to positively impact student success. Our mission is to promote and support a statewide culture of learning, evaluation, and continuous improvement that positively impacts students to persist and complete their academic and career goals.

## TIERED APPROACH to EVALUATION



## STUDENT SUCCESS PROGRAM INVENTORY

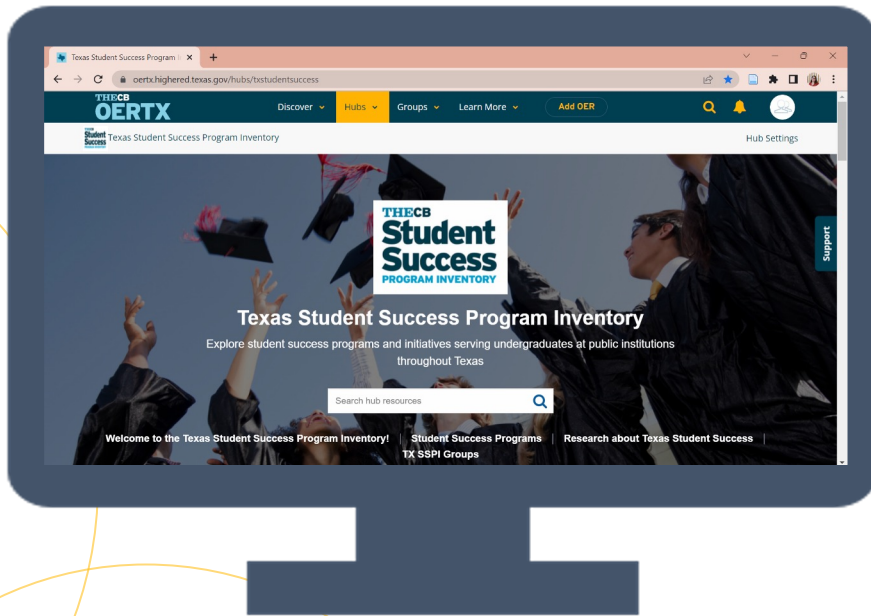


## PROGRAM RUBRIC



# Texas Student Success Program Inventory

# What is the TX Student Success Program Inventory?



The inventory is an online resource that **organizes detailed information about innovative and impactful student success programs** at Texas colleges and universities on an easy-to-use, searchable platform.

<https://www.highered.texas.gov/SSPI>

# Programmatic Scope

## Goals

A student success program is likely designed to improve:

- Retention/Persistence
- Credential Attainment/Graduation
- Academic Performance
- Post-Completion Goals
- Social Development & Well-being
- Make Credential Attainment Affordable



## Practices

A student success program likely employs at least one of these practices:

- Orientation/onboarding
- Academic goal setting and planning
- Accelerated or fast-track developmental education
- Student success course/skill building
- Learning community
- Alert and intervention/proactive advising
- Experiential learning beyond the classroom (e.g., internships)
- Tutoring
- Supplemental instruction
- Career planning
- Basic needs assessment and provision
- Mentorship
- Cultural competency training for faculty and staff
- Teaching effectiveness training for faculty and staff
- Alleviating financial strain



# TX SSPI by the Numbers

**439**

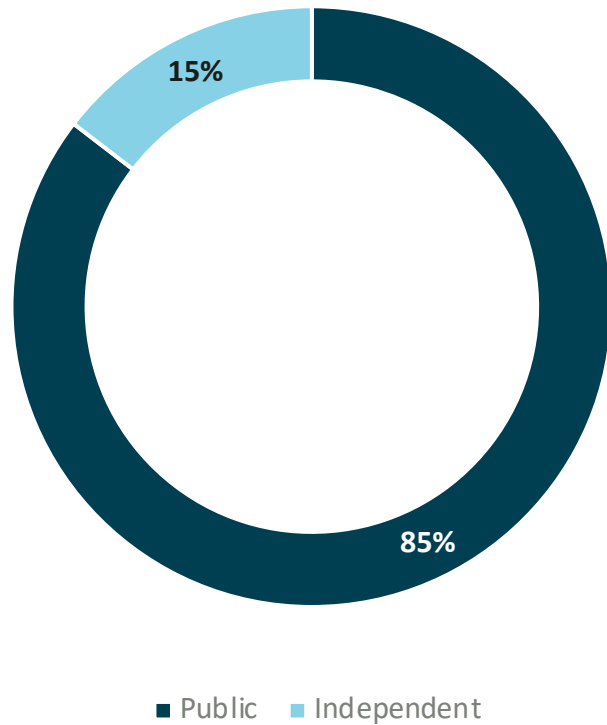
Programs

**107**

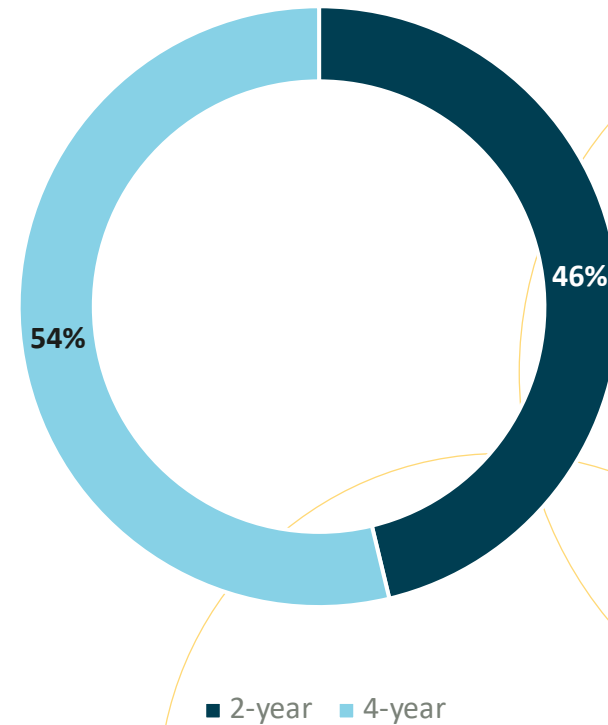
Institutions

# Percentage of Programs by Institutional Type

Public vs. Independent Institutions



2-year vs. 4-year Institutions





**MAINTENANCE &  
ADDITIONS TO THE  
INVENTORY**



**EXPAND TO INCLUDE  
INDEPENDENTS**



**INCREASE  
COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT &  
COLLABORATION**



**EVALUATION &  
ASSESSMENT**

## **TX SSPI Phases 1-3**

TX SSPI launched in late 2022 and we are currently in the 3rd phase of implementation. The Student Success division has engaged with the field to gather feedback. The division's goal is to continue to gather feedback for continuous improvement of the project.

# TX Student Success Evidence-Based Process & Rubric

# Rubric Resources

## Rubric

Self-evaluation of student success program(s) based on five categories of impact rated on 4-point scale.

## Companion Worksheet

Worksheet to aid institutional stakeholders to complete rubric based on current state of program.

## Continuous Improvement

Stakeholders use guided questions for reflection and discussion beyond current state of program.

## Rubric for a Student Success Program's Potential for Significant Impact

	1 – Room for growth in potential for impact	2 - Modest evidence of potential for impact	3 - High potential for impact	4 - Exemplary potential for impact
<b>1. Use of Promising Practices</b>				
Number of Practices with Evidence of Impact	Program uses none of the following practices: (1) promoting full-time or summer enrollment; (2) inducing increased advising use among students; (3) inducing increased tutoring use among students; and (4) providing increased financial support to students.	Program uses one of the following practices: (1) promoting full-time or summer enrollment; (2) inducing increased advising use among students; (3) inducing increased tutoring use among students; and (4) providing increased financial support to students.	Program uses two of the following practices: (1) promoting full-time or summer enrollment; (2) inducing increased advising use among students; (3) inducing increased tutoring use among students; and (4) providing increased financial support to students.	Program uses three or more of the following practices: (1) promoting full-time or summer enrollment; (2) inducing increased advising use among students; (3) inducing increased tutoring use among students; and (4) providing increased financial support to students.
Implementation Alignment with Evidence	The program's implementation of promising practices (including setting & sample) <i>does not</i> align with the implementation of practices found to have evidence in the literature.	The program's implementation of promising practices (including setting & sample) <i>somewhat</i> aligns with the implementation of practices found to have evidence in the literature.	The program's implementation of promising practices (including setting & sample) <i>mostly</i> aligns with the implementation of practices found to have evidence in the literature.	The program's implementation of promising practices (including setting & sample) <i>completely</i> aligns with the implementation of practices found to have evidence in the literature.
Consideration of Research & Best Practices	Prior research was not consulted in designing and implementing the program.	Research and data were used to establish the need for this program, but not necessarily incorporated into its design and implementation.	In designing and implementing the program, leaders drew on some lessons from similar programs at other colleges or from reputable research.	Results from reputable research or lessons drawn from similar programs at other colleges inform all aspects of the program.
Implementation Alignment with Goals	Program is not well-positioned to meet its stated goals.	Program is somewhat well-positioned to meet its stated goals.	Program is strongly well-positioned to meet its stated goals.	Program provides a national model for how to design a program to meet its stated goals.

# Companion Worksheet

- The worksheet is designed to be used in conjunction with the rubric.
- Recommended to be used by teams of institutional stakeholders to aid in continuous program improvement.
- Each section will include:
  - Current State of Program
  - Rubric Self-Evaluation
  - Guiding Questions for Improvement



## STUDENT SUCCESS PROGRAM INVENTORY (SSPI) EVALUATION PHASES

### Self-Evaluation Conducted

To begin the evaluation process, IHEs will conduct self-evaluations using the PFSI rubric and companion worksheet.

### Continuous Improvement Action Plan Implemented

With technical assistance and support from external contractors, IHEs will develop and implement action plans. After implementing action plan, IHEs can undergo another evaluation cycle to potentially move up to the next level.



### Review Conducted

A vendor contracted by the THECB will then conduct an independent review and analysis of each program's results to ensure consistency of rubric application.

### SSPI ID Published

Once phases one and two are complete, each program will be assigned an initial level included in the SSPI, including details based on the rubric and its dimension.



**Rubric  
1.0  
May –  
Dec 24**

**Participants: TX SS  
CoP (20 TX IHEs)**

GOAL: Refine & improve rubric to increase the applicability, usability, & consistency of findings.

**Rubric  
2.0  
Jan 25 –  
Aug 26**

**Participants: TX SS  
CoP + 30-50 TX IHEs**

GOAL: Identify & publish initial “rubric level” & supports IHEs in developing action plan to scale & enhance programs for broader impact.

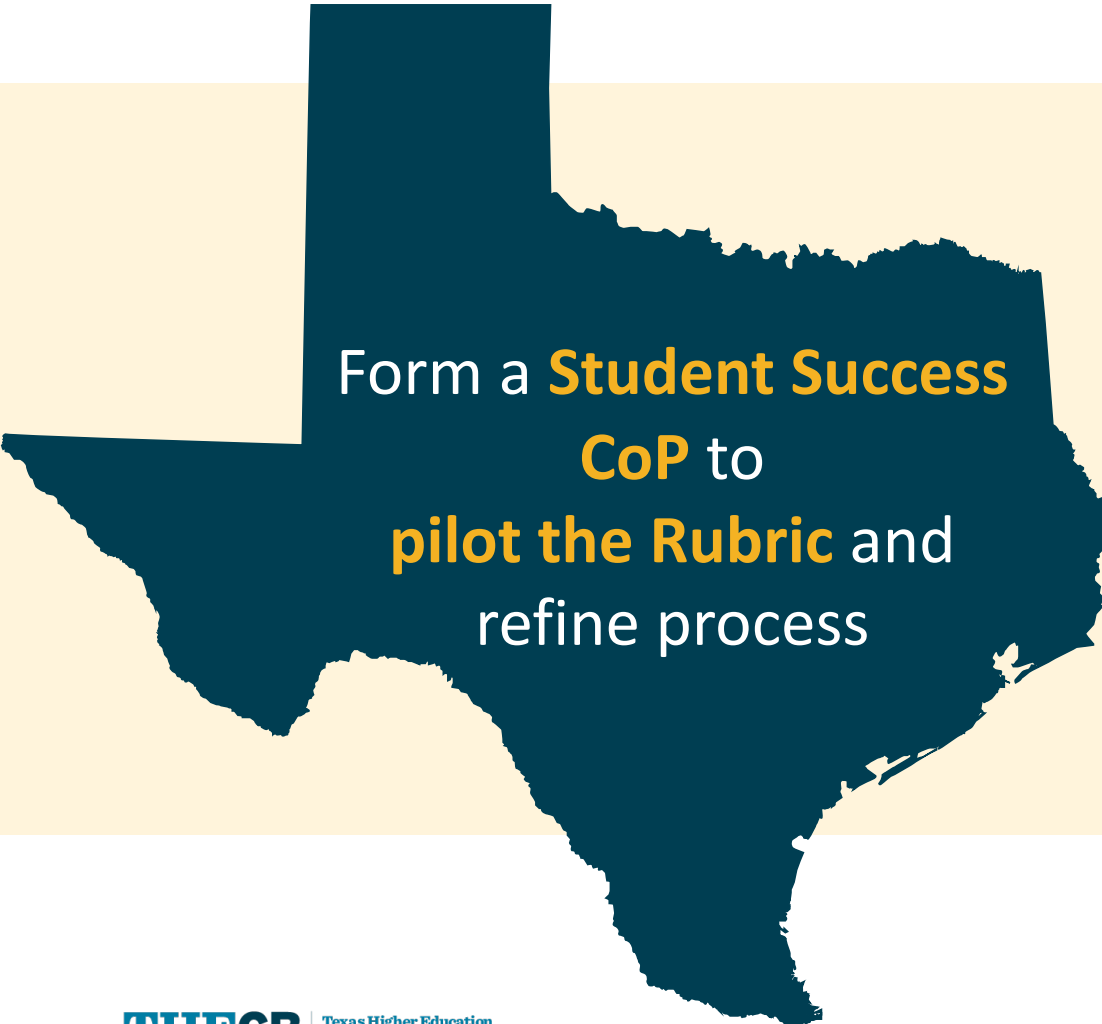
**Rubric  
3.0  
Sept 26 -**

**Participants:  
Remaining IHEs in  
TX-SSPI**

GOAL: Create a statewide inventory of evaluated programs based on credible evidence to contribute to a culture of evidence & create opportunities to better target resources & improve outcomes.

# THECB Student Success Community of Practice

# Collect Stakeholder Feedback

A dark blue silhouette of the state of Texas is positioned on the left side of the slide. Inside the silhouette, the text 'Form a Student Success CoP to pilot the Rubric and refine process' is written in white and yellow. The background of the slide is a light yellow color with a large, faint, light yellow circle on the right side.

Form a **Student Success CoP** to **pilot the Rubric** and refine process

## STAKEHOLDERS

- Student success leaders
- Institutional research leaders
- Student Success Advisory Workgroup
- State and national experts

# THECB Student Success CoP Commitment

- Support the work of this CoP and the Evidence-Based Student Success Practices in Texas
- Provide a student success and institutional research point of contact
- Engage in monthly meetings
- Provide timely feedback by engaging in the Rubric's pilot

We welcome  
your  
collaboration  
and feedback  
on the Rubric  
& Companion  
Worksheet:

THECB: Advancing Evidence-Based  
Student Success Practices  
Feedback Form





# **Texas Higher Education**

## **COORDINATING BOARD**

[studentsuccess@highered.texas.gov](mailto:studentsuccess@highered.texas.gov)

# 15-Minute Break

## Coming Up Next:

- State Team Time
- Designing Comprehensive Student Success Policies
- Scaling a Successful Pilot: The Ohio College Comeback Compact

# State Team Time 1

## Guiding Questions

1. Using the SMART goal framework, what are one or more goals that your team would like to accomplish? These goals should focus on efforts to incorporate evidence-based best practices into efforts to improve student success.
2. Who are the external actors (e.g., additional agencies, institutional leaders, stakeholders) that will be involved in meeting your goals?



# Designing Comprehensive Student Success Policies

**Alex Mayer**

*Director, Postsecondary Education*  
MDRC

**Crystine Miller**

*Director, Student Affairs & Student Engagement*  
Montana University System





*SHEEO Community of Practice: Student Success*  
Designing Comprehensive Student Success Policies

June 2024

Alex Mayer, MDRC

# A Crisis in College College Completion

- Less than 40% of students who start at community college earned a degree or credential within 6 years of enrolling.
- Large racial achievement gap. Adults and rural students also have lower completion rates.
- We have learned a lot about how to fix these problems, but struggle to use the most effective programs in policy and practice.

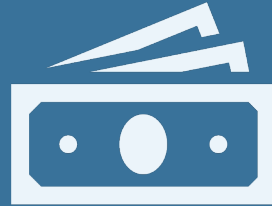
# Why are college completion rates low?

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Academic  
Challenges



Financial  
Barriers



Work-Life-School  
Balance



Lack of College  
Know-How



Institutional  
Barriers



# Postsecondary Interventions + Policies

What does the evidence say?

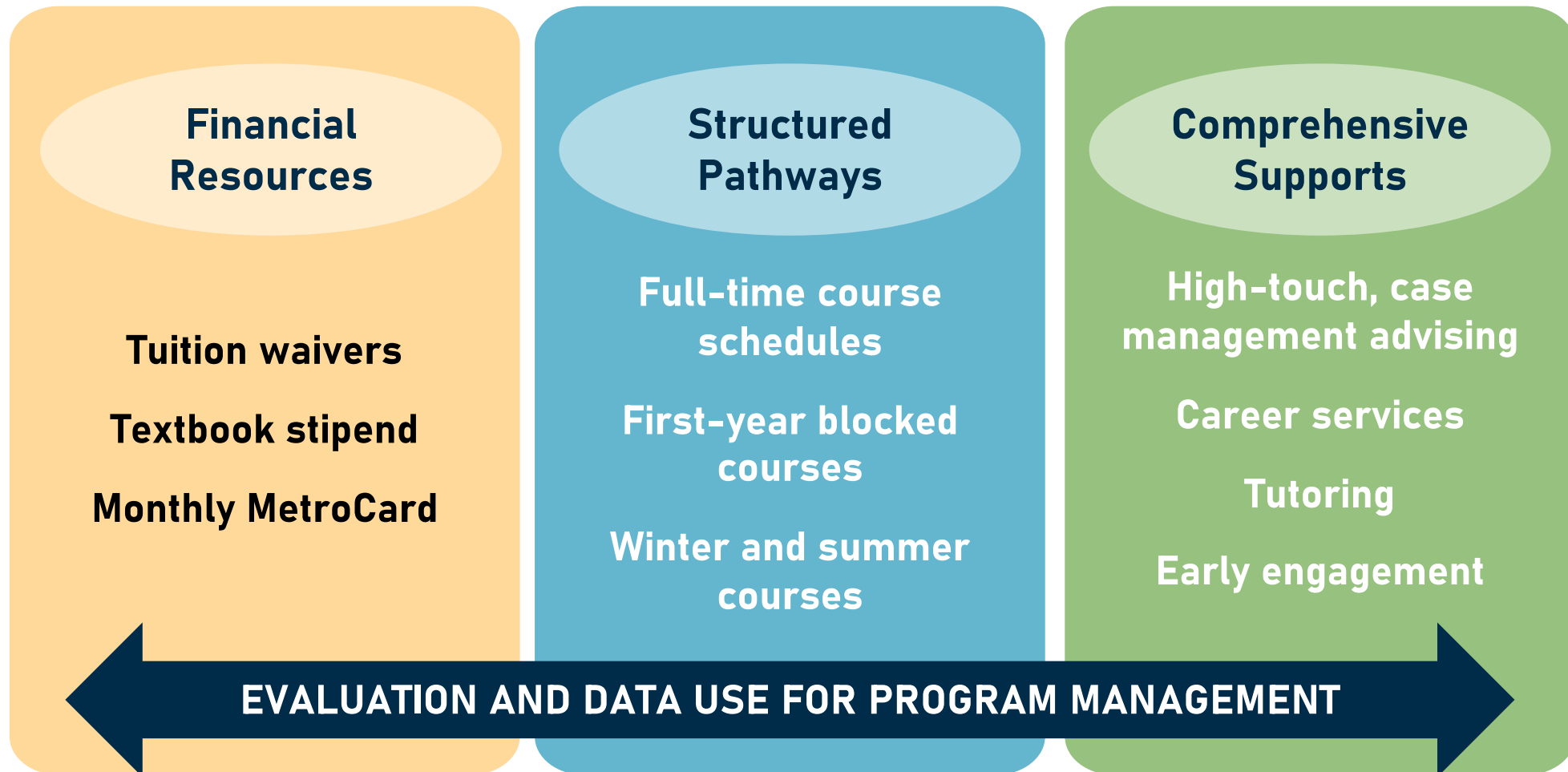
# Evidence for Short-Term Interventions

- **Short-term** interventions designed to address just one or a few barriers can lead to positive, but modest, effects
- Examples of short-term interventions:
  - Financial aid
  - Learning communities
  - Developmental education reform
  - Coaching/Advising
  - Summer engagement
  - Outreach + communication

# The Big Picture: What Works

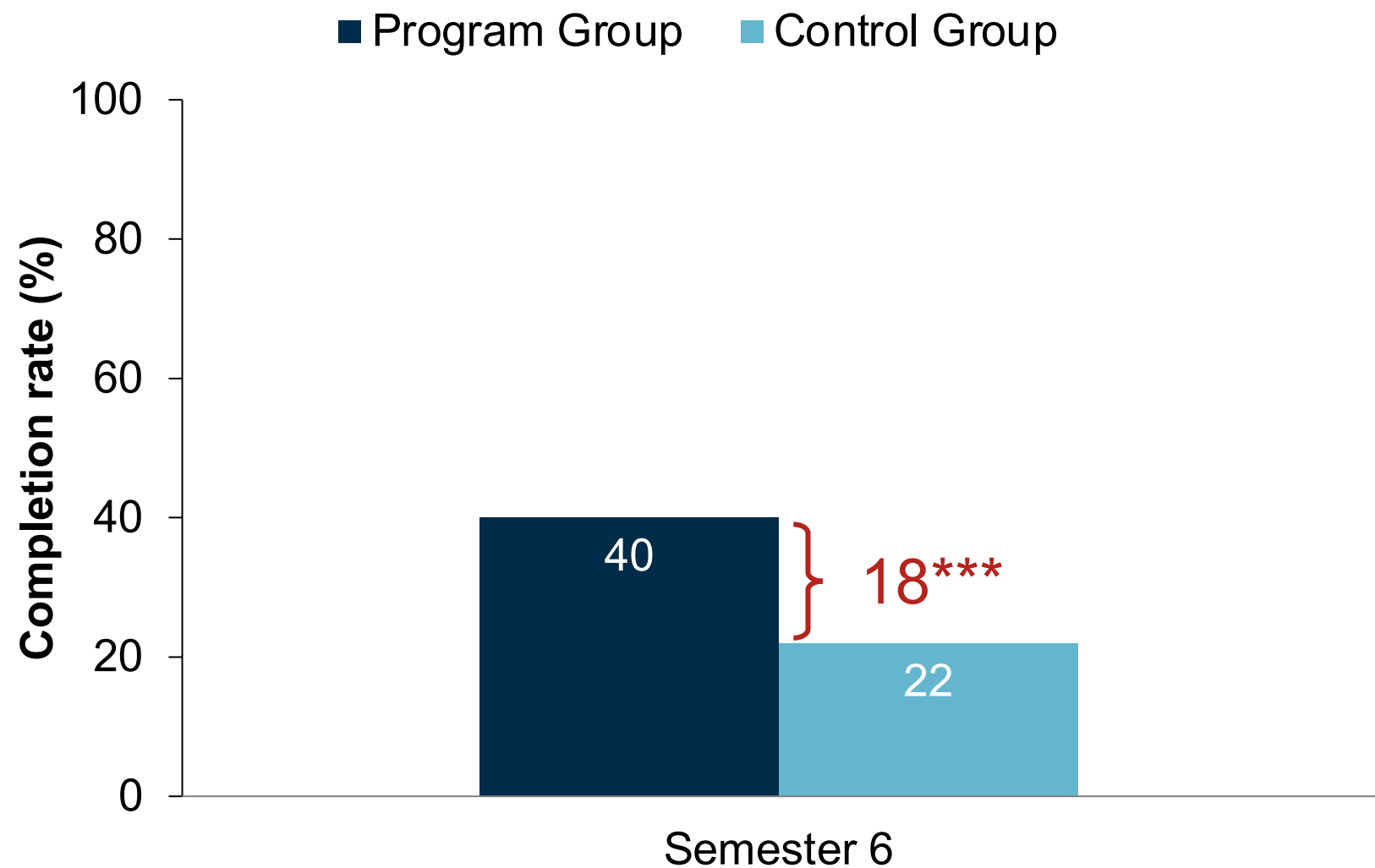
- Comprehensive programs that combine strategies and are sustained over time can dramatically impact completion.
- Examples:
  - CUNY ASAP
  - ASAP in Ohio
  - Project Quest
  - Bottom Line
  - One Million Degrees
  - Valley Initiative for Development and Advancement

# CUNY ASAP Program Model





# CUNY ASAP Increases Graduation Rates



# Where We Go from Here: Building on the Evidence

1. There is room to experiment and grow
2. Align and integrate with campus and state priorities
3. Focus on understanding student needs and their experiences, especially coming out of the pandemic
4. Respond to student needs and target holistic supports to those who are at risk of not completing.
5. Align staffing and monetary resources to support implementation

# The College Completion Strategy Guide

- Summarizes the research and provide clear policy guidance for strategies to increase college completion
  - Salient, relevant, and actionable
  - Centers Equity
  - Clear standards for evidence
- Leverages the expertise of MDRC, SHEEO, The Education Trust, and TICAS
- **16** briefs in production with **28** authors representing **17** organizations and universities

# College Completion Strategy Guide

Specific Interventions or Topics	Unique Populations or Context	Cross-cutting Lessons for the Field
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Comprehensive Approaches to Student Success</li><li>• Career Pathways</li><li>• Advising</li><li>• Developmental Education</li><li>• Dual Enrollment</li><li>• Multiple Measures</li><li>• Corequisite Remediation</li><li>• Cost and Return on Investment</li><li>• Wrap-Around Supports</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• TCUs and Indigenous Students</li><li>• Women of Color</li><li>• Men of Color</li><li>• Post-traditional (Adult) Learners</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Centering Equity in Higher Ed</li><li>• Equity Audits in Higher Education Finance</li><li>• Learning Agenda</li></ul>

# Connecting to Useful Resources

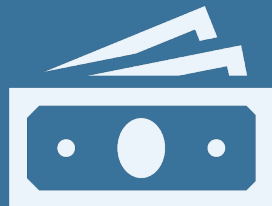
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Strategy Guide



<https://www.mdrc.org/college-completion-strategy-guide>

ROI Tool



<https://www.mdrc.org/intervention-roi-tool>



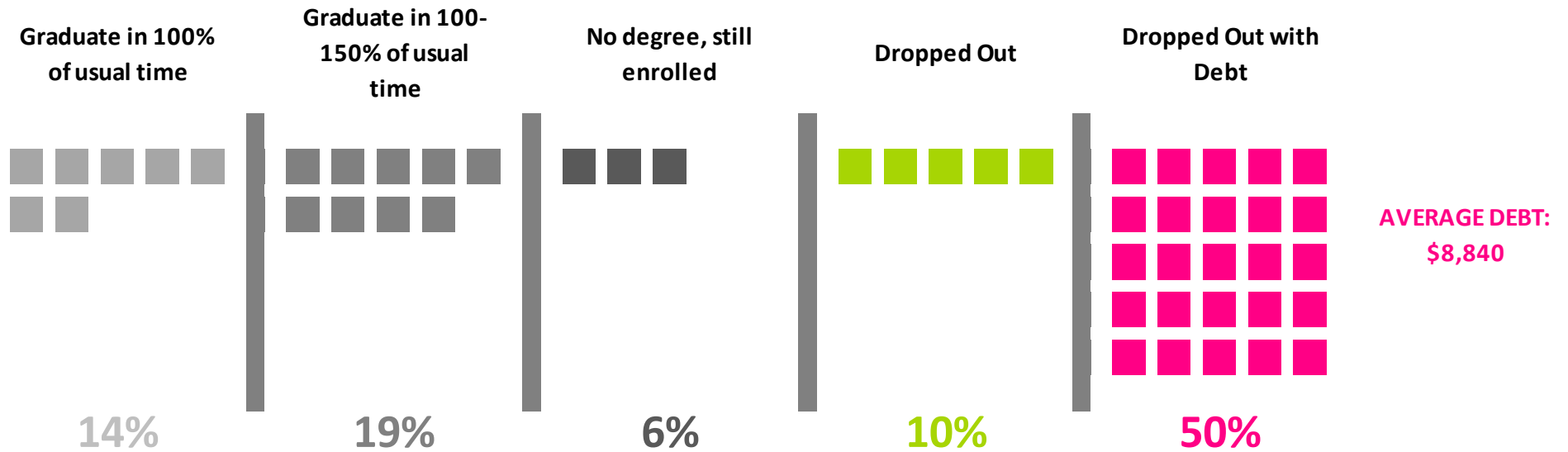
**MONTANA**  
UNIVERSITY SYSTEM



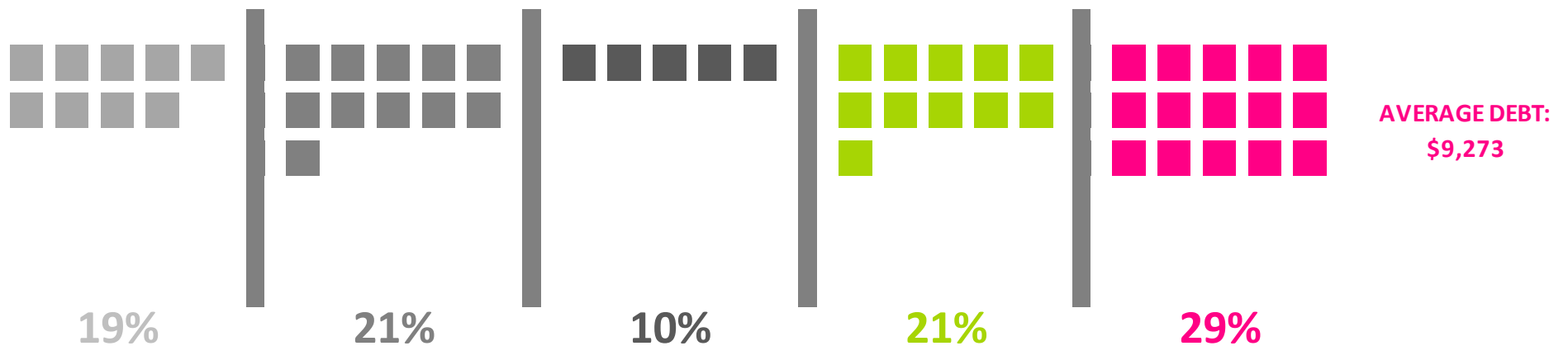
Crystine Miller

Director of Student Affairs & Student Engagement, OCHE

## PELL STUDENTS



## ALL OTHER STUDENTS



Source: MUS Student Data Warehouse



# Montana 10 Framework

## ***Financial Support***

Scholarship  
Textbook Stipend  
Monthly Incentives

## ***Academic Momentum***

Full time Schedule  
Corequisite Math & Writing  
Tutoring

## ***Purpose & Belonging***

Individualized Advising  
Career Development  
Orientation  
Freshman Seminar

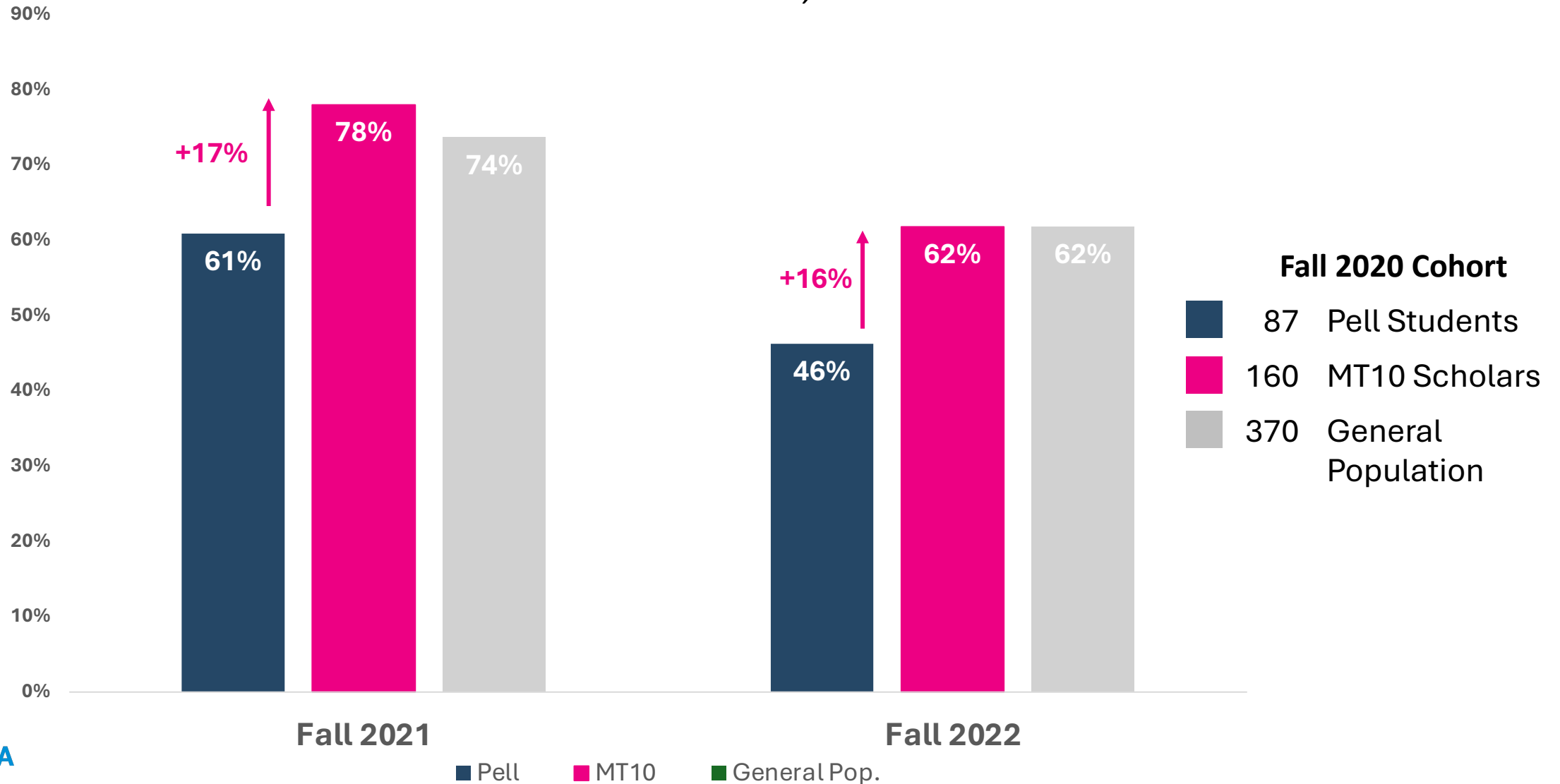






# Montana 10 Retention

*UM Fall 2020 Cohort, MT resident*





# Retention: University of Montana, Cohort 2020

RETENTION	General Pop.			MT 10			PELL		
	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Institution Graduate		0.4%	4.5%			2.5%		0.7%	3.6%
		3	31			4		1	5
Institution Retained	76.4%	64.2%	57.4%	76.9%	63.1%	55.0%	58.7%	44.9%	39.9%
	525	441	394	123	101	88	81	62	55
System Retained	3.2%	3.3%	3.8%	1.3%	2.5%	3.8%	2.2%	2.2%	2.2%
	22	23	26	2	4	6	3	3	3
Unknown	20.4%	32.0%	34.4%	21.9%	34.4%	38.8%	39.1%	52.2%	54.3%
	140	220	236	35	55	62	54	72	75
Grand Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	687	687	687	160	160	160	138	138	138



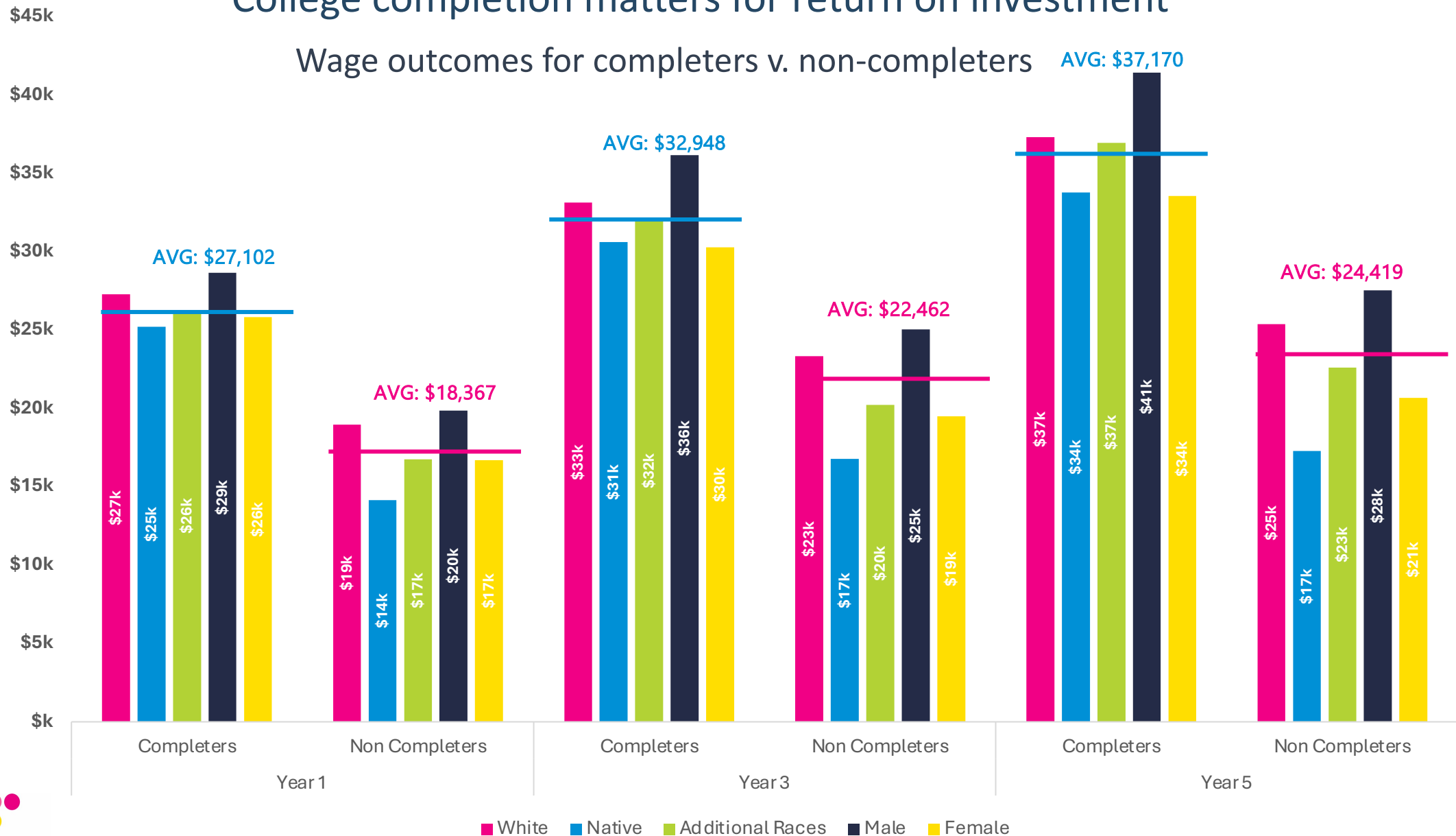
# Retention: Helena College, Cohort 2021

RETENTION	General Pop.		MT 10		PELL	
	Year 2	Year 3	Year 2	Year 3	Year 2	Year 3
Institution	1.1%	27.7%	3.0%	18.2%	1.9%	9.4%
Graduate	1	26	1	6	1	5
Institution	50.0%	13.8%	48.5%	24.2%	43.4%	18.9%
Retained	47	13	16	8	23	10
System	3.2%	5.3%		3.0%	3.8%	3.8%
Retained	3	5		1	2	2
Unknown	45.7%	53.2%	48.5%	54.5%	50.9%	67.9%
	43	50	16	18	27	36
Grand Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	94	94	33	33	53	53



# College completion matters for return on investment

Wage outcomes for completers v. non-completers





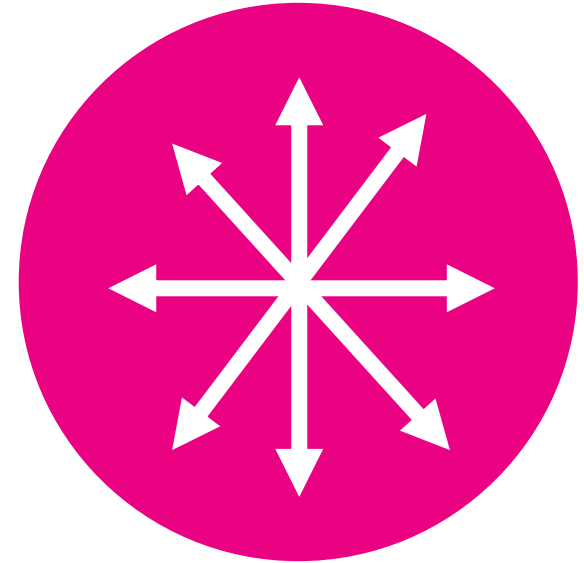
# Scaling Considerations



**Funding**



**Institutional  
Support**



**Fidelity**

# 15-Minute Break

## Coming Up Next:

- Scaling a Successful Pilot: The Ohio College Comeback Compact
- Lunch

# Scaling a Successful Pilot: The Ohio College Comeback Compact

## Christopher Kacir

*Associate Vice-Chancellor, Student Success*  
Ohio Department of Higher Education

## Brittany Pearce

*Program Manager, Educational Transformation Program*  
Ithaka S+R







**Department of  
Higher Education**

Strong Start in Science



# Adult Learner Success and Access

## Evidence-based Promising and Best Practices

**The Heart of Education**

# Overview and Agenda

- Who are adult learners?
- Accessibility
- Affordability
- Awareness
- AAA in Action: Ohio College Comeback Compact
- Value of Partnerships

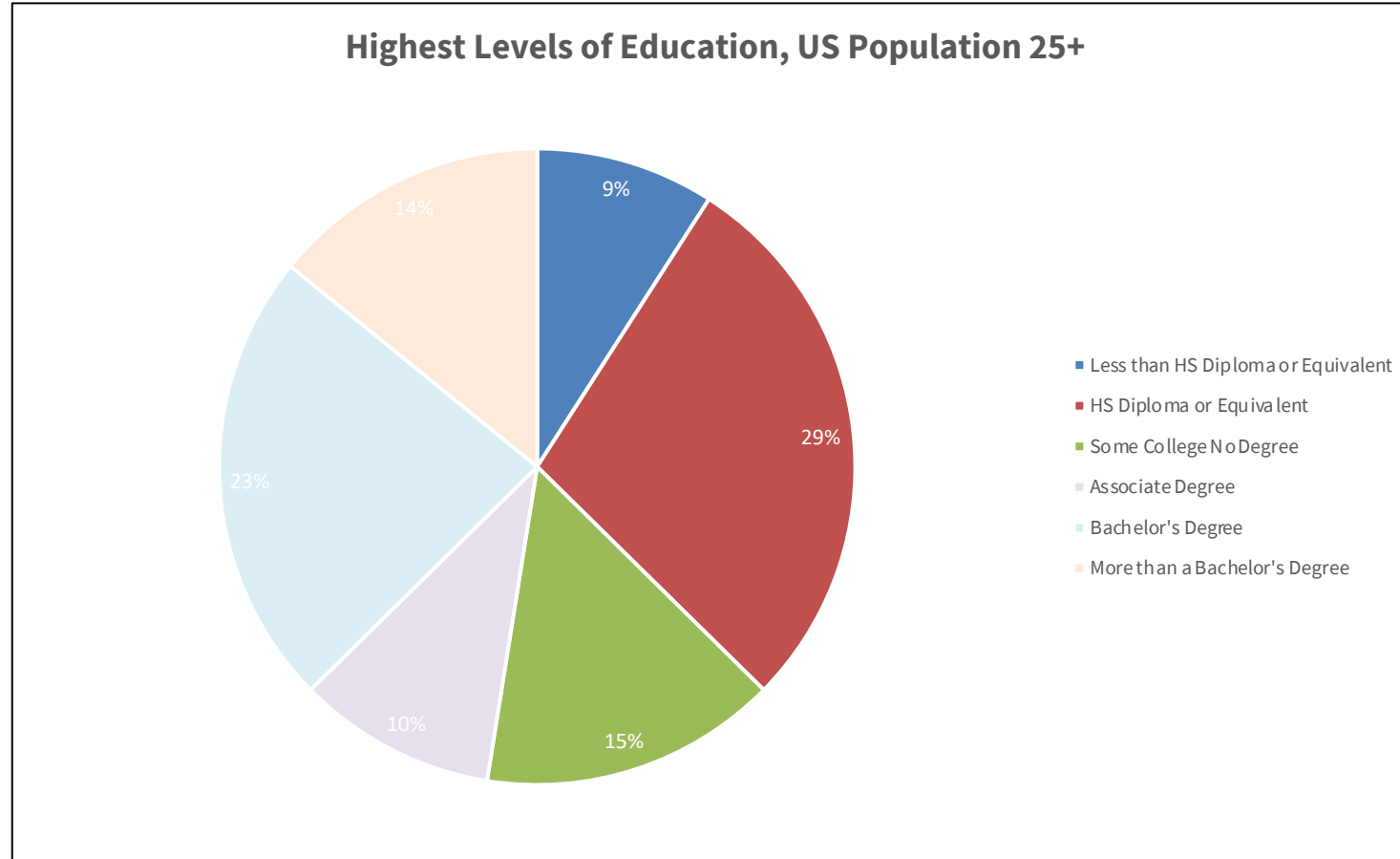
# How do you define ‘adult learners’?



# Who are adult learners?

- May be 25+ years old
- May be working part-time or full-time
- May have dependents or family responsibilities
- May have different life experiences than a student entering directly from high school
- May be a student veteran

# Why focus on adult learners?



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2022 Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC).

# **Accessibility, Affordability, and Awareness**



# Accessibility

- Navigators and wraparound support services
  - Adult learners often navigate their return alone
  - Use of Navigators is one of the few evidence-based practices for helping adult learners and job seekers; Provide support/connection in multiple domains:
    - The institutions
    - Surrounding community
    - Industry
  - Cradle-to-grave approach that follows them from recruitment → enrollment → advising → graduation → workforce
- **In Ohio:** multi-agency conversation; beginning with self-serve portal Ohio Career Navigator

# Accessibility

- Transparency around time, cost, and value
  - Adult learners are debt averse and simply providing sticker prices is not enough
  - Accurate estimate of cost should be aligned to a student's intended program of study and path to completion
  - Clear communication includes financial aid, post-graduation outcomes, and cost differential across different institutions if they transfer
- **In Ohio:** House Bill 27; requires each state institution to provide a financial cost and aid disclosure form



# Affordability

- Addressing unpaid balances and institutional debt
  - 1.5 million Ohioans have some college, but no credential; when they choose to return, they face barriers including past due debts
  - One solution is a debt forgiveness program aligned with returning and successfully completing academic terms
- **In Ohio:** In 2021, ODHE released “College Comeback” guidance clarifying that debt forgiveness is allowable under Ohio law

# Affordability

- Aid programs designed with adults in mind
  - Most IHEs focus scholarships on first-time, full-time students, limiting the availability of funds for adults, transfers, and returning students
    - In addition, typically target students beginning in the fall term
    - Information about financial aid available to adults is often difficult to find
  - Important to remember that adults' income may make them ineligible for need-based aid while other commitments may prohibit them from dedicating significant portion of their income to educational endeavors
  - Financial aid programs that are simple to understand and provide surety are more likely to improve adult learner enrollment
- **In Ohio:** most aid programs are applicable to adult learners; Ohio Second Chance Grant developed in 2022

# Awareness

- Comprehensive campaigns targeting adults
  - Adult learners are not conveniently located and accessible
  - Robust and comprehensive adult-learner support initiative requires effective marketing
- Tapping into community resources and support
  - Most likely to respond to encouragement to pursue additional education if it comes from a trusted source
  - Engaging community organizations, religious organizations, industry groups, employers, and unions is critical
- **In Ohio:** in 2019, Ohio instituted TechCred to incentivize businesses to provide training to current or future employees

# Ohio College Comeback Compact

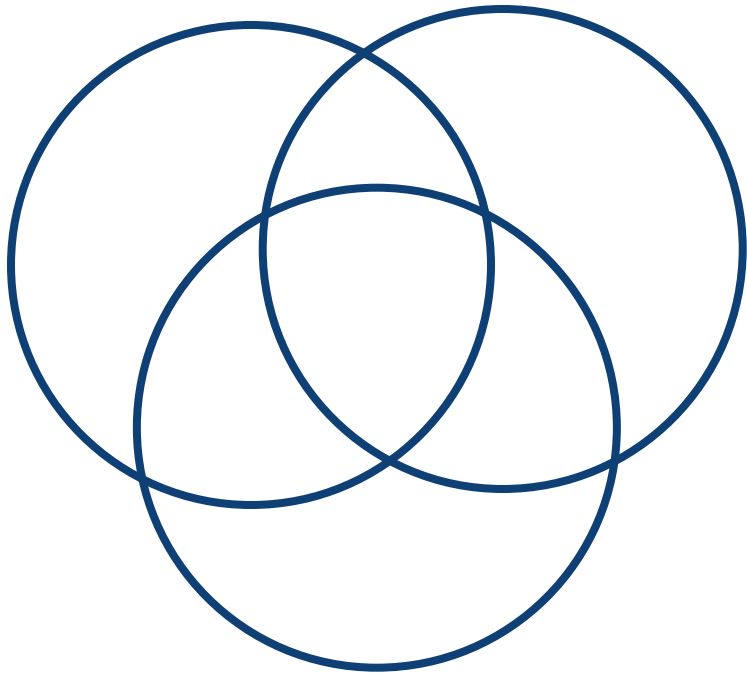
*One intervention at the intersection of accessibility, affordability, and awareness*



- Release transcript holds so students can re-enroll and continue their education
- Reduce barriers that prevent students from degree completion by eliminating institutional debt
- Help institutions capture a portion of lost revenue they otherwise would not have
- Coordinate centralized outreach and advising to effectively target and reach stopped out adult learners

# Ohio College Comeback Compact

*One intervention at the intersection of accessibility, affordability, and awareness*



- Identifying and creating a framework for re-engaging a population that has traditionally been excluded from adult re-engagement efforts
- Addressing the immediate impediment– institutional debt and resulting holds– preventing adults from returning
- Partnering with a neutral third party to provide top-of-funnel outreach and coaching that is specific to this population

# Ohio College Comeback Compact

*One intervention at the intersection of accessibility, affordability, and awareness*

- Students from historically underrepresented groups are more likely to have an unpaid balance and more likely to participate in the Compact
- Pilot year outcomes were in line with expectations
  - 1.7% return rate, compared favorably to the 1.5% return rate of all Ohioans
  - 66% of students in the pilot year received debt forgiveness, additional 27% completed partial requirements
- The Compact put eligible students on the same footing as other SCNC students
- Second year saw significant growth in enrollment, continued to see historically underrepresented groups overrepresented

# Ohio College Comeback Compact

*One intervention at the intersection of accessibility, affordability, and awareness*

- Participating students continue to face challenges related to cost of postsecondary education, competing priorities, and family obligations
- Intrusive advising and assistance are key to student success
- Students and administrators found the program to be a motivator for re-enrollment

# Value of Partnerships





# Thank You!

- Brittany Pearce
  - Program Manager, Educational Transformation Program, Ithaka S+R
  - [Brittany.pearce@ithaka.org](mailto:Brittany.pearce@ithaka.org)
- Chris Kacir
  - Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Success, Ohio Department of Higher Education
  - [ckacir@highered.ohio.gov](mailto:ckacir@highered.ohio.gov)



25 South Front St.  
Columbus, Ohio 43215 U.S.A.

614 | 466-6000  
[highered.ohio.gov](http://highered.ohio.gov)

# Lunch

Located in Potomac Ballroom

## Coming Up Next:

- From Crisis to Success: Addressing Basic Needs to Improve Student Outcomes
- State Team Time

# From Crisis to Success: Addressing Basic Needs to Improve Student Outcomes

**Mark Huelsman**

*Policy & Advocacy Director at The Hope Center at Temple University and Fellow at the Student Borrower Protection Center*





SHEEO Community of Practice

# Addressing Basic Needs to Improve Student Outcomes

June 2024

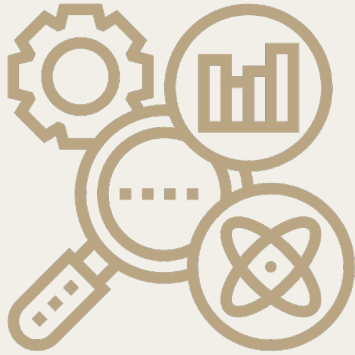
Mark Huelsman

Director of Policy & Advocacy, The Hope Center at Temple University

[mark.huelsman@temple.edu](mailto:mark.huelsman@temple.edu)



# About The Hope Center



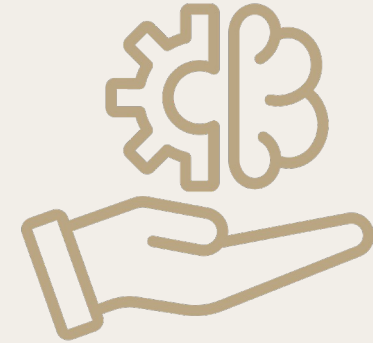
## Research

investigating students' lived experiences with basic needs insecurity and evaluating interventions



## Policy

informing and advocating for systemic policy change to make college more affordable



## Practice

technical assistance to meet student basic needs through systems transformation



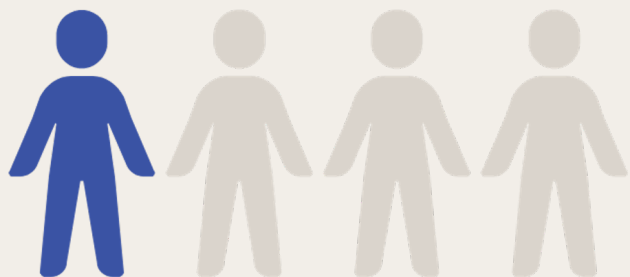
# How Do We Define Basic Needs?

**Basic Needs** includes ensuring access to:

- nutritious and sufficient **food**
- safe, secure, and adequate **housing**—to sleep, to study, to cook, and to shower
- healthcare to promote sustained **mental and physical well-being**
- affordable **technology** and **transportation**;
- resources for **personal hygiene**
- and **childcare** and related needs



## What Do We Know About Basic Needs?



Nearly **1 in 4** undergraduate students experience **food insecurity**.



**Food insecurity** for undergrads is **double** that of U.S. households.

**4.3 million**

students aren't  
getting **enough**  
**to eat**

**1.5 million**

students are experiencing  
**homelessness**

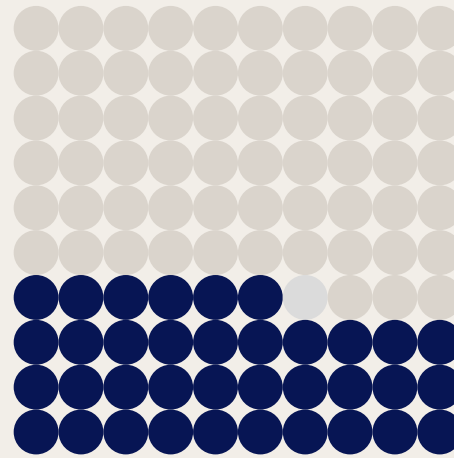
Source: Hope Center analysis of NPSAS 2020

## Beyond Food and Housing



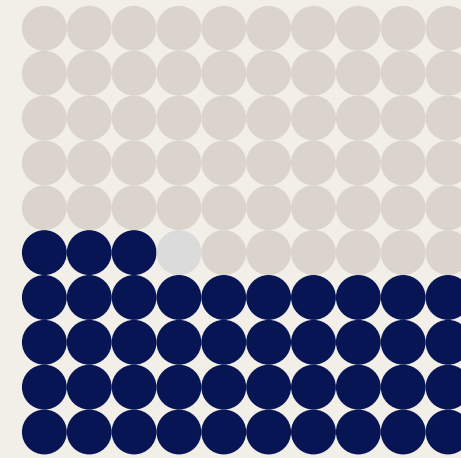
**12%**

said **lack internet or technology** access  
interfered with  
academics



**37%**

Missed class due to  
**childcare**



**43%**

find **childcare**  
unaffordable





**"It's challenging to be a student** with good grades when you're just focused on **surviving**, worrying about how you'll pay rent and bills and food; working to ensure you have the basic needs instead of focusing on homework and studying for your classes."





# Mental Health is Essential for Basic Needs, and Vice Versa



**41%**

struggle with  
clinically-significant  
depression



**36%**

Experience anxiety



"**It's so much harder** than we are given credit for. I work three jobs and am a full-time student and I have the worst mental health that I have ever had in my entire life. I'm doing things **on my own** and it often feels like I am never going to make it out of this rut."

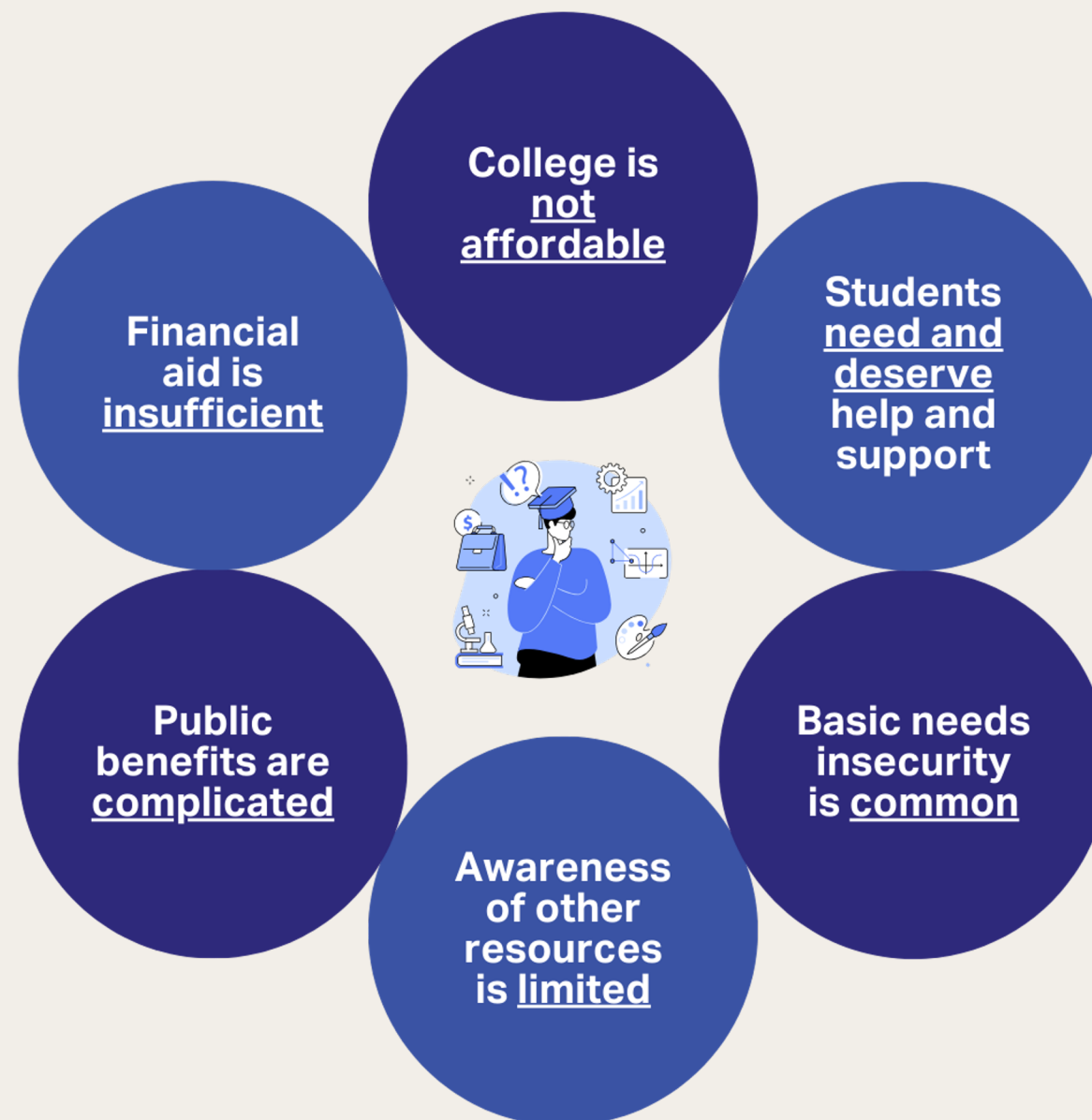




# Impacts on Student Success

- ☐ Students experiencing one or more forms of basic needs security report significantly lower GPAs than their peers.
- ☐ Food and housing insecurity are associated with a lower likelihood of degree attainment, particularly for bachelor's, graduate, and professional degrees.
- ☐ Untreated mental health disorders are associated with lower GPAs, enrollment discontinuity, and dropout.
- ☐ Anti-poverty interventions improve educational attainment, health, and more.

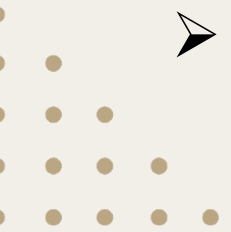
# Systems Are Not Designed for Success



# Systems Are Not Designed for Success



- Public benefit programs contain specific eligibility and additional work requirements that harm students.
- Financial aid and safety net eligibility are often not aligned, and higher ed is not recognized as work.
- Programs that exist in K-12 or for adults not enrolled in college, do not exist in higher ed.
- State implementation of safety net, financial aid, and other supports is inconsistent.



# Low Student Uptake in Public Benefit Programs



Just 18% (less than 1 in 5) of students who experience basic needs insecurity report receiving SNAP.

By comparison, 82% of all eligible people in the U.S. receive SNAP benefits.



# Low Student Uptake in Public Benefit Programs



Reasons why students experiencing BNI did not use campus supports	%
I do not think I am eligible	73
Other people need those programs more than I do	69
I do not know how to apply	52
I did not know they existed or were available	51
I do not need these programs	44
I am embarrassed to apply	26
People like me do not use programs like that	19
I had difficulty completing the application	14





# Promising Interventions and Principles

- **Emergency aid** receipt associated with higher retention and graduation, and students report using emergency aid for basic needs expenses (HEERF, WGU, SNHU)
- **Connect students with benefits**: Coordinated basic needs centers/hubs and outreach coincided with dramatic increase in SNAP take-up (California) and retention/graduation (Washington)
- Access to **affordable childcare** linked to improved persistence and completion among parenting students (DeMario 2017; Reichlin Cruse et al. 2019).
- Extensive evidence on the effectiveness of investments in **mental health skills training, screening**, and other practices (ACE, 2023)

# Federal Policy: Moving Backwards



Pandemic-era programs **explicitly designed to support student basic needs** have expired, including:

- **Emergency aid (HEERF)**
- **Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)**
- **Expanded SNAP eligibility**
- **Expanded monthly Child Tax Credit (CTC)**

Federal investments **do not meet the scale and scope** of the crisis.

- **CCAMPIS grants** serve 1% of potentially eligible parenting students.
- 58 out of 3,600 schools receive **Garrett Lee Smith Campus** mental health grants
- The FIPSE **Basic Needs Grant** is currently limited to 14 institutions.





SHEEO Community of Practice

# Thank you!

Mark Huelsman

Director of Policy & Advocacy, The Hope Center at Temple University

[mark.huelsman@temple.edu](mailto:mark.huelsman@temple.edu)

[Hope.temple.edu](http://Hope.temple.edu)

# 15-Minute Break

Snacks located in the Potomac Ballroom.

Coming Up Next:

- State Team Time
- Evidence-Based Practices to Meet the Affordability Challenge

# State Team Time 2

## Guiding Questions

1. What are the short-term actions (next 6 months) you will need to take to achieve your goals?
2. Which stakeholders and other collaborators will be involved in completing these action steps?
3. Who will be responsible for organizing the stakeholders and advancing each of the short-term actions?
4. What are reasonable timelines to complete each of the short-term actions?
5. What research, resources, and technical assistance will your team need to accomplish the short-term action steps?

# 15-Minute Break

Coming Up Next:

- Evidence-Based Practices to Meet the Affordability Challenge

# Evidence-Based Practices to Meet the Affordability Challenge

**Jason Lee**

*Policy Researcher*  
RAND Corporation



# Evidence-Based Practices to Meet the Affordability Challenge

Student Success Community of Practice  
SHEEO

June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024



EDUCATION AND LABOR





# SHEEO

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STATE HIGHER EDUCATION EXECUTIVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

## **INVESTIGATING THE IMPACTS OF STATE HIGHER EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AID**

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KRISTEN CUMMINGS

SOPHIA LADERMAN

JASON LEE

DAVID TANDBERG

DUSTIN WEEDEN



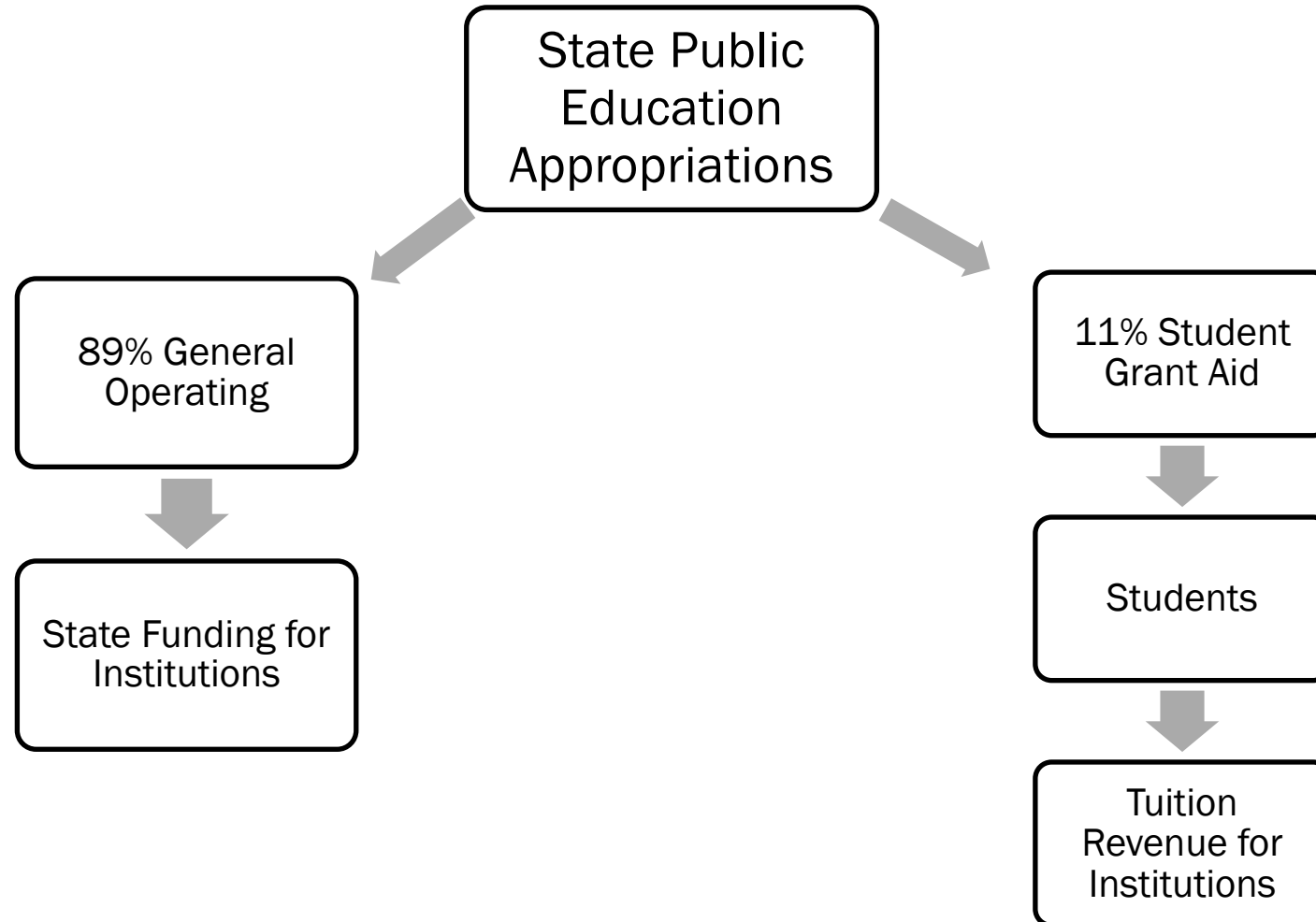
## Research Questions

- What happens to institutions if states increase (or decrease) public funding for higher education?
- What portion of state higher education funding should be allocated to general operating funds to potentially mitigate tuition rate increases for all students, and what portion should be allocated to more targeted financial aid programs?
- To what extent do each of these state finance strategies impact enrollment, credential completion, and other important post-collegiate outcomes like student loan repayment, employment, and earnings?

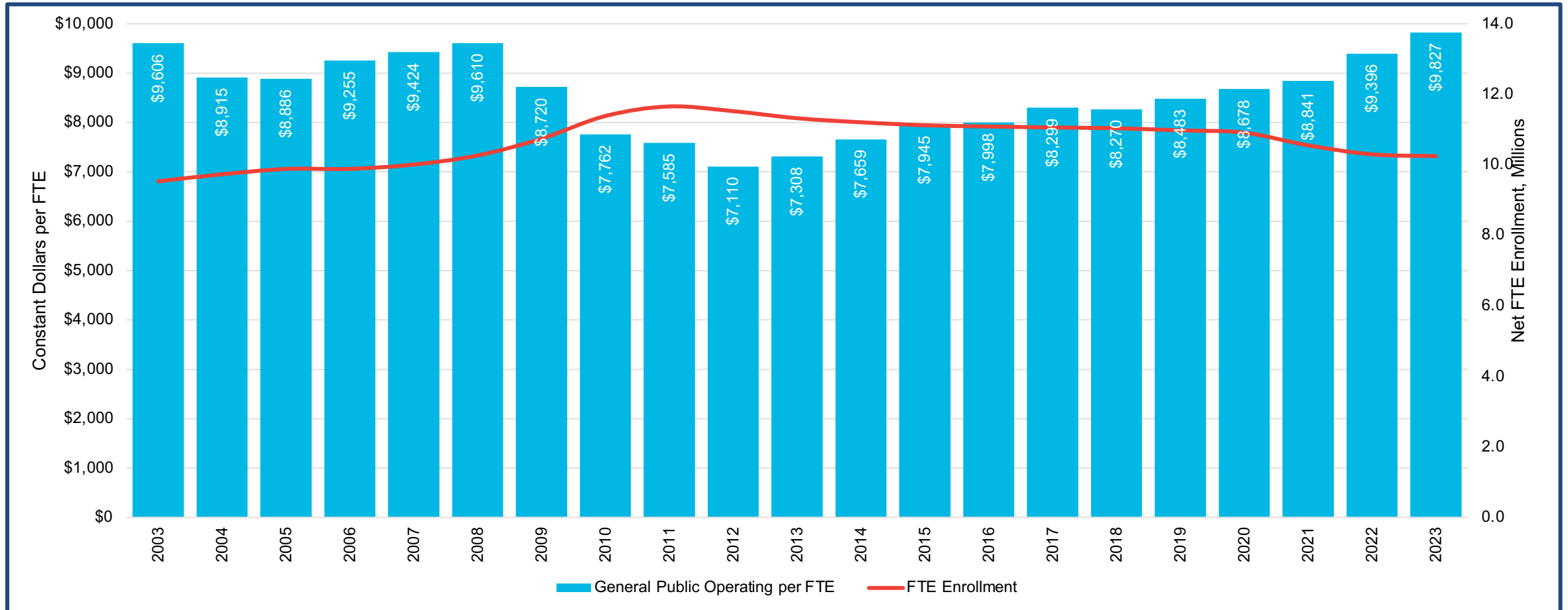
# Overview of Today's Session

- Trends in Higher Education Finance
- State Appropriations Evidence
- Financial Aid Evidence
- Policy Recommendations

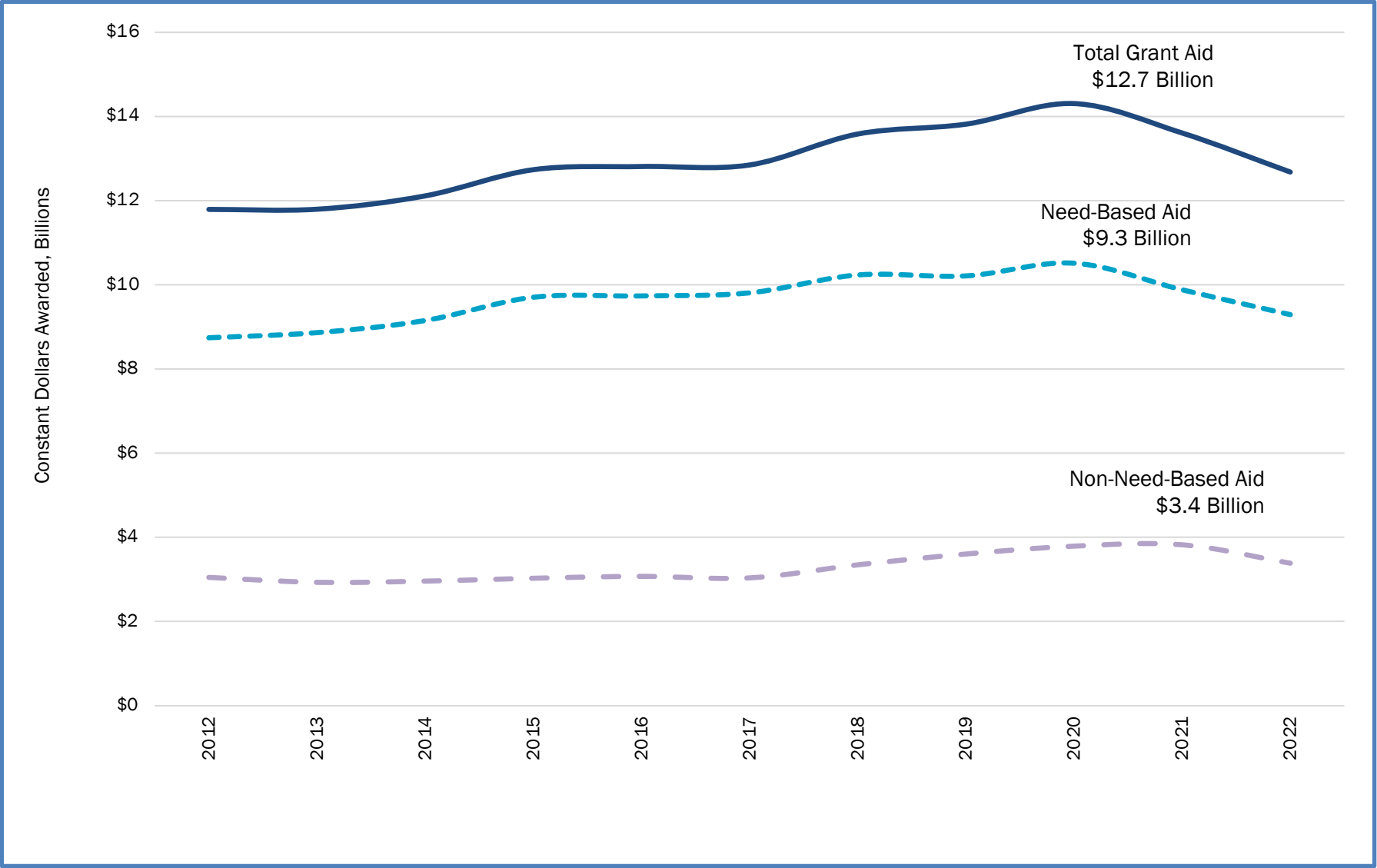
# State General Public Operating Appropriations per FTE & FTE Enrollment



# State General Public Operating Appropriations per FTE & FTE Enrollment

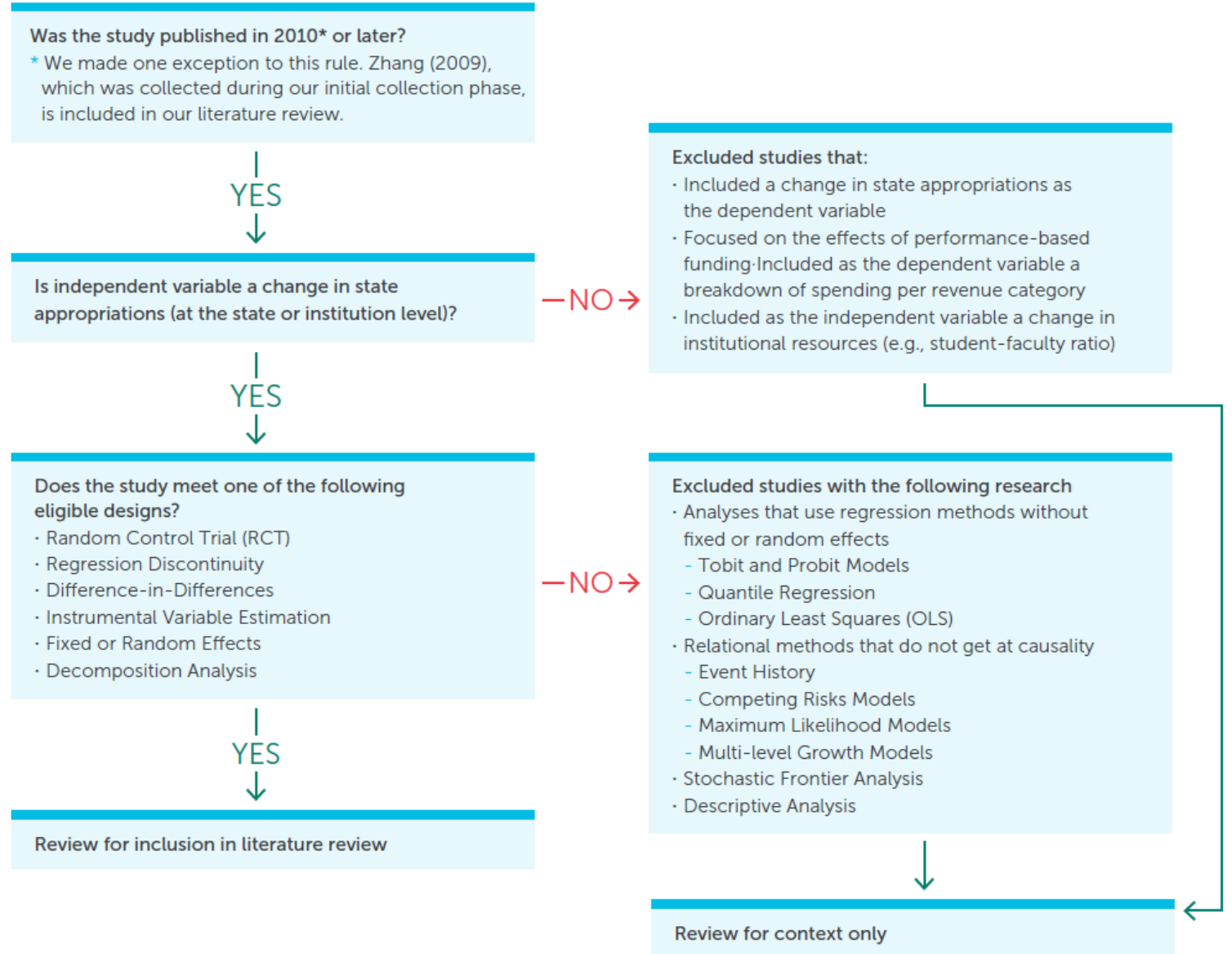


# State Grant Aid for Need-Based & Non-Need-Based Programs



# Review Criteria for State Appropriation s Studies

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## State Appropriations Literature Overview

- Focused on the effects of state appropriations on:
  - Institutions
  - Students
- Selection criteria:
  - Published since 2010
  - Rigorous quantitative research designs
  - Independent variable must be state dollars appropriated
- Two phases of data collection resulted in 81 studies reviewed



## Effects of State Appropriations on Institutions

- Public institutions respond to declines in state appropriations in two ways
  - Raising tuition revenues:
    - Four-year institutions, especially more selective institutions
    - Increasing out-of-state and international student enrollment
  - Decreasing institutional expenditures:
    - Less selective institutions (broad access four-year and two-year)
    - Largest impact on instruction, academic support & student services

## Effects of State Appropriations on Student Enrollment

- Fewer in-state undergraduates enrolling
- Enrollment is not impacted equally across sectors, as evidence suggests students seek out for-profit institutions in response to cuts
- Research universities respond to cuts by increasing out-of-state enrollment

## Effects of Decreased State Appropriations on Student Completion

- Decreases in state appropriations lead to fewer degrees and certificates awarded
- Decrease in graduation rates at four-year colleges with the largest impact at research/doctoral institutions
- Decrease in statewide bachelor's degree attainment

## Effects of Increased State Appropriations on Post-Collegiate Outcomes

- Reduced student debt burden
- Reduced likelihood of negative debt outcomes
- Increased likelihood of owning a car
- Increased credit score
- Increased income

## Varying Effects of State Appropriations

- Institution- and student-level effects of state appropriation declines vary by institution type
- These effects also likely vary across states
- These disparate impacts of funding changes occur in the context of inequality in funding across institution types

# Review Criteria for Grant Aid Studies

---

Was the study published in 2000\* or later?  
\* Earlier studies are provided for historical context.

YES  
↓

Does the study meet one of the following eligible designs?

- Random Control Trial (RCT)
- Regression Discontinuity
- Difference-in-Differences
- Instrumental Variable Estimation

YES  
↓

Review for inclusion in literature review

—NO→

Excluded studies with the following research designs:

- Analyses that solely rely upon fixed effects
- Relational methods that do not get at causality
  - Event History
  - Competing Risks Models
  - Maximum Likelihood Models
  - Multi-Level Growth Models
- Descriptive Analysis
- Propensity score matching and/or weighting

↓

Review for context only

## Financial Aid Literature Overview

- Selection criteria:
  - Published since 2000
  - Rigorous quantitative research designs
- Two phases of collection resulted in 91 studies reviewed
- Others have systematically reviewed this literature:
  - LaSota et al., 2024
  - Dynarski, Page, & Scott-Clayton, 2022
  - Herbaut & Geven, 2020
  - Nguyen, Kramer, & Evans, 2019
  - Page & Scott-Clayton, 2016

## Effects of Grant Aid on Enrollment

- Evidence consistently suggests that student grant aid programs successfully induce *where* students enroll, rather than *if* they enroll at all
- Programs with advising and mentoring components are more successful in causing students to enroll in college
- Programs with easy application processes, simple eligibility requirements, and marketing efforts are the most successful



## Effects of Grant Aid on Persistence & Completion

- Receiving grant aid causes already enrolled students to remain in college
- Meta-analytic evidence suggests that \$1,000 in grant aid increases the probability of completion by 2.5 percentage points
- Students with the most financial need are the most likely to benefit from student grant aid
- Grant aid programs that invest in supports beyond the award are the most successful

## Effects of Grant Aid on Post-Collegiate Outcomes

- Evidence suggests state merit aid programs do not keep students in-state for employment
- More recent studies suggest that students and states experience significant returns on state aid investments

## Policy Recommendations

- Increase state support:
  - Cuts have tangible effects on completions, income, and ultimately, state budgets in the long-term
  - State support for financial aid should not come at the expense of general operating support

## Policy Recommendations

- Consider alternative revenue sources when gauging the impact of state cuts
  - More prestigious, public, four-year institutions have more revenue sources than general operating appropriations
  - Across the board cuts to all public institutions disproportionately impact those institutions that cannot acquire revenue from alternative sources and that are more dependent on state support

## Policy Recommendations

- Consider and/or advocate for adequacy-based approaches to funding formulas
  - Provide bonuses to institution types that don't enjoy the same economies of scale that larger institutions do
  - Provide bonuses to student populations that are traditionally underserved by our educational systems to support their success

## Policy Recommendations

- Consider conducting a state funding equity audit:
  - Take stock of current trends & race- and income-based gaps in institution-level allocations
  - Make results publicly available and accessible to the public
  - Read Hillman's (2020) Third Way report for more information

## Policy Recommendations

- Financial aid messaging matters:
  - Simple eligibility requirements have been shown to have a significant impact on aid take-up and subsequently student success
  - States should invest more in marketing financial aid programs to the students who would most benefit

## Policy Recommendations

- Create more equitable awarding mechanisms
  - Most state grant aid programs don't have enough money to fund all eligible students
  - Consider where the dollars awarded could have the most impact



## Additional Resources

- Public Investments in Higher Education Project Page
  - Executive Summary
  - Full Report
  - Blog Posts
  - Webinar series
  - Databases of Studies

## Additional Resources

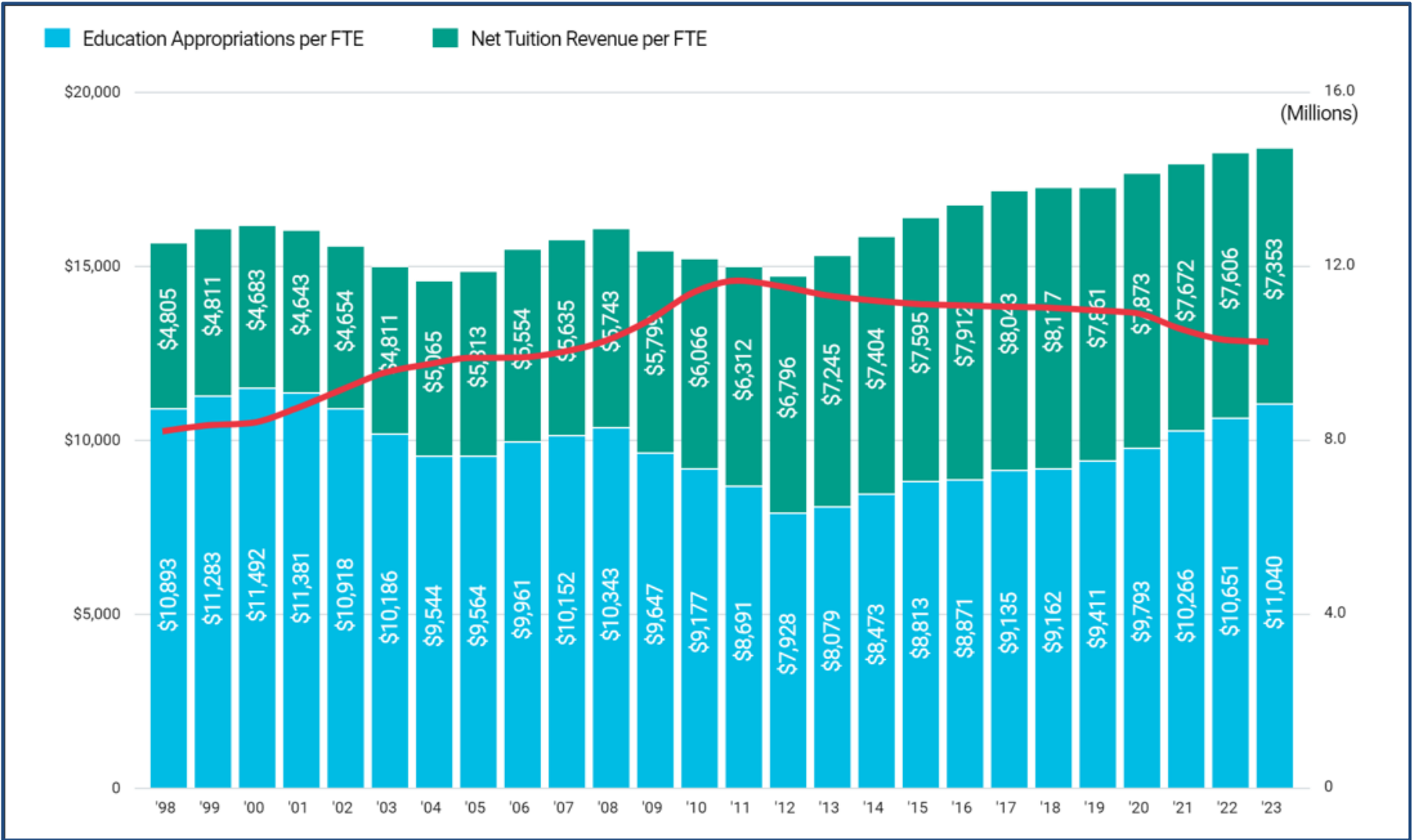
- Education Resource Information Center (ERIC)
- What Works Clearinghouse (WWC)
- E-mail authors
- Newsletters & listservs

Questions?

Jason Lee

Email: [jjlee@rand.org](mailto:jjlee@rand.org)

# Public Higher Education Revenue by Source



# See you at dinner!

Find Alicia Engels or email [aengels@sheeo.org](mailto:aengels@sheeo.org).

## Up Next:

- 5:30 p.m. Dinner (Grand Ballroom)

## Day Two:

- 7:30-8:30 a.m. Breakfast (Potomac Ballroom)
- 8:30 a.m. Emerging Strategies: Work-Based Learning (Grand Ballroom)

# Communities of Practice: Advancing an Evidence-Based Student Success Policy Agenda

June 27-28, 2024  
Alexandria, Virginia



## **SHEEO**

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State Higher Education  
Executive Officers Association

#SHEEOCoP2024

8:30 a.m.	Emerging Strategies: Work-Based Learning
9:30 a.m.	Break (Hotel Check-Out)
10:00 a.m.	State Team Time #3
11:00 a.m.	Break
11:15 a.m.	Coalition Building: Outreach and Communication Strategies
12:15 p.m.	Lunch
1:15 p.m.	Roundtable Discussions
2:00 p.m.	End of Day

# Emerging Strategies: Work-Based Learning

**Jeannine LaPrad**

*Managing Director, Policy and Research*  
National Skills Coalition

**Omar Reyes**

*Director of Adult Programs*  
Rhode Island Office of the Postsecondary  
Commissioner

**Emily Salmon**

*Assistant Director of Strategic Planning and Policy Studies*  
State Council of Higher Education for Virginia





# 30-Minute Break

Hotel Check-Out

Coming Up Next:

- State Team Time #3
- Coalition Building: Outreach and Communication Strategies

# State Team Time 3

## Guiding Questions for Intermediate Action Steps

1. What are the intermediate (6-18 months) actions you will need to take to achieve your goals?
2. Which stakeholders and other collaborators will be involved in completing these action steps?
3. Who will be responsible for organizing the stakeholders and advancing each of the intermediate-term actions?
4. What are reasonable timelines to complete each of the intermediate-term actions?
5. What research, resources, and technical assistance will your team need to accomplish the intermediate-term action steps?

## Guiding Questions for Long-Term Action Steps

- Repeat questions 1-5 considering your long-term (18-36 months) actions.

# 15-Minute Break

Coming Up Next:

- Coalition Building: Outreach and Communication Strategies

# Coalition Building: Outreach and Communication Strategies

## Tristan Denley

*Deputy Commissioner for Academic  
Affairs and Innovation*  
Louisiana Board of Regents

## Brittany Everett

*Postsecondary Access and Success Specialist*  
Virginia Department of Education

## Sarah Szurpicki

*Director, Office of Sixty by 30*  
Michigan Department of Lifelong Education,  
Advancement, and Potential







BOARD of REGENTS  
STATE OF LOUISIANA

# LOUISIANA PROSPERS

*Pathway to 2030*

Tristan Denley

Deputy Commissioner for  
Academic Affairs and Innovation



# ***Pathway to 2030***



**INCREASE  
COLLEGE GOING**



**IMPROVE  
COLLEGE SUCCESS**



**RECOGNIZE ALL  
CREDENTIALS OF VALUE**

***[www.laregents.edu/masterplan](http://www.laregents.edu/masterplan)***



**E  
DING**



**IMPROVE  
COLLEGE SUCCESS**



**RECOG  
CREDENTIAL**



# LOUISIANA

MEAUXMENTUM  
FRAMEWORK

CHOICE

PATHWAYS

MILESTONES

ENGAGEMENT

EVERYONE

AFFORDABILITY

LEARNING MINDSETS

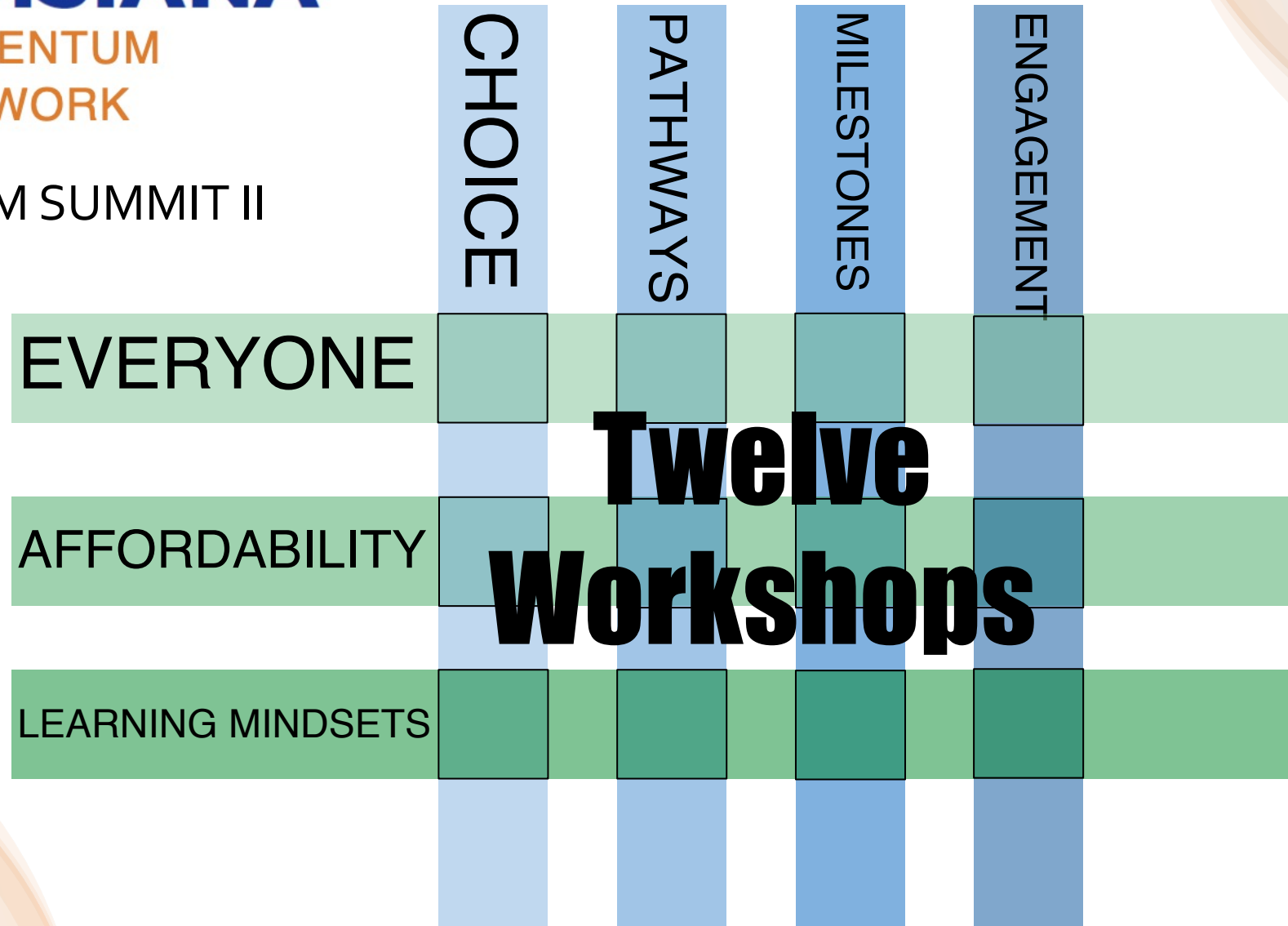




# LOUISIANA

MEAUXMENTUM  
FRAMEWORK

## MEAUXMENTUM SUMMIT II



NE

mentum

AYS

**Choice for Everyone:**

Developing Strategies to  
Serve All Students

**Every Student,  
Every Time:**

Using analytic tools to  
help more students  
make *Meauxmentum*  
schedules

MILESTONES

ENGAGEMENT

**Supporting Students  
to Success:**

A Look at  
Comprehensive  
Student Support  
Programs and Their  
Impact on Student  
Success

AFFORDABILITY

**Can We Guarantee It?**

Work-Based Learning  
for All Students

MILESTONES

ENGAGEMENT

LEARNING MINDSETS

Introducing **Learning  
Mindset** pedagogy  
strategies into the  
classroom

**Transferable Skills  
and Knowledge:**

From Classroom to  
Workplace

# **LOUISIANA PROSPERS** **PATHWAY TO 2030**



# **MEAUX** **MENTUM**





## Supporting the Ecosystem to Accelerate Progress in 2024



Sarah Szurpicki, Director, Office of Sixty by 60



The Office of Sixty by 30 was created to coordinate State efforts to meet the goal that Governor Whitmer set in her 2019 State of the State address: that by 2030, sixty percent of Michigan's working-age adults would have a degree or credential of value.

The Office of Higher Education was established within the new MiLEAP department as of December 1, 2023 by Executive Order of the governor.

Prior to  
FY24,  
Office of  
Sixty by 30  
Authorized  
and Funded  
to:



Administer particular financial aid programs and select additional named appropriations/programs



Provide some support for student basic needs



Monitor compliance of community colleges with Reconnect requirements, including corequisite education



Administer specific named programs/appropriations



Provide grants to help schools adopt success strategies, alongside completion coach support



A woman with dark hair and glasses, wearing a green cardigan, is standing in a library aisle. She is reaching up with her right arm to touch a blue book on a high shelf. The shelves are filled with books of various colors. The background shows more bookshelves and a window with a grid pattern.

FY2024: **\$112+** million of new, one-time funding requiring new programming

---

# \$45 MILLION+ OF NEW COMPETITIVE GRANTS



## Quick Start

Self-assessment, planning, elevation of student voice. Helping colleges hone their strategy for student success.

*subset of other categories*



## College Success

Three levels of grants that help colleges scale student success reforms and increase graduation rates.

\$12 million



## Barrier Removal – Direct to Students

Emergency grants and other direct aid to students to eliminate financial barriers to completion.

\$7 million



## Barrier Removal – Growing Institutional Capacity

Developing supportive policies and practices for students struggling to meet basic needs.

\$5 million



## Reconnect Community Action Grants

Growing community support and partnership for post-secondary learning pathways.

\$10 million

These amounts represent goals to award in 2024. Some funds will remain for awarding in 2025. There is flexibility to shift award amounts across the first four categories, based on needs identified by institutions.



---

# CRITERIA FOR ALL GRANTS



**Specific evaluation criteria in each grant category are described in the applications. But across all opportunities, proposals will be evaluated based on:**

1. Commitment to centering the interests and experiences of learners
2. Commitment to the courageous examination of the impacts of institutional policies and practices on the experiences and outcomes of students
3. Commitment to approaching students from an asset-based perspective and to being tenacious in the work of removing institutional barriers to student success.
4. Commitment to rigorously evaluating impact and sharing learning
5. Demonstration of awareness of evidence-based best practices, research, and other networks/resources available

# Elevated Readiness Grants

Communications and Support to Ensure High-Quality, Fundable Proposals for college Success Grants

## **Program Description:**

- Workshops, convening, and consulting on: strategic planning to connect grant opportunities and institutional priorities, evaluating best practice evidence, budgeting, selecting high-quality vendors/consultants, designing metrics and evaluation, connecting with national networks and resources, implementation/program management, and planning for sustainability
- Up to \$250,000 over one year

## **Grantees**

- Michigan College Access Network (MCAN)
- Center for Student Success at Michigan Community College Association
- Michigan Center for Adult Student Success, in partnership with Michigan Association of State Universities and MCAN



## AGE EXPANSION

- Launched October 2023
  - Funded with \$70 million of SLFRF (covid recovery) dollars
  - Expands Reconnect to age 21-24 for a *limited window only*
  - Students must enroll by Fall 2024 and apply by 11/15/24
  - Goal: 20,000 enrollees
-

# Age Expansion Interventions

Increasing:

- Applications
- Enrollment
- Persistence

ReUp Stop-Out  
Recruitment and  
Persistence  
Coaching

Traditional  
Marketing (vendor-  
led)

TA on Student  
Persistence (MCACS  
and MCCA)

FA Office Support to  
CCs

Marketing \$ to CCs

REFS FAFSA support  
(MCAN)

Expansion  
Navigator Outreach

Employer-Led  
Recruitment with  
Michigan Works!  
agencies

Digital Marketing by  
CollegeApp (MCACS)

Community-based  
Outreach led by  
MCAN

“Prospects” Calling  
Campaign  
(CCs+vendor)

Targeted Nudges to  
Current Students  
(CCs)





Thank you

Sarah Szurpicki (SzurpickiS@michigan.gov)



# Level Up Virginia

Leveraging Partnerships to Advance Postsecondary Access and Success



**STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER  
EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA**



**VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION**



# State Agency Partnership

## State Council of Higher Education for Virginia

### Our Mission

- To advocate and promote the development of an educationally and economically sound, vigorous, progressive and coordinated system of higher education in Virginia.

### We fulfill our mission by:

- Leading state-level strategic planning and policy development that promotes greater access, quality, affordability and accountability.
- Implementing policy and programs based on research and analysis.
- Facilitating collaboration among institutions of higher education that enhances quality, advances educational excellence and creates operational efficiencies.
- Recommending higher education policies and funding to the Governor and General Assembly that support our mission.
- Communicating openly, honestly and effectively to the public.

## Virginia Department of Education

### Vision

- The vision of the Virginia Department of Education is that Virginia will maximize the potential of all learners.

### Mission

- The mission of the Virginia Department of Education is to advance equitable and innovative learning.



**STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER  
EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA**



**VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION**

# Building the Bridge for a Statewide College Access Initiative

## Mission

To foster school environments, education policies, staff expectations, resources, partnerships and technical assistance that support all students' pursuit of a postsecondary education, with particular focus on students who have been traditionally underrepresented in higher education.

## Vision

- To increase college readiness, enrollment and completion for all students in Virginia.

## Guidance to Postsecondary Success (GPS)

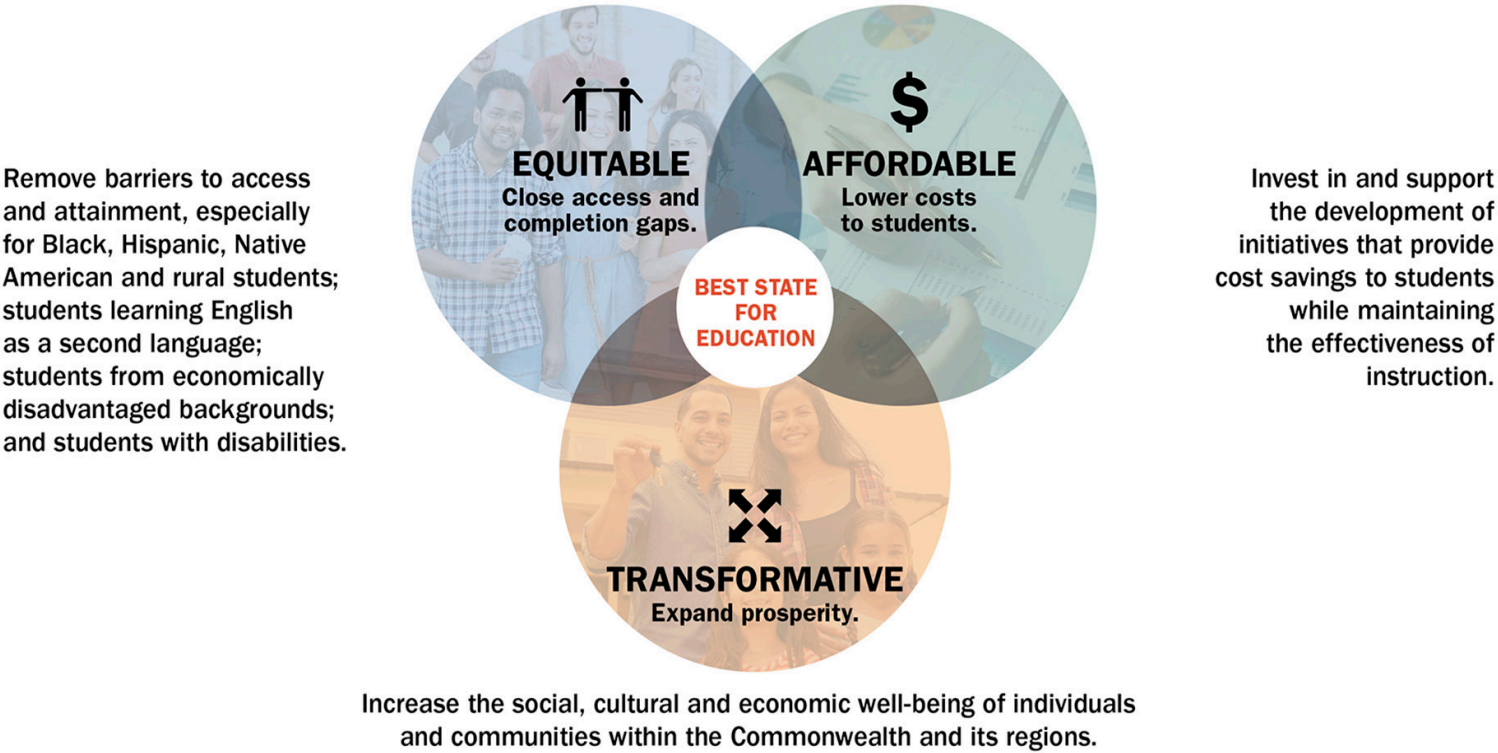
- \$250,000/year in General Funds to support
  - Inter-agency SCHEV/VDOE Postsecondary Access & Success Specialist (PASS) position "warm hand-off"
  - Statewide access & success efforts including:
    - Expanded college advising
    - FAFSA completion efforts
- Funding serves as in-kind for GEAR UP grant



# Pathways to Opportunities: SCHEV's Strategic Plan



## PATHWAYS TO OPPORTUNITY: THE VIRGINIA PLAN FOR HIGHER EDUCATION



STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER  
EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION

# Level Up Virginia

Level Up Virginia (LUV) is a statewide initiative led by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) and the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE). Our mission is to increase postsecondary readiness, enrollment and completion for all students in the Commonwealth.

LUV focuses on increasing college access for historically underrepresented and marginalized student groups, including but not limited to rural students, Black and Latinx students and students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds. We recognize that these students face unique challenges in accessing and succeeding in postsecondary education.

## Level Up Virginia Events

- College Nights in Virginia
- Virginia College Application Week
- FAFSA Next
- VCCS Spring Registration Roadshow (piloted 2024)
- Decision Day VA

## Communications and Digital Strategy

- Website
- Newsletter
- Social Media

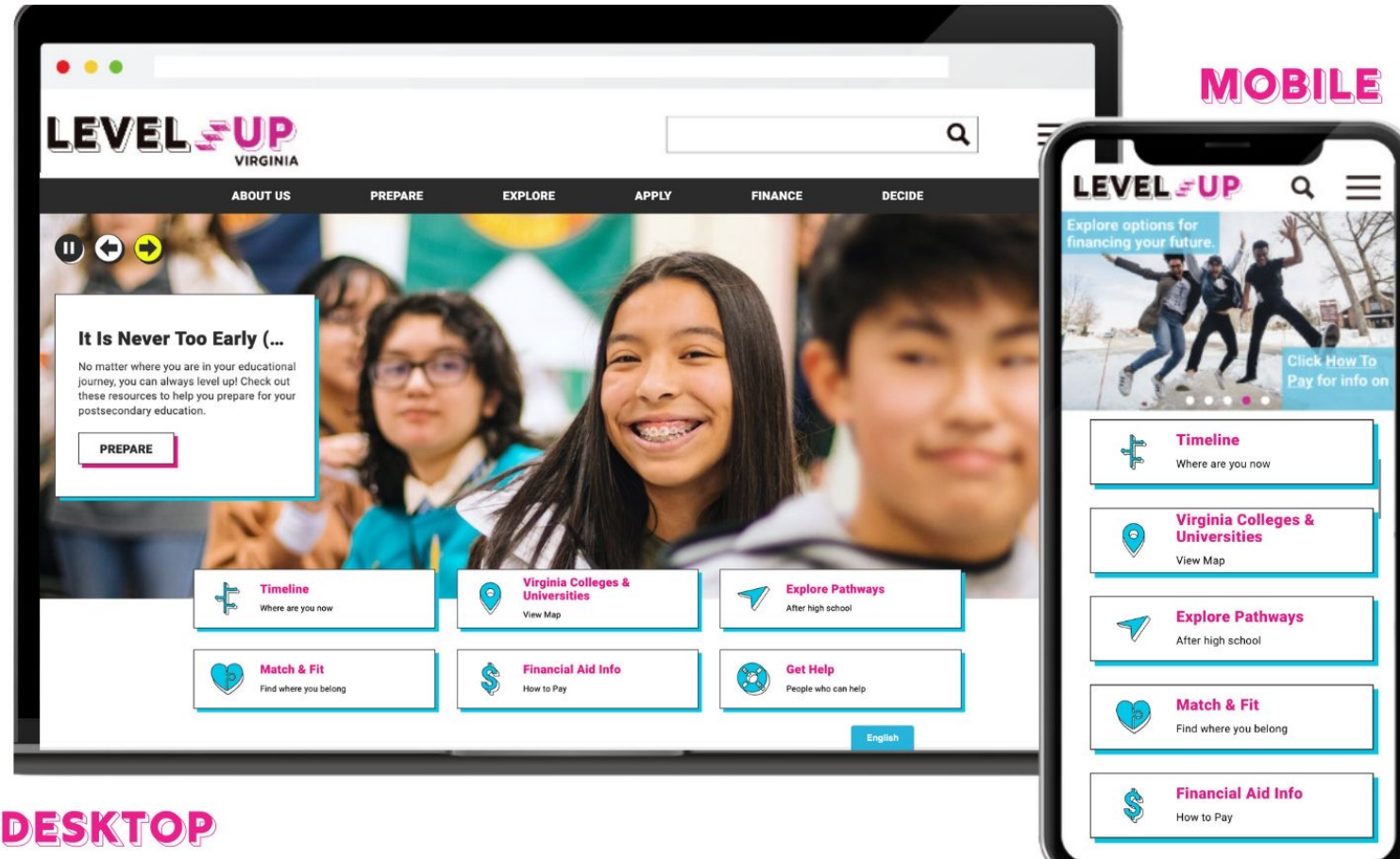
## Professional Development and Technical Assistance







# Level Up Virginia Website



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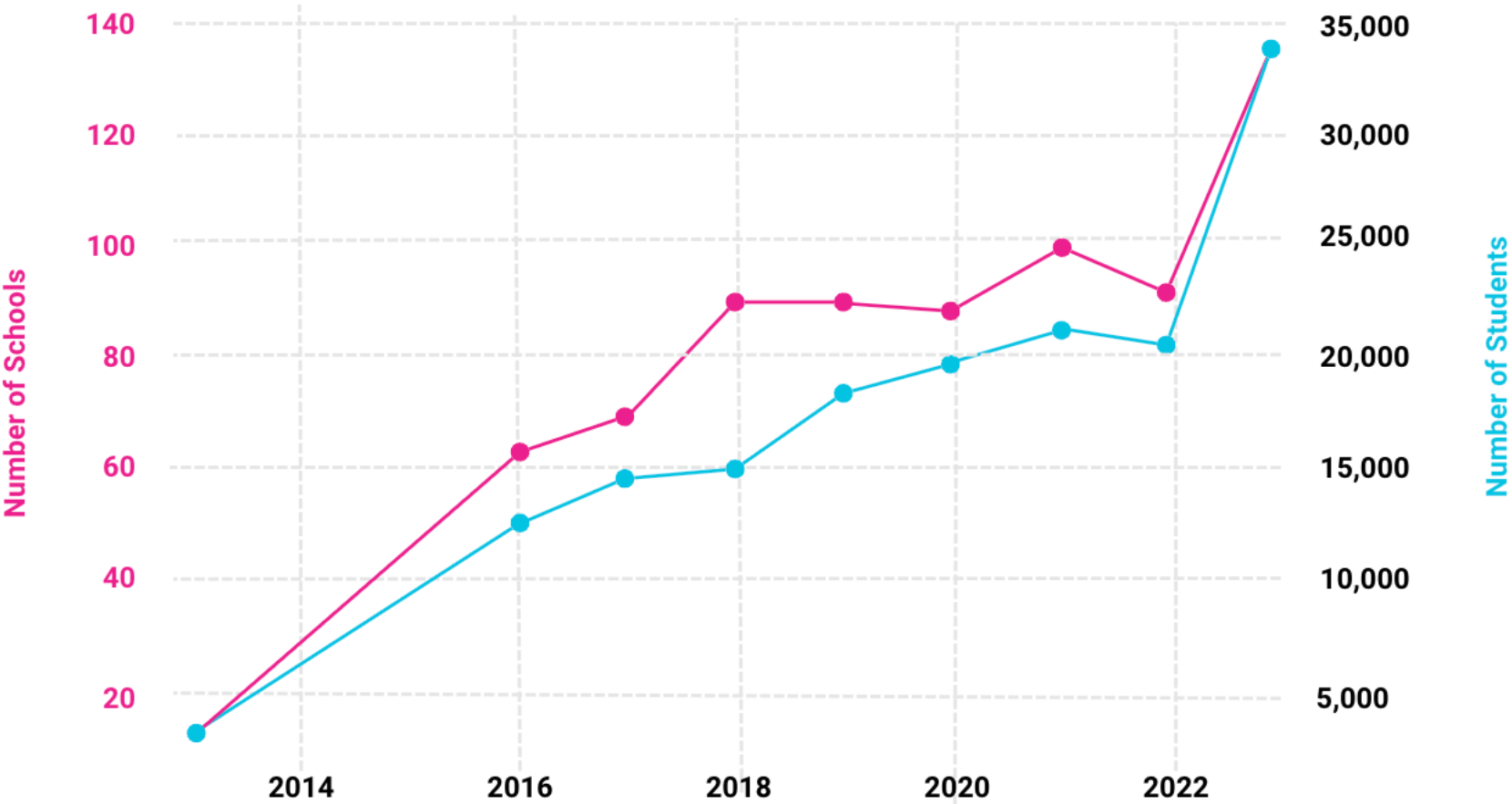


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# Engaging Stakeholders



# NUMBER OF SCHOOLS & STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN LEVEL UP VIRGINIA EVENTS



Grown from 13 high schools in 2013 to 135 high schools in 2023.

Grown from 2860 students in 2013 to 35,444 students in 2023.





# GEAR UP Virginia

## GEAR UP Virginia – cohort & priority pop

- 7-year \$24.7 million federal college access grant
- Serving 8119 students in 12 school divisions
- Follow cohort of students from 7th grade to 1st year postsecondary
- Also serve juniors & seniors in three “priority” schools

### For students:

- Tutoring, campus visits, summer camps (5), postsecondary (best match and fit) advising, financial aid advising, scholarships

### For school faculty & staff:

- Professional development – STEM instruction, data-driven instruction, online teaching certification, family engagement, SEL, FAFSA walk-throughs, VirginiaCAN conference sponsorships

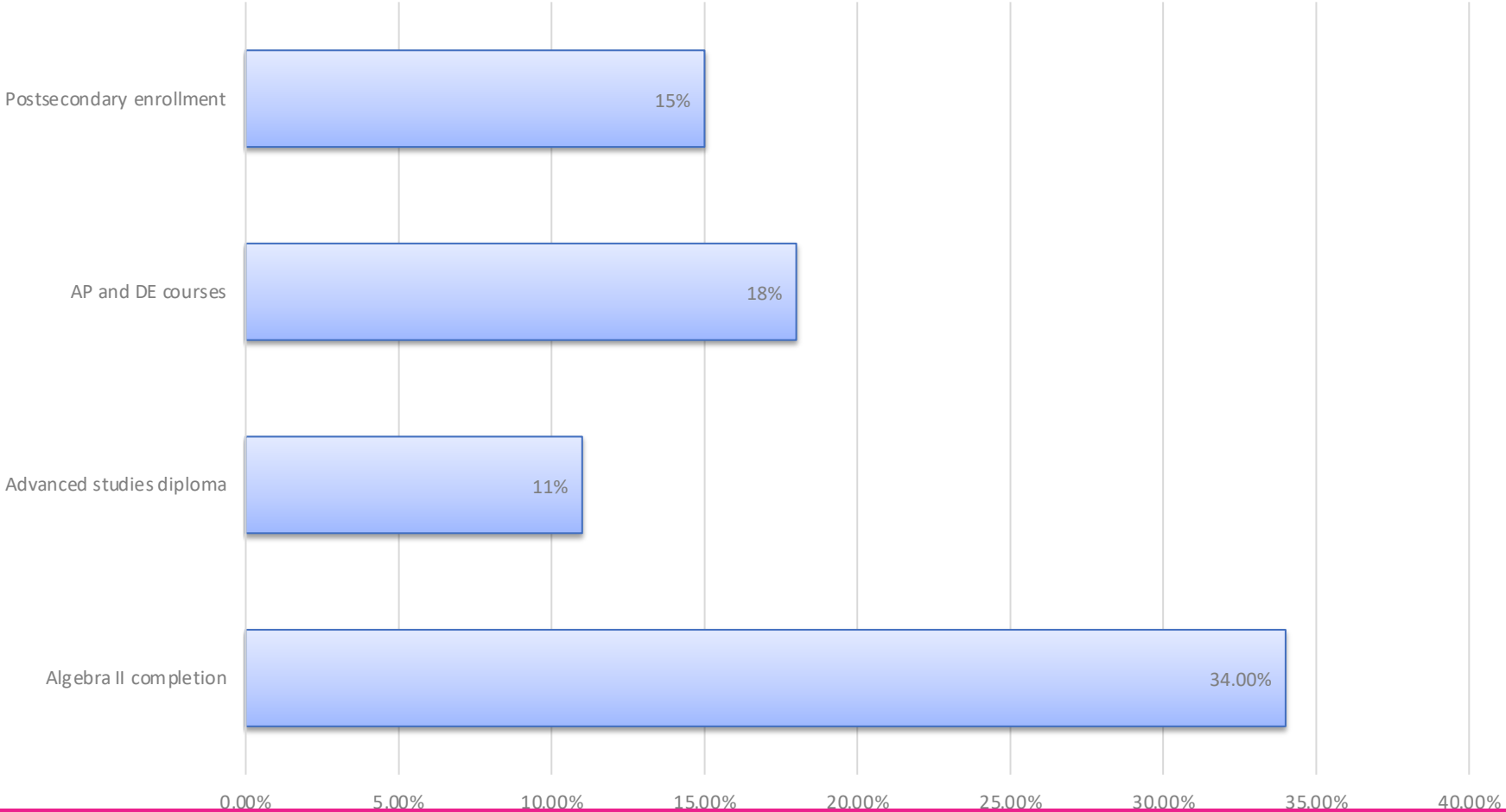
## Partnership

- Advisory Board
- Conference sponsorships
- Student Success Professional Development
- Event Site Benefits
  - Decision Day VA t-shirts
- Middle School Campus Visit Project
  - 12 IHEs hosted 46 campus visits for almost 7,000 middle schoolers
  - 84% of participants said they wanted to continue education after high school
- FAFSA Completion Project
  - Student level FAFSA completion data



# GEAR UP 2014-21 Outcomes

Increase for GEAR UP Class of 2020 compared to baseline



# Developing Partnerships Across the State

# Council of Independent Colleges in Virginia



CICV is the collective voice of Virginia nonprofit private higher education and work collaboratively in the areas of public policy, cost containment, and professional development as well as providing support to our member institutions and their students.

## Partnership:

- Participates in SCHEV's College Access Advisory Board
- Campus visits to private institutions



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# ECMC

## Vision and Mission

ECMC Group is a nonprofit corporation whose vision is to empower underserved communities to thrive through education. ECMC Group's mission is to help students succeed by creating, providing and investing in innovative educational opportunities.

## Partnership

- Co-sponsor of Level Up Virginia events
  - ECMC's College Nights in Virginia
  - Opportunity Booklets
  - Free statewide virtual FAFSA support (Pell Initiative)



# VA 529

In 1994, the Virginia General Assembly authorized Virginia529, an independent, self-sustaining agency of the Commonwealth of Virginia, to develop a program that would help citizens save for the increasing costs of higher education.

In its more than 25-year history, Virginia529 has evolved and adapted to meet the expanded educational landscape and the changing needs of families. They have been able to support college access across the commonwealth.

## Partnership

- \$3.5 million match contribution to GEAR UP Virginia
- Participates in SCHEV's College Access Advisory Board



# Virginia College Access Network

## Mission

The mission of the Virginia College Access Network is to support and enhance post-secondary education access and attainment for residents of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

To accomplish this mission, VCAN will support access programs and foster new initiatives; develop information and financial resources for students and families; and promote the benefits of greater access to postsecondary education

## Partnership

- Active board and listserv
- Virtual professional development
- Annual conference



# Virginia College Advising Corps

## Mission

Increasing the number of low-income, first-generation, and underrepresented high school students who enter and complete higher education.

## Program Model

1. VCAC is a "near-peer" mentoring model. The program recruits recent college graduates who are near in age and have similar backgrounds to the high school students they serve.
2. VCAC College Advisers attend a comprehensive summer training program before entering their school sites.
3. VCAC College Advisers serve the whole school, rather than a cohort of particular students, in order to foster a school-wide college-going culture.
4. VCAC focuses on best-fit and best-match colleges. College Advisers help students identify and apply to postsecondary programs that will serve them well academically and socially--thus increasing the likelihood that these students will earn their degrees.
5. VCAC participates in a national, external evaluation conducted by Evaluation and Assessment Solutions for Education, a research group at Stanford University, to quantitatively measure outcomes and qualitative results.

## Partnership

- Placing full-time advisers in all GEAR UP VA high schools
- Free statewide virtual FAFSA support (Pell Initiative)
- Participates in SCHEV's College Access Advisory Board



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# Virginia Community College System

## Mission

"We give everyone the opportunity to learn and develop the right skills so lives and communities are strengthened."

## Partnership

- New LUV Events Co-Sponsor: Spring Registration Roadshow
- Campus visits to community colleges
- Virginia Education Wizard
- Provide experts for professional development programming
- Participates in SCHEV's College Access Advisory Board
- Transfer VA Portal and Resources



# Leveling Up: Future Directions

## Partnership with Mainstay to provide chatbot services for Virginia students

- FAFSA Assistance
- Virginia Specific State Aid Assistance

## SREB/GoAlliance

- Summer institute on college access for middle & high school counselors

## AmeriCorps Planning Grant

- To explore the possibility of “AdviseVA”

## Access Recognition Badge



# Thank you

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LevelUpVirginia.org



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# Lunch

In Potomac Ballroom

Coming Up Next:

- Roundtable Discussions
- Closing Remarks

# Roundtable Discussions

## Topics

- Transfer
- Evaluation Rubric
- Nontraditional Students
- Communication Plans
- Working with Institutional Faculty and Staff
- Incorporating Strategies into Funding Models



# Thank you, safe travels!

## Follow-up:

- Be on the lookout for a post-event survey.
- Return travel reimbursement forms by July 12.
- Contact [aengels@sheeo.org](mailto:aengels@sheeo.org) with any questions.