



Aligning Needs and Opportunities: Implementing and Evaluating a Dual Enrollment Pilot in West Virginia

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Context & Research

National Student College-Going Attitudes

- Nationally, students increasingly question the value of a college education.
- A 2022 nationally-representative study conducted by Public Agenda and USA TODAY¹ found that Americans wonder if the benefits of getting a college education outweigh the costs citing the following reasons:
 - high tuition
 - excessive student loan debt
 - significant amount of time to complete degrees
- Younger students without degrees were most likely to question college value.
- While skepticism exists, overall, most agree that furthering education has benefits to students and society more broadly.

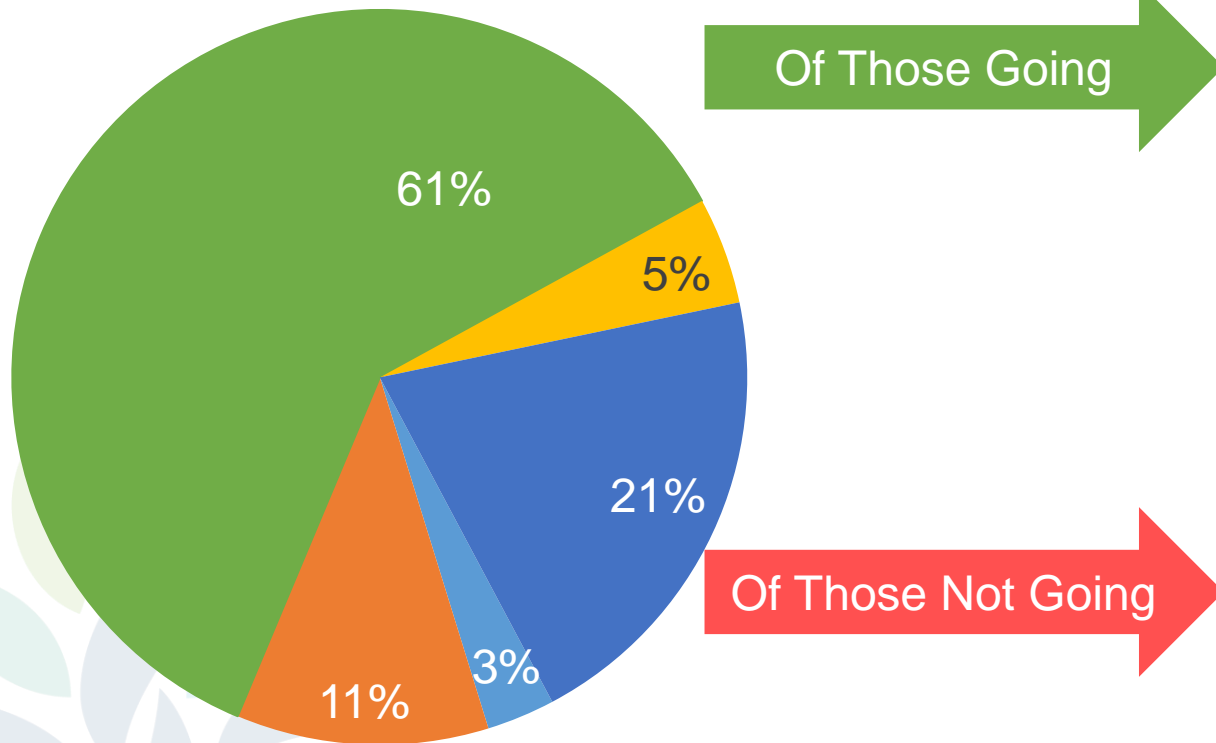
¹<https://publicagenda.org/resource/americas-hidden-common-ground-on-public-higher-education-whats-wrong-and-how-to-fix-it/>

Measuring College-Going Attitudes in WV

- From November 2022-January 2023, the WV Higher Education Policy Commission and the WV Department of Education administered a survey to all high school students statewide.
- The survey asked students about their:
 - personal and family characteristics
 - plans for postsecondary education
 - knowledge and expected use of financial aid programs
 - level of support for continuing their education
 - how they received information about postsecondary options.
- The survey had questions specifically for seniors and non-seniors, as well as those who were college-bound and not.
- In total, 4,163 students completed the survey from 42 high schools representing 33 of 55 counties.

WV Students' Sentiments

Plans Following High School Graduation



Of Those Going

Of Those Not Going

- I am going into the military
- I am going to college
- I am unsure of my plans
- I am going straight to work
- I am taking time off

62% chose/would choose their school based on affordability

38% had not been on a campus in the last year

80% considered attending

65% did/would not attend due to high cost

63% had not been on a campus in the last year

Students' Reactions to the Word "College"



Student Profiles Defined

Shooting Stars (27%)

"Career, future, goal, degree, experience"

- Most likely to be college-bound (75%)
- Affordability top reason for selecting college/not attending
- More likely to have taken AP/dual courses
- 56% had been on a campus in last year

College Generalists (26%)

"School, learning, knowledge, classes, buildings"

- More likely to be college-bound (64%)
- Affordability top reason for selecting college/not attending
- Average levels of AP/dual courses
- 51% had been on a campus in last year

Blood, Sweat & Tears (13%)

"Challenging, hard, work, determination, responsibility"

- Less likely to be college-bound (55%)
- Affordability top reason for selecting college/not attending
- Lower levels of AP/dual courses
- 49% had been on a campus in last year

Financially-Focused Students (13%)

"Debt, money, expensive"

- Less likely to be college-bound (50%)
- Affordability top reason for selecting college/not attending
- More often took CTE courses
- 52% had been on a campus in last year

Insomniacs (10%)

"Stress, scary"

- More likely to be college-bound (65%)
- Affordability top reason for selecting college/not attending
- More likely to have taken AP/dual courses
- 53% had been on a campus in last year

Naysayers (7%)

"Unimportant, scam, no"

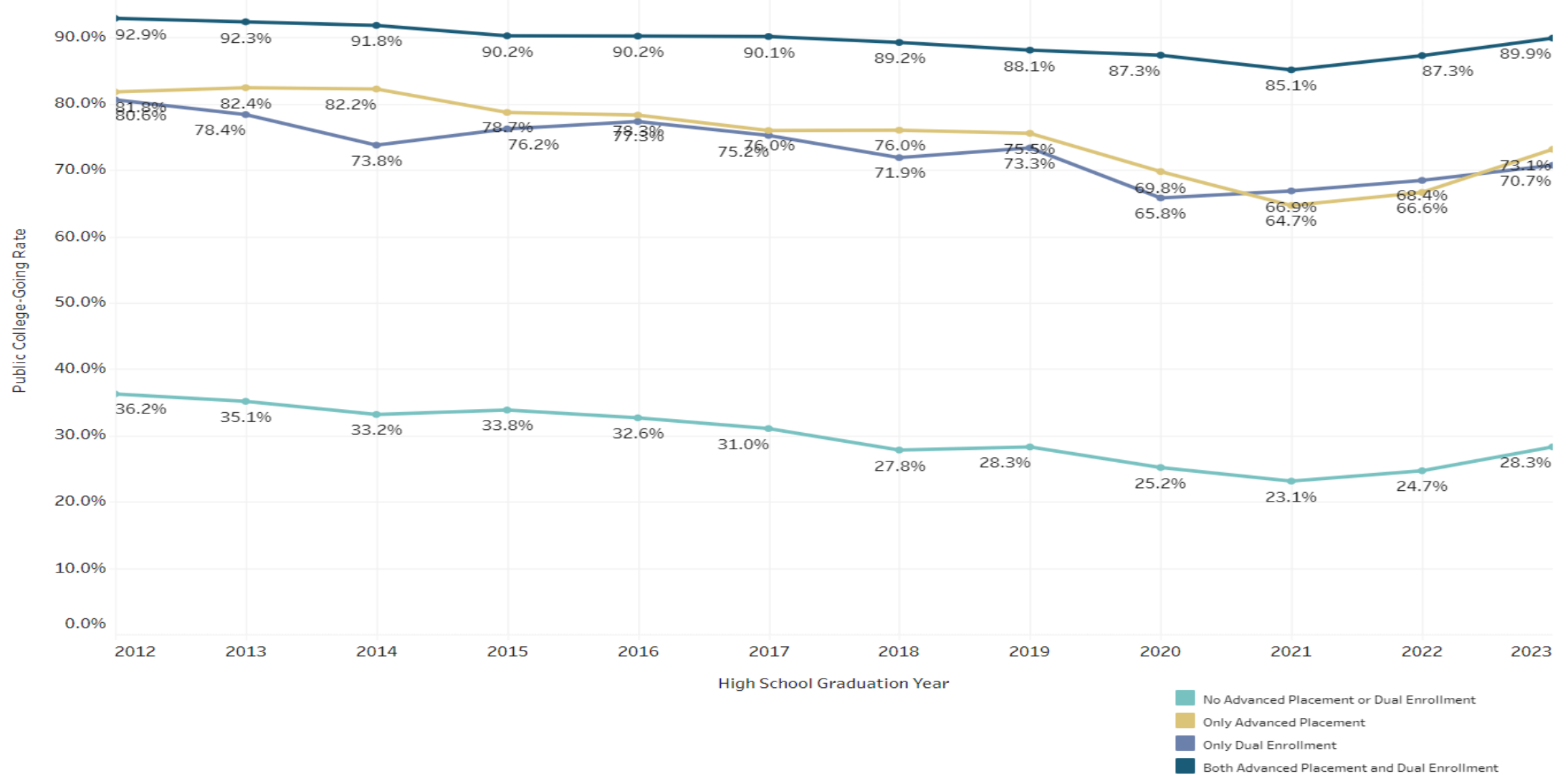
- Least likely to be college-bound (9%)
- Affordability top reason for selecting college/not attending
- Less likely to have taken AP/dual courses
- 29% had been on a campus in last year

College Positivists (4%)

"Fun, exciting, good"

- More likely to be college-bound (74%)
- Affordability top reason for selecting college/not attending
- Average levels of AP/dual courses
- 54% had been on a campus in last year

College-Going Rate for Students with College Credit



²<https://www.wvhepc.edu/resources/data-and-publication-center/cgr/>

Dual Enrollment Pilot

2023 Dual Enrollment Pilot

- Previously, pockets of county-level funding were available for selected students to take dual enrollment courses.
- In 2023, the West Virginia state legislature provided funding to implement a statewide dual enrollment pilot program.
- The pilot extended the opportunity to take dual enrollment courses to all students, including lower income students who might not have had the financial resources to participate in the past.
- The initiative is unique in that students are enrolled in pathways aligned with state workforce needs.
- It includes technical education pathways, such those leading to careers in manufacturing and aviation maintenance, often seen as outside traditional “academic” pathways to college.
- By taking a specific sequence of coursework, students can enter an educational pipeline to in-demand jobs within the state.

Anticipated Benefits

The program is poised to provide multiple benefits for students and the state:

For Students:

- ✓ It increases access to college courses on campuses before students graduate from high school, potentially increasing postsecondary enrollment rates.
- ✓ Students apprehensive about coursework difficulty might have concerns allayed after exposure.
- ✓ Taking coursework on a physical college campus may help students see the benefit of continued education in terms of future employment and may show them that postsecondary education is for “someone like me.”
- ✓ Shorter time to college credential completion by accumulating college credits toward a degree may reduce overall cost.
- ✓ Those from disadvantaged economic backgrounds may see greater benefits as lower income students have enrolled in postsecondary institutions at lower rates³ and have had lower retention⁴ and graduation rates⁴.

For the State:

- ✓ Students completing a credential more quickly may result in their entering the workforce sooner.
- ✓ Shorter time to complete undergraduate credentials may yield savings for state aid programs.

³<https://www.wvhepc.edu/resources/data-and-publication-center/cgr/>

⁴<https://www.wvhepc.edu/resources/data-and-publication-center/data-center-retention/>

Pilot Implementation

- Institutional participation was optional for the first year
- Small number of pathways that institutions could opt into
- Caps on the number of registrations submitted each semester to gauge the demand
- Flexibility with deadlines for data submission

Series 19-Dual Enrollment Pilot Program

- Must receive credit at both secondary and post-secondary level
- Must offer OER courses (to the extent practical)
- Each student is assigned an academic advisor (from the college)
- A syllabus review-must have the same learning objectives and academic standards as the regular college course

Lessons Learned

- Standard template for MOU between higher education institutions and K-12 schools and districts
- Embed data collection within existing data collection efforts
- Repeat the message (over and over)
- Continue to improve public facing information

Assessing Impact

Multi-Agency Data Sharing Agreements

WV Department of Education

Provides K-12 Data

- High School
- Grade Level
- Course Number & Name (K-12)

WV Higher Education Policy Commission

Provides Higher Education Data

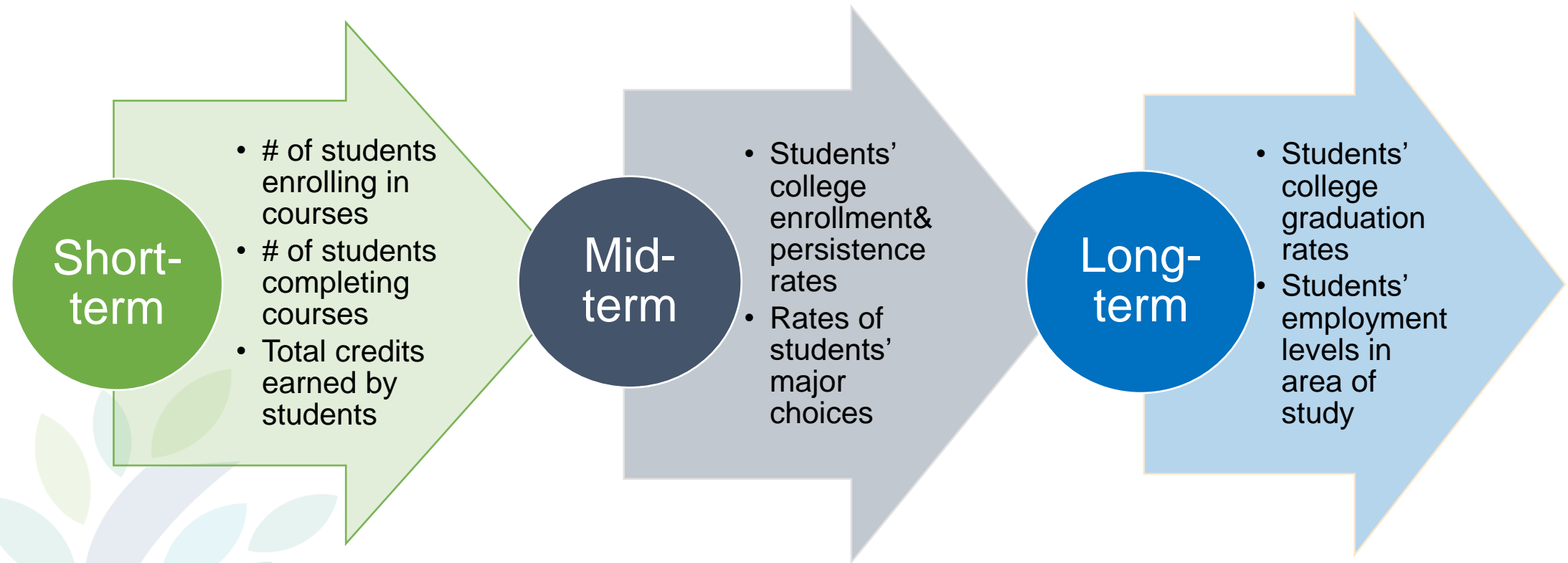
- Institution
- Course Number & Name (Postsecondary)
- Grade

Workforce WV

Provides WV Employment Data

- Employment Status
- Field of Employment

Measuring Impact



Changes in Students' Attitudes Statewide

Discussion

Suggested Discussion Topics

What are your thoughts regarding the initiative, implementation or measurement strategy?

Have you developed similar programs? What have you learned?