

IMPROVING EQUITY IN ILLINOIS THROUGH DIRECT ADMISSIONS

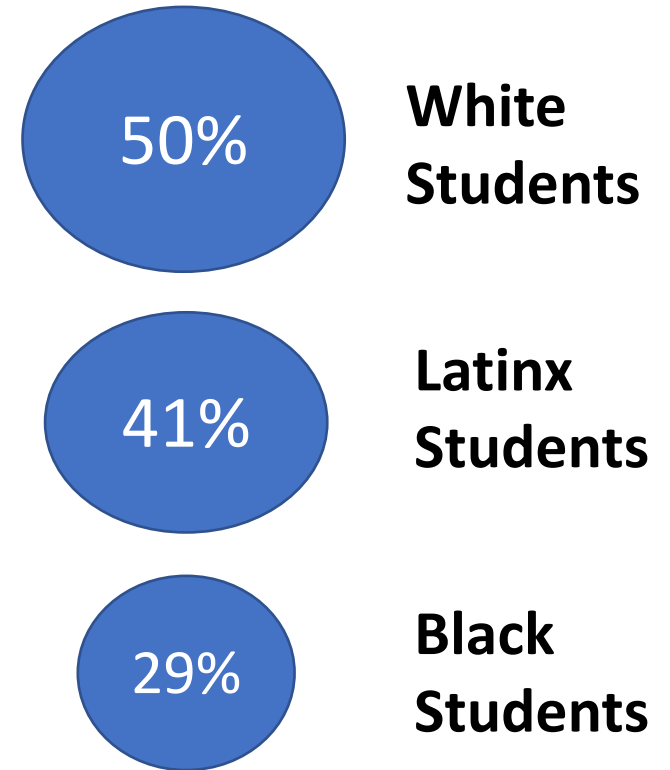
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Partnership for College Completion



PARTNERSHIP FOR COLLEGE COMPLETION

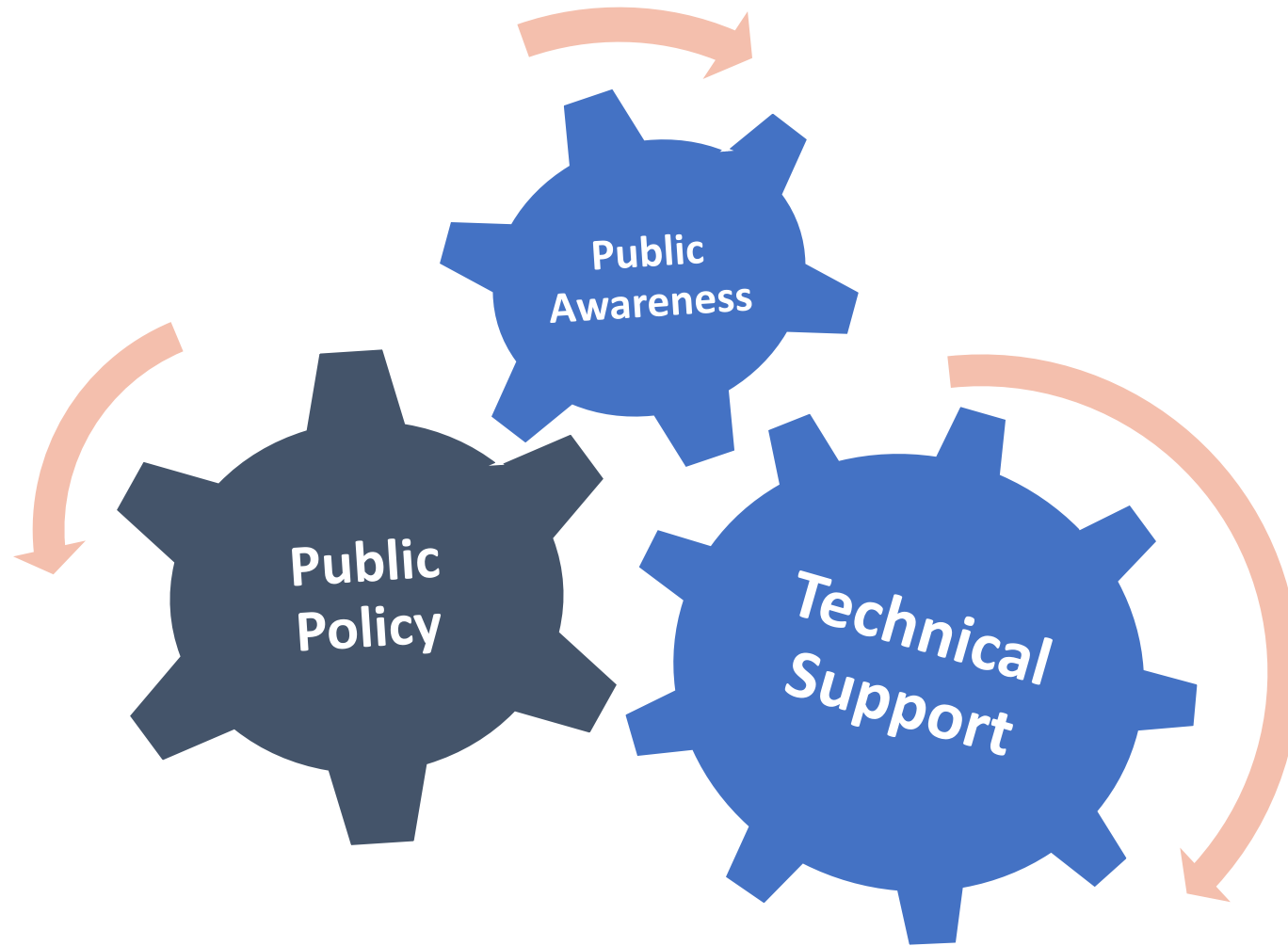
The **Partnership for College Completion (PCC)** is a regional nonprofit organization launched in 2016 dedicated to increasing college completion rates in and around Chicago, particularly for low-income students, first generation college goers, and Black and Latinx students. PCC champions policies, systems, and practices that ensure all students in Illinois graduate from college.

Completion Rates



Source: IPEDS, Graduation rates 2015.

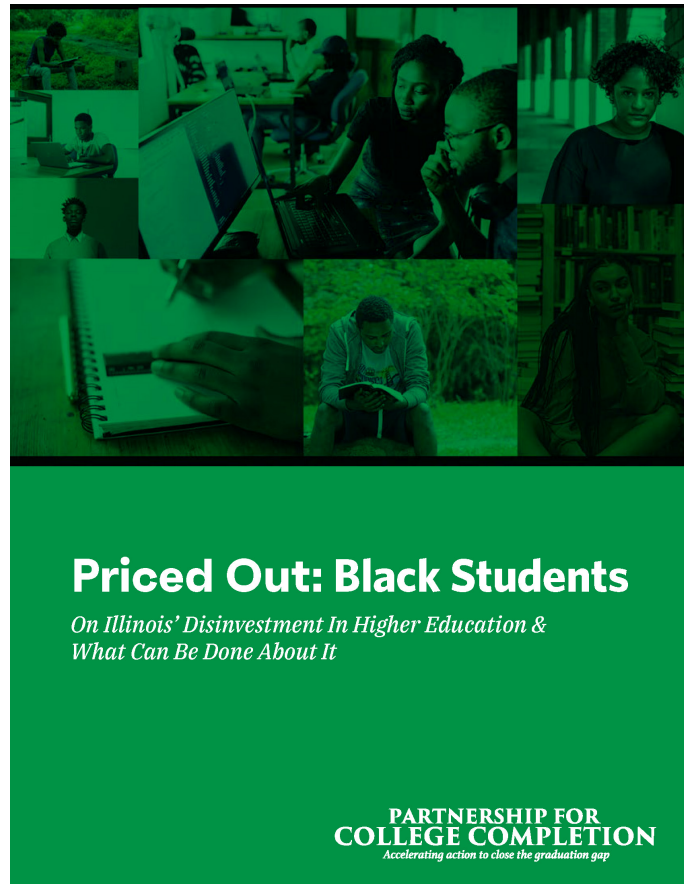
OUR APPROACH



Raise your
hand if...



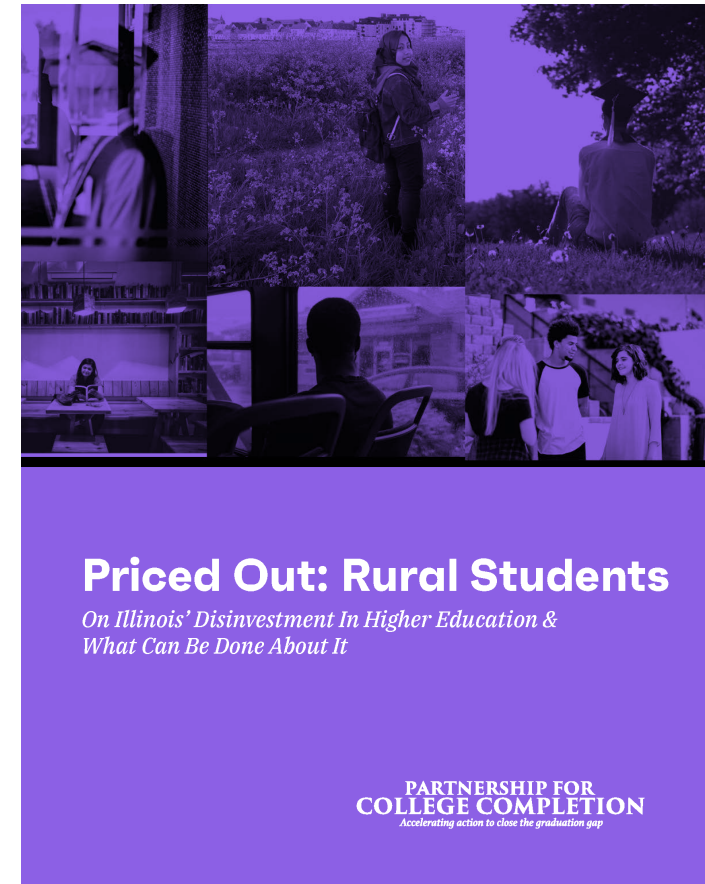
PRICED OUT: ON ILLINOIS' DISINVESTMENT IN HIGHER EDUCATION & WHAT CAN BE DONE ABOUT IT



Black Students Report
October 22nd



Latinx Students Report
October 29th



Rural Students Report
November 6th

AFFORDABILITY STUDY FINDINGS IN BRIEF



POLICY

- 17 years of disinvestment has given Illinois affordability issues**
- Disproportionately affected rural, Black, and Latinx students

Black Students

Black student enrollment is at crisis levels, and wealth gaps contribute to both access and debt issues

Latinx Students

Latinx four-year degree increases have not kept up with student growth, and debt aversion plays a role in access and outcomes

Rural Students

Rural students are divided by ability to afford 4-year college, but those attending often can't afford to return

Enrollment crisis for black students

- 11,700 fewer black students from 2007-2017
- Disproportionate Black student enrollment in for-profit colleges
- Universities receiving more resources enroll fewer Black students

Declining demand for public universities receiving less resources


Gaps in completion and transfer



Latinx students more likely to attend community college

- More than 2x growth in community college enrollment and degrees
- Population outpacing bachelor's degree completion by 40%
- Latinx community college students are about 30% less likely to transfer than White students

Rural students largely attend public colleges and universities

- Lower bachelor's degree completion, higher associate degree completion
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Disinvestment has led to high costs

- 50% higher net price than Midwest average
- IL's less costly 4-year colleges and universities are not racially representative
- 1.5 million MAP grants suspended since 2002

Black and Latinx students have less ability to pay

- **Example:** Household wealth for families with \$36k-\$61k
 - Black households: \$11,000
 - Latinx households: \$8,600
 - White households: \$86,100
- For rural students, reversed but high opportunity costs

Policy Recommendations

- ❖ Equity in higher education funding
- ❖ Fully funded need-based aid program
- ❖ Phase-out MAP from for-profit institutions
- ❖ Provide students with completion grants
- ❖ Improve developmental education placement and delivery models
- ❖ **Implement a direct admissions program for all public colleges and universities**



DIRECT ADMISSIONS TO IMPROVE EQUITY

- Outcomes from early implementers suggest
 - Increase enrollment
 - Increase college-going
 - Positive correlation with college enrollment behavior for Black and Latinx students
 - First generation college students are positively influenced by direct admission letters

Source: Howell, Carson. “Surprise! You Are Accepted to College: An Analysis of Idaho’s Direct Admissions Initiative.” Boise State University, 2018.

<https://doi.org/10.18122/td/1478/boisestate>.

OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE EQUITY IN IL

House Bill 26 (*Rep. Thapedi/Sen. Collins*)

- Proactively send letter of acceptance
 - Include information on local community colleges
 - Reminder to fill out FAFSA
 - Reminder that they can still apply under the normal processes
- Consider test optional/test blind practices
- All public universities participate
- Invest in retention practices and programs for Black and Latinx students and first generation college students
- Fully fund the Monetary Award Program (MAP)

Thank You!

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