



Student Perspectives on Direct Admissions

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Introducing Young Invincibles



Takeaways

- Need to Engage Students
- Direct Admissions' Potential
- Students Questions & Concerns
- Focus Efforts Around Today's Students

**Students:
Issue experts &
powerful advocates**



Direct admissions: powerful message



Student's Initial Reaction...

- **Important Messages:**

- Yes, you are college ready
- Yes, you are ready for colleges you may not have imagined applying to

“I wish someone had told me I had options”

- **Broaden horizons:** Consider additional colleges or career pathways

“I’d hear: I’m not screwed”

- **Prompt Action:** By easing the application process, increase likelihood apply to several colleges.

...Then, will this work?

- **Will people from my community benefit?**

- Need support from guides to make an informed decision
- Need financial aid information

“I can’t even get my counselors to send transcripts on time, let alone get the information I need to make a decision.”

- **Or will this just benefit middle and high income families?**

- Make it easier for more affluent students to snap up seats
- Account for racial bias in traditional metrics

“Without financial aid information, I’d just say ‘oh, that’s cool.’”

**Meet the needs of
today's students**



Illinois Students Struggle

	# of Students	% of Students	Affordable Colleges*
Work >20 hrs/wk	490,000	77%	8%
Housing Insecure	100,000	15%	Zero
Parents	97,000	14%	3%

* “Affordable” based on Lumina Foundation Rule of 10 methodology

Considerations for Future Policy

- Intersection of access, affordability, climate, and wraparound supports
- Provide exposure to campuses and campus climate
- Connect to careers