

# The Postsecondary Outcomes of High School Dual Enrollment Students: A National and State-by-State Analysis

February 6, 2025



Host: Jenny Parks, Vice President, Policy and Research, MHEC



Any resources available will be posted on the MHEC website post-event.



Engage with colleagues in the chat.



Keep your questions in the Q&A!



Please complete our survey.

# CCRC Guest Presenters



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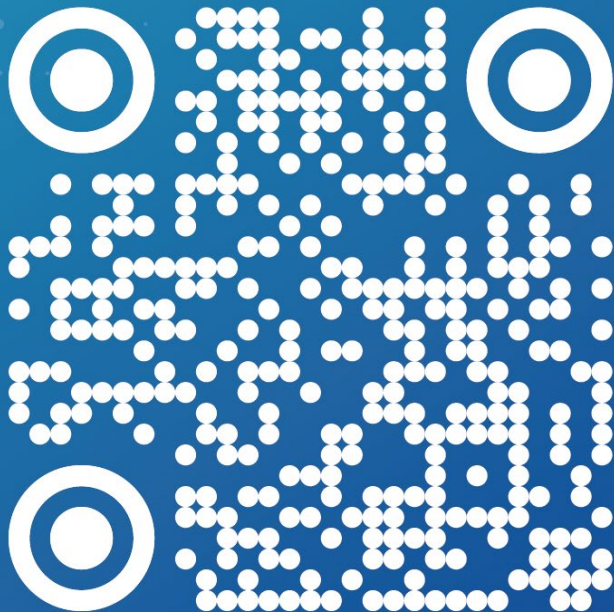


# The Postsecondary Outcomes of High School Dual Enrollment Students

A National and State-by-State Analysis

# DEEP@CCRC

Resources on dual enrollment equity pathways for K-12 and college practitioners.



## CCRC's DEEP Research

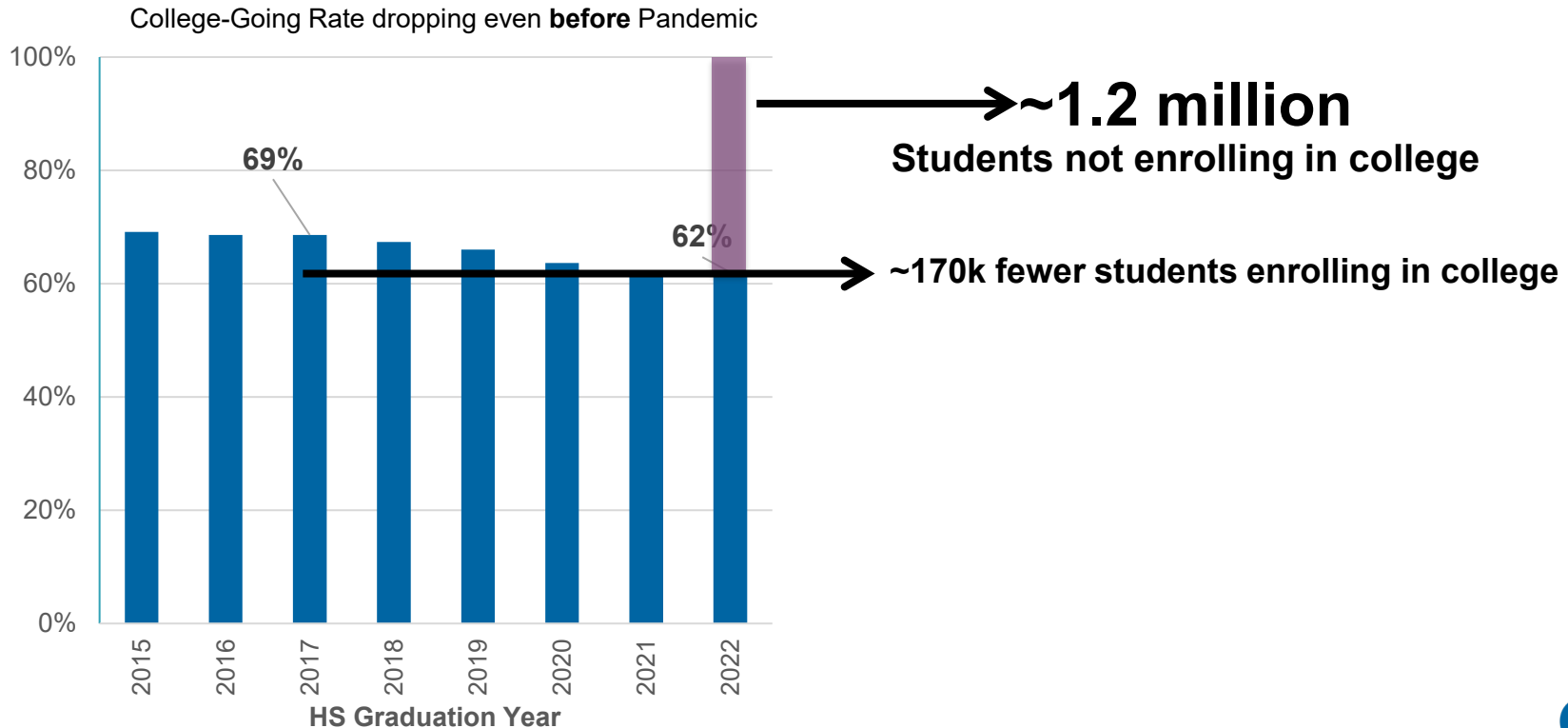
### Research-Based Guidance

- Dual Enrollment Playbook (2020)
- Redesigning DE as a Purposeful Pathway (2023)
- How States and Systems Can Support Practitioner Efforts (2024)
- What Do DE Students Want? (2024)
- Postsecondary Outcomes of DE Students (2024)

### Data & Inquiry Resources

- Disaggregated DE Data by High School (2021) College (2024)
- DEEP Practice Scale of Adoption Assessment (2025)

# Challenge and Opportunity: Declining College-Going Rates among HS Graduates

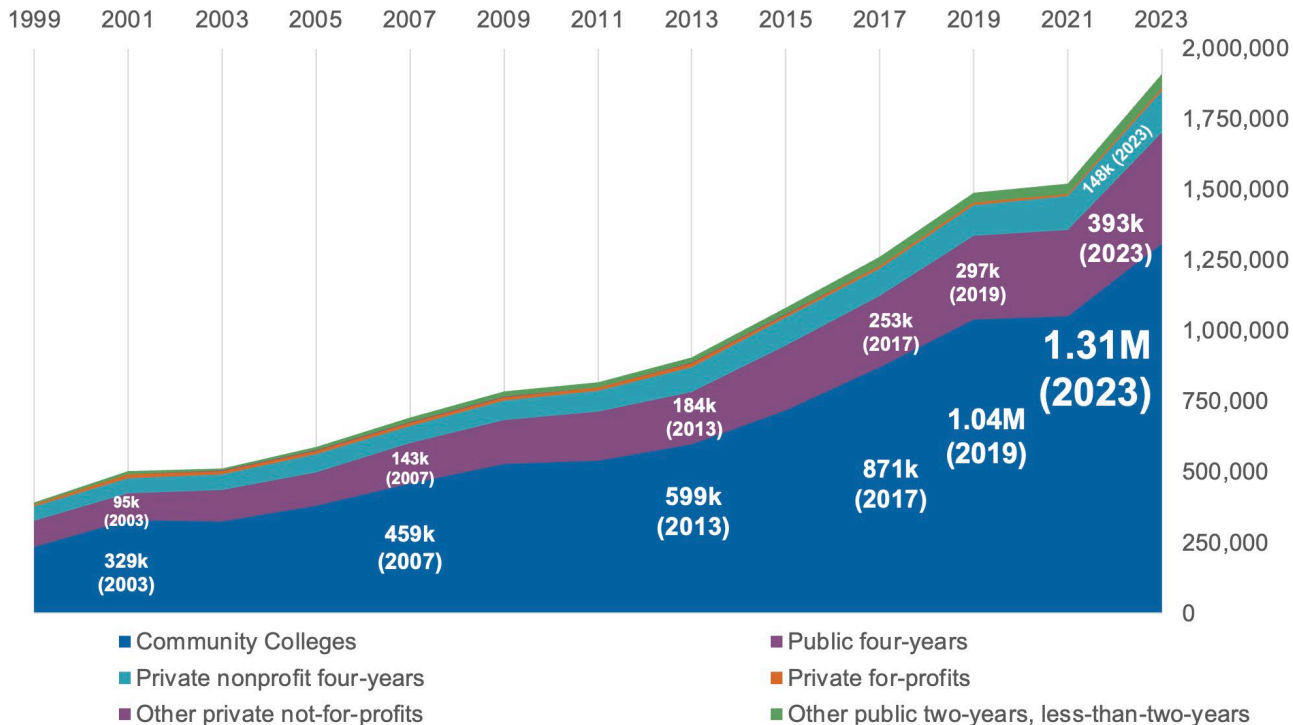


# Growth of Dual Enrollment

1999-2023

IPEDS Fall Enrollments

Fall Undergraduate Enrollments among Students Aged 17 or Younger



## Expansion of Dual Enrollment Concentrated at Community Colleges

# 2.5M

## 2022-23

# First Ever Dual Enrollment Count in IPEDS 12-Month Enrollment Survey

## Dual Enrollment Counts by Postsecondary Sector in 2022-23

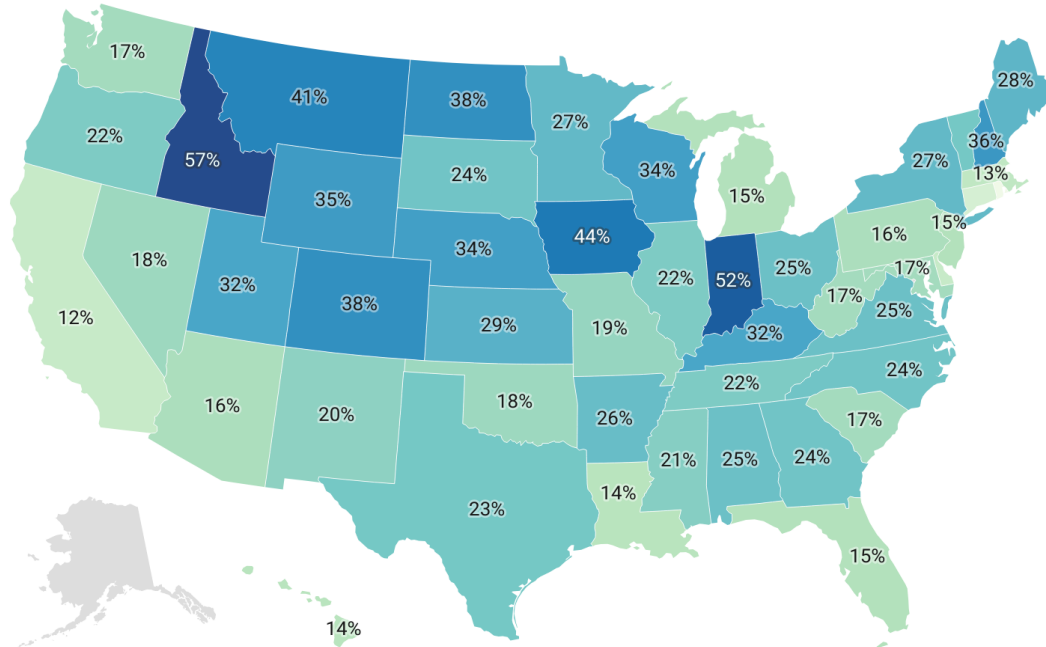
	Dual Enrollment	Total Undergraduate	Percent DE
Total	2,489,859	21,220,540	12
Community colleges	1,784,966	8,618,323	21
Public four-years	445,224	7,121,611	6
Private not-for-profit	207,652	3,504,732	6
Other public two-years, less-than-two-years	46,249	237,969	19
Private for-profits	5,768	1,737,778	0

IPEDS 12-Month Enrollment Survey, 2022-23 Academic Year

<https://ccrc.tc.columbia.edu/easyblog/how-many-students-are-taking-dual-enrollment-courses-in-high-school-new-national-state-and-college-level-data.html>

## Percentage of Community College Students in High School in 2022-23

Dual enrollment as a percent of  
community college headcount



Created with Datawrapper

**Dual Enrollment:  
21% of 2022-23  
Community College  
Enrollment**

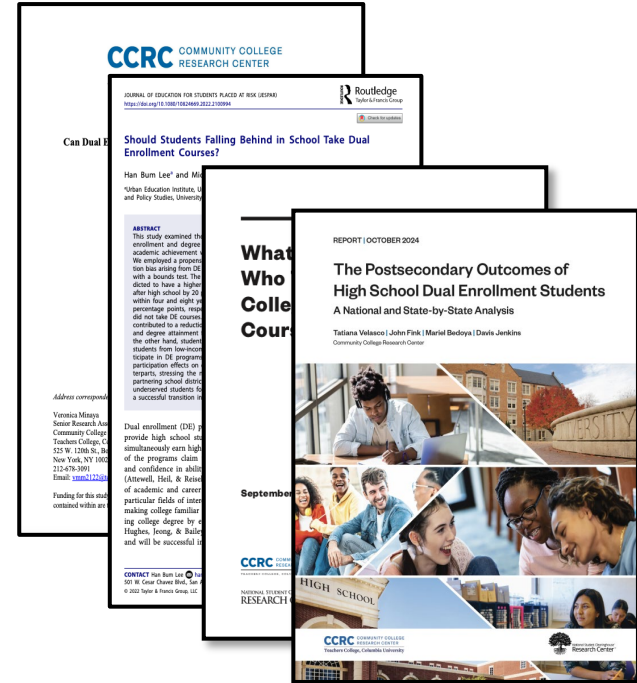


# Evidence on the effects of dual enrollment

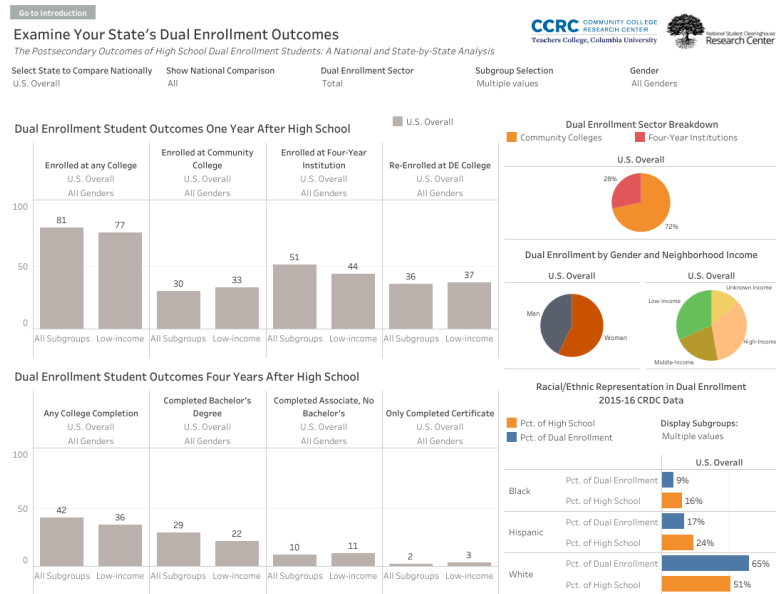
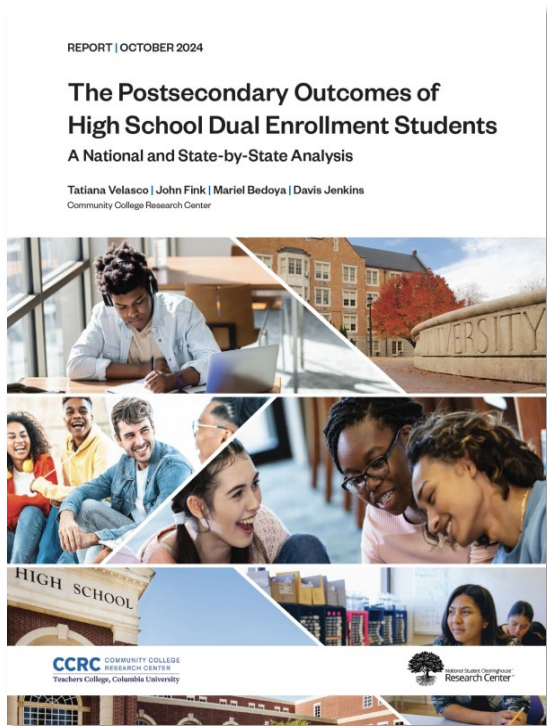
Increasing descriptive and quasi-experimental evidence for dual enrollment

- DE can benefit students who are falling behind in HS (Lee & Villarreal, 2022).
- Increase college application (Liu et al., 2022).
- Boost Black & Hispanic student entrance and persistence in STEM (Minaya, 2021).

Substantial state and institutional variation in post-HS college outcomes among former DE students



# We examine national and state-by-state postsecondary outcomes of DE students who started in the fall 2015



# Data and Definitions

## All college entrants in the fall of 2015:

- ✓ **Dual enrollment (DE) students:** High school students enrolled at a postsecondary institution for the first time ever in fall 2015. 88% were in 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade of high school.
- ✓ **Non-DE students:** High school students enrolled at a postsecondary institution for the first time ever in fall 2015.

- **Enrollment outcomes in students' first year after high school**
  - **DE student enrollment** at a postsecondary institution within the first year post high school
  - **Re-enrolled at DE college:** DE student returned to the DE institution for at least one term during the first year post-high school.
- **Completion outcomes within four years after high school**
  - **College Completion:** DE student completed a postsecondary award within four years post-high school.

*Within the first year post high school, 81% of students enrolled at a postsecondary institution.*



**Four in every five dual enrollment students went directly to college after high school**

*Within the first year post high school, 81% of students enrolled at a postsecondary institution. 51% enrolled at a four-year institution, and 30% at a community college*



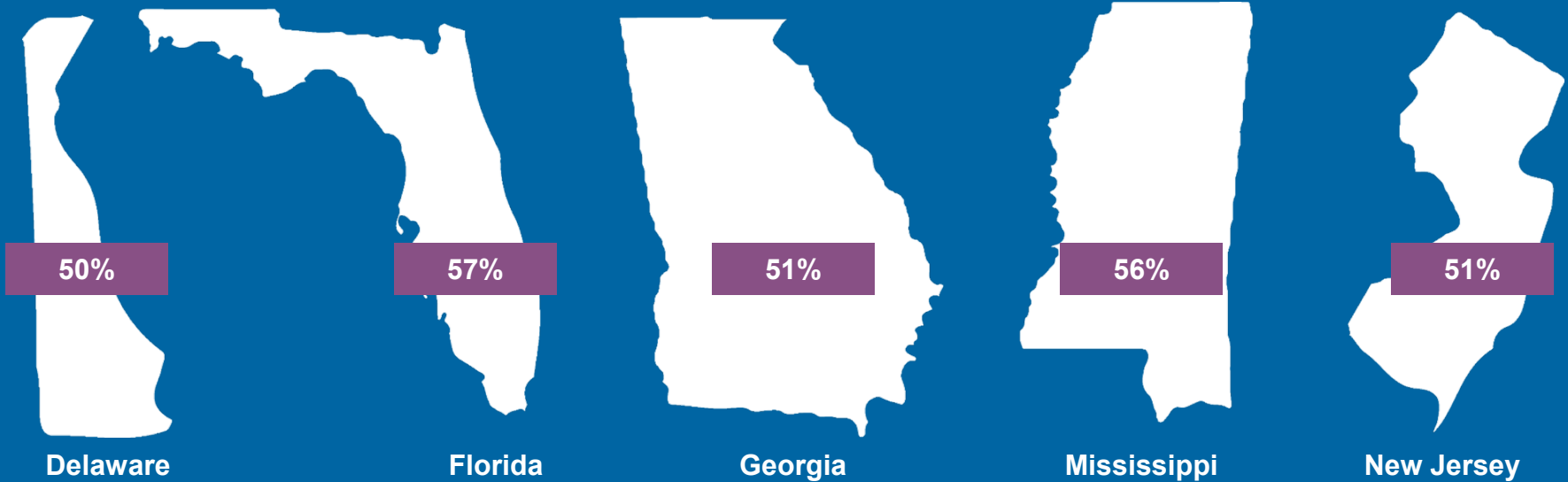
**Half of dual enrollment students went directly to a four-year institution.**

- ✓ *29% completed a bachelor's*
- ✓ *10% completed an associate*
- ✓ *2% completed a certificate*



**42% of dual enrollment students completed a credential within four years after high school**

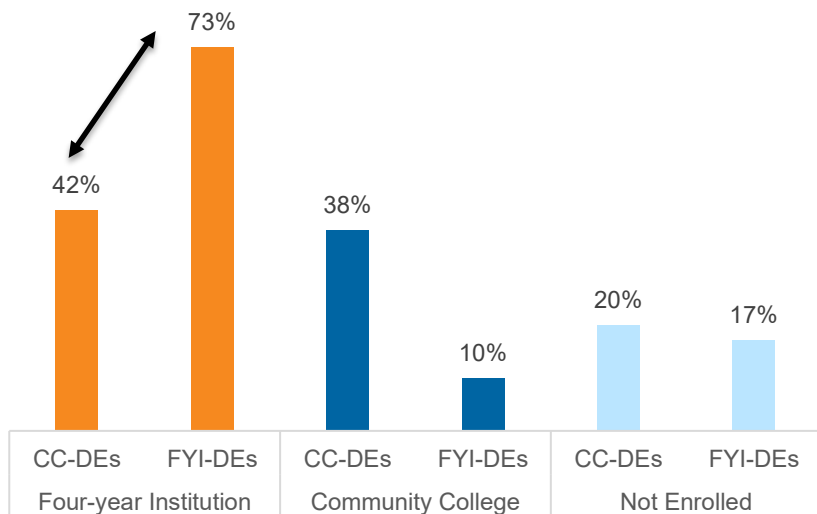
## Postsecondary outcomes of dual enrollment students were particularly strong in



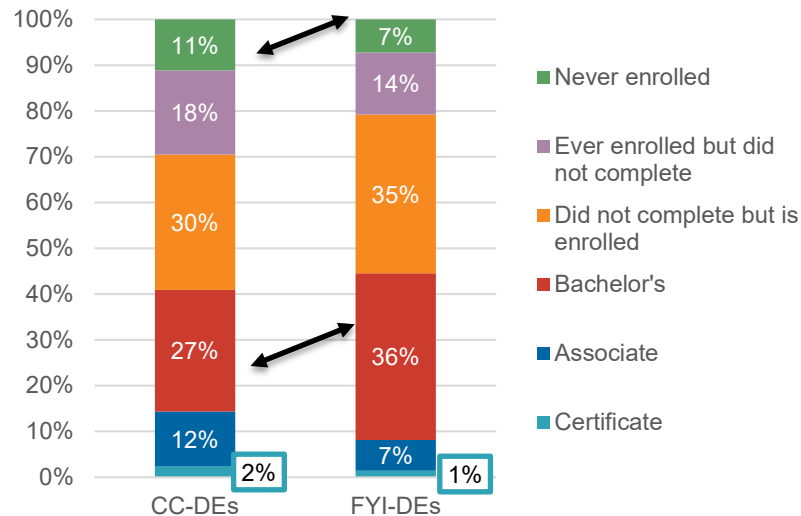
Of DE students completed an award within four years after high school

# Four-year Institutions' DEs (FYI-DEs) were more likely to enroll at a four-year and complete a bachelor's degree than community college DEs (CC-DEs).

Postsecondary enrollment (within first year after high school) of DE students, by DE college sector



Highest postsecondary outcome among dual enrollees four years after high school



*But Black, Hispanic, and low-income students are severely underrepresented among FYI-DEs*



## Students who took dual enrollment courses in high school have higher degree completion rates than students who did not



**50%**

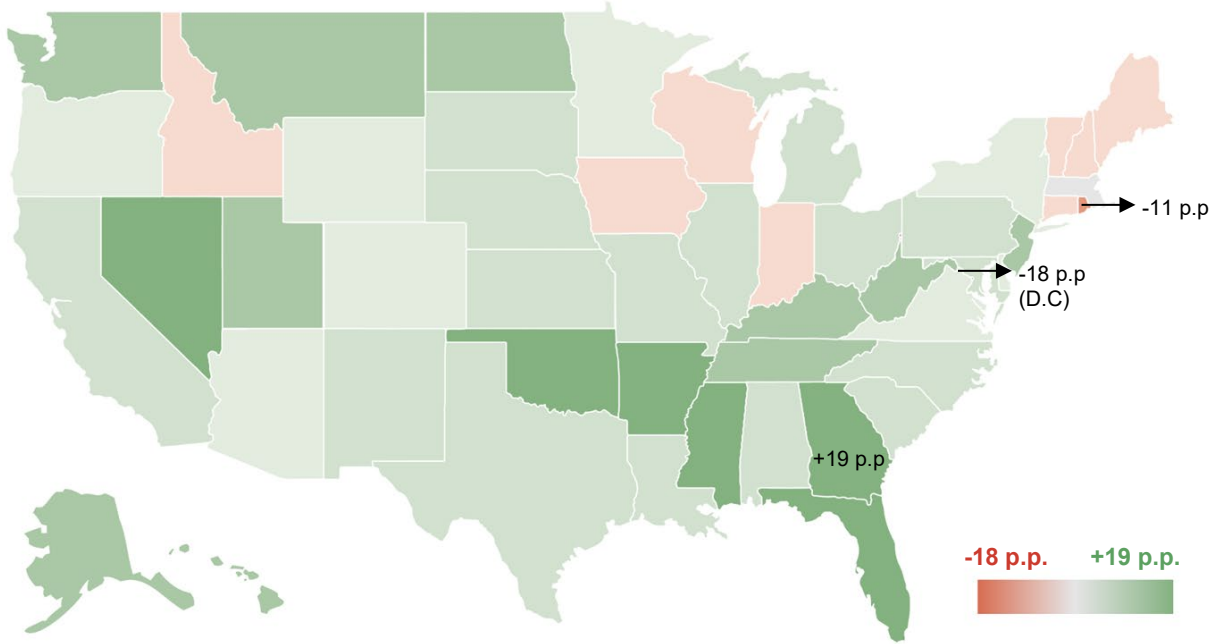
of the DE students who went to college completed a credential within four years



**44%**

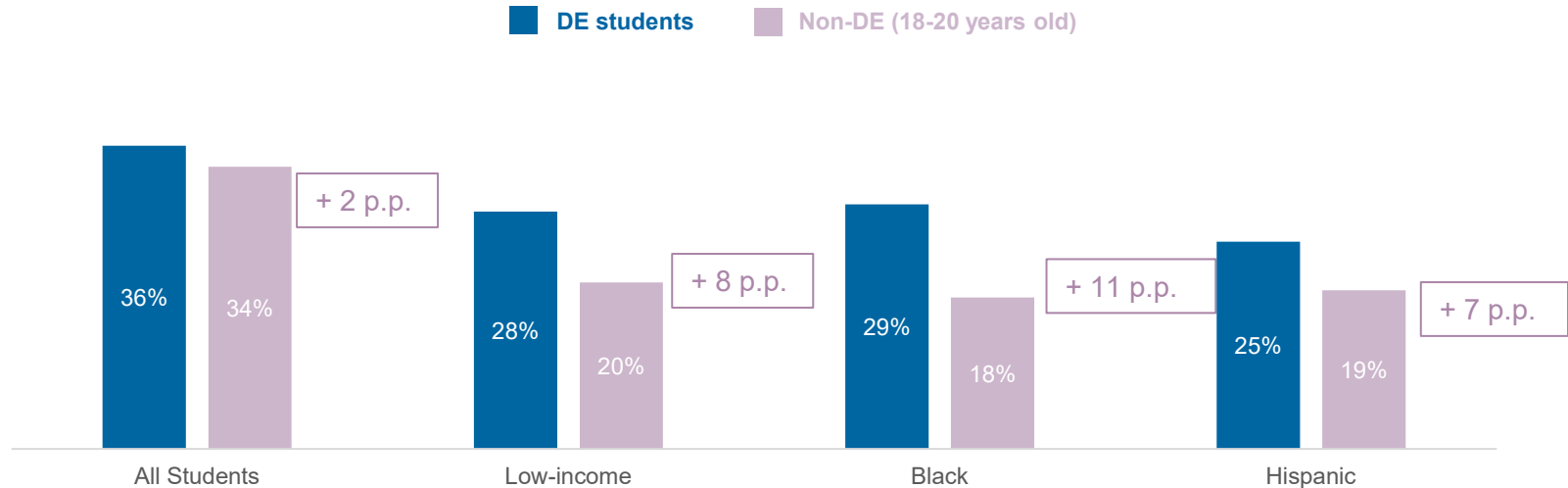
of non-DE students ages 18-20 completed a credential within four years

**In 41 states, DE was associated with higher college completion rates, and in 16 states, DE students showed double-digit higher completion rates.**



# Dual enrollment students enroll and complete college at high rates, but there are gaps in outcomes.

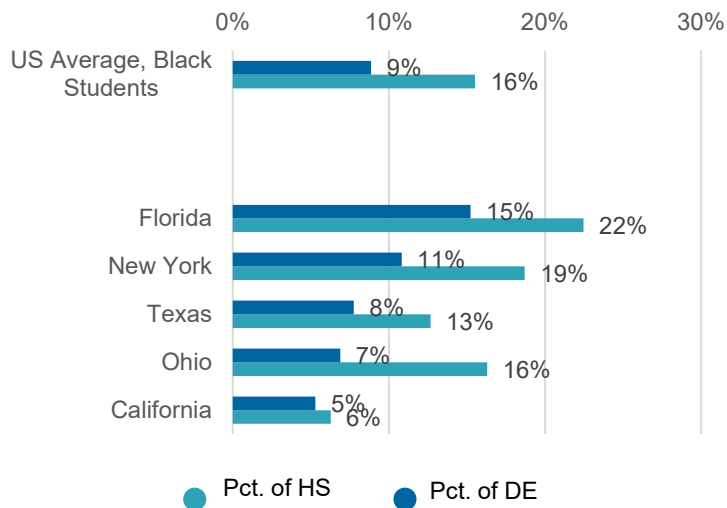
Bachelor's completion rate (within four years) by DE students who enrolled in a college within first year after high school and by non-DE (18–20) students



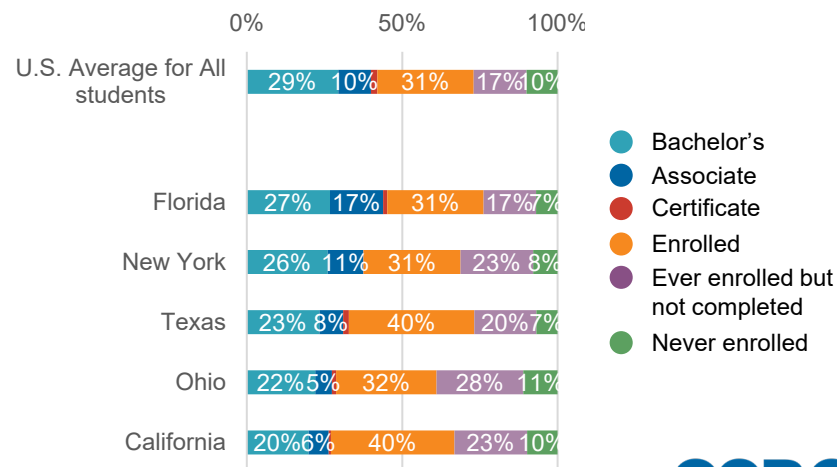
# Black students were severely underrepresented among DE students. In over half of states, Black DE students enrolled in postsecondary institutions at higher rates compared to the national DE average.

## Access to DE: Black student representation in DE compared to HS enrollment

Civil Rights Data Collection 2015-16 School Year



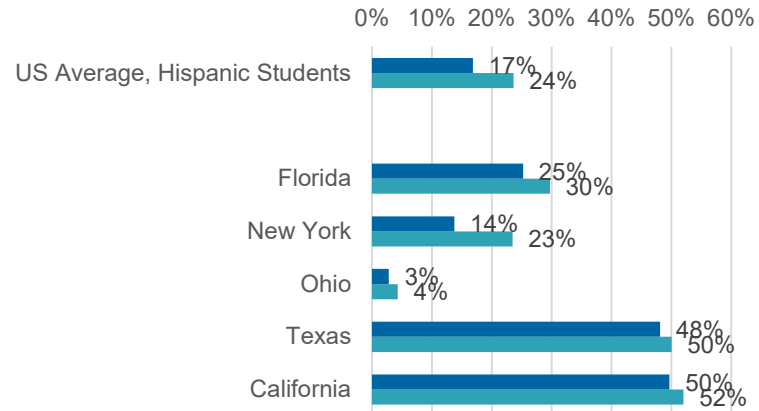
## Highest award completed within four-years post high school, Black DE students



# Hispanic students are underrepresented in DE in essentially every state, but some states have much stronger outcomes than others.

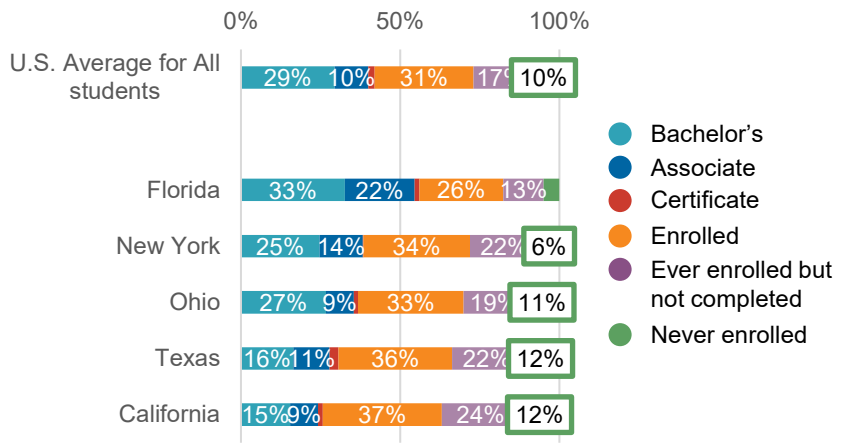
## Access to DE: Hispanic student representation in DE compared to HS enrollment

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● Pct. of HS    ● Pct. of DE

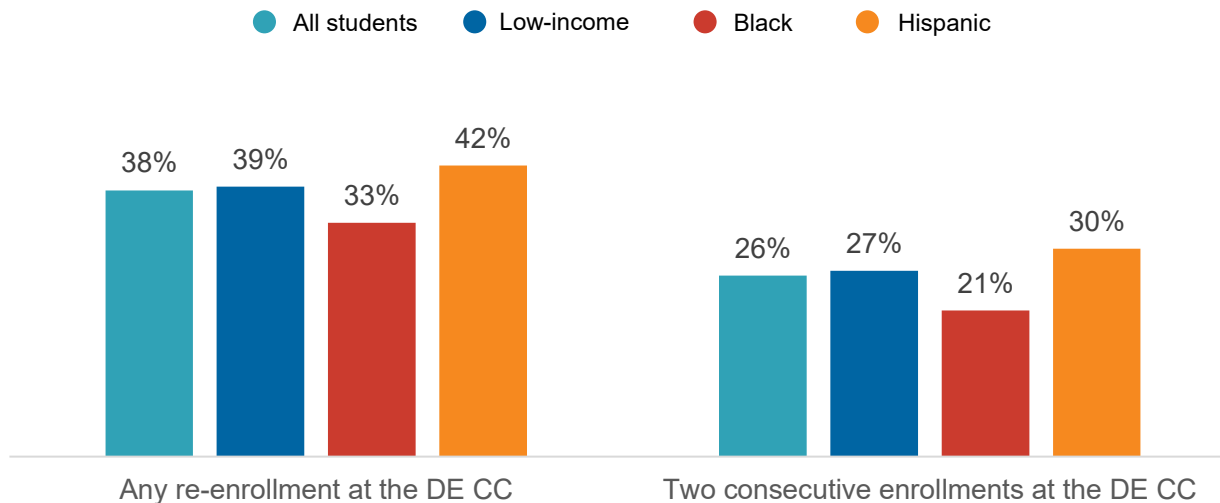
## Highest award completed within four-years post high school, Hispanic DE students



- Bachelor's
- Associate
- Certificate
- Enrolled
- Ever enrolled but not completed
- Never enrolled

**More than a third of community college dual enrollment students returned for at least one term to the same community college in the first year after high school—and about a quarter enrolled for at least two consecutive terms.**

Community college dual enrollees re-enrollment within one year post high school



# Data dashboard

# Thanks!