

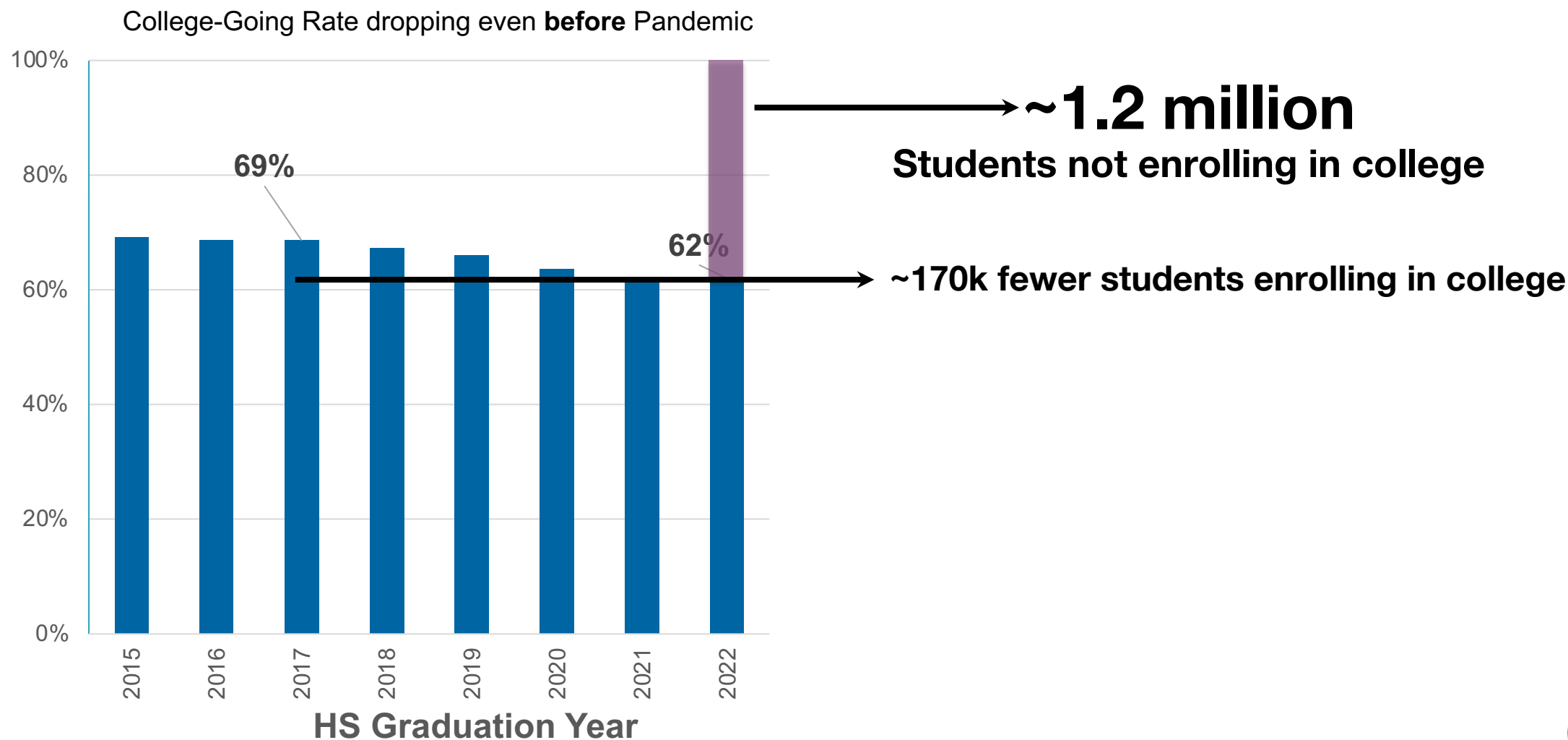
# Rethinking Dual Enrollment as a **Purposeful Pathway** To College and Career Opportunity

**Davis Jenkins** | AACC Commission on College Readiness | April 13, 2025

# Key Takeaways

- Conventional laissez-faire approach to dual enrollment (DE) has earned earned the monikers of “**Programs of Privilege**” and “**Random Acts**”
- DE has great potential but is **currently underutilized** as strategy to expand access to high-opportunity postsecondary pathways—and increase post-hs community college enrollments
- **Improvement is possible** – and essential to further expanding opportunity for students and building back enrollments for colleges

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



# 2.5M First Ever Dual Enrollment Count 2022-23 in IPEDS 12-Month Enrollment Survey (pre-2021)

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

	Dual Enrollment	Total Undergraduate	Percent DE
Total	2,489,859	21,220,413	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*

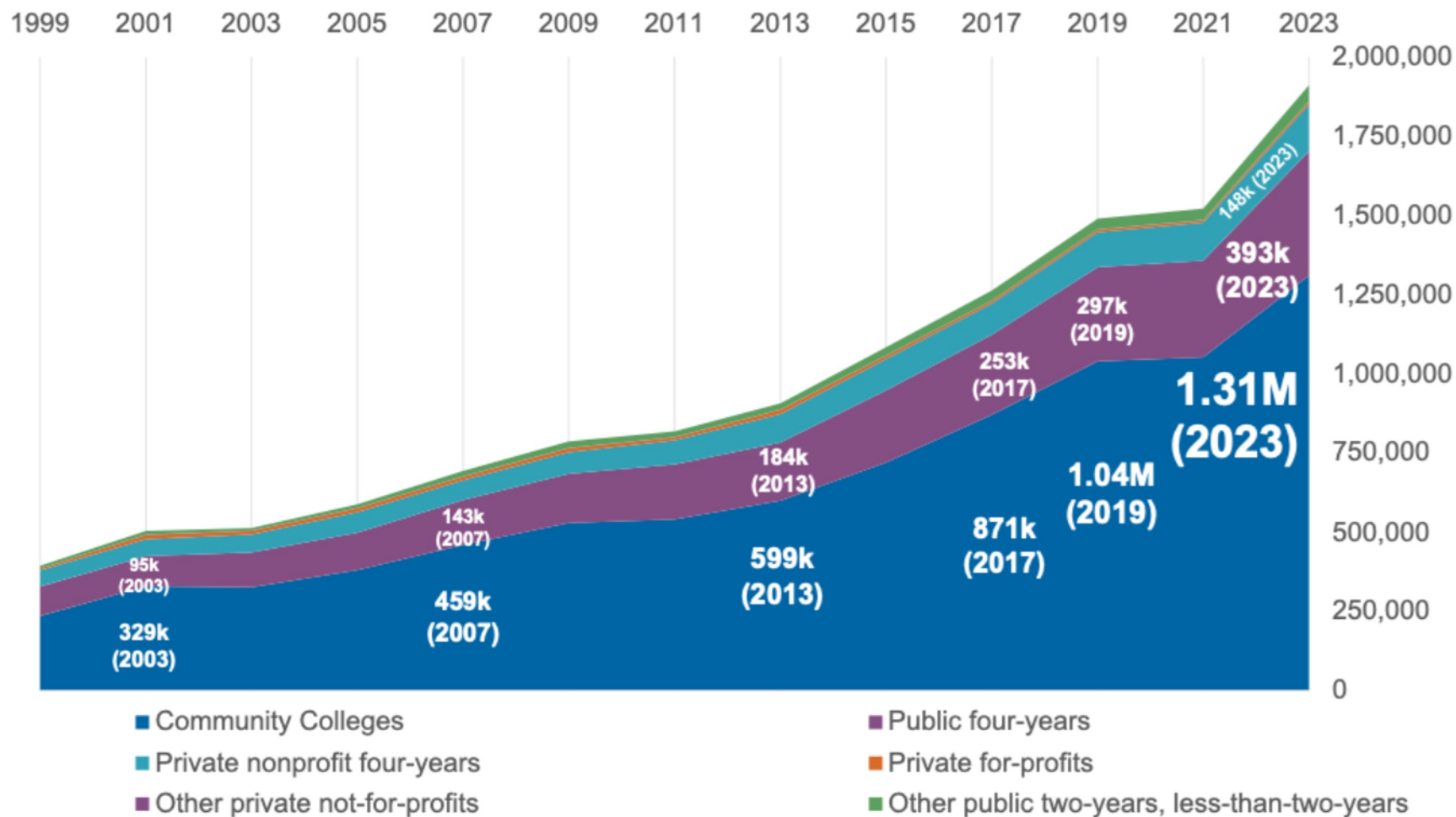


# Growth of Dual Enrollment

1999-2023

IPEDS Fall Enrollments

*Fall Undergraduate Enrollments among Students Aged 17 or Younger*

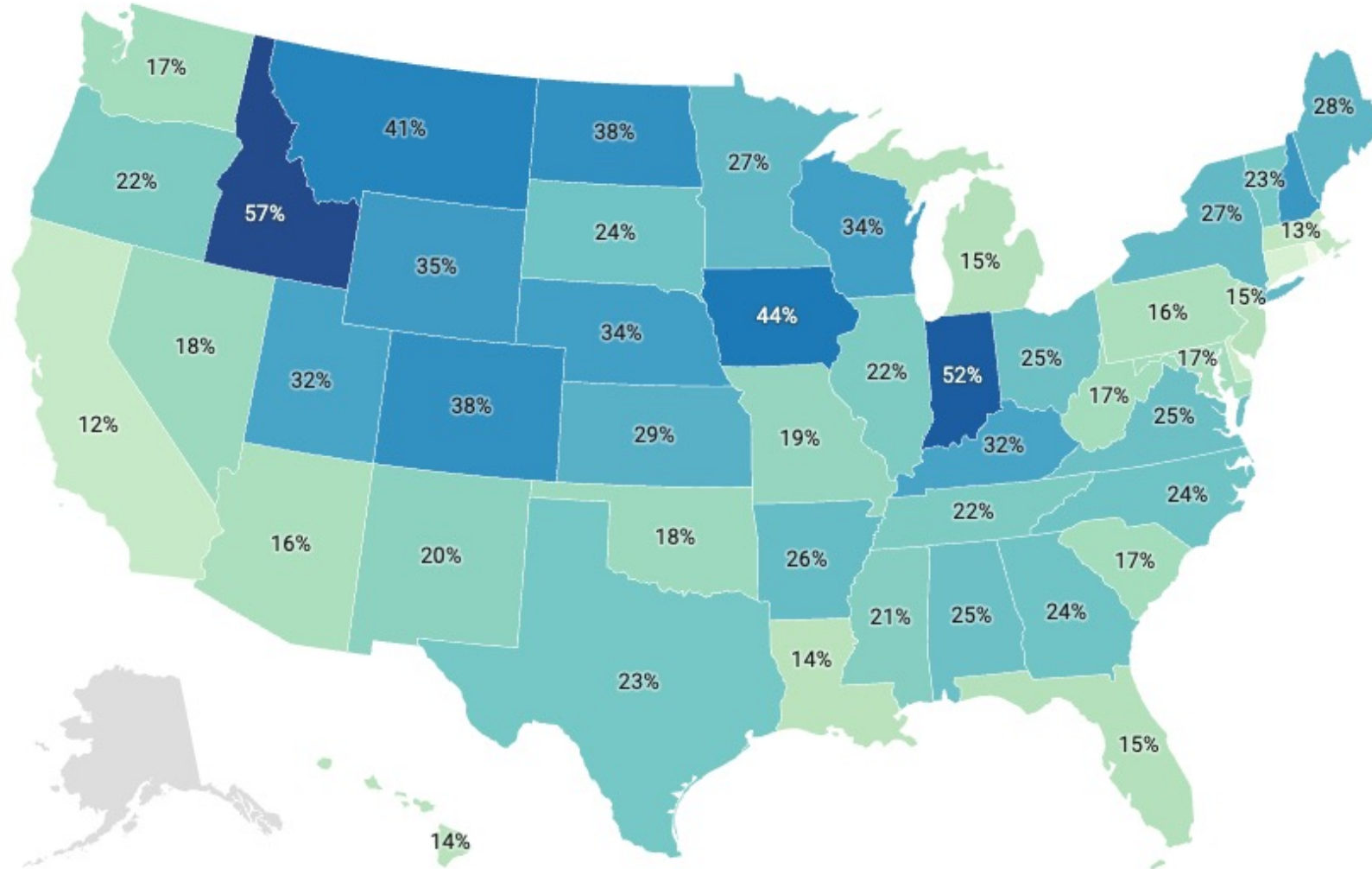


## Expansion of Dual Enrollment Concentrated at Community Colleges

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

Dual enrollment as a percent of  
community college headcount



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

# The MIXED METHODS Blog



## How Many Students Are Taking Dual Enrollment Courses In High School? New National, State, and College-Level Data

Essays · John Fink · Monday, 26 August 2024

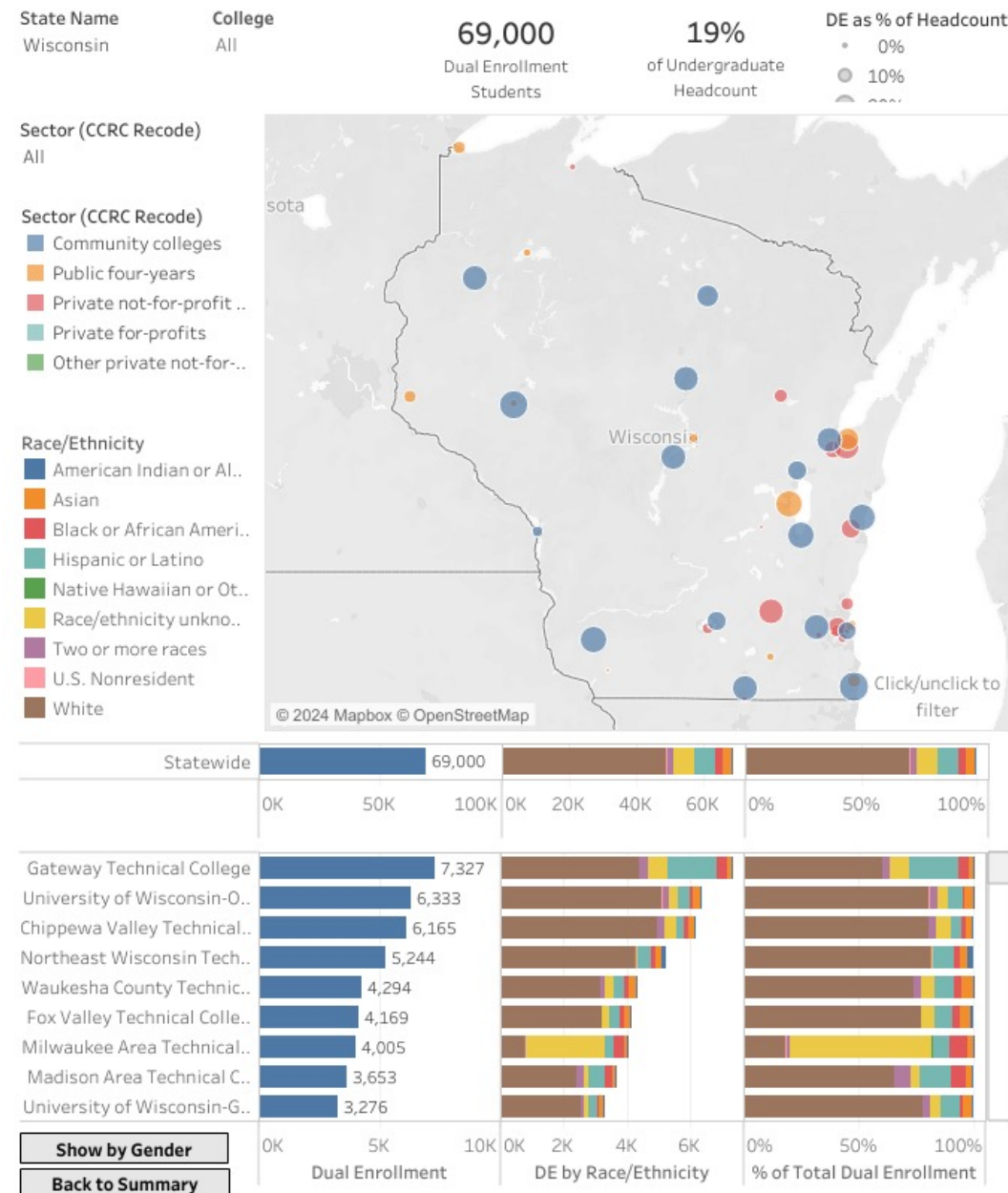
### Examine the Top Dual Enrollment Colleges within Your State

CCRC analysis of IPEDS Data

<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>

#### Dual Enrollment Racial/Ethnic Composition by College IPEDS 12-Month Undergraduate Headcount, 2022-23 AY Provisional Release, August 2024

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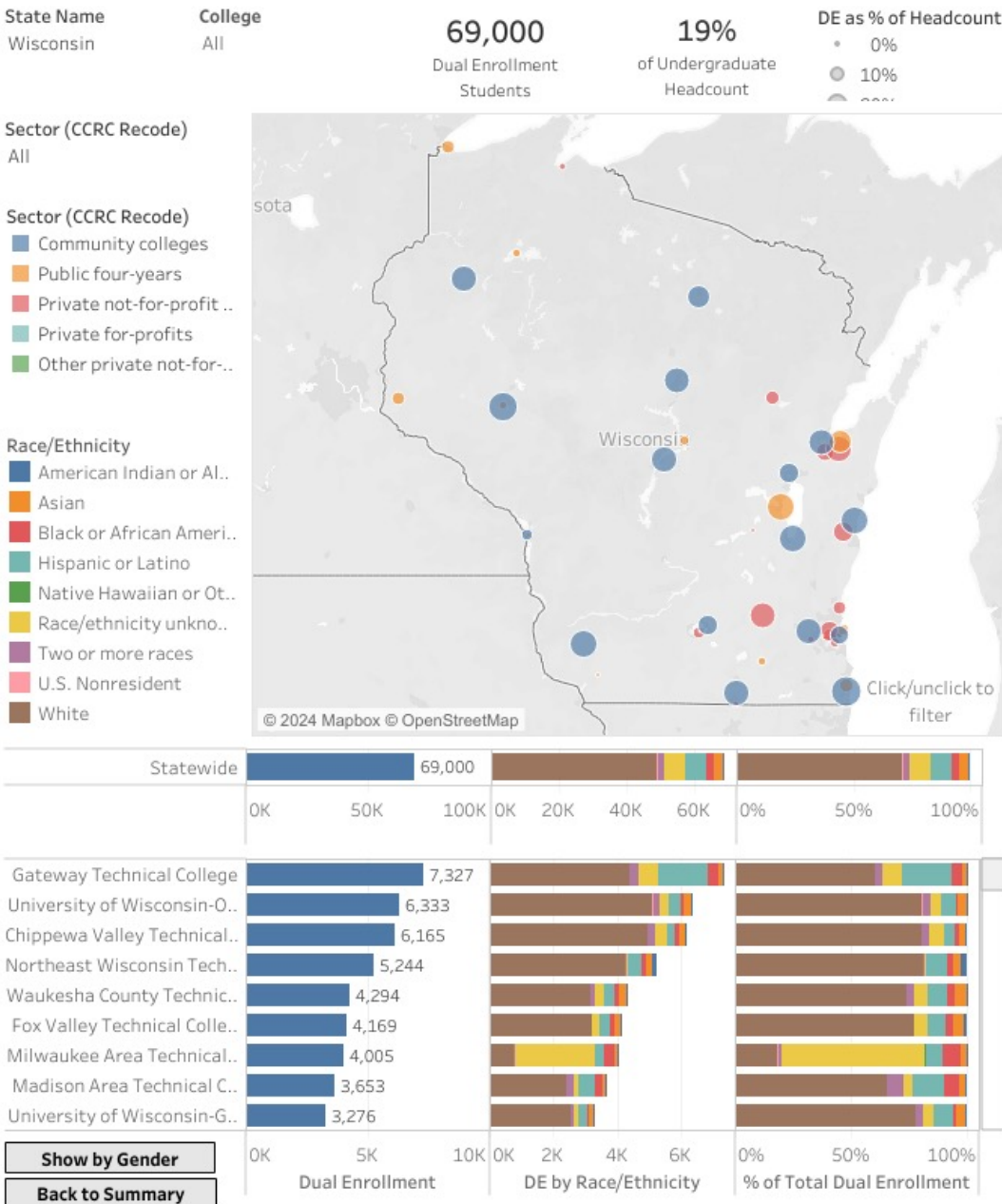
Essays · John Fink · Monday, 26 August 2024

Click on Your College to Filter the Results

CCRC analysis of IPEDS Data  
<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>

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# The MIXED METHODS Blog



## How Many Students Are Taking Dual Enrollment Courses In High School? New National, State, and College-Level Data

Essays · John Fink · Monday, 26 August 2024

## Compare Your College to National and State Results

CCRC analysis of IPEDS Data

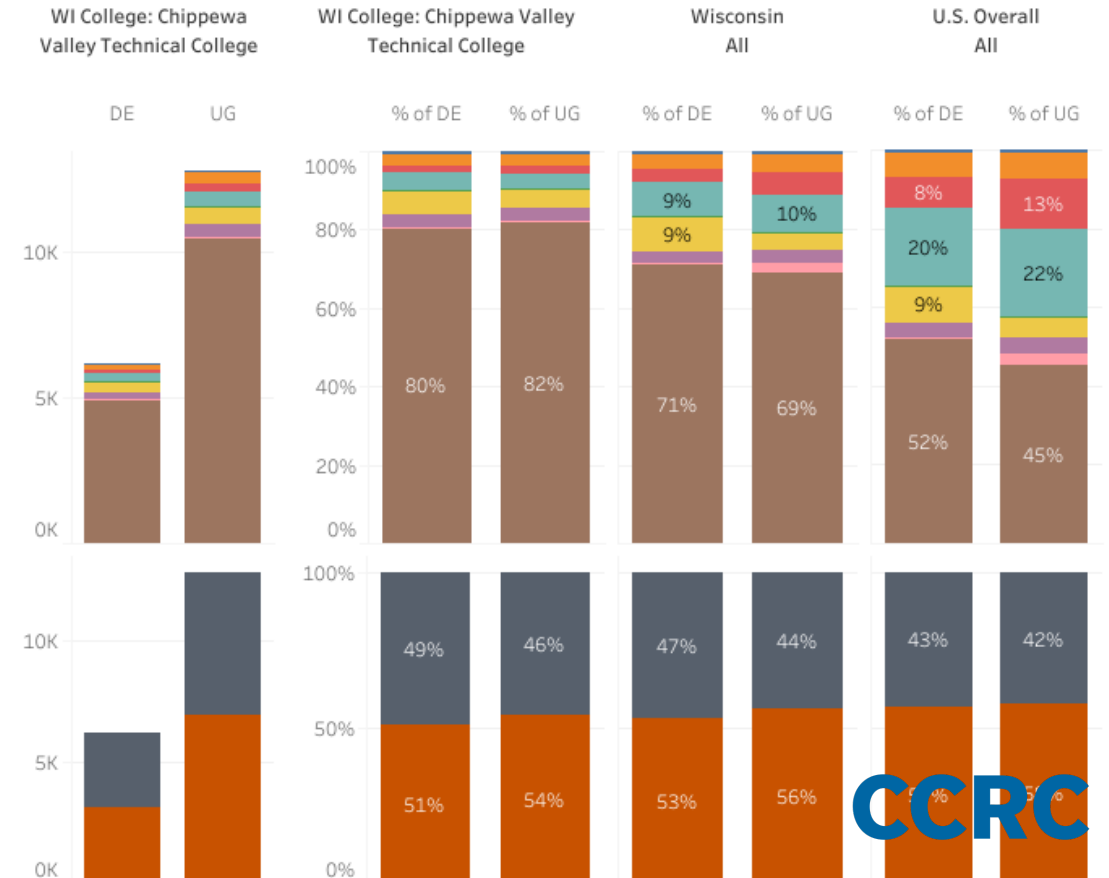
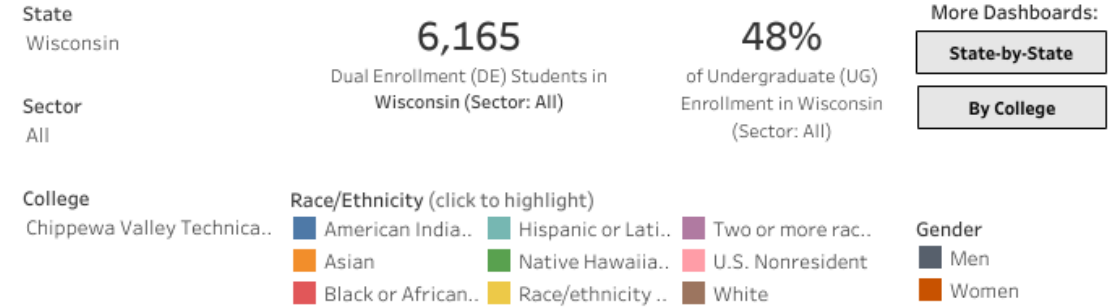
<https://ccrc.tc.columbia.edu/easyblog/how-many-students-are-taking-dual-enrollment-courses-in-high-school-new-national-state-and-college-level-data.html>

### Dual Enrollment: Postsecondary Enrollment among Students in High School

IPEDS 12-Month College Enrollments, 2022-23

Provisional Release, August 2024

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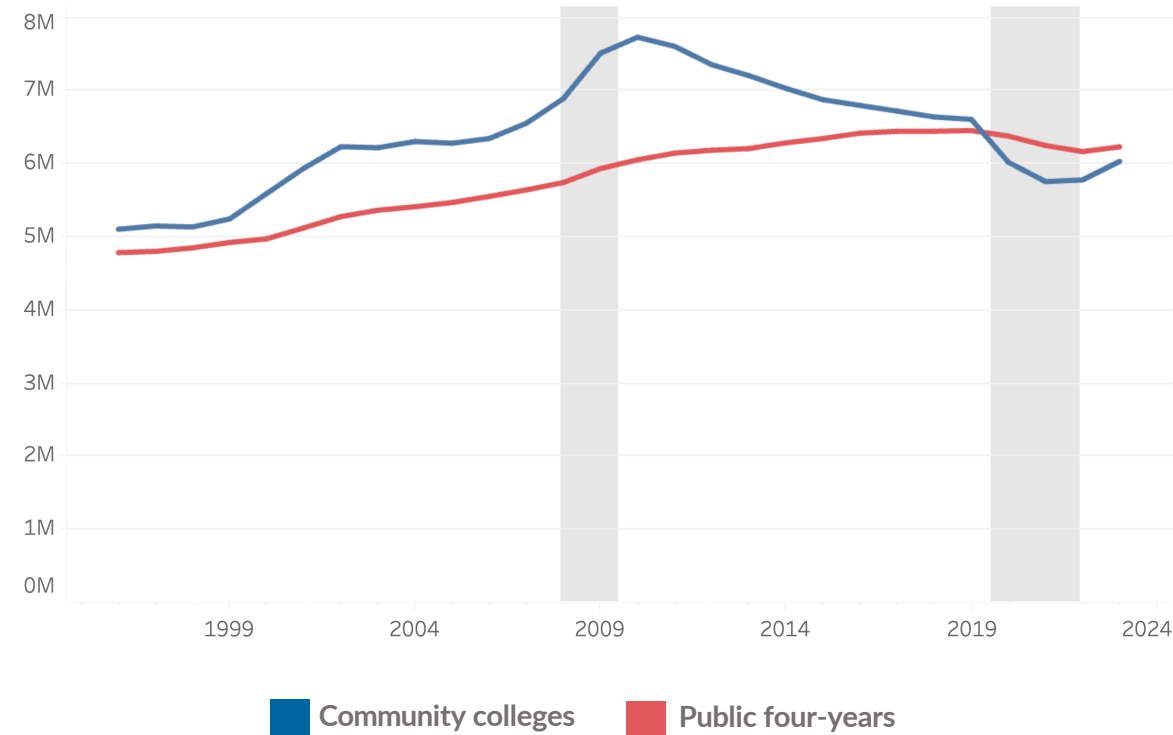


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# Community college enrollment decline ➡ Financial uncertainty

## Fall Enrollment Trends by Sector, All Undergraduates

*IPEDS Data, 1996-2023*

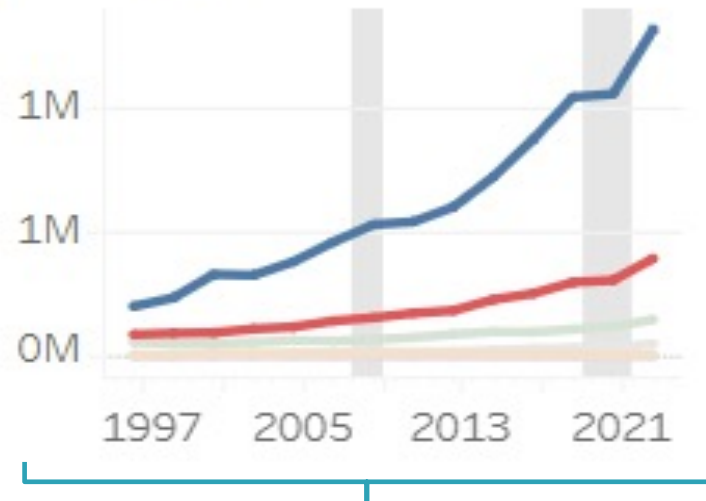


# Community college enrollment decline ➡ Financial uncertainty

## Fall Enrollment Trends by Sector and Age

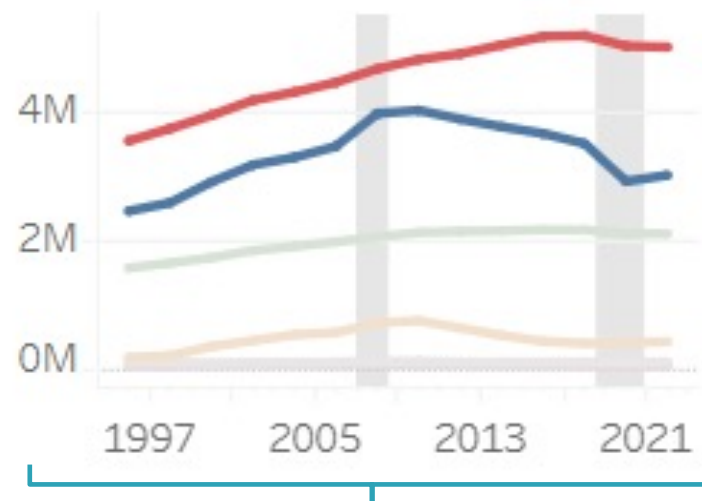
IPEDS Data, 1996-2023

Age: Under 18



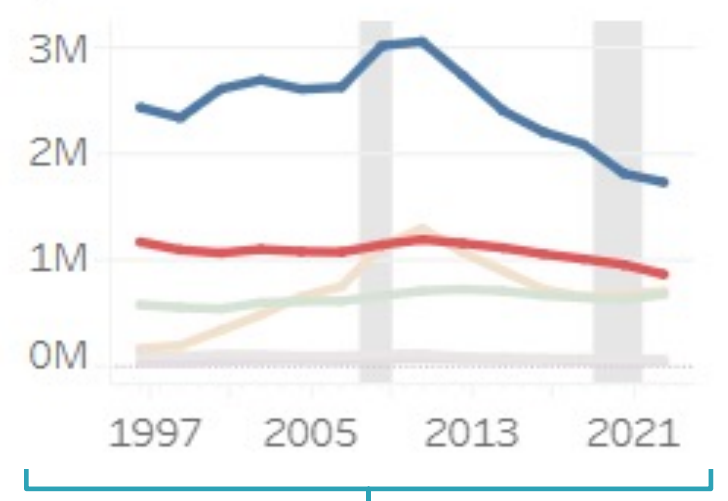
HS dual enrollment **only**  
**growing student segment**

Age 18-24



CCs have **lost market share** to  
public four-years

Age 25+



Older student enrollment  
at **historic lows**

Community colleges Public four-years

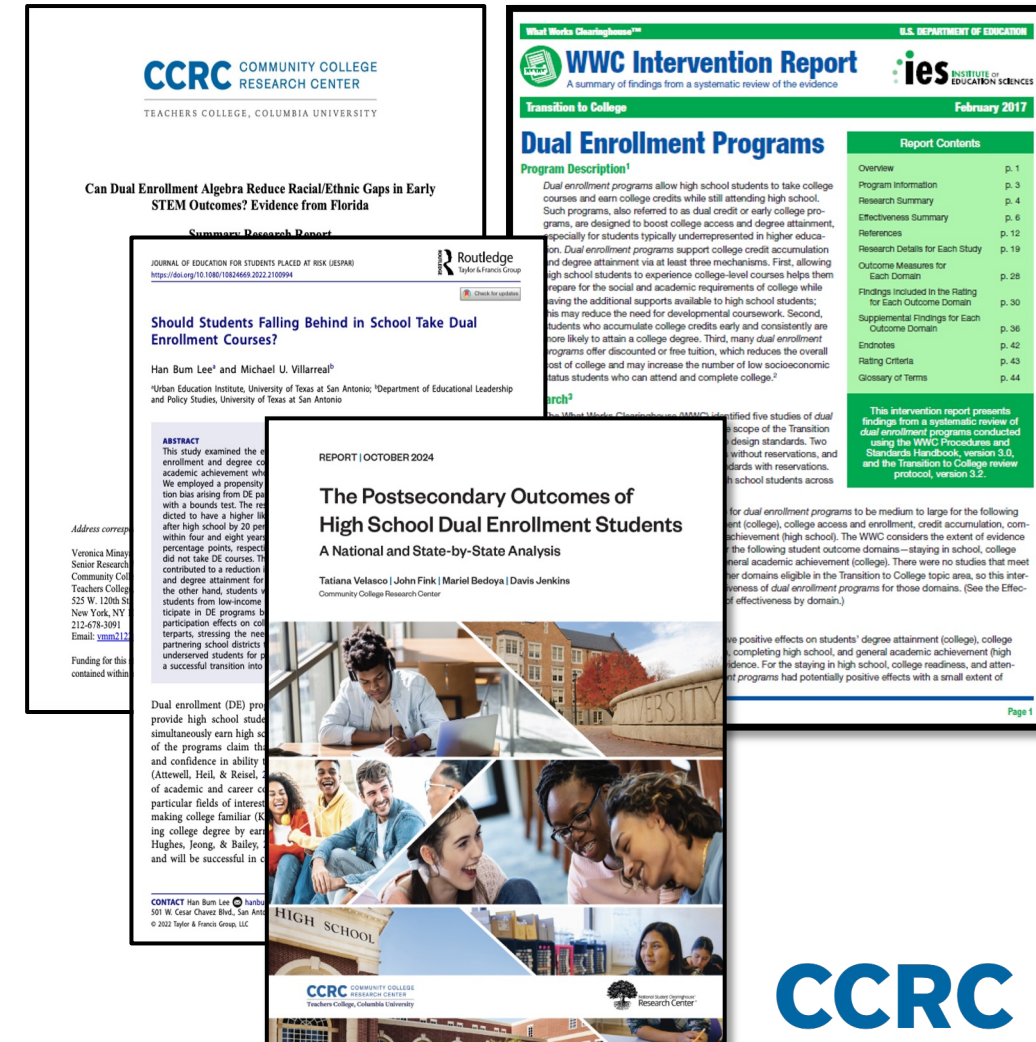


# Evidence on the dual enrollment benefits

Strong research base on the benefits of dual enrollment

- Experimental research **finds strong high school and college success effects for underrepresented students** of participating in ECHSs (What Works Clearinghouse, 2017)
- DE course-taking 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).

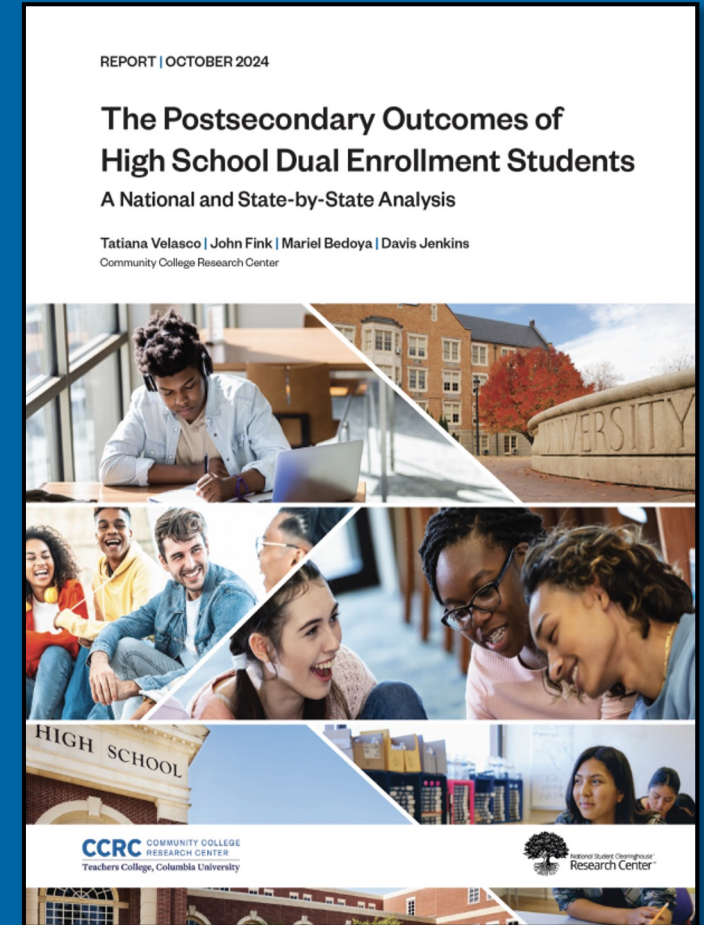
Yet, **post-HS college outcomes vary greatly across and within states** (Velasco et al., 2024)





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

Tatiana Velasco, John Fink, Mariel Bedoya, & Davis Jenkins  
October 2024



*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**

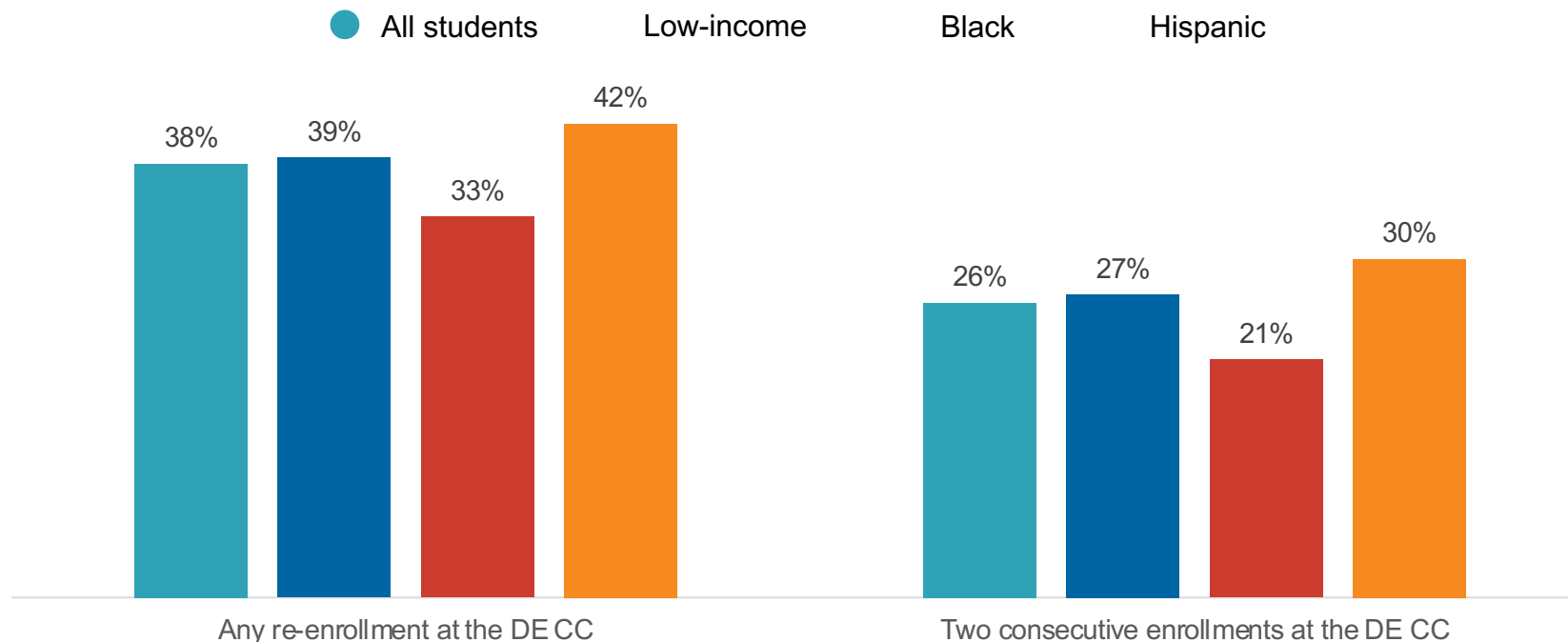
*Within the first year post high school, 81% of students  
enrolled at a postsecondary institution.  
50% enrolled at a four-year institution, and 31% at a  
community college*



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

**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



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



**50%**

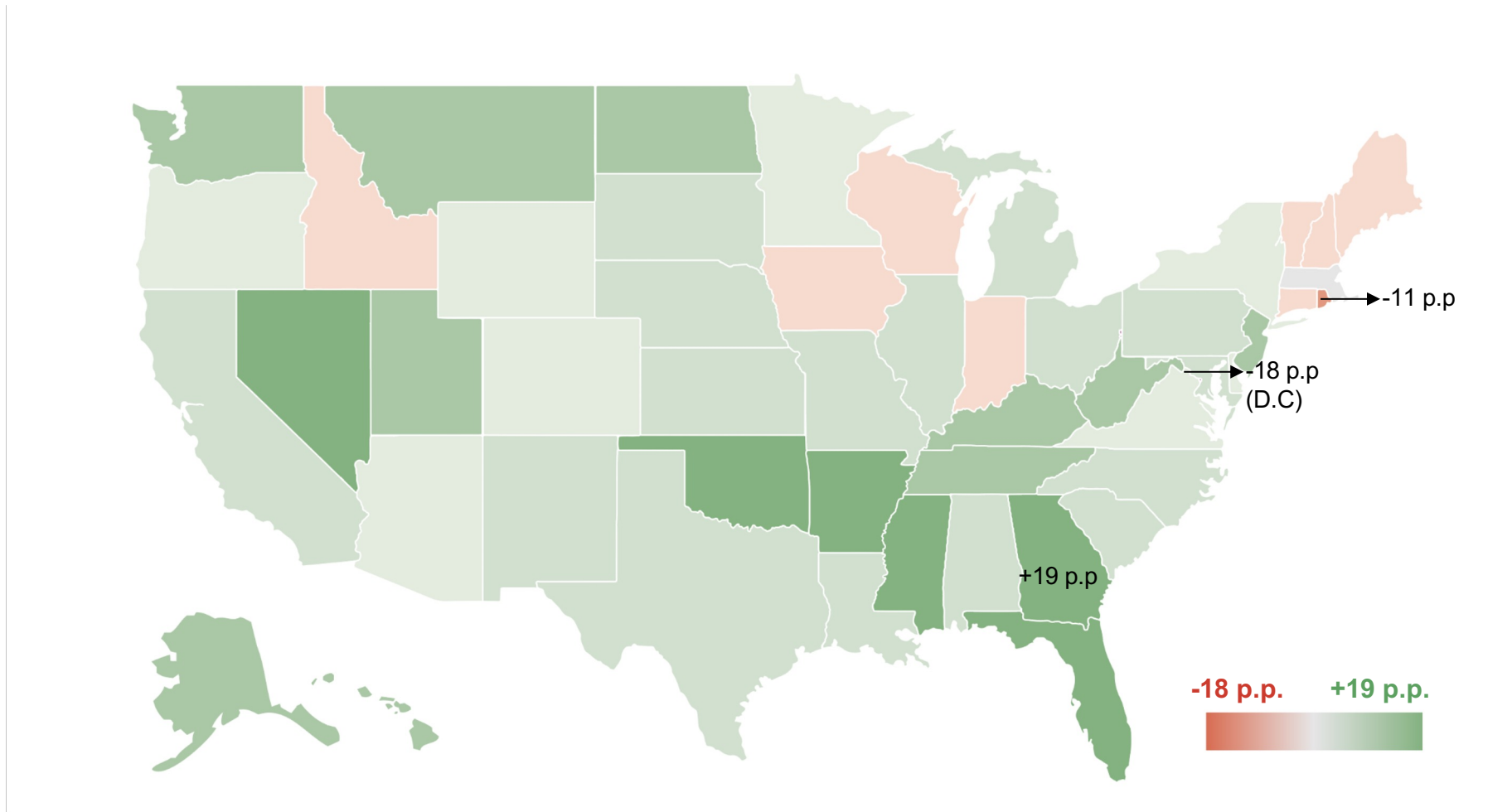
of the DE students who went to college completed a credential within four years



**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.**



# Dashboard with State-by- State Results



## State Findings: Dual Enrollment Student Outcomes

By [Daniel March](#), [John Fink](#) & [Tatiana Velasco](#)

[Introduction](#) [State Overview](#) [Compare States](#) [DE and Non-DE Outcomes](#) [Bachelor's Degree Fields](#)

[Go to Introduction](#)

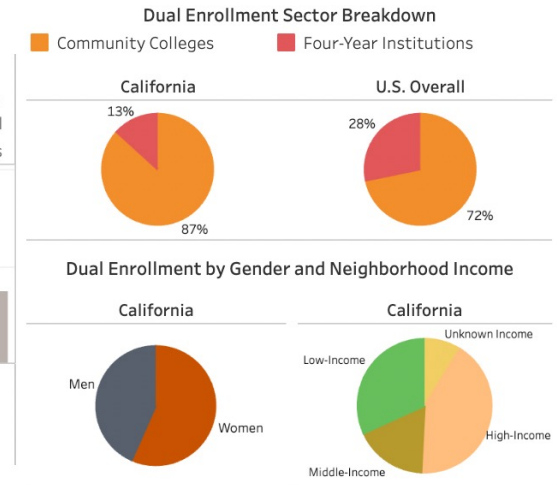
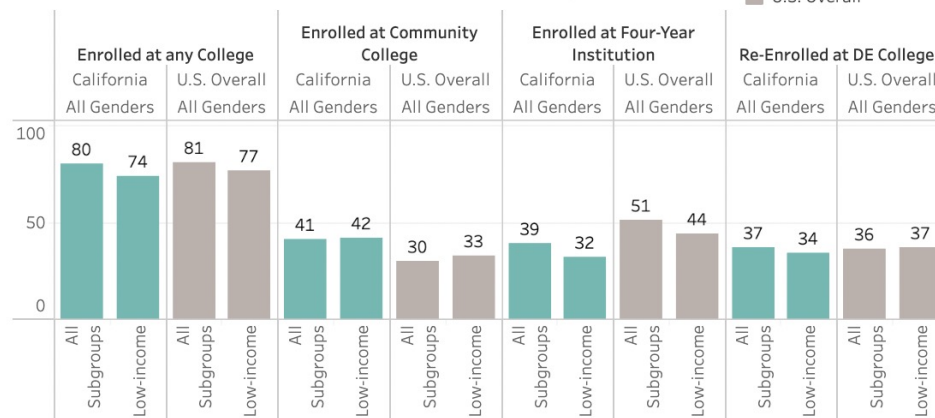
### Examine Your State's Dual Enrollment Outcomes

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



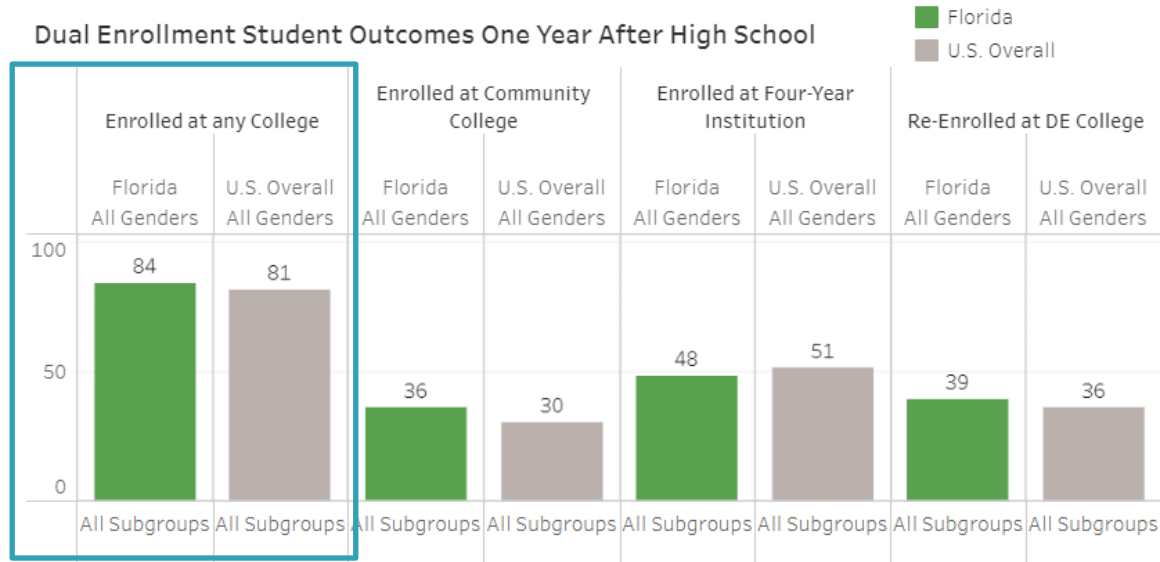
Select State to Compare Nationally:  Show National Comparison:  Dual Enrollment Sector:  Subgroup Selection:  Gender:

#### Dual Enrollment Student Outcomes One Year After High School

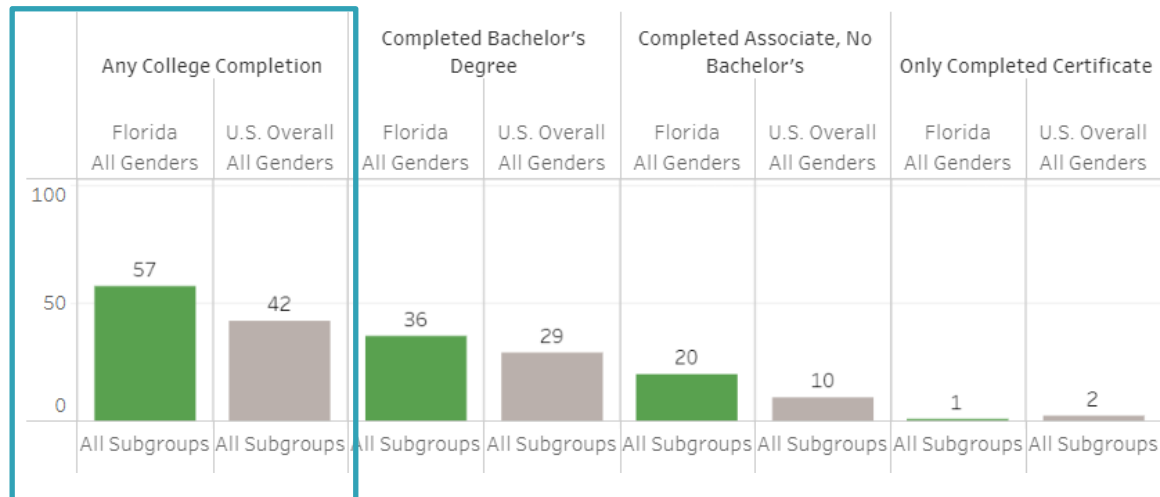


# How does Florida compare to national benchmarks?

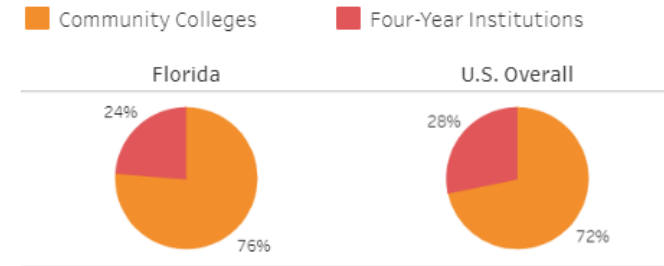
Dual Enrollment Student Outcomes One Year After High School



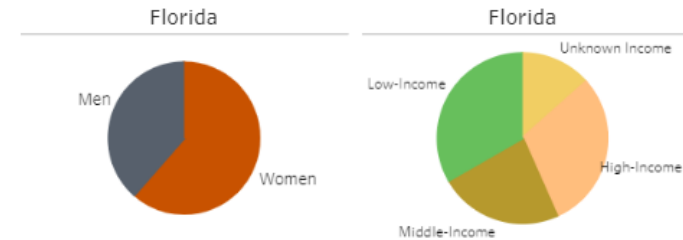
Dual Enrollment Student Outcomes Four Years After High School



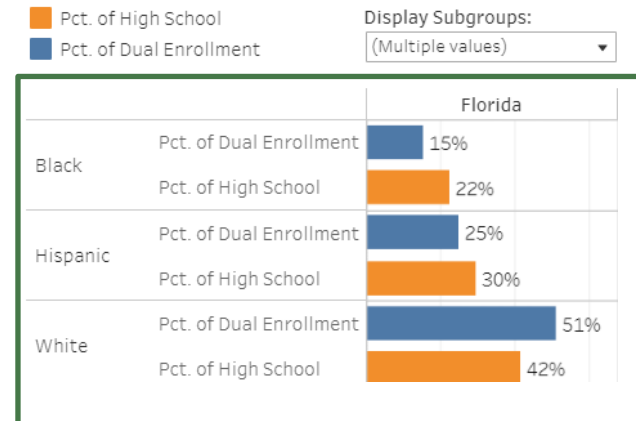
Dual Enrollment Sector Breakdown



Dual Enrollment by Gender and Neighborhood Income



Racial/Ethnic Representation in Dual Enrollment  
2015-16 CRDC Data





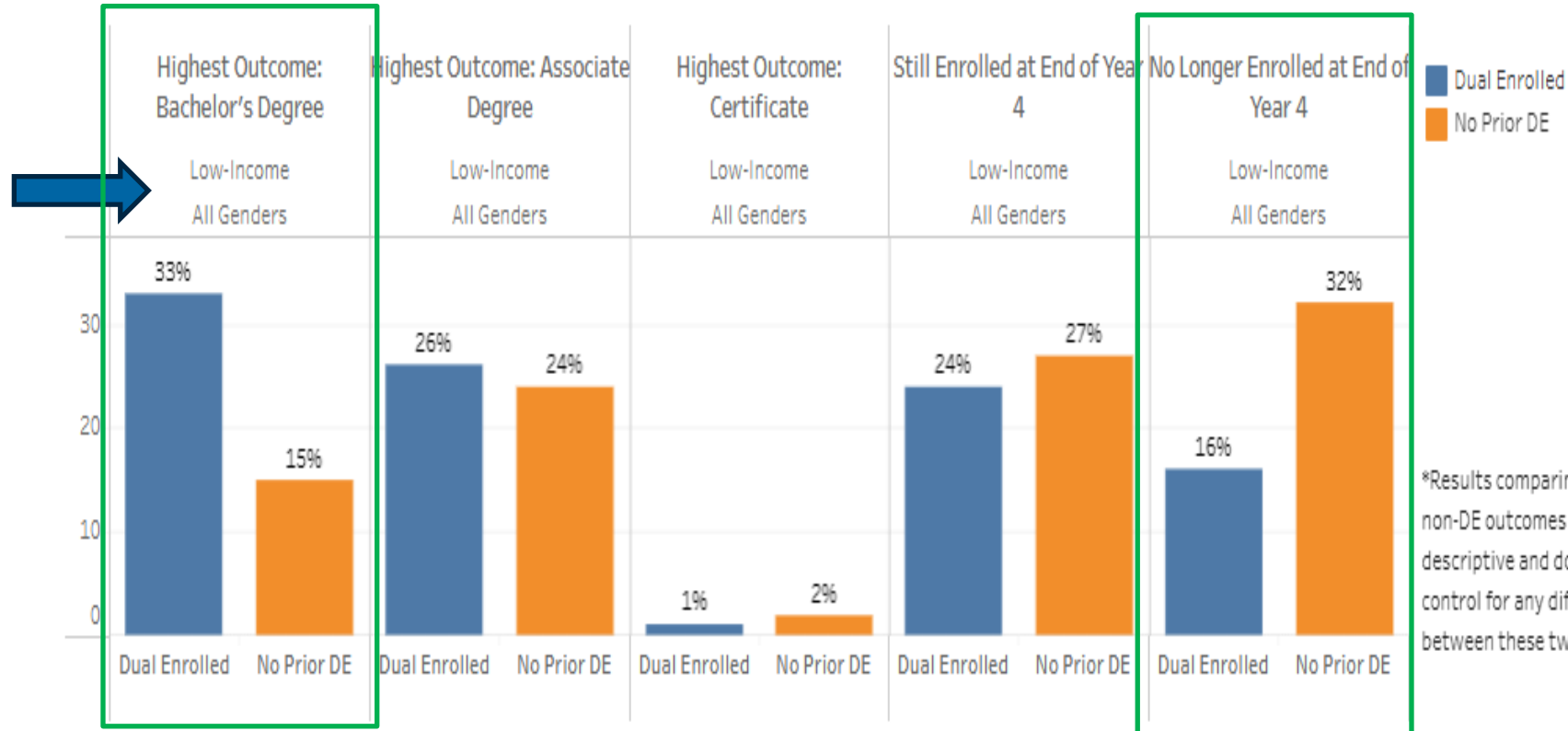
# How do outcomes between DE and non-DE students differ in Florida?

## Spotlight on Low-Income Students

State:  Dual Enrollment Sector:  Subgroup:  Gender:  Display Outcomes:

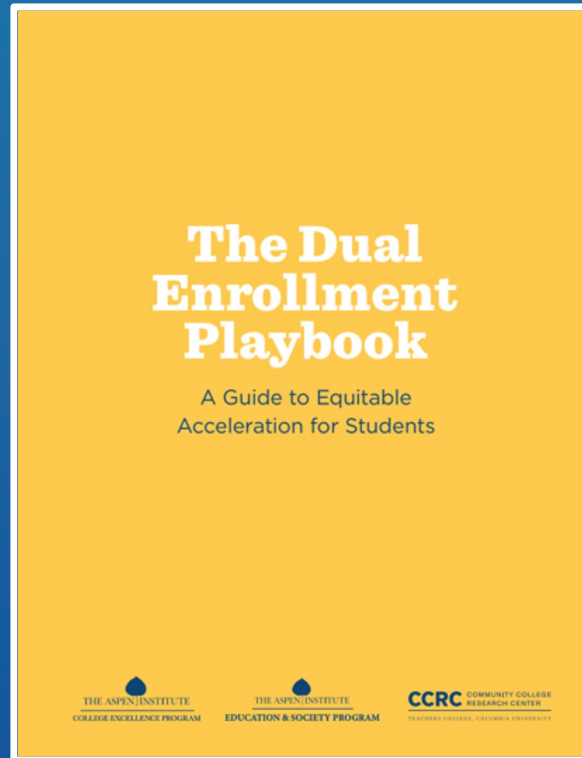


Florida: Highest Outcomes Among DE Students Who Enrolled in College and Non-DE College Students (Ages 18-20)\*

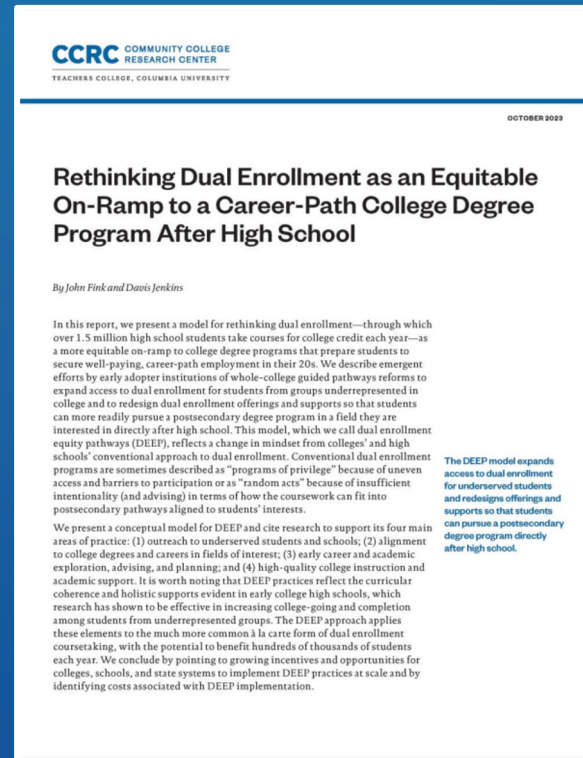


\*Results comparing DE and non-DE outcomes are descriptive and do not control for any differences between these two groups

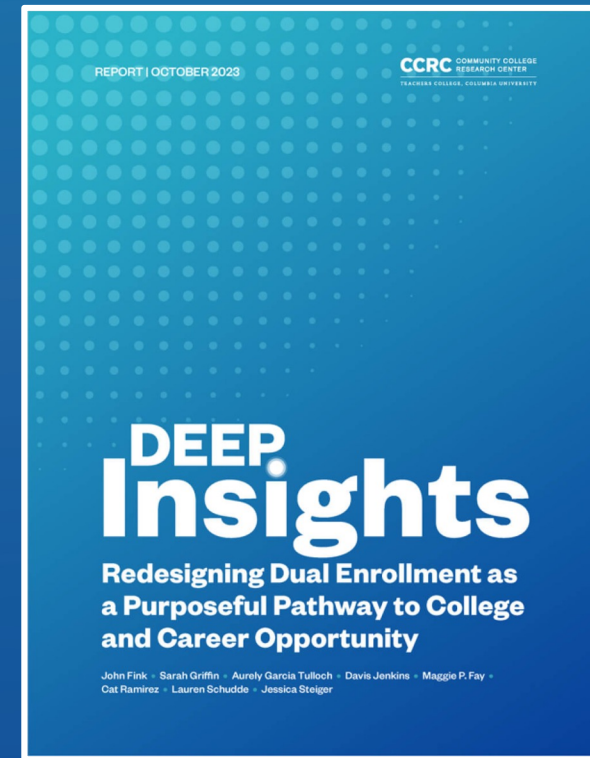
# How are Practitioners Rethinking DE as an On-Ramp to Career-Connected Postsecondary Pathways?



**The Dual Enrollment Playbook: A Guide to Equitable Acceleration for Students (October 2020)**

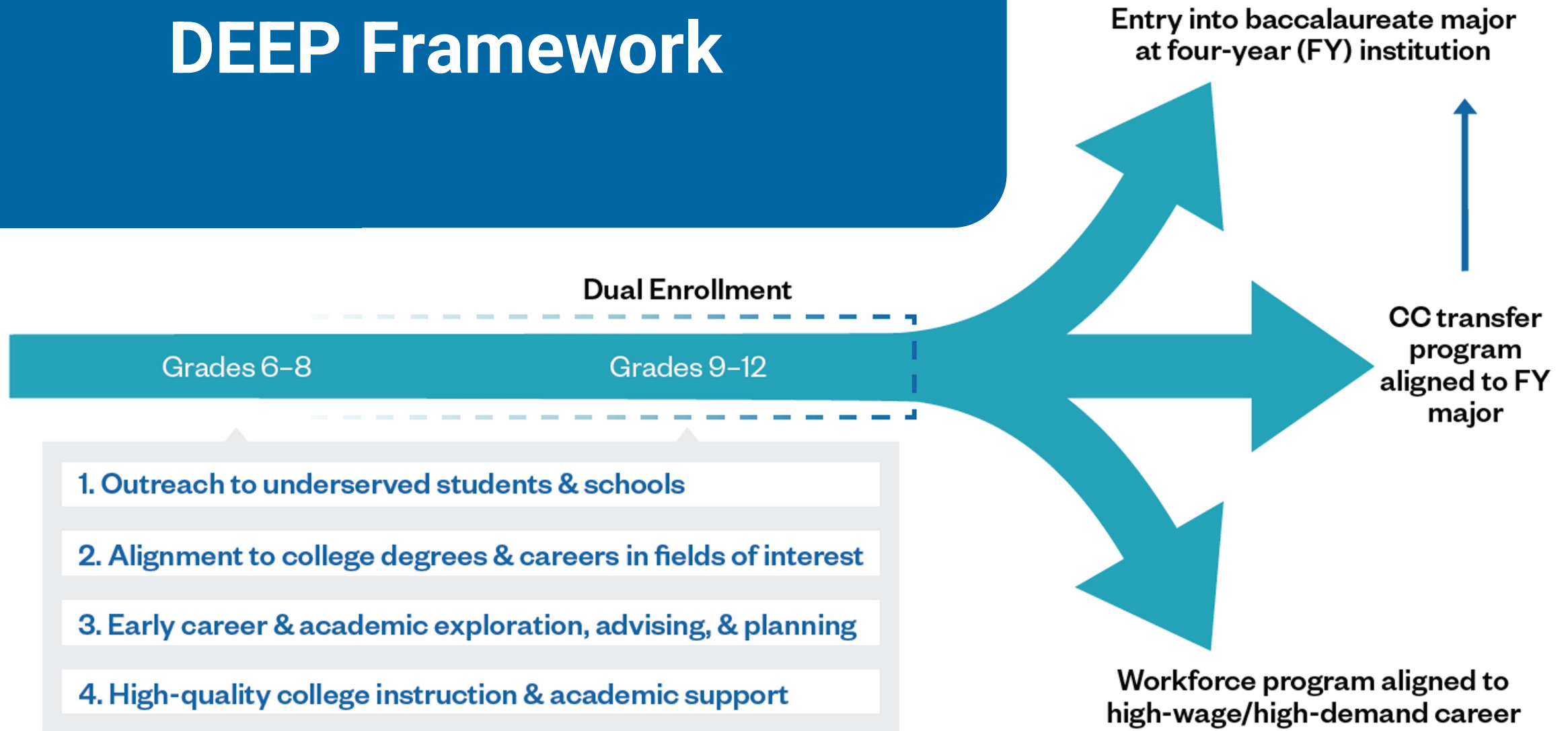


**Rethinking Dual Enrollment as an Equitable On-Ramp to a Career-Path College Degree Program After High School (October 2023)**



**DEEP Insights: Redesigning Dual Enrollment as a Purposeful Pathway to College and Career Opportunity (October 2023)**

# DEEP Framework



**1****Outreach** to underserved students and schools

- Focus outreach on underserved high schools, students, and communities.
- Start outreach before high school.
- Leverage community connections to build awareness.
- Build trust with and educate parents and families.

**2****Align** DE course offerings to college degrees and careers

- Inventory current DE offerings.
- Map DE offerings to college degree programs in fields of interest.
- Embed DE offerings in career-connected high school programs.

**3****Advise** students to explore interests and develop plans

- Use DE to showcase college programs and support exploration.
- Help students develop a college program plan and provide checkpoint advising.
- Coordinate advising roles across sectors.

**4****Support** students by delivering high-quality instruction

- Scaffold coursework and frontload supports.
- Respond quickly when students are struggling.
- Provide additional, structured support for online classes.
- Support DE instructors and monitor quality.

# DEEP Practices

# Rethinking DE as a Purposeful Pathway

## Conventional Approach: “Programs of Privilege” and “Random Acts”

## DEEP Approach: DC as a Trailhead to Career-Path Degree Programs

Who is it designed for?

- Primarily students who are already headed to university after HS

- All students, especially those who might not otherwise attend college

What courses are offered?

- Primarily gen eds, whatever is easy to offer based on annual teacher availability

- Foundational coursework (including gen eds) aligned to college degree programs in fields of interest to students and communities

Philosophy on growth

- Grow if there are more students who are academically qualified and quality standards can be maintained

- Cast a wider net, assume all students will struggle and need supports. To grow, keep standards high, broaden access, and increase student supports

Student advising and supports

- Ad hoc, as needed, if students reach out for help

- Unavoidable, frontloaded to early coursework, college-provided advising to explore degree options and create an individualized plan

Business model

- Low-cost, low-revenue: Fewer staff required, lower instructional costs, lower yield rates leads to lower revenues

- Higher costs, more staff (e.g., advising, program leaders) and instructional costs. Larger revenues driven by increasing college access and re-enrollment among former DC students who would not otherwise have attended any college without DC



Recent CCRC analysis found that dual enrollment can be financially viable even for colleges that offer it at a discount (or at no cost), **if colleges can motivate more of these students to enroll in their colleges after high school** (especially those who might not otherwise go to college).



## How Can Community Colleges Afford to Offer Dual Enrollment College Courses to High School Students at a Discount?

Essays · Multiple Authors · Monday, 13 February 2023



By Clive Belfield, Davis Jenkins, and John Fink

Dual enrollment of high school students in college courses has grown in popularity as a way to get a jump on college. Community colleges, which have long offered the majority of dual enrollment courses, have responded by expanding offerings. Between fall 2011 and fall 2021, the number of high school students taking courses through community colleges nearly doubled, increasing by some 510,000, even as enrollment by post-high school students dropped by over 2.3 million. Dual enrollment students now account for nearly [one in five community college](#)

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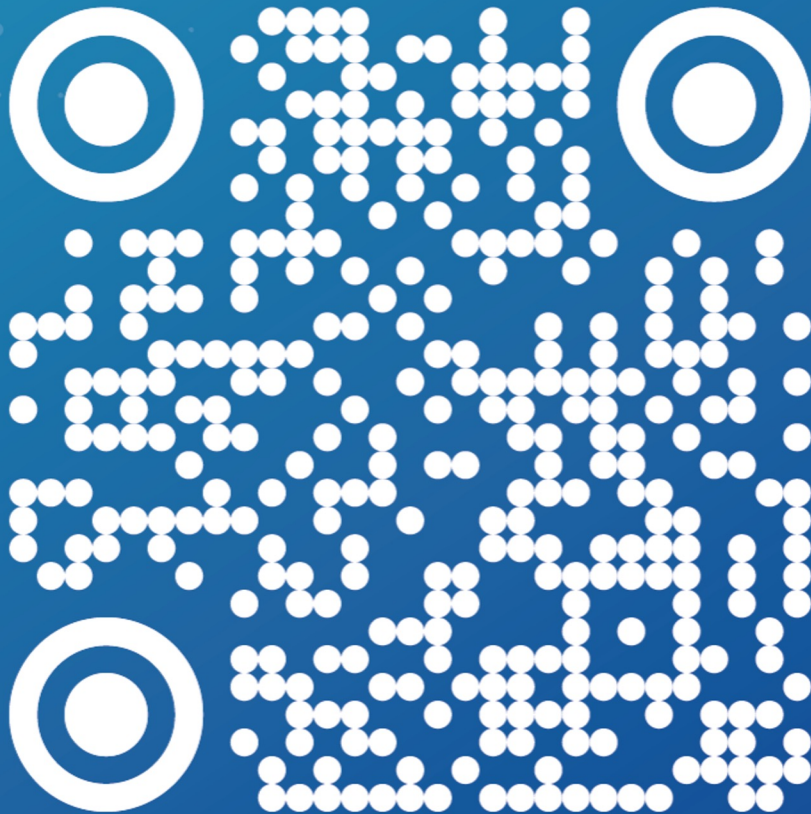
high school-to-college  
Inside CCRC data viz  
transfer  
educational  
equity Thomas Brock  
guided pathways  
Teaching and Learning  
advising policy covid-19  
John Fink dual enrollment

Source: CCRC analysis of IPEDS enrollment data by sector.

<https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/john.fink/viz/UndergraduateEnrollmentTrendsbySector/Summary?publish=yes>

# DEEP@CCRC

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



## Thank you!

Davis Jenkins, [pdj2102@tc.Columbia.edu](mailto:pdj2102@tc.Columbia.edu)

John Fink, [john.fink@tc.columbia.edu](mailto:john.fink@tc.columbia.edu)

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