



Postsecondary State Policy Network

AN INITIATIVE LED BY JOBS FOR THE FUTURE IN
CONJUNCTION WITH THE ACHIEVING THE DREAM
NATIONAL REFORM NETWORK

THE POSTSECONDARY STATE POLICY NETWORK

The Postsecondary State Policy Network, led by Jobs for the Future, is a multistate collaboration committed to advancing state policy agendas that accelerate community college student success and completion. The network evolved out of the policy efforts for the Achieving the Dream National Reform Network, including the Developmental Education Initiative. The network includes 11 states that are continuing their work with support from Achieving the Dream and the Completion by Design and Student Success Center initiatives. JFF helps teams from the network states maximize peer learning and develop and implement policies that promote community college student success.

States participate in the Postsecondary State Policy Network through the following initiatives and supporters:

- > **Achieving the Dream, Inc.:** Community college systems in five states with strong Achieving the Dream college participation have the opportunity to learn and share with their peers in the service of strengthening state-level action to drive and accelerate student success and completion. Participating states are: Connecticut, Hawaii, Massachusetts, Oklahoma, and Virginia.
- > **Completion by Design**, supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation: JFF works with community college associations and state systems in three states to significantly increase completion and graduation rates for low-income students under 26. JFF helps state teams identify and implement policies that support college efforts to provide needed structure for the student experience, from initial connection

to college through completion or transfer. Participating states are: Florida, North Carolina, and Ohio.

- > **Student Success Center Network**, supported by the Kresge Foundation: JFF supports new and emerging state-level Student Success Centers that organize a state's community colleges around common action to improve persistence and completion. Participating states are: Arkansas, Michigan, Ohio, and Texas.

NETWORK PRIORITIES POLICIES THAT PROMOTE STRUCTURED, ACCELERATED STUDENT PATHWAYS TO HIGH-VALUE CREDENTIALS AND TRANSFER

The Postsecondary State Policy Network advocates for state policies that support structured, accelerated student pathways through community college to high-value credentials and transfer. JFF

co-constructed the policy network's agenda based on both research about what works for students and input from the 11 participating states.

Many leading community colleges are pursuing reforms that create and promote clear, structured routes through college for more students. These pathways help students enroll efficiently in programs of study they want to pursue, and keep them engaged and progressing until they complete credentials with labor market value. To that end, colleges are pursuing interventions such as strategic dual enrollment, mandatory orientation, improved advising, acceleration and contextualization of developmental education, early enrollment in transparent and well-defined programs of study,

shorter duration programs that lead to credentials with labor market value, and close monitoring of student progress.

The Postsecondary State Policy Network has two primary goals: to help states design administrative, system and legislative policies that support these exciting institutional reform strategies; and to spread across the states emerging lessons and models. To accelerate institutional change toward more systemic and student-focused structured pathways, the policy network advocates for the high-leverage policies listed below. The policies are organized in a framework that seeks to support students' pathways from connection to college through completion.

POLICIES TO SUPPORT STRUCTURED PATHWAYS



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To download related publications and for more about JFF's state policy work, please scan here or visit <http://www.jff.org/publications>

To learn more about policy initiatives of Achieving the Dream, visit http://achievingthedream.org/approach/policy_change

Jobs for the Future works with our partners to design and drive adoption of education and career pathways leading from college readiness to career advancement for those struggling to succeed in today's economy.



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