CollegeKeys Compact™

Expanding options for low-income students

Research shows that students from low-income backgrounds are graduating from college at significantly lower rates than their more affluent peers. If we are to make college access and success a reality for all students, then we must:

- Ensure that all qualified students from low-income backgrounds receive particular consideration by colleges and universities in recruitment, admission and financial aid
- Provide essential academic support, financial aid, and targeted social and emotional support to allow all students the chance to succeed in their chosen academic programs

**Know the facts**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>While college attendance is related to achievement level in secondary school for students from backgrounds of both wealth and poverty, the advantage for upper-income students is overwhelming.</th>
<th>A high-achieving student of limited means has about the same chance of attending college (78%) as a low-achieving student from a more advantaged background (77%).</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The disparity between students from high-income and low-income backgrounds is most apparent at the lowest achievement level.</td>
<td>At the lowest achievement level, a student from a high-income background has a 77% chance of attending college, more than double the 36% chance of a student from a low-income background.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barriers including the lack of financial resources, academic preparation and familiarity with higher education inhibit staggering numbers of college-ready students from enrolling in two- and four-year college programs.</td>
<td>Over the 2002–2012 decade, 4.4 million college-qualified, low- and moderate-income high school graduates will not attend four-year colleges, and an additional 2 million will not attend any college program.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Getting Ready, Getting In and Getting Through: Expanding Options for Low-Income Students
Support our efforts

The College Board Advocacy & Policy Center has issued a call to action through the CollegeKeys Compact™, mobilizing schools, school districts, colleges, universities, state education agencies and nonprofit organizations to ensure low-income students have access to an affordable and successful college experience. The challenges these students face demand a comprehensive approach that draws on the best policies, practices and research to transform how we relate to, and work with, students experiencing the greatest educational challenges.

The CollegeKeys Compact creates a network of institutions and agencies dedicated to expanding options for low-income students. Every year, CollegeKeys Compact members have an opportunity to highlight their great work via our Innovation Awards, where winners are recognized for their innovation and demonstrated efficacy in increasing the percentage of low-income students who get ready for, get into or get through college successfully.

Call for change

The College Board Advocacy & Policy Center urges Congress to support the Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to provide funding and assistance for low-income students including:

- Improving reading programs in schools with high percentages of low-income students;
- Providing supplementary education services for low-income students;
- Funding dropout prevention strategies; and
- Expanding access to Advanced Placement® courses for low-income students.

Use our tools

- **The CollegeKeys Compact:**
  - *An Introduction* Provides an overview and introduces the goal and statement of belief of the CollegeKeys Compact.
  - *An Open Letter to the Leaders of American Education* Outlines in depth the issue and action plan to expand options for low-income students getting ready for, getting into, and getting through college.
  - *Barriers, Findings, and Strategies: What the Research Says* Details what the research says about students’ preparation, enrollment and completion.
- **Catalogs of Effective Practices** Summarize CollegeKeys Compact member programs and practices that expand options for students from low-income backgrounds.
- **Policy Briefs** Highlight changing incentives and provide recommendations.

Act now

- Join the CollegeKeys Compact to identify, share and intensify the most effective practices that enhance low-income students’ preparation for, entrance to, and completion of college.
- Raise awareness about the disparities in college preparedness and success among students from different income level backgrounds.

For more information on the CollegeKeys Compact visit:
advocacy.collegeboard.org/preparation-access/collegekeys-compact