PARTNERSHIP FOR COLLEGE COMPLETION’S AFFORDABILITY STUDY

PRESENTATION FOR COLLEGE CHANGES EVERYTHING CONFERENCE
The **Partnership for College Completion (PCC)** is a regional nonprofit organization launched in 2016 dedicated to increasing college completion rates in and around Chicago and across the state, particularly for low-income students, first generation college goers, and Black and Latinx students.

PCC champions policies, systems, and practices that ensure all students in Illinois graduate from college.
Priced Out: On Illinois’ Disinvestment In Higher Education & What Can Be Done About It

Black Students Report
October 22nd

Latinx Students Report
October 29th

Rural Students Report
November 6th
Website and Interactive Data Features

College Affordability for Students in Illinois
On Illinois’ Disinvestment In Higher Education & What Can Be Done About It

For nearly two decades, Illinois has gone through a period of disinvestment in higher education, seeing continued losses in higher education appropriations and underinvestment to student financial aid, effectively shifting the burden to pay onto students.

This study has three companion reports: Priced Out: Black Students; Priced Out: Latinx Students; and Priced Out: Rural Students. The reports provide insight into how disparities in access, cost, and ability to pay are creating barriers for students across the state and recommends policy action to start reversing these trends.
HOW THESE REPORTS EXPLORE AFFORDABILITY

1. Institution-level data
   - National higher education dataset (IPEDS)
   - Student borrowing

2. Illinois agency data
   - High school (ISBE)
   - Community college (ICCB)
   - Higher education (IBHE)
   - State aid funding (ISAC)

3. Survey data and national research
   - How affordability affects enrollment, completion, persistence
   - Wealth
   - Survey data
Affordability Study
Findings in Brief

17 years of disinvestment has given Illinois affordability issues
• Disproportionately affected rural, Black, and Latinx students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Black Students</th>
<th>Latinx Students</th>
<th>Rural Students</th>
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<td>Black student enrollment is at crisis levels, and wealth gaps contribute to both access and debt issues</td>
<td>Latinx four-year degree increases have not kept up with student growth, and debt aversion plays a role in access and outcomes</td>
<td>Rural students are divided by ability to afford 4-year college, but those attending often can’t afford to return</td>
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Sections of Each Report

1. Access
2. Cost
3. Ability to Pay
4. Payoffs
ENROLLMENT CRISIS FOR BLACK STUDENTS

11,100 fewer Black students enrolled in college from 2007-2017

Disproportionate for-profit enrollment

Better-resourced colleges and universities have smaller completion gaps, but enroll fewer Black students

Source: Projections of high school graduates from WICHE and IBHE data on college enrollment
Access: Enrollment Sector and Grad Rates Vary by Race

80% growth in Latinx population and 4-year college enrollment from 2007-2017

- Population outpacing bachelor’s degree completion by 40%

Source: partnershipfcc.org/affordability
 access dev ed can limit college opportunities for students of color

black and latinx students are about twice as likely to be placed in remediation and half as likely to graduate if placed in these courses.

source: iccb data, fall 2014 cohort
Possible implications for higher education:
1. Fewer low-income students enrolling in four-year colleges
2. Remote learning harder for low-income, rural students
3. Recession growth in 2-year attendance
   • More students placed in dev ed
   • Leaky pipeline leads to fewer graduates
4. Financially vulnerable institutions threatened
   • CCs, regional four-year universities, small private colleges
Takeaways
• Student population critical factor to measure access
• COVID-19 could be generational threat to equity

Policy Considerations
1. Equity in any cuts
2. Test-optional admissions
3. Scale developmental education reform
IL universities have a 50% higher net price for lowest-income students than the Midwest average.

Less costly 4-year colleges and universities are not racially representative.
Possible implications for higher education:
1. No cost-savings for moving online
2. For-profit colleges could benefit from pandemic
3. Governor’s funds from CARES a positive, equitable step
Cost

Takeaways
• Cost affects access early in pipeline
• Substantial, targeted reinvestment is needed

Policy Considerations
1. Eliminate MAP at for-profit colleges
2. Equity-driven funding formula
Illinois Black, Latinx, and rural students have less ability to pay

- White families have more than 8x the wealth of Black or Latinx families in the same income quintile
- Rural/urban income gaps affect access

Source: The Road to Zero Wealth
Possible implications for higher education:

1. More resources needed to enroll, persist, and complete

2. Federal and philanthropic emergency grants a positive step
Ability to Pay

Takeaways
• Wealth and income gaps affect completion
• Equity essential in COVID-19 response

Policy Considerations
1. Better fund MAP grants
2. Fund state emergency grants
3. Support student parents
Gaps between students of color and White students in degree payoffs

High costs exacerbate rural talent challenges
  • Degrees have higher payoffs in cities
  • Rural graduates moving to cities to repay debt

Black students owe more than their original loan 12 years after entry, whether or not they complete a degree, and Latinx students’ likelihood of repaying depends on college outcome.
Vision for the Future

More equitable access
- Funding improves equity
- Students go into college with more information
- Clear pathways to success

Increase ability to pay
- Student aid adequate and targeted

Lower costs
- Institutions serving under-represented students have resources
- For-profit institutions not supplemented with state aid
- Students have funds to complete

Increase payoffs of a degree
- Graduates not inequitably burdened with debt
Thank You!

Don’t hesitate to email mabrahamson@partnershipfcc.org with any suggestions, questions, or feedback.